

APPENDIX B | PUBLIC MEETING NOTES



The City of
WORCESTER

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

Meeting	Location	Date
First Round Meetings		
District 1	Bancroft School FH, 110 Shore Drive	18-Dec-19
District 2	Green Hill Park, 50 Skyline Drive	13-Nov-19
District 3	Lake Park, 600 Hamilton Street	20-Nov-19
District 4	Crompton Park, 50 Canton Street	11-Dec-19
District 5	Beaver Brook Park, 9 Mann Street	4-Dec-19
Commission on Disability	City Hall, 455 Main Street	19-Nov-19
Conservation Commission	City Hall, 455 Main Street	27-Jan-20
Sports Leagues/Permit Holders	Green Hill Park, 50 Skyline Drive	30-Jan-20
Second Round Meetings		
District 1	Bancroft School FH, 110 Shore Drive	2-Mar-20
District 2	Green Hill Park, 50 Skyline Drive	9-Mar-20
District 3	Virtual	14-Dec-20
District 4	Virtual	21-Dec-20
District 5	Virtual	23-Dec-20



DISTRICT 1 -BANCROFT SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 6:30pm

Overall Issues

- Indian Lake Beach improvements highlighted and appreciated
- Biking very important, walk bike Worcester's work should be incorporated
- CDC-value of parks to public health, incorporate into the community health improvement plan
- Non traditional outreach is needed to reach people-recommend intercept surveys
- WLT & EOEEA & other partnerships should be emphasized
- Plan should coordinate with complete streets
- ConCom budget and city budgeting becomes a road block
- Broad Meadow Brook- needs new signs
- Need a creative way to help ConCom use public money to leverage non profit support of ConCom land
- Youth Development & WOR Tech- build relationships to help facilitate work, such as a new sign for Perkins Farm
- Beth- Shore Park is great, coordination needed for next phases, what private support can we find for the other Indian Lake parks
- Morgan/Clayson- safety and accessibility is an issue, Clayson-police have been great, lighting improvements, dealing with the property line will be a phased approach
- Memorials- conservation evaluation, part of action plan, need to capture names on memorials before they disappear
- Loop around Indian Lake-for running & walking
- Discussion of Parcel 149, restricted used on this parcel, currently not part of the MP for the rest of the lake properties. Became contentious and was holding up work on the other properties. Money has been secured to assist with the removal of invasives and MP
- Could community gardens be located there
- Address the Greendale Mall location and connections it opens up
- Dearth of water access for dog owners. Would love 149 to be a water dog park since it is underutilized
- Burncoat Skate Park could use a private partner to improve it. Tony Hawk Foundation
- Bathrooms at parks, open facilities usually require partnerships, portapotties where no partnerships
- What kind of other partners besides friends of groups could be find to assist with bathrooms
- Social equity of bathroom -poor people get portapotties, wealthy communities get bathrooms
- Cost for an outside contractor to staff bathroom
- What are other cities doing about bathrooms
- How is Worcester benchmarking against other communities
- Parks explains staffing issues
- Levels of services-poor conditions in portapotties
- ConCom properties need to be inventoried
- What budget and staff are available to ConCom beyond the commission
- Pubic health effort to use school land for public use outside of school time
- Trail connection from Indian Hill, Barenzi through St. Georges. Behind Colony Apartments, Gore Street, Izza and Nick's Woods
- Forest grove trail to wetland and water
- Across from the country club there is a butterfly meadow
- 149 accessible by boat, could there be a dock?

Overall Issues

- Trails existing along the Holden line that need to be preserved
- Devonshire parcel to winterhill to grove connection
- Land around Assumption College to the southwest, edges have potential
- Haywood Street needs bike lanes
- 149 should have a mural, or “legal walls” for tagging, none in Worcester, Millbury has one along the 146 underpass
- Dedicated bike lanes for traffic



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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 2 -GREEN HILL PARK

Thursday, November 13, 2019 6:30 pm

Notes:

Patty -runs afterschool tennis program in the schools, working with city youth programs, uses gyms due to weather

Richard Kuruer- 25 year resident of Worcester. District 2.

- Green Hill is his favorite part.
- Active in the East Coast Greenways, works with city council.
- Introduced the City Bike and Pedestrian plan.
- Good connection to Union Square but not north of Union Square.
- City needs connected greenways

Colin Novick- Greater Worcester Land Trust-assists the city in Open Space

Nick Chacharone-Parks Commissioner
Clark University?

Overall Issues

- Gap analysis in the East Coast Greenways
- Link separate planning efforts together
- Bike linkage through Rt 70-no adequate bikeway on this route
- Urban linkages achieve through "super" complete streets to create a linear urban park
- Colin reviewed conservation efforts since 2013 and achievements
- Colleges should be involved in this effort
- Colin review opportunities for additional efforts including-Randolph Rd, Plantation Street, Dickson and Sheldon Street- These efforts would help to create a trail/path that would circumnavigate Green Hill Park, Mentioned Notre Dame and reconnecting Burncoat
- Trees needed to help build urban forest
- Rob Antonelli described the Worcester Tree initiative and that 35K trees have been planted in the city since 2009
- Shade is needed to address heat in the city and provide relief during heatwaves. More pocket park to give greater access to shade



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 3 -LAKE PARK

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 6:30 pm

Notes:

Mass Audubon

- Recommended the looking at the Integrated Water Resource xx Plan- that Worcester did in to satisfy EPA considerations
- Adding DCR and other groups to the proximity to parks map to help show the coverage in gaps between the parks properties

Overall Issues

- How does Worcester compare to other similar cities in terms of the money spent on parks.
- Gaps still exist in terms of funding
- Perkins Farm Conservation areas needs better signage to improve viability
- Parking issue at Lake Park during larger game events, street gets blocked off with cars parking along the edge of the road
- MP for Lake Park was done in the 1990s and likely needs to be redone
- Eli Way- off College street there is a lot left that is part of a native American spring-could be a great cultural resource for the City to acquire
- Earnst Ave Swamp - 8 acres could be a great conservation area for habitat and storm water flooding
- Standard Auto is for sale
- Bathrooms should be open all the time - city has expenses associated with the cost of operating the bathrooms
- More dog parks are needed
- All swimming associated with Lake Quin. is owned by the state- beach at lake park has issues with wake from boater. City should ask state to address. Current swimming area that is roped off is too shallow for adult swimmers to cool off
- Bikeworcester.com- resource for bike routes
- No boat launch on the Blackstone River- need greater access
- Colin-2013 = 3700acres 17%
- 2019 = added 125 acres 17.6%
- 3,825acres total



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 4 - CROMPTON PARK

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 6:30 pm

Notes:

Overall Issues

- Is there a budget specifically for non-sports related activities?
- Edible fruit trees can they be incorporated into the right places in parks?
- Need more pools
- Elm and Newton are one park
- Tennis needs more decent space, is there a plan for more courts?
- Parks should have smaller skatable elements that are designated. Summerville has these.
- Concern over how people are going to interact with the skaters
- Concern over how police are going to interact with skaters
- In order for the skate park to be successful a partnership needs to be built now
- Suggestion that an officer be assigned to the skate park so everyone gets to know and trust them
- Desire for small skatepark satellites. PARKS should have multi-use spaces with skate functionality
- Bikes need spaces too, perhaps separate bike areas that are designated
- University park has a Skate Jam, can this come to Crompton and expand events for skaters
- Walking trails, not hiking trails, are needed. Wide, flat paths with mile markers. Opportunity for this at Green Hill
- Could loop around 2/3 of the Lake at Green Hill
- Community Gardens- usually a small waiting list, new one at Camp Street has filled up. Community partners
- Pat Austin-Tatnic Watershed- City should incorporate the Blue Spaces Plan, Trash issues at parks is awful, not an issue with lack of trash cans just thoughtlessness
- What is the criteria for developing a masterplan?
- Newton Hill need one
- Not safe to cycle in the city, need more protected bike lanes especially along mill street
- Biking should be encouraged along flat route through communities- North Lake Ave
- Rectangular field opportunity- 95 Grand Street, owned by city next to Crystal park, short bikeway toward Hamon Chess King Site, North side extend bikeway
- Bikeway at the Visitor Center Millbury connect across Mehend Rd up Kansas to Crompton
- How to get Dougherty HS over to Folley Stadium
- Newton Hill to Beaver Brook through Folley Stadium with paths
- Greenhill Skatepark improvements, minor changes could make this a very enjoyable skate park
- District 4- Canal was at SE corner of Crompton, could be excavate to acknowledge canal in the cut fill compensation for Crompton Park
- REC Farm not currently preserved, private land owner, city should get a list of all the empty lots
- District 4 suffers from lack of tree canopy, streets are narrow, making street trees difficult, title list to discover lots that could be used to help increase canopy coverage, 2-3K lots size
- Can we leave vacant land to the pollinators?
- Climbing wall on the face of I190



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 5 -BEAVER BROOK PARK

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 6:30 pm

Notes:

Overall Issues

- How much as the city's accomplished of the previous action plan
- Dougherty HS replacement -currently on Elm Park land. If the option is to replace it on existing land this will impact both Elm and Newton Hill. If they plan on relocating the HS this will also impact. City should be aware of the plans.
- Undesignated land by the airport is not currently preserved . Makes sense that this land would go the ConCom
- Land behind Chandler Magnet School to Moor Ave could be an opportunity
- Can the lights be left on for street hockey.
- Coes Pond needs an adult swim area, could be a separate facility elsewhere on Coes pond or a larger roped off area for deeper swimming
- Access the water at Leasel pond, Parson Cider Mill and the Old Res. has great recreation potential
- Middle River access along the river, Cutis Pond has no access, could we create an aquatic park where access is by kayak or canoe only. Access islands
- Coes Pond- needs remediation-can we create access to at least view the pond?
- Flood plane issues affect many of the park in this area
- Beaver Brook to Mill to Coes Greenbelt opportunity. Linking these would help uplift the neighborhood
- Daylighting the rest of Beaver Brook
- Shifty SW corner of the road around Coes Pond to be further away from the water edge to create a more park like setting
- Rectangular field spaces in not adequate in district 5.
- Address connections to East West Trail
- Newton Hill Nordic Ski Course
- Arboretum at Clark University-this areas is only informally protected, no legal protection. Trails in poor shape.
- Tettasit Ridge trail w/ Airport has not formal protection. Needs an MOU with the city.
- Cascades Parks & Boynton need to a masterplan that looks at all the parks together as one. Need one overall management plan. West Tacnic Elementary is continuous to the area. Would be great to connect.
- Connect Moorland Woods to the Old Clarkson Tree Farm
- Beaver Brook needs new playground, old PG was removed to make way for Little League
- Pond level issue at Elm Park



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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 1 -BANCROFT SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE

Monday March 2, 2020

Overall Issues

- Emphasize the role public parks play in the environment
- These parks are not just ecosystems but provide public health benefits
- Need a top 10 list of unprotected lands
- Park usage-park security
- Look at MVP to guide acquisitions of new properties
- Enhance- should not mean develop-especially development of sports facilities
- Event not of the city calendar
- Lakes & Ponds is having a Fisheries kickoff -look at water quality
- Indian Lake & Institute are the headwater for the Blackstone-need to connect Indian Lake to Quinsig. Village. Need a North/South Trail - Blackstone through Crompton
- Maintain budgets-Current budgets are starvation- resources need to be adequately funded, Parks need to be a strong partner to the other groups and stakeholders
- Indian Lake- history that is lost needs to be included or recognized in some way, partners are needed
- Heat map of density with the open space layer
- Want to see more maps
- Issues around rectangular fields and grass vs turf
- Budgeting needs to be a goal
- Is synthetic actually recyclable?
- Concerns over parcel 149 - 149 can be passive only
- Fencing off fields is a problem, makes to field unwelcoming and inaccessible when locked
- Parks plan for Duffy field -no MP- included in the rectangular field MP
- Duffy field vs Weatherall Estate-Duffy field makes it seem there is not other uses in the park, that it is a field only and not a park
- St. Mary's and Holy name closure represents an opportunity for parks to expand acquisitions
- Tacoma Street Playground- grants
- No turf on Duffy



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 2 -GREEN HILL PARK

Monday March 9, 2020

Overall Issues

- Parks should call for no more deforestation of parks. Open space should remain open space
- Parks should acquire more land
- Permitting needs to be revamped-field space
- Midland School is an elementary school with no green space. They use the park. Park permits often restrict access so there is not time or room for socials
- Leagues are not always using the time that they have permitted. This system relies on negotiation with the leagues for the time that school need. It relies on the personal relationships that can be established between organizations.
- Schools are supposed to have priority over leagues.
- Schools with no green space should have access to fields during the school hours.
- Duffy has a disabilities people population that uses it during the day.
- Discussion on walking paths
- Discussed need to make more smaller skatable moments in parks
- Need for community gardens and how to advocate for them. Lot of vacant lots in the city
- Waterways within parks need dredging and have invasive weed issues
- Voice support for the forebay at Institute. This would allow for sediment to be trapped before entering the pond and make it easier for clean out to occur
- District 2 has many buried waterways-critical need to preserve open brooks that remain
- Dickson and celdon street 2 lots that could allow for circumnavigating Green Hill without going through the golf course
- Skateparks need to be like little leagues. Couselor Rosen has advocated for renovation of the Grenn Hill Park skate park.
- Skating at the Oval could be open on certain days, allowing access at certain time, in conjunction with an event.
- Alley next to the Oval could have a skate moment in it
- Skate monets at all parks
- Pop up skate events-sponsorship through Vans or Converse, would help create economic drive
- End of Lincoln-very difficult for people and cyclist to get across. Notice the entrenched foot paths
- Do colleges help as much as possible?
- Babcock power site- could that be a field?- We should look at under-utilized -previously developed land for fields
- Mitigate the environmental impact of turf-despite the field utilization problems
- East West Trail-can we get public acces through rural cemeteries-these sites are private, can the city be a partner to assist with access
- Lincoln Street is also a pinch point for the East West Trail



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 3 -LAKE PARK

Monday, December 14, 2020 6:30 pm

Notes:

- Rap-up comments and questions at the end of December 27th

Q1: Are there any specific parcels that have been targeted? What is plan in terms of targeting parcels? What is the city's ultimate objectives in acquiring parcels?

- All parcels that we have identified in previous open space plan, we worked closely with the Great Worcester Land Trust, Mass Audubon on property that are in and around ex. city park. We added the parcel with those parks. Another thing we are also looking at somewhere that has density neighborhood, food resource, the ability for farmers, community gardens, etc.

Q2: How much spaces will you need for them? It doesn't matter on that. Small parcels, a couple of thousand square feet or much larger space are all good.

- Also looking for parcels that have no useful building component to it, and maybe beneficial to the park system, maybe something we can use for.
- Looking for environmental justice area as the major drive of parcels as well. Maybe another playground or community gardens.
- In terms of someplace that have ex. structures, we may value the property first. We search for lots of parcels that are abandoned, overgrown, with subdivision that wasn't built out. Seeking the balance of the need for academic grown as well.

Q3: About "Converting underutilized properties", how to gather the utilization informations to identify the underutilization?

- what we talk about underutilized in regarding to the space with renovation that could offer more opportunity. This kind of park renovation is based on neighborhood needs and wants, overall city demographic needs and wants, and we try to balance those as we move forward.
- The data is based on permits, no general review of sites. All the data was took from neighborhood when we do the Master Plan. The league helps us to manage the space, that's the primary data source. Also work with other departments to double check the data.
- The data accuracy. Prefer to have more transparency of the Permitting process and data gathering. Such as post on-line, having more channel to get feedback.

Q4: Other than neighborhood, how about public school usage?

- This will also be calculated.



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN 2020

DISTRICT 4 -CROMPTON PARK

Monday, December 21, 2020 6:30 pm

Notes:

Overall Issues

- Elm Park didn't have a master plan before, looking forward to have that master plan.
- Needs of elevating Heat Island Effect and generate community gardens. Such as tree canopy not only as the street tree, but also in open space and parking lots as shelter.
- Circulation of water also needs to be consider.
- Micro-lots are good consideration, but have some issue of buying out, hard to clean and snow removal.
- Will the State representatives for the city of Worcester think of the propose of a new chapter 61, which is suited to micro lots? This keeps the property privet, but encourage the privet property that has extra parking lots provide the parking to the public and refine it.
- Consider all State grants.
- To pick up where the neighborhood volunteers to start build a trail system that were user-friendly. Heavy crew use the trail at summer, it's good if the trail get more user-friendly lines.
- Working on a foot traffic corridor of connection between Millbury St. and the Blackstone Bike Way Parking Lot.



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DISTRICT 5 -BEAVER BROOK PARK

Wednesday, December 23, 2020 6:30 pm

Notes:

Q1: Is there specifics in this plan for all of the locations in District 5? Or this is more of the overview of the survey?

- This presentation is only for overview, but the Master Plan will have more details.

Q2: Is there a way to segment the survey to include the specific information based on districts?

- Yes, this can be specific per park/open space.
- Is good to see the combination of different parks, good for guiding people.

Q3: Based on the Master Plan in 2005, there were some priority. In what way does the document also reflect the priority or some issue that have already brought in before? Is there some issues that have been picked up now?

- We first review and define what's the relevant and what's not for now.
- Work with the Park Commission.

Q4: Can this plan find gas leak in and around park area? Is there any way to pin point where the leaks are, and any of monitor plans?

- Need more pressure to get this information.

Q5: Never see a survey or invitation, why we don't receive any of that?

- The survey went to Park Commission.
- For the countable item, we send them with city clerk.
- Public Meeting, social media.
- Work with various City group, discussion thoroughly.

Q7: Children never get a chance to enjoy natural landscape. over 300 children live here, but the accessible of parks are hard

- Coes Park area is fully accessible, the city don't manage that.
- Working on the accessible beach.
- Beach issue, need signs of basic information.

Overall Issues

- How can we work together? Neighborhoods feel not be included in the conversations.
- Who made the decision of the plan? It seems the public didn't been listened at all.
- Communicate with community is not enough (lots of people don't know this meeting).
- Do we have survey with multiple languages?
- should have more resources about the meeting and document related. Such as a Facebook group.
- Public information should be transparent.

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