PARK AND TRAIL SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

February 23 Meeting

Previous Meeting Recap

- Vision Statement
  - Budget/funding concerns for park maintenance of current amenities
  - Social gathering place and bringing people together
    - Activities in the park (grants, events)
  - Bike/hiking trails accessibility (connections between citywide assets)
    - Direction to reach out to other entities (DNR, Anoka County, MnDOT, adjoining communities)
- City Parks
  - Columbus City Park – Future tour for possible amenities
  - Howard Lake Park –Park sale recommended to City Council
  - Hidden Park – Decision on the future of the park

Previous Meeting Recap

- 2021 Survey Monkey Results
  - Walking is biggest park use
    - Expanding Trail System internally/externally highlighted as priorities
    - We discussed looking at options of extending the trail externally
      - Potential Partnerships (Anoka County, DNR)
- Comprehensive Plan Review
  - The framework for the Parks and Trails Master Plan
- DNR Land
  - Carlos Avery
  - Lamprey Pass

Definitions – Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure

- Pedestrian—a person on foot, in a wheelchair, on skates, or on a skateboard. (FHWA)
- Sidewalk – that portion of a street between the curb line, or the lateral line of a roadway, and the adjacent property line or on easements of private property that is paved or improved and intended for use by pedestrians. (FHWA)
- Foot Path – An unpaved path for pedestrians
  - Boardwalk – Elevated footpath to cross wetlands
- Off Road Trail – Paved or Unpaved. A trail separated from motorized vehicles.
- Widened Shoulder Route – An unmarked route that utilizes existing or newly constructed roadway shoulders
- Shared Roadway—a roadway that is officially designated and marked as a bicycle route, but which is open to motor vehicle travel and upon which no bicycle lane is designated. (FHWA)
- Striped/Marked Bike Lane – a portion of a roadway that has been designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists by pavement markings and, if used, signs. (FHWA)
  - Shared Lane – a shared roadway lane that is designated and marked for bicycle use.
  - Separated Lane - a preferential lane or other special purpose lane that is separated from the adjacent general-purpose lane(s) by a pattern of standard longitudinal pavement markings that is wider than a normal or wide lane line marking. The buffer area might include rumble strips, textured pavement, or channelizing devices such as tubular markers or traversable curbs, but does not include a physical barrier. (FHWA)

Park Vision Statement Definitions

Cambridge Dictionary: A statement of what a company or an organization would like to achieve in the future.

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission: This is a clearly defined, concise vision the defines the "why" of the facility based on regional information and public engagement.

TO DEVELOP, PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN NATURAL SPACES AND TRAILS FOR COMMUNITY-BUILDING AND RECREATION, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CITIZENS OF COLUMBUS AND BEYOND.

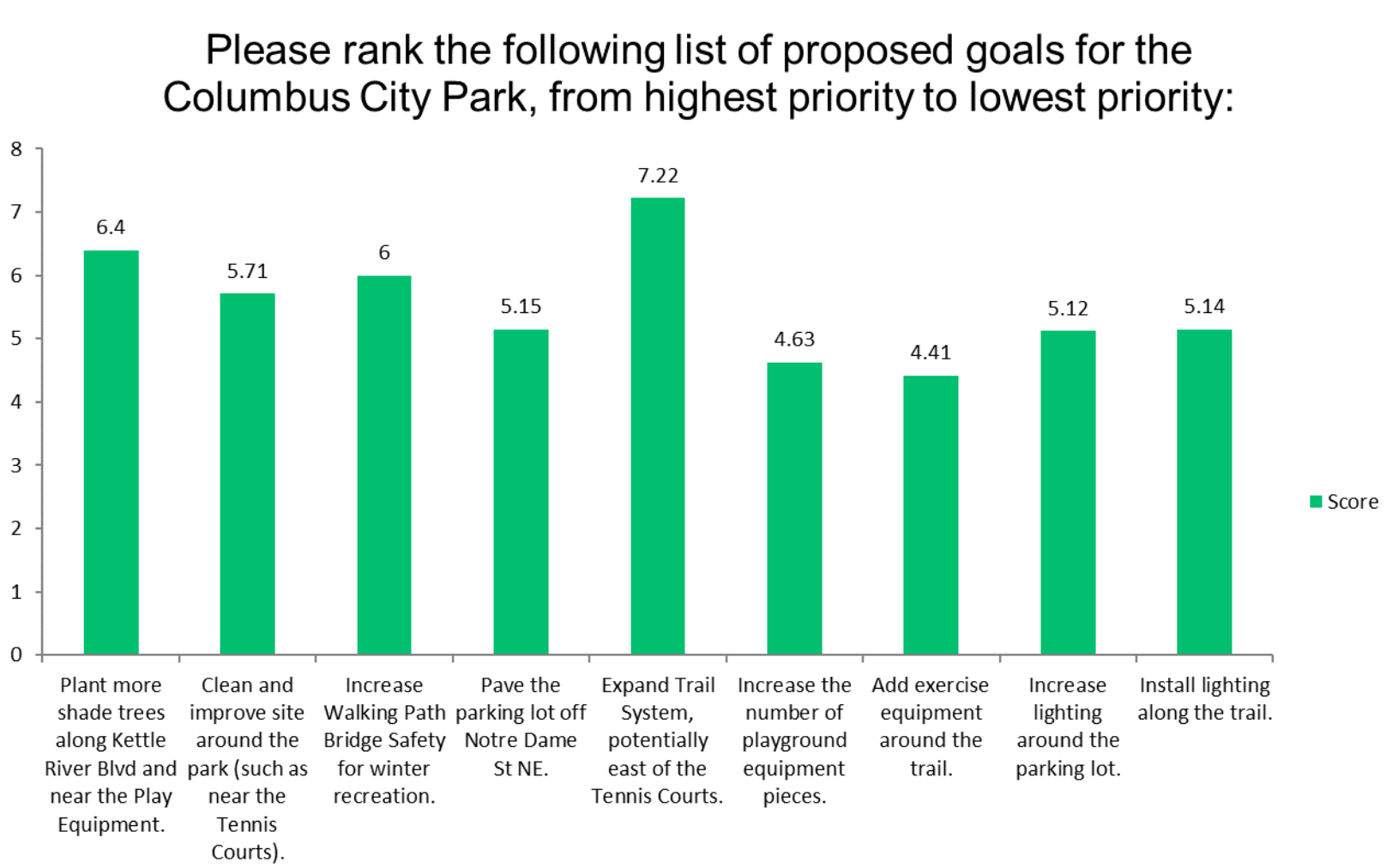
COLUMBUS IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN QUALITY ACCESSIBLE PARKS AND TRAILS THAT CAN SERVE AS A CENTRAL GATHERING SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

TO KEEP NATURE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL COLUMBUS CITIZENS – TODAY, TOMORROW AND FOREVER.

Draft Vision Statements

Columbus Park and Trail Goals

- Financial Viability of the Plan
  - Maintain existing amenities
  - Finding new funding sources
- Strategic and New Uses of Parkland
  - Disc Golf
  - Pickleball Court
- Utilization of Existing Assets of Other Public Entities
  - Howard Lake
    - Overlook on the Lake
    - Lamprey Pass
  - Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve
- Better Connections to the Park
  - Trail connections to Columbus City Park from residential areas a priority
  - Sidewalk connections in the commercial districts
- A Public Gathering Space
  - Events (i.e. Arts in the Park)
- ***Do these goals compliment the chosen Vision Statement?***
- ***Are there further details I am missing in the context of these goals?***
- ***Are there other goals you would like to see included?***



COLUMBUS PRIORITIES

Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan

- County is willing to work with local partners connecting trails to and from the park (Columbus, Linwood, East Bethel)
- East Anoka County Regional Trail already planned travel south on Lexington
- No Parking Lot Expansion (boats will likely continue parking on the shoulder)
- Addition of Westbound Right Turn Lane
- Expansion of Year-Round Amenities and Activities (Winter Walking Trails)

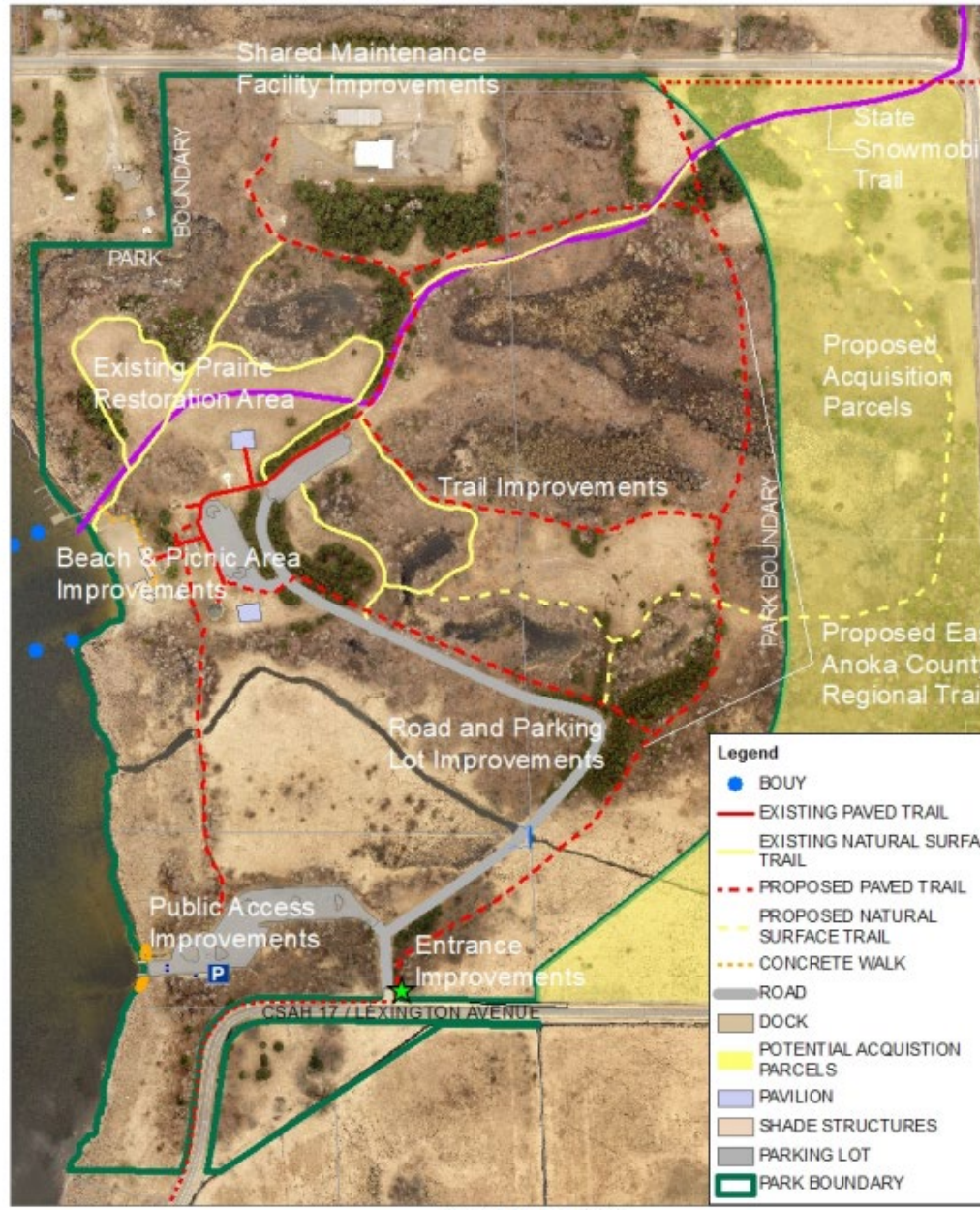


Figure 4: General Development Concept

Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan

- Are there components of this plan you believe will conflict with what you envision for the Columbus Parks and Trails Master Plan? Does the Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan conflict with the Columbus Parks and Trails Master Plan?
- Do park board members have recommendations about the plan to the City Council?

- Potential Conflicts Presented the in Plan - Boating Behavior on the Lake, Boat/Swimmer Conflicts, and Vehicle/Trailer Parking on Lexington Avenue

- Next Steps for Columbus
  - ***Draft Comments from the City***
  - Comment Period Ends March 17
  - Resolution of Support

Next Meeting – May 25

- Short Inventory Presentation
  - Hidden Park
    - What questions do we have about the park? What do Park Board members need to make decisions?
- Presentation of Drafted Goals and Priorities
- Discussion on planned outreach
- Discussion of Measuring Success (time permitting)