PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM Master Plan

April 20, 2023 Park Board Meeting

Goals and Priorities

Tonight's Discussion

Previous Meeting

- Adoption of Park Vision Statement
  - *To promote and maintain natural spaces and trails for community-building and recreation, accessible to all citizens of Columbus and beyond.*
  - Agreeing on Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Definitions
  - Goals and Priorities Discussion

Broad Goals

- Financial Viability
- Connections
- Social Gathering Space

Next Slide:

Options for Goals

- There is intentionally some overlap
  - Not intended to use all goals listed on next slide

Options for Park Plan Goals

- Plan a financially viable and sustainable plan that will maintain existing amenities and proactively plan for future maintenance with existing revenue sources and new funding strategies.
- Develop new financially sustainable park uses and amenities building off existing public assets and existing recreation trends that will appeal to Columbus residents.
- Identify and promote the assets of other public entities to the residents of Columbus and integrate the assets as public amenities.
- Utilize the park as a public gathering space and function as a relaxed rural town square.
- Develop the east side of Columbus City Park as an attractive and more active space in the park.
- Pursue strategic multi-modal connections to amenities in Columbus and throughout the Northeast Twin Cities area by connecting to existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in adjacent municipalities.
- Maintain and improve our existing amenities and assets in Columbus City Park while pursuing financially viable expansion to the entire parks and trails system.
- Identify partnerships and alliances with other government entities to promote other public natural resource assets within the city.
- Develop a more intensive active use of public property in and around Columbus City Park, including underutilized parkland east of the footbridge and city property adjacent to DNR shoreland on Howard Lake.
- Encourage the utilization of Columbus City Park as a public space for events that can bring together the residents of the community.
- Connect the city-wide parks and trails system to residential neighborhoods, Columbus City Park, commercial areas, and surrounding communities via safe on-road and off-road multimodal connections.

Priorities

On Going	Short Term (1-4 Years)	Mid Term (4-7 Years)	Long Term (7-12 Years)
• Walking Path & Bridge • Play Equipment • Tennis Court Rehabilitation • Tree • Ballfield Maintenance • Picnic Tables and Benches	• Clean and Improve East Side of the Park • Identification of Partners and Alliances • Hidden Park Decision • Define Need for Trail Lighting • Encourage Events in Columbus City Park • Winter Walking Bridge Safety • Connections to Hardwood Creek Trail	• Expand Internal Trail System • Basketball and/or Pickleball Court • Disc Golf • East Side Park Utilization • Parking Lot Paving • On-Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections	• Off-Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections • Increase the number of playground Equipment Piece • Replace Northeast Ballfield • Greater Utilization of Property east of Kettle River Boulevard (near City Hall and Howard Lake)

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?
- Discussion on Planned Outreach
- Discussion of Measuring Success

Picture Sources

Five Leadership Priorities for the New Year – Principal Matters! (principal-matters.com)

11 Steps to Achieving Impossible Goals | Inc.com