

Deerfield Township Parks Master Plan Update

Workshop 4 Summary

The fourth of four public workshops for the Deerfield Township Parks Master Plan Update was held Wednesday, November 28, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Kings High School.

The workshop kicked off with introductions and a brief presentation by Bruce Rankin about the status of the planning process to date. Chad Adkins reviewed the results of the previous public workshops and presented the results and outcomes of the Statistically Valid Community Survey. Bruce then presented the draft vision statement and supporting goals of the master plan, which is identified below.

Vision:

Connect residents with safe places to reflect, gather and play while promoting healthy active lifestyles, community wellness, and environmental sustainability.

Goals:

- Functionally align the Department to best meet community needs
- Improve marketing and public outreach of parks, amenities, and programming
- Maintain high quality parks, trails, and open spaces based on adopted Level of Service (LOS) standards and the Township's overall contribution to the surrounding parks and recreation system
- Enhance accessibility and connectivity of the parks, trails, and open spaces
- Right-size parks and amenities based on park classifications
- Continue to enhance recreational programming to meet residents' unmet needs
- Build consensus on future use of Kingswood Park

Following the review of the Vision and Goals, Bruce presented the recommendations of the master plan, which focused on improvements to the departments programs, operations, park classifications and levels of service, system-wide connectivity and individual park concept plans. During the presentation, several questions were asked, regarding overall accessibility and connectivity, the future of Kingswood Park and Carter Park. These questions were answered and addressed in more detail during the individual park concept plan and follow-on discussions. A lot of questions were asked about the potential for an administrative facility at Kingswood Park and what a permanent farmer's market facility would look like.

Joel Smiddy discussed a site plan that shows the administrative facility at Kingswood Park and a few concept plans for the farmer's market facility. These plans were well received by the group who stated the recommendations of the master plan are headed in the right direction.

It was also discussed that the Parks Master Plan is the first step in the planning process for the parks and is not extremely detailed in terms of specific park improvements. The master plan provides an overall framework for the parks department, addresses any program and operations issues and provides general recommendations based on the results of the public engagement and the statistically valid community survey. As directed by the Parks Department, each park will be master planned through a similar inclusive planning process and this is where specific amenities, site and detailed amenity designs will be identified.

As part of the master plan, concept plans have been prepared for Robert's Park, Fleckenstein Park, Carter Park, Foster's Crossing, Landen Deerfield Park and Kingswood Park. The recommendations for each of these parks are identified below, and the public agreed with the concepts presented.

Roberts Park Recommendations:

- Add parking in the southwest corner
- Add a raingarden near the parking
- Add, or complete trails
- Add a Nature Playscape
- Add a picnic shelter
- Add trees/landscape
- Add a park sign along Butler-Warren Road

Fleckenstein Park Recommendations:

- Add a shelter and drinking fountain near the barn
- Program the barn and upgrade the barn to support the program
- Refine the site plan at the barn to support the program
- Expand Restrooms at the center of the sports fields or at the barn
- Add pickleball courts (2 – 4)
- Add basketball

Carter Park Recommendations:

- Improve access and parking
- Add wayfinding and improved trail signage
- Add a trail head kiosk
- Add a Nature Playscape
- Potential site for Nature Center and nature trail
- Expand the community garden
- Convert the Green Roof building to rest rooms or programmable space
- Connect paths to the Township network and the Miami to Miami system
- Add and overlook and bridge across the river
- Enhance the pond
- Add shelters

Foster's Crossing Recommendations:

- Add a trail head at the old 3C bridge
- Explore a potential development opportunity for the site
- Add/improve the canoe launch
- Connect the multi-use trail across the river
- Connect a multi-use trail south to Carl A. Rahe State Park and Jeremiah Morrow Barn
- Potential site for a Nature Center
- Potential acquisition of Carl A. Rahe State Park

Landen-Deerfield Park Recommendations:

- Improve auto access and egress
- Connect park trails to the Township network
- Add a Nature Playscape
- Upgrade fields and facilities

Kingswood Recommendations:

- Develop a small area south of Innovation Way for Township Administrative Offices
- Build a permanent Farmers Market structure as a multi-purpose facility open air facility that can be used when the farmers market is not operating)
- Add a safe pedestrian crossing of Innovation Way
- Add a Nature Playscape

- Add a multi-Use synthetic turf sports field (2 alternate locations), which could be used for multiple purposes such as pick-up games and potential for events, etc.
- Improve the trail system
- Improve pond access
- Add a shelter near the pond
- Connect the park to the Township trail network
- Add a disc golf course of at least 18 holes
- Add a community theater/cultural arts center
- Several participants discussed the opportunity for a dog park at Kingswood Park, which they feel would be heavily used.

The workshop concluded at 8:45pm after a brief discussion on the upcoming draft master plan submittal on December 18th and the presentation to the Board of Trustees on January 15th, 2019. Final plan adoption will take place in February 2019.