

# Appendix B: Public Input Schedule and Responses

## Public Engagement Meeting Schedule

### Focus Group Meetings

- City Staff – Monday, January 11, 2016 @ 8:00 AM – City Hall
- Stakeholders – Tuesday, January 11, 2016 @ 11:00 AM – City Hall
- Stakeholders – Monday, January 11, 2016 @ 1:00 PM – City Hall
- City Council – Monday, January 11, 2016 @ 4:00 PM – City Hall
- Contracted Agencies – Tuesday, January 12, 2016 @ 9:00 AM – City Hall

### Public Forum

- General Public – Tuesday, January 12, 2016 @ 6:00 PM – DeKalb County Public Library, Dunwoody Branch

## Meeting Attendance

- January 11, 8:00 AM – City Hall: 8
- January 11, 11:00 AM – City Hall: 16
- January 11, 1:00 PM – City Hall: 6
- January 11, 4:00 PM – City Hall: 7
- January 12, 9:00 AM – City Hall: 12
- January 12, 9:00 AM – Library: 131

Total Public Attendance: 165

Total Staff/City Council Attendance: 15

## General Community Response – All Engagement Meetings

The following question responses were the most prevalent and consistently recurring comments voiced across all engagement meetings. They represent the strongest opinions, concerns, needs, ideas, and desires of the citizenry county wide. Items followed by one or more asterisks (\*) were mentioned that number of times throughout the public meetings.

### 1) How long have you been a resident of Dunwoody?

<u>  1  </u>	<5 years
<u>    </u>	5-9 years
<u>  4  </u>	10-19 years
<u> 13 </u>	20+ years
<u> 23 </u>	Not a resident but use programs/facilities

**2) What are the strengths of the Parks and Recreation Department that should be continued over the next several years?**

- \*\*\*Multi-use Trail
- \*\*\*Leadership and Communication
- \*Nonprofit Contractors for Programming
- \*Park Maintenance and Improvements
- \*Dunwoody Nature Center and Natural Trails
- \*Walking trails
- Return on Investment in Parks
- Potential for Change
- Great Parks Department
- Treetop Quest at Brook Run
- CIP with Partners
- Council Support
- Brook Run Park
- Nature Center and surrounding park
- Play areas

**Additional Citizen Response:** Development, maintenance of existing parks (namely Brook Run, Dunwoody Park) in partnership with nonprofits operating the parks.

**3) Conversely, what are the major weaknesses that need to be addressed through the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?**

- \*\*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
- Lack of rectangular fields
- Lack of a tennis facility
- Lack of programming

Parks are geared to much older and much younger demographics – need more for middle and high school kids  
Lack of an indoor aquatics facility

**Additional Citizen Response:** Continue acquisition of additional greenspace and development of Brook Run. Partner with City’s PR/communications staff to introduce changes to the public in a manner that will minimize opposition. Start with educating the public (namely, the older population who generally oppose change) on the health and economic benefits of having more greenspace in the community. Partner with Perimeter Center leaders and Convention & Visitors’ Bureau who understand these benefits. Brook Run has many acres of unused space. I support partnering with a nonprofit to operate recreational fields for a baseball, softball or lacrosse league. If Austin takes over the ball fields on Roberts, the Brook Run space could be perfect for the Dunwoody Senior league (DSB Diablos) headed by Tom Bass. They only need 2-3 fields. I also support some kind of partnership with Peachtree Middle School for school athletics.

**4) How satisfied are you with the quality of current programs offered? Why?**

<u>6</u>	5 Excellent
<u>7</u>	4 Very Good
<u>18</u>	3 Good
<u>9</u>	2 Fair
<u>2</u>	1 Poor

**Average 3.3**

**5) What additional programs or activities do you feel the Department should offer that are currently not available?**

- \*\*\*Special Events, Concerts, Independence Day
- \*Arts Programming – Performing, Visual, Preservation, etc.
- \*Hiking Tours
- \*Audubon Society Programming
- \*No appetite for insourcing
- \*Pickleball
- \*Senior 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
- Lacrosse

Swimming  
 Youth and Adult Soccer  
 Bocce  
 Outdoor Concert Series/Summer Entertainment  
 Gymnastics  
 Volleyball  
 More organized sports leagues  
 More community events like Lemonade Days

**Additional Citizen Response:** Athletic programs in the large cleared space at Brook Run. Basketball courts at Brook Run. Perhaps a Senior Center, in partnership with a nonprofit.

**6) How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the existing park and recreation facilities provided by the Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Department? Why?**

_____	5 Excellent
<u>6</u>	4 Very Good
<u>21</u>	3 Good
<u>13</u>	2 Fair
<u>2</u>	1 Poor

**Average 2.8**

**7) How would you rate the overall level of maintenance at the facilities owned or operated by the Department? Please identify the location and specifics of any maintenance concerns.**

_____	5 Excellent
<u>7</u>	4 Very Good
<u>12</u>	3 Good
<u>13</u>	2 Fair
_____	1 Poor

**Average 2.8**

**8) What improvements are needed at existing facilities? Where are these improvements needed?**

- \*Nature Center Updated – \*Parking, \*Pavilion, Observation Deck, and Trail
- \*Perimeter East Park buildings removed and Park developed, trails
- \*Tennis Courts
- Baseball Facility Restroom Updated
- Windwood Hollow Trails, 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.

Windwood Hollow – Better lighting, improved parking, better landscaping, renovated/rebuilt pavilion

Donaldson-Banister – Renovate

Develop 3.88 acre parcel near City Hall as a passive park

Develop 5 acre MARTA parcel as a passive park

Rebuild gazebo at Vernon Oaks Park

Control of Fields at Peachtree Middle Instead of Fields at Brook Run

Renovate baseball fields

**Additional Citizen Response:** Funds to help pay for the repaving of the main entranceway to the Dunwoody Nature Center to incorporate a new, sheltered drop-off area and bus turnaround near the front entrance to the Nature Center. In addition, more parking spaces are needed along the entrance road and near new bus turnaround. Funds to help pay for an addition of a new wooded, open air covered pavilion with chimney and outdoor deck (1,800 sq. ft.) on the north side of Dunwoody park.

#### **Specifically 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 into Performing Arts Center – Sponsored Privately

Improved parking

Renovate Theater

Add Disc Golf

#### **9) Are there any portions of the community that are underserved? Please explain (i.e., where and what type of amenities are needed, what market segment needs more attention, etc.).**

\*\*Small Segment of Seniors without Adequate Transportation

\*\*West, PCID

\*Northeast – North of Mount Vernon, East of Womack

\*Youth and Adult Sports

\*Parks are mostly in the west and south – need more in the north and east

Cultural, Arts

Perimeter Center

All Citizens based on current parks and activities

Industrial area apartments – Hispanic population

**Additional Citizen Response:** Areas closer to Peachtree Dunwoody and Dunwoody Club Drive. If you do not live within ½ mile of a park, then the area is underserved, in my opinion. I realize this is very controversial, but look for underutilized space that could be redeveloped into a park with a playground, basketball court and other amenities.

**10) What additional park and recreation facilities would you like to see the community provide?**

- \*\*\*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
- Multipurpose Rectangular Fields – Would require the purchase of additional land
- Indoor or Outdoor Performing Arts Center
- Windwood Hollow – \*Pavilion/Restroom, two additional tennis courts
- IGA for Use of Fields at Peachtree Middle
- Additional Parkland
- Splashpad
- PCID – Pavilion/Restroom

**Specifically Brook Run Park?**

- \*\*One or two multipurpose rectangular – address neighbor concerns
- \*Trail Connectivity
- \*New tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts
- \*50 Meter Indoor/Outdoor Pool
- \*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  
 Pavilion/restrooms  
 Tennis Courts  
 Ping Pong  
 Great Lawn  
 Spectator Seating  
 Address Parking  
 Community Center

**Additional Citizen Response:** I'd like to start discussions with the community and Georgia Power to utilize the Bull Sluice 500 KV right-of-way for a walking trail. Carla Worley on the Dunwoody Nature Center's Board has been exploring this option. Again, we need to be very careful about how this is rolled out to the public. Some will oppose this out of fear and lack of understanding. The City will need to hire a land agent to deal with each property owner separately, to listen to any concerns, resolve them, acquire a written easement, etc. I have many contacts for this kind of service.

**11) Are there any facilities and/or programs currently available that should be eliminated? If so, which ones and why?**

\*Theater Replaced, Relocated – Time to resolve the issue one way or another  
 Skatepark

**12) How would you rate the quality of customer service provided by the Parks and Recreation staff? Please elaborate.**

  20   5 Excellent  
  16   4 Very Good  
   3   3 Good  
   1   2 Fair  
       1 Poor

**Average 4.4**

13) **How effective is the Department in seeking feedback from the community and users on improving its performance?**

<u>8</u>	5 Excellent
<u>13</u>	4 Very Good
<u>9</u>	3 Good
<u>5</u>	2 Fair
<u>3</u>	1 Poor

**Average 3.5**

14) **How do you believe the Parks and Recreation Department should be financially supported? Should they be self-supported through user fees, completely through taxes, alternative funding or a combination of each? Please elaborate.**

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

**Additional Citizen Response:** The City budget has and should continue to have a good allocation of funds for parks. User fees (collected for specific programs such as the skate park) could supplement this funding, but I would not impose a fee on someone merely coming to a park to walk on a trail or go to the playground.

15) **Do you think residents would be supportive of a no-tax increase levee, if it is found that there are insufficient funds to build and/or properly operate and maintain park and recreational facilities and programs to the standards desired by the community? What other ways should be explored to fund your vision?**

- \*\*\*\*Community ready for a targeted, scaled down specific bond referendum that is marketed well
- 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%
- No
- More Against Than For
- Yes, Once Infrastructure Is Caught Up
- Interested in Short Term Capital Lease (\$3 million/year over 5 years = \$15 million)

**Additional Citizen Response:** Perhaps, but be very deliberate about how you propose the levee. Given our older population on fixed incomes, many will oppose. The younger population, who are more likely to take advantage of the parks improvements, should be more supportive, but give them many options through social media, etc., to provide feedback.

**16) Who are the key partners and stakeholders in the community with regards to assisting with the implementation of this plan?**

- \*\*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
- Bike Walk Dunwoody
- PATH Foundation
- PCID
- Large Corporations – Naming Rights
- Churches
- Current Contracted Nonprofits

**17) What are the key issues and values in the Dunwoody community that need to be considered while developing this Master Plan?**

- \*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
- Offer Things Not Currently Offered Locally
- Conservative
- Realistic and Targeted Scope

**Additional Citizen Response:** View this as a plan for future generations, i.e. younger families moving into the community. Strongly consider the health and economic benefits of a robust parks system. Given the prevalence of screen time with our children, we need to do as much as possible to get them outdoors to exercise and appreciate nature.

**18) Are there any political sensitivities we should be aware of that could impact the success of the city's planning efforts?**

City Council, New Mayor Buy-In  
Theater  
Jewish Community – Planning Meetings Accordingly  
Back Field at Brook Run  
Dunwoody Baseball Fields  
Potential Relocation of Austin Elementary  
Deed Restrictions at Brook Run  
Parks are underfunded  
Sustain and maintain existing parks  
Diversity  
Frugal/Cheap  
Resistance to Change

**19) During the next 5-10 years, what are the top priorities for the Parks and Recreation Department?**

\*\*More and better facilities  
\*Adding Facilities and Programming Them  
\*Rectangular fields  
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  
Develop and redevelop what you currently have  
Water Fountain for Kids  
Disc Golf  
Lacrosse  
Multipurpose Rectangular Fields  
Indoor Community Center  
Indoor/bubble tennis complex and/or indoor aquatic complex