



**Parks & Recreation
Master Plan
Focus Group & Public Meeting
Summary**

January 12, 2016



Agenda

- What we've heard
- Your input
- Questions & answers



Strengths

- Multi-use Trail
- Leadership and Communication
- Nonprofit Contractors for Programming
- Park Maintenance and Improvements
- Dunwoody Nature Center and Natural Trails
- Return on Investment in Parks
- Potential for Change
- Great Parks Department
- Treetop Quest at Brook Run
- CIP with Partners
- Council Support
- Existing Greenspace

Areas of Improvement

- Lack of Athletic Field Space
- Security, Specifically Skateboarders Not Wearing Helmets
- Lack of Trail Connectivity
- Availability of Property for New Parkland
- Staffing for Future Programming
- Lack of Active Recreation and Facilities
- Northeast Corner of the City is Under-represented
- Lack of willingness of facility maintenance
- Lack of funding and financial sustainability
- Awareness of trail opportunities
- Lack of indoor recreation facilities
- Lack of Comprehensive Programming
- Lack of Communication with the City
- Lack of Marketing for the non-profit programming groups
- Staff overwhelmed
- No comprehensive central schedule for recreational activities
- No way to let public know what is going on in the library building
- Not enough space for all the entities
- Operating with an outdated Parks & Recreation master Plan
- Not enough CIP for all non-profit programming groups - \$250,000 total
- Parks and Recreation department is tremendously under funding
- Bureaucratic red tape bad at the City
- Parking
- Cooperation between City and Schools

Overall Quality of Current Programs Offered

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

Average Rating

3.3

Additional Programs or Activities

- Special Events, Concerts, Independence Day
- Arts Programming – Performing, Visual, Preservation, etc.
- Hiking Tours
- Audubon Society Programming
- Youth and Adult Sports, specifically Middle School Baseball, Youth Lacrosse, Youth Soccer, Adult Flag Football, and Adult Kickball
- Tournaments for economic impact – Basketball, Baseball, Softball, etc.
- Gymnastics
- Swim and Dive Meets
- Gardening Programming
- Tennis Instruction
- Beautification Commission
- General Recreation for All Ages
- Senior Programming
- Beginner Programs
- Expand existing programs to add more if there was enough space
- Preschool, arts, cultural programs at Nature Center
- Elementary age team sports
- Nature-based programming, horticulture

Overall Quality of Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

Average Rating

2.8

Overall Quality of Maintenance of Parks & Recreation Facilities

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

Average Rating

2.8

Improvements To Existing Facilities

- Nature Center Updated, *Parking, *Pavilion, Observation Deck and Trail
- Perimeter East Park buildings removed and Park developed, trails
- Baseball Facility Restroom Updated
- Windwood Hollow Trails, *Tennis Courts, Playground
- Donaldson Banister House renovated
- Renovate Room 2, bathrooms, plumbing, entry, parking, more space, wet space at DeKalb Arts Center
- Dunwoody Nature Center additional parking, new building structures to improve capacity (double square footage)
- Senior baseball dugouts, batting cages, move bull pens, replace/renovate fieldhouse, new umpire locker rooms
- Cultural Arts Center needs multipurpose community room, turn classrooms back into classrooms, HVAC improved, doors do not close, security issues with building, add on to courtyard for more classroom space
- Renovate Theater building
- Reference Master Plan for Donaldson-Bannister House, Cemetery, Outbuildings including parking, ADA, accessibility, outbuildings, etc.
- Use full potential of skatepark and associated facilities
- Rebranding of N. DeKalb Cultural Arts Center

Improvements To Brook Run Park

- Water Feature Updated or Removed
- Theater, Maintenance Building Updated or Removed – Request Private Theater Feasibility Study
- Review Existing Infrastructure
- Accessibility to Park
- Redevelop Theater into Multipurpose Center
- Update Pavilion
- Permanent Stage at existing ballfield
- Upgrade Veteran's Memorial
- Renovate Food Truck Event Space – Covered
- Stream Area Renovated
- Renovate Theater
- Very little disturbance of current greenspace
- Natural trail signage, tree and stream identification
- Clean out streams and create flow through entire park
- Connectivity to new park
- Camping site

Underserved Portions Of Community

- Small Segment of Seniors without Adequate Transportation
- Northeast – North of Mount Vernon, East of Womack
- Youth and Adult Sports
- Cultural, Arts
- Perimeter Center
- All Citizens based on current parks and activities
- Hispanics
- Children with Disabilities
- Veterans
- All ethnicities

New Facilities/Amenities

- Trail Connectivity
- Sports Complex
- Potential Perimeter Center Park Development
- Restrooms at Windwood Hollow Park
- Pocket Parks – maybe along Mount Vernon, etc.
- Bike Racks, Repair Stations
- New Greenspace in Dunwoody Village
- Outdoor Rental Facilities
- Nature Center replaced with new, Environmental Ed Center, Science Center
- Disc Golf Course
- Multipurpose Center
- Windwood Hollow Park facilities – outdoor basketball court, splashpad, tennis courts, playground, trails, indoor tennis
- Develop Perimeter Center Park
- Electric Cart Connective Trails
- WiFi
- ADA Accessible Playground
- Multipurpose Rectangular Fields
- Picnic Areas
- Multiuse ball fields
- Open green space
- Indoor community space
- Natatorium
- Additional substantial natural greenspace

New Facilities/Amenities at Brook Run Park

- Wayfinding Signage
- Restrooms – more in back to park too
- Multipurpose rectangular fields in back of park
- Parking
- Amenities that appeal to the masses
- More security lights and cameras
- Security personnel
- Connectivity to other parks
- Indoor and outdoor meeting space
- Indoor multipurpose center – gymnastics, gymnasiums, meeting space
- Splashpad
- Amphitheater
- Botanical Gardens
- WiFi
- Fishing Pond
- Pool
- Athletic Fields
- Multipurpose rectangle ball fields
- Large pavilion
- More trees
- Interpretive signage

Overall Quality of Customer Service

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

Average Rating

4.4

Seeking Community Feedback

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

Average Rating

3.5

Financial Support

- Combination of Taxes and Fees
- Content with current model
- Specifically Pursue Impact Fees
- Add non-resident fees to activities

Bond Referendum

- Community ready for a targeted, scaled down specific bond referendum that is widely communicated
- Depend on Specifics of Bond Issuance
- Dedication of Millage Rate to Parks
- New smaller bond referendum would pass at presidential election
- Increase hotel motel tax - can go up to 8%

Key Potential Partners

- DeKalb County Schools
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Corporations
- Contracted Nonprofits
- Businesses
- JCC
- CVB
- Dunwoody Homeowners Association
- Perimeter Community Improvement District
- MARTA
- Swim and Tennis Associations
- Dunwoody Chamber
- City Council
- Audubon Society
- PTA/PTO
- Young People of Dunwoody
- Dunwoody Senior Baseball
- Civic Organizations
- Local Newspapers
- Georgia State University
- PATH
- Trees Atlanta
- Adjacent Jurisdictions
- DOT
- Other Transportation Agencies
- Garden Club
- Georgia Power
- AT&T

Key Issues / Values

- Pockets of Influencers, Vocal Minority
- Plan for future Demographics of Dunwoody
- Tradition and History of Dunwoody
- No increased traffic
- Financial Concerns, Conservative
- Family Oriented
- Maintaining Residential Character with Park Development
- High Quality of Facility Standards
- City Council, New Mayor Buy-In
- Apathy of majority
- Collaboration with adjacent municipalities so no need to build everything
- Safety and security
- Focus on the Environment
- Community Culture

Top Priorities

- More and better facilities
- Adding Facilities and Programming Them
- Active Recreation Facilities and Programming, Mostly Youth
- Development with Public Safety, Police Input In Mind
- Capital Improvements
- Trail Connectivity
- City Center Park
- Better Communication
- Athletics
- Arts, Drama, Concerts
- Emphasis on Nature
- One community cultural mindset
- More capital
- Progress with preservation
- Improved stewardship
- Programming for All Ages

Thank You For Your Time and Input!

