

Deerfield Township Parks Master Plan Update

Workshop 3 Summary

The third of four public workshops for the Deerfield Township Parks Master Plan Update was held Thursday, October 11, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Sign-in sheets indicate an attendance of 15 people, though there may have been some who did not sign in.

The workshop kicked off with introductions and a brief presentation by Bruce Rankin about the status of the planning process to date. Chad Adkins briefly reviewed the results of the previous public workshops and the importance of the public engagement process. Ryan Murray then presented the results of the Statistically Valid Community Survey which were finalized on 10 October 2018. Following Ryan's presentation, several questions were asked, and Joel Smiddy and Bruce Rankin were able to provide answers. These questions were about the overall process and about the location of parks that participants were not aware of.

Following the discussion, there was a power outage. Despite the lack of power, a breakout session was conducted to collect additional input on the parks. The bulk of the conversation was spent on Kingswood Park and participants asked many questions and provided their desires. Joel Smiddy provided a concept plan for development at Kingswood Park and participants seemed to agree with the general direction of the proposed plan. In addition to discussions on Kingswood Park, connections between the parks and throughout Deerfield Township was mentioned and needed connections identified on a map. Below are the results from the discussions.

Questions and Comments on the Kingswood Park concept plan:

- Can a township administration building be built somewhere else within the township, instead of at Kingswood Park?
- Proposed development in the southern portion of Kingswood Park will increase traffic on Irwin Simpson Road and have a negative effect on the surrounding residential neighborhoods.
 - o This question and comment was discussed and once Joel Smiddy provided the ideas behind the concept plan with most access coming off Innovation Way, the participants were not as concerned about traffic on Irwin Simpson Road and the effect on the surrounding neighborhoods. The participants seemed to warm up to this concept plan, especially since long-term the Township could save hundreds of thousands of dollars a year by not having to lease space for Township Administration and Sheriff's office.

Desires for Kingswood Park:

- Develop the southern portion (approximately 30%) of Kingswood Park, south of Innovation Way, for the following:
 - o Township Administration
 - o Sheriff
 - o Community Room
 - o Township Maintenance Facility
 - o Permanent Farmer's Market Facility (Multi-Use)
 - o Community Event Space
 - o Potential for the Royal Theater
- Preserve northern portion (approximately 70%) of Kingswood Park, north of Innovation Way for passive recreation.

- Other ideas for Kingswood Park include the following:
 - o Name separate areas similar to what cyclocross users name them (Camel, Mutant Camel, Enchanted Forest).
 - o Mark walkways/trails with markers representing the former golf course holes.
 - o Create a farmer's market pavilion that is useable year-round. This could be a multi-purpose facility and used for weddings and perhaps a theater.
 - o Establish more parking and access to the park, primarily in the northern portion of the park.
 - o Natural amphitheater
 - o Dog Park
 - o Pedestrian tunnel under Innovation Way to facilitate pedestrian movement across the road, ADA accessibility was also mentioned and the easiest way to accomplish this is to have a tunnel versus a pedestrian bridge. Stormwater management will have to be incorporated into the tunnel design.
 - o Inniswood Metro Gardens in Westerville, Ohio is a good example of what Kingswood Park can be.
 - o Passive recreation is strongly desired, especially in the northern portion of the park.
 - o Improve parking and access throughout the park.
 - o Mobile food vendors/food trucks could be a wonderful amenity or event.
 - o Permanent restrooms with water fountains.
 - o Trails should be named and have mileage markers of interpretive signs similar to Carter Park.
 - o Bird watching areas
 - o Butterfly gardens
 - o The ponds need aeration to keep them clean, but the ponds should stay natural.
 - o Provide a boardwalk with viewing areas on the pond.
 - o Benches throughout the park.
 - o Picnic tables in shaded areas.
 - o Sledding on the natural hills.
 - o Nature trails
 - o Better signage
 - o Disc Golf

Desires for Landen-Deerfield Park

- Improved ingress/egress with a second access point.
- Pickleball on tennis courts, but they should not be permanent.
- Participants like to use Landen-Deerfield Park and would like it to be maintained to the same standard as the Deerfield Parks.

Desires for Cottell Park

- Provide better connections to surrounding neighborhoods
- Cricket on the ballfields cause significant issues and increases maintenance. A dedicated cricket field should be provided to mitigate this issue and there is a strong demand within the community to play cricket.
- The Snyder House should be improved, and Joel Smiddy stated that it is planned to be renovated in within the next two years.

Trail/bikeway Connections and System-Wide Ideas

- Connections between parks and throughout Deerfield Township are strongly desired. The following linkages were discussed as priorities:
 - o Connections north and south of Cottell Park are strongly desired along Snyder Road.
 - o Connections from Cottell Park to Shappacher Park to Kingswood Park, along Irwin Simpson Road are also a high priority.

- Connections along Socialville-Fosters Road are important, especially from Snyder Road to Mason-Montgomery Road and Arbor Square Park. This will connect several existing bike paths.
- Establish a permanent cricket field with pitch.
- Provide a Disc Golf course, Kingswood Park might be a suitable location.
- Carter Park was discussed but some participants did not know where it is. Several participants mentioned they use the trails and like the park, but overall this park is not known very well.