

Focus Group Summaries

Stakeholder Focus Groups



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Reader's Guide

This appendix includes the stakeholder focus groups that were held as part of the 2022 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Headings indicates the name, number, and date of the focus group online meeting. Attending lists stakeholders invited or in attendance. Staff lists the staff members leading and documenting the session. Each session may include questions and comments posed during the full group portion of the session.

Some sessions feature prompts with comments from multiple breakout groups indicated by text color:

Plum for Room #1

Spirit Green for Room #2

Leaf Green for Room #3

Stakeholder Focus Group #1.1A: Nature in Parks & Rec: Access to Nature Session Notes - 3/16/21

Attending: Joel Howrani Heeres; Juliana Fulton; Arianna Zannetti; Jac Kyle; garrett.dempsey@sierraclub.org; DetroitScoutHollow@gmail.com; careyt@nwf.org; alycia.mereweather@detroitk12.org; Alexis Adams; pstringer@gmail.com; lisa.perez@usda.gov; Justinrpetty@gmail.com; tepfirah@gmail.com; Erin Casey; Justin Schott; nowakg@belleisleconservancy.org; jstoneman@michigannature.org; nina.kelly@metroparks.com; sallypetrella@gmail.com; natalie.ramos@ymcadetroit.org; jody_demeyere@fws.gov; mreed@dzs.org; brucej.ross@yahoo.com; lottie@earthseeddetroit.com; malikyakini@gmail.com; djenabameansbusiness@gmail.com; Meagan Elliott; Keith Flournoy; Machion Jackson; swgrows@gmail.com

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Arianna, Zannetti, Jac Kyle, Erin Casey, Justin Schott

General comments / suggestions:

Parks are mental health spaces for kids, need to connect more with teachers
DNR needs to be more involved

Questions:

Q: Can people join the next sessions

A: If working in the field, yes, but check with us first

Q: Is the goal to have the same people at both sessions

A: Yes

Q: **Is there staff from the City who would add more diversity to the leadership and these focus groups?

A: Good point, these are staff who work around nature access, will look different at other sessions

Q: Can we create space for teens and youth to be at focus groups? Seniors?

A: Yes, there are focus groups specifically for them

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Nature to Neighborhoods

1. Expanding interest in nature (education)
2. Getting nature into neighborhoods
3. Providing quality habitat for wildlife (& people)

Neighborhoods to Nature

1. Addressing the geographic disconnect (transportation needs)
2. Addressing other unmet needs (physical meeting space/storage/gear)

3. Expanding Detroit nature programming beyond the DEN

Nature to Neighborhoods

1. How can we/DPRD expand interest and comfort in nature for Detroit residents?

- Social media, existing networks
- Develop programs and partnerships with ex. Organizations
 - schools , NGOs
 - Orgs that have broad outreach but not necessarily nature-based
- Displacement more so than discomfort
 - Lack of opportunity/awareness
 - Utilize SM for more exposure
 - Marketing
- Early education and exposure > leads to awareness of all age levels
 - Children Lead
- Teaching
 - Access to native plants
- Signage
 - Intuitive for self-learning and self-exploration
 - Directional signage to park/nature in surrounding areas

2. How can we/DPRD provide natural spaces and nature experiences where people live, in Detroit neighborhoods (& neighborhood parks)?

- Outdoor classroom and gathering places
 - Partnering with schools
 - <https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/creating-an-outdoor-classroom-things-to-consider/>
 - <https://www.andrewstokols.com/buenos-aires-city-of-plazas>
 - <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/michiganzoomin/michigan-zoomin/about/team>
- Rain gardens and other natural spaces
 - Dissociate park from just playscape, basketball, etc.
 - Less concrete
 - Utilize vacant lots for pocket parks or forest patches
- Training teacher/facilitators on how to use outdoor spaces to guide kids
- Outdoor programming
 - Food security
 - Adventure Education (Camping, Hiking)
 - Environmental Science (Water, Air, Forestry)
 - Art and sustainability advocates
 - Biomimicry
 - Outdoor fitness classes
- Green Careers/advancement/certification- exposure and education on opportunities
 - Representation of BIPOC
 - Jr. Rangers
 - Nature play
 - Pollinator and sensory gardens

Neighborhoods to Nature

1. How can we/DPRD address the geographic disconnect between where residents live and the current natural spaces in the City (such as transportation needs)?

- Thematic based Sprinter Vans that allow for mobile programming (I.e. Archery, Fishing, Science themed) - bring it to them
- Digital map of Detroit Parks
- How to use public transportation to get to parks
- Adaptive equipment available for use at parks

2. How can we/DPRD address the other unmet needs to provide access to nature (such as physical meeting space/storage/gear)?

- make it easier for partners to be in relationship with Parks
- Create gear library at Rouge (in one of the bldgs. on access road behind the stables)
- Sugar Bush/Sugar Shack at Stone Bridge Trail (in the little bldg near Outer Drive)
- Outdoor Classrooms/Plaza development
- Open-air Archery Range at Rouge and Palmer
- Campground and Gear Library on Belle Isle (Hiking/Biking/Water Themed)
- ATV Trail at Rouge and Chandler Park (or other space in area that could accommodate, ie decommissioned railroad corridor/industrial space)

3. How can/should we expand Detroit nature programming beyond (and at) the DEN?

- Ropes Courses (DEN)
- Climbing Walls (DEN)
- Signage (DEN, and Rouge)
- Thematic based Sprinter Vans that allow for mobile programming (I.e. Archery, Fishing, Science themed) (DEN)
- Habitat/Native Species Restoration on DEN grounds at each (or key) greens, and other parks that have issues with standing water/flooding
- Reforestation projects
- Rouge River Clean up - so waterways can be used for kayaking and canoeing

Chat:

15:59:00 From Justin Schott (he/him) : Welcome! We'll be using a tool called Mentimeter for live interaction. On your phone or another screen, you can go to www.menti.com and enter code 3888 1336 to participate in the polls

16:01:26 From Tiffany Carey : Hi all! I'll be back in a couple of minutes.

16:02:31 From Jac Kyle : Hello & Welcome everyone! Just a heads up, sometimes my internet is spotty so I put my camera off. Excited to talk with you all.

16:05:18 From Justin Schott (he/him) to Joel Howrani Heeres(Privately) : Do you want to record?

16:13:39 From Keep Growing Detroit : can you put that code in the chat please

16:14:09 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : www.menti.com and enter code 3888 1336 to participate in the polls

16:14:50 From Juliana Fulton : 3888 1336

16:25:49 From Nina Kelly (she/her) : how many total responses were received from the survey?

16:27:24 From Jac Kyle to Joel Howrani Heeres(Privately) : Do you know how many responses were received from the survey?

16:28:25 From Tiffany Carey : Was there a clear description/ definition for cleanliness/maintenance? Just curious about folks' views on what those terms mean.

16:30:13 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : But you have Jac!!

16:32:44 From bruce ross : Schools are near those neighborhood parks

16:34:10 From Jac Kyle : List of examples, not comprehensive!

16:38:18 From Tepfirah Rushdan : Appreciate the equity slide, we need to unpack this more. It would be nice to have the parks

and rec staff itself be more representative of the majority population here. The efforts are great but we need to be sure the ideas are being processed by BIPOC leadership

16:40:13 From Lisa Perez, she/her : @tepfirah agreed!

16:40:26 From Tiffany Carey : +++

16:40:44 From bruce ross : the MDNR NEEDS TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THESE EFFORTS. THEY ARE IN DETROIT NOW!!

16:41:00 From Djenaba Ali Black To The Land : I agree, Bruce

16:42:13 From bruce ross : I will be talking to the Chief of the MDNR!

16:42:40 From Tiffany Carey : Was Alexis Horton from the DNR invited to this session? Is it too late to invite folks?

16:44:18 From Lisa Perez, she/her : outdoor classrooms are really being encouraged in covid times.

16:44:35 From Lisa Perez, she/her : has the greening of Detroit been invited?

16:47:55 From Jac Kyle : Agreed Tee. & Alexis would be perfect to invite and Lisa I believe the Greening was invited.

16:48:22 From Friends of Rouge Park : Will the city ever bring back Day Camps?

16:49:23 From Jac Kyle : This year we are planning to do 4 outdoor day camps, one with a focus on Nature in Palmer Park.

16:51:11 From Ayo Thomas : Ayo Thomas | Room 2

16:51:11 From Nina Kelly (she/her) : Nina Kelly - Breakout 2

16:51:13 From bruce ross : 1

16:51:18 From Julie Stoneman : Breakout 1

16:51:19 From Friends of Rouge Park : Sally - Breakout 2

16:51:21 From Natalie Ramos : Natalie Ramos - breakout 2

16:51:21 From Justin Schott (he/him) to Joel Howrani Heeres(Privately) : You need to assign as the primary host

16:51:21 From Chris : 2

16:51:31 From Erin Casey : 2

16:51:42 From Djenaba Ali Black To The Land : 1

16:51:48 From Arianna Zannetti : 1

16:51:50 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : Jody DeMeyere 1

16:51:58 From mreed : Mike Reed Nature and Neighborhood

16:52:06 From bruce ross : Hey Keith

16:52:38 From Lisa Perez, she/her : how do we choose which group? place me where you think i fit!

16:52:43 From Justin Schott (he/him) : Choices are 1) Nature to neighborhoods (quality space and habitat) and 2) Neighborhoods to Nature - geographic disconnect, addressing unmet needs, expanding beyond the den

16:52:45 From Chris to Joel Howrani Heeres(Privately) : Hello Joel! Long time no see! How's Anna?

16:53:49 From Lisa Perez, she/her : 2

16:55:10 From Justin Schott (he/him) : Here's the link to the google doc where we'll be taking live notes: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14Q_o1LQQAg78uDTohCQ6dGlufxrmmm5csMnA3HdETks/edit#slide=id.gc35066c91d_0_832

16:56:58 From Tefpirah Rushdan : Hi all I have a 5 o clock to jump in. Thanks for the dialogue look forward to next session

16:59:33 From Chris to Joel Howrani Heeres(Privately) : Provide opportunities for residents to engage in ways that are aligned with life style, interests, needs, and behavior

16:59:53 From Chris : Provide opportunities for residents to engage in ways that are aligned with life style, interests, needs, and behavior

16:59:55 From Joel Howrani Heeres to Justin Schott (he/him)(Privately) : I enabled them. not sure if too late

17:00:27 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : I think Bruce was onto a main theme with schools. Using schoolyards for outdoor classrooms. Training teachers to use the outdoors. Start the exposure during school and let them get excited. Then begin providing opportunities for folks to connect with nature in ways that are accessible to all (i.e. lots of cool nature apps, programming, events, etc.)

17:03:54 From Chris : Skate parks, ATV trails, Rouge River clean up, Ropes Courses, Climbing Wall, Ropes Courses Climbing Wall, Interpretive Signage

17:05:59 From Ayo Thomas : Park Rx is a good alignment

17:07:45 From Ayo Thomas : YES. What increases park user agency

17:08:32 From Tiffany Carey : Green networks, connection between parks

17:08:49 From Tiffany Carey : *Pollinator Pathways

17:10:09 From Joel Howrani Heeres to Juliana Fulton(Privately) : Sorry about the breakout snafu...I think I am going to drop off if that's OK. I don't think I am adding a ton of value at this point.

17:10:31 From Tiffany Carey : I also want to mention that we should not use 'vacant lots' - maybe unusable green spaces? Are there other terms that would lift up these spaces ?

17:11:38 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : Great idea Ayo!!

17:12:39 From Nina Kelly (she/her) : Maybe exploring natural playscapes to blend those lines?

17:12:51 From Chris : <https://www.andrewstokols.com/buenos-aires-city-of-plazas>

17:12:55 From Joel Howrani Heeres to Chris(Privately) : Great! How are you! Ana is great. Remind me where we met before...

17:13:23 From Lisa Perez, she/her : some of the different terms used are pocket parks or forest patches.

17:14:25 From Djenaba Ali Black To The Land : www.blacktothelandcoalition.com

17:14:48 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : We are exploring having the local P&R Dept. lead outdoor fitness classes at the refuge. Seems you could do something similar with Detroit parkland and outdoor at Rec Centers.

17:15:39 From Ayo Thomas : YES! Arts and sustainability!

17:15:52 From Ayo Thomas : Biomimicry is a good one

17:16:32 From Tiffany Carey : Can we be sure to include green careers/advancement/certification?

17:16:48 From Ayo Thomas : Jr Rangers?

17:18:05 From Tiffany Carey : <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/michiganzoomin/michigan-zoomin/about/team>

17:18:13 From Joel Howrani Heeres to Justin Schott (he/him)(Privately) : Should we be recording this? Sorry, I know you're busy.

17:18:33 From Tiffany Carey : Michigan Zoomin - community science wildlife camera trap study in Detroit studying apex carnivores led by a woman of color scientist at UM

17:18:59 From Justin Schott (he/him) to Joel Howrani Heeres(Privately) : Would be good, just feels like a strange time to start

17:20:30 From Nina Kelly (she/her) : Besides needing sustainable and affordable transportation options to the parks - I think an emphasis on accessibility to those with a variety of disabilities is very important.

17:20:52 From bruce ross : I have to leave...so sorry... I have another meeting I have to go...I appreciate being apart of this group!

17:21:16 From Juliana Fulton to Joel Howrani Heeres(Privately) : Thanks Bruce!

17:21:27 From Juliana Fulton : Thanks Bruce!

17:24:13 From Lisa Perez, she/her : does the digital parks guide list natural areas that are available in the parks, as well as trails that access them?

17:24:27 From Tiffany Carey : I have to jump off everyone! Thanks for this first session - looking forward to the next one.

17:25:12 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : Does it make more sense for all of us to commit to making the SEMCOG Park Finder the one go to place for access and amenity information? Why do we all need a version of this?

17:27:56 From mreed : Balduck Park could be used on the Eastside

17:28:30 From Lisa Perez, she/her : greening of Detroit green corps is a great model of this Ayo!

17:28:41 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : If you would like to expand your options for day camps, perhaps partners could help you staff those in a variety of parks across the City. I know the refuge will be providing support at Palmer this summer. Maybe our regional groups like SEMI Wild could help fund funding for seasonal staff to support this type of effort.

17:28:42 From Ayo Thomas : Yes, Lisa!

17:30:31 From Julie Stoneman : Like that idea, Jody!

17:30:34 From Ayo Thomas : Syncing all of the groups currently supporting the parks under a strategic guide

17:30:42 From Jac Kyle : Thank you everyone for your time and input!

17:30:47 From Jody, Detroit River IWR : Thanks for getting this group together!

17:30:49 From Julie Stoneman : Thank you!

17:30:55 From Ayo Thomas : This has been awesome! Thank you!

Mentimeter:

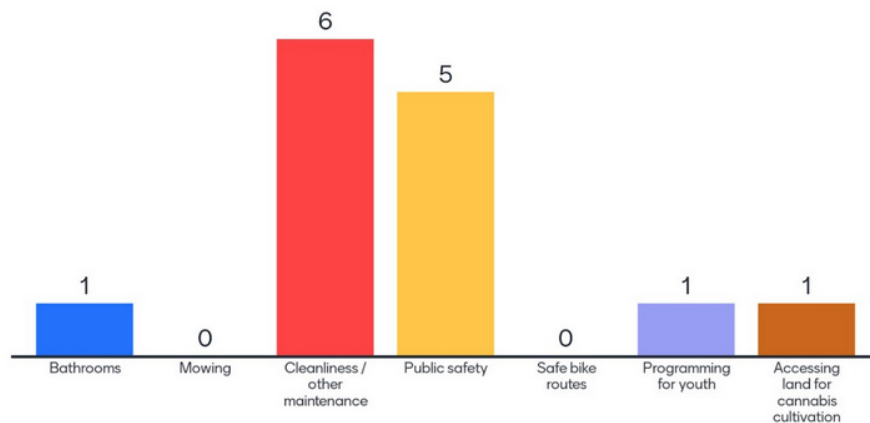
Please list your name, organization/department, and one sentence describing a memorable experience in nature in Detroit.

Chris Jackson	Detroit Outdoors/Black to the Land Coalition	Juliana Fulton, parks & rec
Jac, DPRD. Working with EcoWorks YES to scout a hiking trail in Rouge Park.	Julie Stoneman, Michigan Nature Association, looking at the rolling landscape and wildflowers of Eliza Howell Park	Sally Petrella, Friends of Rouge Park
Tiffany Carey, National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes. Fav memory: Recently snowshoeing in Palmer and also building a trail with SCA in Rouge Park in 2013 summer!	Nina Kelly, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, riding my bike to/in Palmer Park	Arianna Zannetti, Landscape Designer-City of Detroit, Walking the trails of Rouge Park for the first time, not realizing that such a large natural area existing within the city limits!
Joel Howrani Heeres, Sustainability Office, GSD - hiking the "stone bridge" trail in Rouge with my kids	Jody DeMeyere, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Camping in Rouge Park with the Detroit Outdoors gang!	Natalie Ramos, Detroit Outdoors/YMCA. Long distance bike ride that took me through a few city parks before continuing on outside of the city
Tepfirah Rushdan	Watching the moon shine off the water at the light house on Belle Isle	lisa perez, us forest service, working with students to build a trail on belle isle
Keep Growing Detroit	Working with SCA kids to build the Stone Bridge Trail in Rouge Park	Black to the Land
Ayo Thomas Belle Isle Conservancy Summers at Sunset Point, running, riding bikes, frog hunting, senior skip day all remind me of the beauty of the great outdoors	Ice skating on the Lahser Marsh in Rouge Park this winter	Kayaking Detroit river
Erin Casey, Detroit Parks and Rec Having walking meetings in the woods with Jac. :)	Mike Reed, Detroit Zoological Society Seeing a Bald Eagle Flying on Belle Isle	Bruce Ross, Ross & Contemp .Exoloring at Belle Isle the Canals and Palmer Park(Woods)
Kayaking at Proud Lake	Camping in Scout Hollow	Mountain Biking at Island Lake
Hearing and seeing the eastern meadowlarks come back every year to Rouge Park	Ice climbing at Pictured Rocks	

How could access to nature improve Detroiters' lives?

Lower stress	Find some peace during hard times	Healing
Expose all ages to the healthy benefits being in nature provides.	Mental and physical health, stress reduction, connection with place and people, new adventures	Learning
Health and joy	Improve cardio vascular health	Exposure to conservation career fields
Good for the mind, body, heart and spirit! Great place to connect to yourself, with the earth and to each other.	Healing, de-stress, reconnection with family history and memories	Get people back outside with their neighbors.
Increased knowledge of plant and animal life	increase mental and physical health. decrease flooding.	With Covid it is imperative that nature and green spaces are outdoor mental wellness centers
Its my favorite place to play, learn and grow!	beauty	Mental and physical health benefits. Finding new activities to do alone or with friends/family
Health and well-being, connecting to the land, learning about plants and animals, stewardship	discovery	Increase awareness of environmental issues and ways to improve immediate environments
Nature improves focus, reduces potential health challenges, minimizes stress and increases curiosity	It can be a pathway to more people in nature-based careers and organizations, and further environmental education.	a whole new world
Increased community involvement		

What was Detroit's number 1 priority from the parks survey?



Stakeholder Focus Group #1.1B: Nature in Parks & Rec: Access to Nature Session Notes - 3/23/21

Attending: Jody Demeyer, Julie Stoneman, Garrett Dempsey, Sally Petrella, Natalie Ramos, Chris Jackson, Lisa Perez, Mike Reed, Tiffany Carey, Tepfirah "T" Rushdan, Nina Kelly, Moudou (Black to the Land / Detroit Outdoors), Keith Flournoy, Djenaba Ali (Black to the Land)
Staff: Erin Casey, Jac Kyle, Justin Schott, Juliana Fulton, Arianna Zannetti, Joel Howrani Heeres

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Nature to Neighborhoods

1. *Develop green careers*
2. *Get the word out*
3. *Focus on Education*

Neighborhoods to Nature

1. *Invest in signage*
2. *Create nature pockets*
3. *Form partnerships*
4. *Ensure transit options*
5. *Build gear libraries*
6. *Align with current interests*
7. *Manage natural areas*

Nature to Neighborhoods

1. Develop green careers:

- Ensure BIPOC representation in City parks & rec, contract with BIPOC local orgs, exposure to opportunities, junior rangers
- Parks as incubators for small businesses - e.g. plant propagation, skills training (arborists), etc. connect to economic opportunities
- Funding needs - start with major parks to pilot and roll out initiatives.
- Don't want to hold back on asking for what's needed. Other funding partners?
- Have been more focused on capital improvements, thinking about how to allocate more for programming. Also anticipating substantial federal funding soon.
- Highlight community science and bio blitz, opens multiple opportunities

to connect to environment through different fields

- Ease City requirements / forms to host an event in the parks. Streamline process; youth leaders may avoid programming in park because of the headaches. A lot still requires print forms, can it be more automated / online? (RecTrack is coming). Specific challenges - 1) identify who & how to request event, 2) filling out forms / abiding by rules, 3) time to hear back. Seems to be ever changing, some groups just use because don't know how / too much trouble. Lots of info not on City website (e.g. when is pool at Rouge open?) Also need info on support City can provide for programming.

Transparency

- Student STEM events - nature needs better representation at these
- Junior rangers - park activities always intriguing - how can youth tag along? Ride along conservation officer program.
 - Loss of SCA opportunities for HS students
- Schools border parks - e.g. Dixon at Rouge; every student & classroom should be involved
- First mission is to connect with our audience - e.g. survival skills is a good in for kids. Connect first, come with science after. Integrate hip hop, drones, existing interests. Are we targeting nature lovers or trying to rope in other kids? They get interested once they try.
- Tap into natural interest of youth to play, can have a competitive element, too. City wide scavenger hunt, nature-based competitions (2 months to visit lots of places; city champ). Give them their props.
 - Incentives? Outdoor gear, gift cards, S.W.A.G., drones / tech / go pro / flip cams (things they can use in nature), bird whistles.
- Adopt a neighborhood - parks going out to existing spaces, block clubs

2. Get the word out:

- Use marketing & social media outreach to address the issues of lack of awareness, including an online park/nature finder map app, identifying nature trails/amenities/areas
- How do we not have all of these ideas add to our to-do lists? What do we need to do to just unlock access, empower block club leader as simply as possible. Are there bins we can drop off before the sprinter van is ready?
- Help people access immediate nature.
- ++ Stipends for (youth) park ambassadors (e.g. Fitzgerald)? Need support for youth who do participate, make sure not just sitting around without direction. Balance between asking residents to be stewards but also need maintenance budget to take care of the basics, trash, etc
- Connecting to other insecurities of 2021; bring people in through their immediate needs. How are parks meeting critical needs - food, shelter, etc?
 - What has value to residents, neighbors? Program ideas should come from community
 - How do we get beyond the usual folks who participate? Feel more comfortable and trust in City? Need more connection / be in relationship with field staff. Parks doesn't need to do everything, but be present. Still working on perceptions from negative, dismissive interactions over many years

3. Focus on education:

- Teach about native plants & ecosystems, especially for early education and exposure, provide outdoor classrooms and gathering spaces
- Can Amazon do same-day delivery of educational kits to teachers?
- Signage is key (e.g. stone bridge trail) - kiosk, sign, trash can to look inviting
 - Signage kit & supplies that people can print out or paint at home.
 - Work with artists to create installations that serve as gathering spaces and outdoor classrooms
 - Classes as stewards, being in communication with the City, having some money to do it
- Pop-up nature-based education with van / trailer, highlight nearby natural areas
 - Need staffing to do this, offering programming but also building trust. Staff need to connect to current interests (e.g. drones). Giving staff seasonal helpers (youth, GDYT)
 - Spaces can get built up but aren't valuable if not staffed / programmed
- Zero in on youth - they've been roped in before for maintenance but need to be tapped for programming, more holistic involvement

Nature to Neighborhoods

1. Invest in signage:

- Add signs for for self-learning, self-exploration, and directional signs to get people there

2. Create nature pockets:

- Treat natural areas as an important amenity in every neighborhood park for nature play and exploration, including forest patches, pollinator & rain gardens, etc.

3. Form partnerships:

- Work with existing organizations that are doing the work: Schools, NGOs, or those with broad outreach, and make the process easier with better communication (esp. permitting)
- Reaching out to community organizations to develop partnerships with city based organizations
 - How does the City form? Need to be more pro-active and reach out rather
 - ID orgs doing the work and develop a database
 - Examples:
 - Library Summer reading programs- exposure to natural experiences. Could earn a Junior Ranger Badge
 - Rec Centers
 - Doctors Offices - write prescription to go into nature.
 - National Org: ParkRx

- Identify program areas... use that framework to reach out to the groups.
 - Develop staff support (Erin- Dir, Programming)
 - Let the needs coming out of the survey guide these
 - Let groups know what the needs are
- Use Nature APPS to log their experience & giving it value!
 - Gift certificates for users?
- How are POC already using the parks? Non-traditional park uses
 - Ej: Sitting in the car at the park.. Ej: Rouge Park
 - Develop cultural relevant programming that connects these users
 - At the playground with kids... how do we guide them to trails?

4. Ensure transit options:

- Create shuttles to programs / activities, as well as mobile programming brought to neighborhoods (themed sprinter vans), ensure public transportation access to regional parks (bus stops at key access points)
- Citywide GIS analysis: SEMCOG core services model. Where are the gaps and how can we address them? (Tyler Klifman, SEMCOG)
- Swimmobile 2.0
- YMCA Sports Vans: bring equipment to neighborhoods. Many ppl showed interest when they were brought to palmer. How can we bring these to additional areas?
 - Just to clarify, the YMCA Sport vans weren't brought to Palmer, it just was an example I used of existing mobile outdoor programming. When Detroit Outdoors/DPRD hosted the Winter in the Woods events at Palmer Park this past winter, many people expressed interest in events like that being brought to their neighborhood parks. Sorry if that wasn't clear! (Natalie Ramos)
- Metroparks has vehicles to bring out natural experiences (Nina Kelly, MetroParks)
- Detroit Zoo has similar programming? Boys and Girls clubs.

5. Build gear libraries:

- Provide storage areas in regional parks with natural areas to make rec equipment available
- Grant funding could be leveraged for this.
- Vault toilets or long term portapotties at these facilities (comfort stations)
- Checking out exploration backpacks from libraries (backpack, binoculars, maps, etc)
- (Allowing other organizations to) rehabilitate old buildings and putting relevant uses there.
 - Example: Scout Hollow needs a sugar shack!
 - Brennan Pool
- Partnership model: non-profit helps to program space(s)

6. Align with current interests:

- Activities & amenities that connect residents' current interests with natural spaces, such as ropes courses, climbing wall, food security, adventure education (camping, hiking), archery, environmental science (water, air, forestry), art, sustainability, outdoor fitness, ATV trails

- Are there spaces in parks where public art could be a great fit, we should engage the artistic community. Make an Art Map! (City Walls program +++, ACE office, DIA)
 - Schools: get young artists involved (Walk and Read Program)
- Permanent display places
- Geocaching and Pokemon Go! ~ used to happen @ Belle Isle
 - Social Media tagging ... checking in
- Lack of process around developing gardens in parks.
 - Ej: Ewald Park
 - Issues with Adopt a Park
 - Need a clear process if you want to grow on a park
 - If there is a clear pathway to lease and/or ownership

7. Manage natural areas:

- To ensure that the natural areas are safe, clean and welcoming
 - Hiking trails in Detroit that I still won't go on(safety issues).
 - How do we help people to work through the history in these parks?
- Need to unearth the issues behind this and work through them
- Clear trailheads and wayfinding signs in parks with locations? (Keith)
- Programming areas with positive things (Juliana)
- Going places in groups to feel more safe and comfortable (Black to the Land). They need to know it's going to be safe AND adventurous.
- Invite groups to come out and do an interpretive walk with them.
 - Asking for their perspective on physical issues that make them feel unsafe
- Be honest about how the city is trying to address these issues and their limitations. (address these perceptions head on)

Chat:

16:02:41 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : Hello & Welcome everyone! Excited to continue talking with you all.

16:05:37 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : We are doing Intros - Name, Department/Org & 1 memorable experience in nature in Detroit

16:07:25 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : Woot woot SCA & Trails in Detroit!!!

16:07:47 From Justin Schott (he/him) to Everyone : Was that the mountain bike trail in Rouge?

16:08:04 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : Yes!!

16:09:08 From Chris to Everyone : 8

16:09:15 From Chris to Everyone : He was 7 at the time

16:09:25 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : Whaaaaat!? So cool!

16:15:43 From Garrett Dempsey (he/him) to Everyone : Only one Keith!

16:16:19 From lisa to Everyone : yes!!

16:16:25 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : Let's do more control burns!!!

16:26:53 From Tepfirah Rushdan to Everyone : for folks who work at parks and rec

16:26:57 From Tepfirah Rushdan to Everyone : <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YSug9SBhIB-xMIRXrWdWmoZZcg0zXzCl/view?usp=sharing>

16:27:02 From Tepfirah Rushdan to Everyone : check thi

16:28:16 From Arianna Zannetti to Everyone : so cool to see that!

16:29:31 From Erin Casey to Everyone : That's neat, Tepfirah! Where did you find that?

16:29:56 From Chris to Everyone : Nice piece of parks history

16:30:16 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : Think MAGIC SCHOOLBUS!

16:31:01 From Chris to Everyone : <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2016/06/04/detroit-parks-littlefield-blight-park/85405326/>

16:32:54 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : 1, Tiffany Carey

16:33:01 From Chris to Everyone : 2

16:33:05 From Natalie Ramos to Everyone : Natalie Ramos - 2

16:33:06 From Julie Stoneman to Everyone : 1

16:33:11 From Djenaba Ali Black To The Land to Everyone : thank you...still working

16:33:12 From Jody, Detroit River IWR to Everyone : Jody DeMeyere - 1

16:33:13 From Nina Kelly (she/her) to Everyone : Nina Kelly-2
16:33:14 From Chris to Everyone : 2, Chris Jackson
16:33:21 From lisa to Everyone : 2
16:33:28 From Moudou to Everyone : J Petty bka Moudou 1
16:33:53 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : YES!! We are definitely trying to figure out Youth Councils!
16:33:59 From mreed to Everyone : Mike Reed group 1
16:34:14 From Tepfirah Rushdan to Everyone : 2 tepfirah
16:34:37 From Garrett Dempsey (he/him) to Everyone : 1 Garrett
16:36:40 From Garrett Dempsey (he/him) to Everyone : I have to go off camera for a minute, but I'm listening. (I promise.)
16:40:19 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : I want to highlight STEAM instead of STEM, including the arts*
16:40:32 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : Great point Julie!
16:49:50 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : Having a pot of funds would be really helpful. We should have tangible support set aside in the strategic planning/implementation.
16:51:45 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : Yes! We are working to have (re-institute) a nature-based budget with Parks and Rec
16:58:59 From Moudou to Everyone : A central stand alone page for parks and programming planningresources
17:00:18 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : Exactly.
17:01:59 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : That's good to know!
17:02:11 From Sally Petrella to Everyone : can we bring day camp back to Rouge Park with a camping component?
17:05:47 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : I love that Sally! We will be doing some pilot outdoor day camps this year (More associated with Rec Centers/buildings and unfortunately not at Rouge this year) and hope to use it as justification to re-invigorate Joe Prance Day Camp!
17:12:37 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : +++ Mike
17:19:36 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : So much more use of that trail after the Kiosk
17:22:22 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : & the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge!
17:30:32 From Justin Schott (he/him) to Everyone : Link to today's slides for more ideas: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Owk89aIRtrY58HE-z8K8zSiWfUd2OfztRpo7cShEPmk/edit#slide=id.gca19761523_3_3
17:32:16 From Jac Kyle (she/they) - Detroit Parks & Rec Nature Programming to Everyone : Sorry for my internet
17:33:17 From Chris Jackson (he,him,his) to Everyone : I'd love to be a part of that ATV discussion if it happens. It's turning into an underground community that's not going anywhere and growing

Other:

Chris shared: <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2016/06/04/detroit-parks-littlefield-blight-park/85405326/>

Tepfirah shared:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YSug9SBhIB-xMIRXrWdWmoZZcg0zXzCI/view>

Youth involvement - T's daughter listening in, asked why no kids were present? Says well-informed kids over 11 (she's 11, add her to the list!) should participate. [Erin shared plan for youth focus groups to review and add to results from adult-centric focus groups].

Stakeholder Focus Group #1.2A: Nature in Parks & Rec: Natural Resource Management Session Notes - 3/30/21

Attending: Barry Burton; Derrick Dykas; Ellen Moro; Tim Karl; Rayshaun Landrum; Rosemary Edwards; Perez, Lisa -FS; Valerie Strassberg; leeyum@msu.edu; anovak@greatlakes.org; Angel Squalls; Tyler.Mitchell@metroparks.com; amazilia3@gmail.com; ggadsden@umich.edu; Jac Kyle; alandgraf@detroitaudubon.org (alandgraf@detroitaudubon.org); Eric Candela; Rowan, Erin; Genevieve Nowak; Bernard, Jazmyn J; Joan Nassauer; Holm, Meredith; edwar649@msu.edu; jmissett@biohabitats.com; Robert Burns (rlb315@comcast.net); Bohling, Mary; Garrett Dempsey; Dan Rieden; Justin Schott; Jeff Klein; Ayo Thomas; Marie McCormick (mmccormick@therouge.org); Nina Kelly; Joel Howrani Heeres; sayersk@michigan.gov (sayersk@michigan.gov); CareyT@nwf.org; Erin Kelly; Fai Foen (fai@greeningofdetroit.com); Diane Cheklich; Erin Casey; Sam Lovall (sam.lovall@gmail.com); Gary Williams; spetrella@therouge.org; Ana Quevedo (detroitscouthollow@gmail.com); Lisa Wallick; Jennifer Dowdell; nyeema@umich.edu; Devin Lyons; David Sumners; Cyndi Ross; devinrlyons@yahoo.com (devinrlyons@yahoo.com)

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Rayshaun Landrum, Justin Schott, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Jeff Klein

General comments / suggestions

How is climate resilience being considered in the PRSP overall?
Seems like a great opportunity to think across the entire system

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Forests / No - Mow Areas

1. *Providing Quality Habitat*
2. *Current & Potential Partners*
3. *Trails; Access & Management*

Meadows / Prairies / Low- Mow Areas

1. *Providing Quality Habitat*
2. *Current & Potential Partners*
3. *Trails; Access & Management*

Forests / No - Mow Areas

1. How to provide quality habitat for wildlife & people:

- Highlight native ecosystems

- Safety precautions
- Habitat management
- Study current data for future plans/goals
- Knowledgeable staff for implementation
- Portland and NYC forest programs - examples
- Philadelphia Parks Forest Management Plan
- Pittsburgh Parks Natural Areas Study
- Possible resource, The Nature Conservancy
- Think about volunteer opportunities

2. Who is already doing this work? Current & potential partnerships?
What should the City be doing (or doing better)?

- Greening of Detroit
 - Rouge Park projects
 - Vacant land projects
- Educational opportunities
- Palmer Park goals: maintaining canopy, natural integrity, and enhancing water quality
- Changing the perspective within the natural environment
 - Stewardship
- Coordinator (staff) - establish relationships with organizations with a common goal(s)

3. Trails: Access & trail management, Typologies / uses. How do these spaces fit within our Parks? Concerns with neighboring uses / amenities? Costs?

- The importance to connect trails to hubs
- Understanding fragment trails...Trails along edges
- Trail types based on type/use

Meadows / Prairies / Low - Mow Areas

1. How to provide quality habitat for wildlife & people:

- What about health aspects - potential of respiratory triggers (birds, controlled burns, etc)
- What about wildlife other than birds? Think about other animals that may be pushed out from development (e.g. coyotes), let them tell us where they need to be
- Opportunity to designate open space as habitat; think about corridors as part of design to connect habitats (e.g. Detroit River as flyway)
- Have been creating bird meadows from open space - less maintenance and plant species selection than prairies.
- Can we bundle parcels that are vacant and unlikely to be developed into larger spaces? Hard to provide habitat at just a few acres, look for 10-20 acres
- How can City increase its capacity to manage new habitat so it doesn't end up a giant weed meadow? E.g. City didn't know how to manage prairie in Rouge Park, wanted to turn back to turf. Now have buckthorn and hawthorn growing in. Lack of knowledge / interest in managing

natural areas, mow or no-mow approach.

- Need dedicated staff who know how to manage large natural areas for years into the future.

- What are specific, specialty maintenance needs & practices?
 - A2 Natural Areas are a good model; have controlled burns, etc. Chicago has natural areas manager (outsourced) - prairies, bird sanctuaries, 3-year contract.

- Perceptions of natural areas can be hurt if it becomes weedy / unmanaged

- Better to have success with spaces we can manage than overextend

- Mowing is popular, City has increased mowing frequency which harms wildlife

- How could partners support this?

- ** grounding in equity - Detroiters should be leading the maintenance efforts, work on culture / paradigm shift.

- Workforce development - opportunities exist with orgs like DFC, Greening

2. Who is already doing this work? Current & potential partnerships.

What should the City be doing (or doing better)?

- Partners / in-kind support

- Audubon Bird City program for bird meadows (5 parks, < 2 acres each). Working directly with neighborhoods to identify champions; will pay residents to do initial mows of the meadow. Benches, signs, pathways are important for community engagement, sites are well received. Recording more sightings.

- Potential for Detroit as birding attraction (e.g. pheasant walks). Ojibwe reserve in Canada is an example (1,000 acres)

- Wild Indigo program hiring a coordinator to foster relationships with Detroiters and work with HS students

- MI Birds program - stewardship and invasives removal, training

- Detroit Erie western lake CWMA & CSMA - natural resource management professionals, potential to leverage funding and pursue additional grants

- MI prescribed fire council - technical support and training

- Metroparks (Huron-Clinton) - support with seedbanking

- USFWS to design and plan habitat restoration; can provide materials needed for planting, seed, etc May provide funds for prescribed burns in the future

- Private donations of labor for tilling

- Rouge Park is a seed bank; previously organized seed collection. → Project Wingspan is looking for seed for butterfly habitat

- What City should be doing

- Planning (outside of Parks & Rec) has not been receptive / valuing natural areas

- Ensuring natural areas are wanted and placed where they are wanted.

- Listen to neighborhood interests, even if those are for cleaner cut spaces.

3. Trails: Access & trail management, Typologies / uses. How do these spaces fit within our Parks? Concerns with neighboring uses / amenities? Costs?

- Minor amenities can make a big difference for trail use (kiosks, benches, signage)
- Improving sightlines increases comfort on trails
- Trail maintenance? Loss of SCA is significant
- Trail connections across the park network, connect different groups of people (opportunities for grant funding)
- Birding trail - increasingly popular during pandemic; planned in Macomb & St Clair counties, could extend to Detroit. Detroit River is internationally recognized. Highlight Great Blue Heron rookery

Chat:

16:23:22 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : Are there any civic opportunities that uplift green space as potential solutions? I.e sustainability, community health, etc?

16:26:05 From lisa to Everyone : connecting with basic land management is important. Participation in watershed management units, cismas, cooperative invasive management areas. cooperation in these units is required for some grant funding from GLRI, invasive species management.

17:03:27 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : NWF can provide technical support for city wildlife designations (e.g. Mayor's Monarch Pledge, Community Wildlife Habitat Program) to uplift the community efforts for city-scale recognition.

17:27:23 From Jennifer Dowdell to Everyone : Baltimore has a partnership with UMD to understand core forest habitat zones, to better understand where one wouldn't want to fragment forest patches

17:27:47 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : Jennifer, is this the project with Christ Swan?

17:27:57 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : Or Steward Pickett?

17:28:09 From Tiffany Carey to Everyone : *Chris

Emails:

From: Erin Kelly <contact.erin.kelly@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 3:33 PM

To: Juliana Fulton <fultonj@detroitmi.gov>

Cc: Dan Rieden <riedenda@detroitmi.gov>; Joel Howrani Heeres <howraniheeresj@detroitmi.gov>; Jeff Klein <kleinj@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Resiliency and Parks Master Plan Follow Ups

Hi Everyone,

As a follow up to yesterdays' focus group, I wanted to send some thoughts in greater detail. I'm including Dan here due to the Reforestation Work Group and Joel due to the Sustainability Plan implications. Apologies for the length; I did my best to structure this in a semi-digestible way.

Parks Master Plan Opportunities:

The big opportunity with a 5-10 year plan that I see is to anticipate Detroit's need to *Adapt* to the very local implications of climate change. Specifically through our Parks, and at the systems level, there is opportunity to consider:

-How can the City anticipate changes to USDA hardiness zones with all tree planting moving forwards?

- What resources might be needed for an increased response to pest management arising from disruptions to traditional local weather patterns?

-How will increased temperatures extend the growing season, and thereby create the need for an additional few cycles of mowing?

-How will air quality regulations interact with mowing *itself* and possibly limit the ability or frequency of mowing due to air quality implications? Should some thought be given to reducing the impact of mowing as it relates to increased heat / reduced summertime air quality?

-How will shifts to the USDA's hardiness zones locally impact the health and vitality of existing tree planting in parks?

- How will the "100 year storm event" change in response to increased intensity of storms locally? (Yes, full acknowledgement that this is a question where DWSD needs to lead)

- How will the City's parks contribute to local climate adaptation needs on the whole? (Assuming Joel's work + team already have some high level answers here)

- How will the City's parks specifically contribute to increased stormwater management requirements, as a whole?

Two Specific Request and an Affirmation:

- Can the parks master plan call for the goal of inventorying all non-natural area tree plantings over the next 5-10 years? We have a great database of ROW plantings. In other cities, Parks are the next obvious place to inventory species. An inventory would allow GSD to set measurable targets around enhancing tree cover in parks by council district.

**The City of Portland leads one of several programs to bring neighbors into local park canopy inventorying. In my neighborhood, we organized and completed a tree survey of Lafayette Park. The results are here and I will send more detail about this to Juliana, Jeff, and probably Tim and Barry next week:

EXAMPLE FROM LP: <https://ekellyekelly.carto.com/builder/e0db0175-5c6b-41df-9226-2b191b92899d/embed>

(To be clear, a goal around eventually inventorying the species diversity, health, and management needs of natural areas would be super cool, too.)

- Can the parks master plan call for *A Goal* around inventorying existing volunteer and neighbor-led capacity around parks maintenance and programming? Does not need to be all parks, but some commitment to capture, document and then, in essence, negotiate with this information to invest and build further capacity, both on the side of City-funded maintenance and stewardship, and building up local / neighborhood capacity.

This would help to demonstrate the total "pie" of resources going into parks currently, and also make a greater case to the Mayor, to Philanthropy, around negotiating for additional resources (because this would make the pie larger). This would also support the city in pursuit of philanthropy via being able to pursue a larger overall match in resources. What is the current investment in maintenance per acre? How might this need to evolve over the next five years?

In terms of a starting point to include in the master plan, attached is a chart from Cleveland's 2015 urban canopy report. I can imagine a way to adopt the structure of this chart and apply it to indicators of sustainable parks management.

- Just a note of affirmation around Lisa's point yesterday: if the city had a natural areas manager, even 1 FTE or a .5 FTE to start, I think this would be a wonderful starting point for many of the aspirations the focus group explored yesterday. Do you need assistance benchmarking this / how other cities staff this?

THIRD BUCKET: OPPORTUNITY FOR YA'LL:

I am participating in an 8-week training / workshop led by the USDA's Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS). The 8-week training is on integrating the US Forest Service's Resiliency Planning tools with Recreational Land Uses. For this project, I will be looking at the City of Detroit's Parks System as a whole.

The training starts on Monday 4/5, and per prior communications, I would LOVE to calibrate the deliverables from this workshop to meet any needs you at GSD might have. The workshop is a significant investment of time, and one I am able to make due to being under-employed. Basically at the end of the workshop series, each participant-project will produce a Resiliency Framework of some sort for recreational land. My pitch to the USDA was to do this as a resident, and look at the park system as a whole. Attached also is a flyer from the USDA. I would welcome to any extent feasible input from the City on this work, particularly from you Juliana, or someone you can identify on your behalf.

The workshop uses this as the structuring resource: <https://adaptationworkbook.org/>

Thanks for listening and keep up the great work!

+EK

Sally Petrella

Just passing along the example of a city effectively managing natural areas including volunteers that I mentioned at the meeting. <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/Parks-Recreation/nap/Pages/NaturalAreaPreservation.aspx>

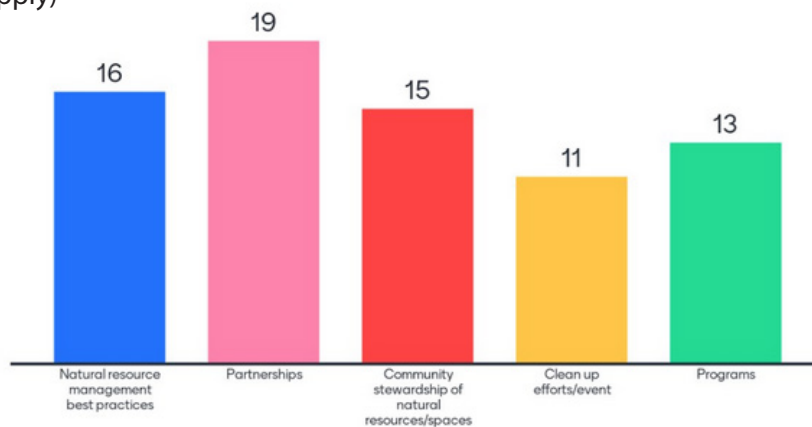
Other:

Mentimeter:

Please list your name, organization/department, and one sentence describing a memorable experience in nature in Detroit.

Yu Man Lee, MNFI	Eric Candela, American Forests. I've enjoyed bike kayaking on the Detroit river.	Cyndi Ross, Friends of the Rouge Walking the prairie in Rouge Park
Jac, DPRD/Detroit Outdoors, Today I saw the Blue Heron Rookery at Rouge with DAYUM students!!	Jennifer Dowdell, Biohabitats Inc. exploring the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood, categorizing ecological features.	Gabriel Applied wildlife ecology lab/ UEJL Seeing wild turkeys in Rouge park working with volunteers doing camera checks
Sally Petrella, Friends of Rouge Park and Friends of the Rouge, seeing eastern meadowlarks return to Rouge Park again this year	Meredith Holm, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Working with Barry and Detroit Audubon on habitat projects in Detroit	Erin Kelly Special Projects Pheasant siting last week along the cut
Sorry - checking out vernal pools with school groups	Erin Casey, Assistant Director, parks and rec. Biking in the woods at Palmer Park.	Tiffany Carey, National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes , building trails with SCA in Rouge, deploying cameras across parks with the Applied Wildlife Ecology Lab (UM) and walking in Eliza Howell with Leonard!
Diane Cheklich, Detroit Audubon. Seeing baby Ring-necked Pheasants in N. Cork town.	Tyler Mitchell, Huron Clinton Metroparks. My first trip to Belle Isle	Garrett Dempsey, Detroit Outdoors. I was walking around Scout Hollow in Rouge Park and I saw a fawn quietly moving around in the tall grass and trying to remain unnoticed.
Fai Foen, Director of Green Infrastructure, The Greening of Detroit Understanding the relationship between trees on the street and tree in nature (natural areas .)	Jeff Klein, General Services Department walking Palmer Parks Witherell Woods last week.	Ayo T, Belle Isle Conservancy/Community Engagement. One of my favorite nature experiences is just sitting on Belle Isle, watching animals and enjoying the open environment.
Dan Rieden, Planning & Development, City of Detroit. There are few locations to see spring ephemerals of our forests in Detroit, but they can be found in Palmer Woods and River Rouge if you look closely.	Ayo, I also love going to some of the other parks and green spaces along the water, Palmer and others and just observing.	Lisa Perez, U S Forest Service, camping in rouge park
Sam Lovall, Friends of the Detroit River - many great times in the flatwoods on Belle Isle and in Rouge Park		

I see opportunities in my role to contribute to natural resource management in Detroit through: (select all that apply)



Stakeholder Focus Group #1.2B: Nature in Parks & Rec: Natural Resource Management Session Notes - 4/6/21

Attending: Juliana Fulton, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Justin Schott, Dave Sumners - Chandler Park, Alex Novak - Alliance for the Great Lakes, Chris Jackson, Diane Cheklich - Detroit Audubon, Eric Candela - American Forests, Erin Kelly, Garrett Dempsey - Detroit Outdoors, Ayo Thomas - Belle Isle Conservancy, Gary Williams - retired from MSU / DNR, Jac Kyle, Jamie Jackson - Applied Wildlife Ecology Lab, U of M, Jeff Klein, Nina Kelly, Jennifer Dowdell - Bio Habitats, Lisa Perez - US Forest Service, Bob Burns - Friends of the Detroit River, Sally Petrella - Friends of Rouge Park, Sam Lovall - Friends of the Detroit River, Sarah Stoolmiller - DWSD, Tiffany Carey - NWF, Tyler Mitchell - Huron Clinton Metroparks, Valerie Strassberg - The Nature Conservancy, Yu Man Lee - MI Natural Features Inventory / MSU Extension, Barry Burton, Fai Foen - Greening of Detroit

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Rayshaun Landrum, Justin Schott, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Jeff Klein

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Rivers / Shorelines

1. *Providing Quality Habitat*
2. *Current & Potential Partners*
3. *What can the City do better?*

Wetlands / Green Stormwater Infrastructure

1. *Providing Quality Habitat*
2. *Current & Potential Partners*
3. *What can the City do better?*

Rivers / Shorelines

1. How to provide quality habitat for wildlife & people:

A. System-wide Needs, Regional Scale, Watersheds

- Don't hear intentional consideration of wildlife needs in design process
- Can we monitor species and populations in Detroit to determine their health
- How are we managing invasive species?
- How are we managing and removing human waste, e.g. microplastics,

and limiting what we leave behind?

- Resiliency - how does project retain its ecological services and resist invasives?
 - Maintenance should be ~25% of budget
 - Climate resilience - prepare for impacts through next decades
- Lacking watershed management plan, would open funding opportunities
- **Waterside parks - can we consider them as capital assets (e.g. seawall efforts in Jeff Chalmers, water trail), include in maintenance budgeting
- Thinking of rivers as habitat corridors, need to think of them through different lens, as assets and places of habitat quality
- Getting a better handle of park infrastructure - they can be used for CSOs, etc because that's where space is. Special problem in Rouge
- Use of trees and other natives to combat climate change and restore habitat
- Look at what riverfront looked like historically, before settlement and current patterns of use
- Development pressure on river - need to speak for value that rivers provide for recreation, habitat, ecosystem services. Should consider full benefits that undeveloped areas provide.
- Scoping valuable ecological areas - often in highly used & trafficked areas --> use trails to allow people to enjoy nature but in a confined area that limits impact vs. just open areas
- Guidance plans that delist rivers as areas of concern - Great Lakes Restoration Funding, but also funding available for non areas of concern.
- Need for legacy contamination in sediments, e.g. Need public-private partnerships
- Replacing failing seawalls - opportunity to create habitat in replacement or remove hardened shorelines, also more aesthetically pleasing (Ford, Fort Wayne)

B. Individual park-scale management - Rouge River

- Land bank parcels adjacent to parks
 - CSO issue needs to be addressed - why have they been addressed in suburban, whiter communities but not in Detroit. Hard to want to promote park use and exposure to nature when comes with degraded issues. Question whether this is an appropriate use of our parks, can't just push it down the line. There should be infrastructure funding to deal with this. Raw sewage is not ok
- Detroit River
 - Belle Isle waste practices - limiting products at events (e.g. no balloons and glitter at aquarium). Mindful of microtrash (e.g. cigarette butts), remove other potential sources
 - Addressing conflict of uses - e.g. grand prix, concerts where extensive mowing happens. Can we align programming with connection to nature? keep high impact activities to western side of Belle Isle and keep eastern side for more compatible activities & nature protection. DNR seems to be taking this approach.
 - potential to use natural barriers to differentiate spaces between active

- and passive uses
- Riverfront parks
 - Connectivity goals for both wildlife and humans. Can we prioritize bike travel from inland parks or between the riverside parks? Greenways & water trails - Detroit Heritage River Trail has identified future launches / portages; Iron Belle Tr
 - Lighting design - balancing safety and wildlife needs (e.g. work done in Baltimore / Chesapeake Bay); depends on time of year. (Jennifer D - Bio
- Habitat, Dark Skies - Diane C)
 - Be open to novel restoration approaches - e.g. floating wetlands, green bulkheads in Jeff Chalmers / canals
 - Look at hydrology and keep in mind when doing planning, we tend to ignore and then get bitten by it. Could be a feature for habitat restoration

C. General feedback:

- Room for collaboration between agencies, esp given lack of dedicated revenue stream
- What would Moody's do?
- Riverfront and shoreline parks improve bond ratings and get assessed
- When more vacant land is developed, how will responsibility shift to meet habitat and biodiversity goals?
- Goals for Conservation?
 - 30% target - 30% of nature as a tool to fight climate change

D. Partnerships

- Rouge River: Fordsen Island - park there
 - Marathon Petroleum Company 100 acre greenspace
 - Downriver Delta
 - Michigan Natural Shorelines Partnership
- Vision for Detroit parks as ecological amenities
 - Fiscally responsible management of public spaces
 - Resident Q of Life
 - Moody's Ratings:

2.. Who is already doing this work?

- Current & potential partnerships - didn't get to address directly much
- Rouge River near Fortsen Island - Marathon has vision for 100 acre green space, City of Dearborn interested, Forman park is just down stream - hot bed ripe for collaboration
- MI Natural Shorelines Partnership - engineers, biologists, and other technical assistance resources
- Funding opportunities - touched on some with Great Lakes Restoration

3. What should the City be doing (or doing better)?

- Envisioning / framing Detroit's parks as ecological amenities in the PRSP.
- Can we consider real financial implications so it doesn't wildly green but smart and responsible (esp with flood mitigation)
- Goal of 30% conservation by 2030 (30 x 30) as a strategy to fight & adapt

to climate change. Has that been discussed? Openness to that? Diane has report outlining economic benefits of it.

- <https://www.nrdc.org/30x30-nrdcs-commitment-protect-nature-and-life-earth#:~:text=Defending%20Nature%20Protects%20our%20Climate,communities%20that%20rely%20on%20it.>

Wetlands / Green Stormwater Infrastructure

1. How to provide quality habitat for wildlife & people: Share best practices & innovative ideas

A. System-wide needs, regional scale

- Citywide stormwater management plan (including parks) **
 - Opportunities for programming and cost estimates
 - Partner/neighbor opportunities
 - Soil survey should be the base layer
- Reforestation
 - Selecting tree species for water uptake
 - Cross referencing with habitat needs
 - Identifying remnant forests and cultivating specific geno types
 - Mapping!
 - Eastside needs one like ROUGE
 - Incorporating Climate into reforestation - Eric (AF)
- Species that are unique to the area/ need further support
 - Bioblitz: what is in park areas
 - Rouge Park: Flora and Fauna Report... can we replicate this?
- Standard GSI Practices in parks
 - Reduce engineering costs
 - Templates for GSIs in parks

B. Middle Scale

- Identifying parks that are best suited for GSI implementations
 - Coordinating with other departments
 - Storage and infiltration
 - How can we utilize these parks to mitigate neighborhood funding

C. Individual park-scale management

- Specific plans for larger parks
- Understand coefficients of uniqueness
- Wetland Status indicator
- Examples
 - The Highlands (grand rapids) ~ Rogell
- Restoration Pilots in parks
 - Using native plants to infiltrate
 - Avoiding “over engineering” through plant selection

- Maintenance practices
 - Need specific maintenance practices: Contracting or Training
 - AKA: invasive species removal
- Prescribed Burns
 - Some have been done (externally) at Eliza Howell

2. Who is already doing this work?

A. Current & potential partnerships

- Metroparks - expertise around prescribed burns - Tyler
- Friends of Rouge - species surveys - Sally
- TNC: oak openings - Val can connect with preserve manager
- Stormwater Hub: detroitstormwater.org - submit GSI projects
- Alliance for Great Lakes - stormwater planning - Alex
- Greening: tree plantings to benefit natural areas - Fai
- Tree nursery: can we collect seeds and grow appropriate genomes? - Fai/Jeff
 - Seedlings are sent to us (USFS)
 - Not quite there on propagation from seed (need a green house) - Barry says let me know how much space you need
 - What specific species do we need?
- John Hartig - National Wildlife Refuge - wetland restoration

B. Funding opportunities

- GLRI (USFS) - reducing runoff (not limited to having management plans)

3. What should the City be doing (or doing better)?

- Wetlands
 - More aquatic plants - All need to be more informed on this
 - Need more information in general on wetlands
- Trees and stormwater - valued through stormwater credits
 - Hard to measure.
 - Ongoing conversations
- Old area drainage systems (> 100 yrs) - David S.
 - Failing- sinkholes
 - Should we be unclogging these drains?
 - Related to park optimization for stormwater
- System wide approach to stormwater
 - Greening: Eliza Howell and Myers nursery
- More collaborative approaches between
 - DWSD
 - GSD: forestry
 - Health Dept
 - DEN: example of collaboration
- Talking about the value of nature based ; approach
 - Planet Detroit: pitch stories to them about collaborative
- Think long term about GSI applications
 - Program activities

- Overseas case studies
- Netherlands: Basketball Court

Chat:

16:34:37 From Erin Kelly to Everyone : Lake Park, TX recently flipped to an asset management approach for CIP
16:35:13 From Erin Kelly to Everyone : Riverside CA has some good CIP practices, too
16:35:27 From Erin Kelly to Everyone : good = considers maintenance, too
16:58:14 From Chris to Everyone : Thank you Sally
17:05:11 From Rayshaun Landrum to Everyone : Here's the GSI project in Rotterdam I was referring to. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kujf4BTL3pE>
17:09:05 From Jeff Klein to Everyone : Please follow the link to the Palmer Park Habitat Restoration Survey and share widely! Thanks! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd89wXtRLJAAaH0QNhb5v6UVpHPZ3JTeCa9sR6rMyvDeqMjUQ/viewform>
17:10:37 From Erin Kelly to Everyone : 30 x 30!
17:10:57 From Erin Kelly to Everyone : 30% by 2030
17:11:35 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : I'd like to know more about that report as well
17:11:44 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : as well*
17:11:48 From Jennifer D (Bio) to Everyone : <https://www.nrdc.org/30x30-nrdcs-commitment-protect-nature-and-life-earth#:~:text=Defending%20Nature%20Protects%20our%20Climate,communities%20that%20rely%20on%20it>.

Emails:

From: Diane Cheklich <dcheklich@detroitaudubon.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Juliana Fulton <fultonj@detroitmi.gov>; Joel Howrani Heeres <howraniheeres@detroitmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 30x30: Protecting 30% of Nature by 2030

Hi Juliana and Joel,

Thanks for another stimulating discussion today at the parks strategy meeting. Thank you for organizing this, it's nice to hear all the thoughtful feedback.

Toward the end of the session I brought up the 30% conservation target that is getting some attention. Here are a couple of links with more info:

Details behind Biden's '30 by 30' U.S. lands and oceans climate goal

And here's a link to the economic impact report, the Waldron Report, that I mentioned. The report was commissioned by the Campaign for Nature, which is a coalition of 100 conservation organizations, including National Geographic. The three buttons in the middle of the page connect to the detailed study, the summary, and the related press release. As someone pointed out in the chat, other conservation groups like NRDC are also promoting this target.

Interestingly, those 37 square miles of open space in Detroit represent about 26% of the total City area so we're almost there already!

Thanks for listening!
Diane

As a follow-up, here is more info on bird-friendly lighting for your Parks strategy. In general, any lighting that is "dark sky compliant" would be bird friendly.

Here are some links with more detail:

Dark Sky Assessment Guide

Michigan Dark Skies

Sample of a Dark Sky Municipal Resolution

Finally, I don't know if the City has control over Beacon Park, but that beam of light that shines up in the sky has been known to trap and exhaust birds who get attracted and disoriented by the light. Some have died. Is there any way you can ask DTE to periodically turn that light off so trapped birds can get out?

From: Sam Lovall <sam.lovall@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Juliana Fulton <fultonj@detroitmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Parks & Rec Plan - Nat Res Focus Group

Hi Juliana,

Thanks for inviting me to your Natural Resource Focus Group sessions. These were exciting conversations. I just wanted to follow up on a couple of ideas. One would be the importance of corridors for habitat and people, which can be shared in urban areas. This is why non-motorized trails, parks, cemeteries, rivers and water trails all need to be looked at together when developing a green infrastructure plan. The parks, cemeteries, and other blocks of greenspace can serve as hubs, and the trails, and rivers serve as the linking corridors. All of this network needs to be forested and otherwise naturalized to the greatest extent possible. On page 2 of the attachment, there is an image that shows green hubs linked by corridors.

Secondly, I wanted to emphasize the importance of the area along the Rouge River from Fordson Island to Forman Park. As you are aware, this is where the Iron Belle Trail crosses the Rouge River and heads south to Downriver communities through the heaviest industrial area in Detroit, which has been a barrier for people and wildlife for about 100 years. But with Marathon buying out dilapidated residential properties and transitioning large areas to greenspace, a green corridor is opening. They are now just beginning phase two of this buyout initiative on the east side of Fort Street. Likewise, the USACE is again seriously working on a habitat restoration project in the channelized section of the lower Rouge, and Wayne County is conducting a Framework Plan to make a non-motorized connection from Dearborn to Detroit along the Rouge. In addition, the City of Dearborn is interested in acquiring Fordson Island to preserve as greenspace, and Friends of the Rouge are working to expand Fort Street Bridge Park to include a kayak launch as part of the water trail vision from Canton to Belanger Park on the Detroit River. So, you can see the importance of this intersection where Fort Street crosses the river. Partnering opportunities are immense and include at least the following:

City of Dearborn - Fordson Island

Marathon - construction of an off-road trail through Marathon Gardens along Fort Street and tree planting

Friends of the Rouge - kayak launch at Fort Street Bridge Park and Rouge River Water Trail

Down River Delta CDC - maintenance organizer

Wayne County - non-motorized connections from Dearborn to Detroit

USACE - Rouge River concrete Channel Restoration

MDOT - construction of an off-road trail through Marathon Gardens along Fort Street and tree planting - they own some of the property

DNR - construction of an off-road trail through Marathon Gardens along Fort Street as part of the Iron Belle Trail

EPA - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding

And all the organizations associated with the Fort-Rouge Gateway Collaborative (FRoG).

Please find a PDF file attached that includes Marathon's vision for their greenspace – "Marathon Gardens" (with off-road trail and greening along Fort Street), the concept showing how Fort street park will be expanded to include a kayak launch, and an even bigger idea that involves a water taxi idea on the Rouge and Detroit Rivers. Please let me know if you would like to talk further about any of this.

Thanks again,

Sam

From: Erin Kelly <contact.erin.kelly@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Juliana Fulton <fultonj@detroitmi.gov>
Cc: Jeff Klein <kleinj@detroitmi.gov>; Joel Howrani Heeres <howraniheeresj@detroitmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Focus Group # 2 follow up notes

Hi Juliana,

I hope your week is wrapping up nicely!

Including Jeff and Joel so that all the J's have this in their archives.

Below are some notes as a follow up to the focus group conversation this week on parks, natural areas and the water's edge:

- The year 1 priority could be to commission a study to describe the ecological contributions and potential for improvements in performance on Detroit's park land. (I am offering this to take some of the burden off the plan document itself. Even identifying the need for quantified acknowledgement would be a huge step forward. Part of my thinking here-- O&M can't be bonded, but improvements that strive for performance metrics, and happen to engage maintenance activities, could be)

- If there is a gap in the network of partnerships and organizations locally to deliver on this work, that should be articulated in the plan. I feel it's important to highlight where the City can lead, and where it needs / want to rely on partnerships / contributions of others. A capacity scan of sorts. Perhaps this could also be an invitation to an existing organization to add a new program or new line of effort.

- A phasing matrix as part of the plan could help accomplish my first point. For example, identifying where items are: pre-development | planning | design | construction | operating / maintaining . The City of Riverside California does a great job at this, and I was inspired this week by Topeka, KS CIP plan:

<https://projects.topeka.org/>
(click on the project dashboard)

Just by identifying / naming certain activities that will first need a pre-planning phase, it will bring them closer to reality! Also related to CIP and partnerships: in which phases will MORE public sector involvement be required, and in which phases will fewer City resources be required?

- Another task, if you will, is to identify a long term, dedicated revenue stream for natural area maintenance, expansion, improvements. This is not something that the City needs to invent before the end of the summer, but a line of effort that I'd love to see documented as a priority for GSD moving forwards. Philly has their soda tax; what might Detroit be able to consider in the next 3-5 years?

- Last point: I raised some comment around enhancing connectivity, and Sam was quick to offer many examples of plans around this concept. (Connecting existing inland parks to water's edge parks). My point I guess was to build the connection, and see if DPW could re-stripe something-- basically, how can those plans be brought to life. Is there a way to show DPW alignment with GSD's investments?

- I guess what I'm saying is: the more that the plan can identify all of the contributors to Detroit's total pie of making great parks, the more the City can leverage that for a match from other competitive funding sources. Let's layer this stuff up into a beautiful green lasagna of sorts!

Thanks again for listening--

+EK

--

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From: Erin Kelly <contact.erin.kelly@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Juliana Fulton <fultonj@detroitmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Innovation precedent from Baltimore City

Hi Juliana,

The City of Baltimore staffs a Forest Pre-school at one of the City's nature centers. I think this is a very cool precedent for Detroit to consider, given the Mayor's (prior) interest in universal pre-school; the potential for environmental reparations; and mutual interest of the national association of forest preschool educators in expanding access to such programs to Black and Brown youth:

<https://www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/wild-haven>

How great would that be to link park land management to youth investment / educational goals?

Cheers,

+EK

--

contacterinkelly.com
617.599.0032

Stakeholder Focus Group #2.1: Adaptive Park Maintenance Session Notes - 3/19/21

Attending: David Sumners; Tim Karl; Nishaat Killeen; Barry Burton; Jamal Harrison; Jeff Klein; Rosemary Edwards; Chris Romeo; Brandon Meadows; Jacob Fawaz; Sandra Yu Stahl; Ronald Aubert; Barrett Irving; Shay Lewis; Erin Casey; Rayshaun Landrum; Justin Schott; Joel Howrani Heeres; William Niblock

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Justin Schott, Joel Howrani Heeres, Sandra Yu Stahl

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Mowing

1. *Planning in the Long Term*
2. *Adaptivity in Peak Times*
3. *Other Support for GSD Teams*

Park Repairs

1. *Planning in the Long Term*
2. *Adaptivity in Peak Times*
3. *Other Support for GSD Teams*

Breakout Room #1: Topic: Mowing

1. How can we plan for park mowing in the long-term?

- Currently have schedule for season May - Sept; identifies priority parks on 7-10 days schedule; also have 10-14 and 14-30 day schedules
- Group by east, west and south Districts
- Districts - West, East, South
- Riverfront parks - heavy use, biggest challenges
- Working to get more parks into 7-10 schedule; dream is to get all parks on that schedule
- Challenges?
 - Staff capacity. 200+ workers, most are seasonal. Also doing trash pick up, trimming, edging
 - Equipment
 - Specials (e.g. ribbon cutting events) - don't control how many we have, requests come in to Rec. Having a dedicated crew for specials is helpful so don't have to pull a mowing crew to accommodate

- Dealing with rain
 - Afternoon crews add a source of flexibility. How do we manage crews when mowing isn't possible? Can there be massive cutting when dry and reduced when wet? Labor issue.
 - Grading is an issue. When well drained can cut next day after rain, but many hold water and remain uncuttable for days
 - Need schedule for grading that combines with decisions of areas to leave natural
 - Equipment - mowers with wider tires to reduce impact when wet
 - Can we take out chronically wet areas so not responsible for mowing? E.g. rouge park. Landscape design typically proposes these.
 - Can get complaints from community when letting areas go natural, many perceive as an eyesore or don't buy in to natural look.
 - Enough calls can result in decision to go back and cut.
 - Signage in Rouge, were still getting calls from direct neighbors. May need to be away from residential sight lines.
 - Bioswale at Tireman - still cutting
 - Palmer - back 9 holes were allowed to grow, didn't get complaints. Actually weren't happy when cut in the fall.
 - Working on maintaining outlines on paths and edges.
- Still has a look of being tamed / cared for, can also open up programming options.
 - Tree planting in chronically wet areas (e.g. dogwoods along Ponchartrain in Palmer)

2. How can we plan to be more adaptive for peak times?

A. Seasonal issues

B. Special areas - example sports fields

C. Planning for reductions and expanded capacity - how to handle shifting budgets and lean years?

- 2020 priorities - renovated parks, high use parks, high community involvement

D. Emergency response

- Clean up / trash pick up required before mowing, can be significant time drain

E. Adopt-a-park

- Background - 20 years+; was promoted prominently a few years ago but not currently. Need was greater before getting them on schedule and making investments. 3 year commitment, sign recognizing adopters. Inspect sites every 2 weeks, give awards at end of season, certificate from Mayor.
- Seems easiest for residents to work on trash pick up and devote more staff to mowing. Very few people who participate, don't feel it's significant. But response different with direct interaction with staff, specify day before mowing to come.
- Community group interests - can we help out with trash pick up in

exchange for waving permit fees?

- Can we rebrand adopt-a-park to something with more stewardship “keep parks beautiful”. Could also connect with programming.
 - Movie night, barbeque night
- Avoid perceptions that City needs residents to do its maintenance; frame as partnership. Emphasis is not on mowing
- Most adoptable parks are likely to be ones on longer mowing schedules, lower priority

F. Community open spaces

- Taken off list for mowing this year; may get mowed 4-5 times / season with Vacant Lot team. First time taken off regular schedule, residents not informed on when or how often mowing would happen; some complaints but connected mainly to not being informed.
- Can have schedule to add more, based on grant funding for programming and design.

3. What other support do GSD teams need?

Breakout Room #2: Topic - Park Repairs

1. How can we plan for park repairs in the long-term?

- Total cost of assets: estimating % per year to maintain properly
 - ~2.5% - 4x more than current budget
 - Based on existing ballfield metrics
- How much do we need for emergencies/ EOL?
 - Capital Replacement budget
 - How much are we doing this?
- Need to look at maturity of assets
 - Age of assets
 - Parks - yes
 - Buildings - yes
- Asset Manager? - we need someone to put this together!
 - Using the Vehicle Lifecycle as a model
 - Can we do the same with parks?
 - Survey123 survey - get into cartegraph

2. How can we plan to be more adaptive for peak times?

A. Seasonal issues

B. Special areas - example sports fields

C. Planning for reductions and expanded capacity

D. Emergency response

E. Other

- Need to plan for downtime
 - Keep people around longer
 - Get more done during downtime
- Document peak times

- We can target maintenance after peak times
- Calendar of high usage: two categories
 - Scheduled
 - Resident initiated
 - High days of usage for specific parks
- Riverside Park goose poop
- Getting visibility to when big events are happening
 - Need to connect with programming
 - A Flag - send a ping to who needs to know (big events)
 - Maintenance supervisors?
- Leaning on community groups
 - Picking up trash
 - Let them know they need to clean-up
 - Clean-up Deposit?
 - Offer them extra trash bags
 - Cleaning Expectations

3. What other support do GSD teams need?

- Money
- Staffing
 - Need to double staffing to meet needs
 - Flexible scheduling?
 - Have people who can focus on specific trades/specialties
 - Parks: more “jack of all trades”
 - Titles
 - “I thought I was going to be doing carpentry”
 - Need more park related titles
 - Park maintenance operations assistant (new one)
 - Find other existing industry titles
 - Hierarchy of title classes
 - Train VOIs - get scooped up by DPW
 - Titles that could protect
 - Need to have opportunities for advancement internally at the city
 - Need more tools to reward people.
- Training
 - Park repair specific training
 - Baseball maintenance (EJ)
 - Often gets neglected b/c putting out fires
- Vendors
 - Better qualified vendors
 - Attract better vendors & Suppliers
 - Procurement issue
 - Vendor fairs? - need a staff member to lead this
 - Choice of 1 vendor
 - Only the strong could survive
 - Ron reached out to people
 - They did not get through procurement
- Vehicles are on point
 - Now we need to fill them with staff
- Communication channels
 - Need to develop ongoing communications between divisions

- Regular Communication channels?
- Schedules get in the way (putting out fires)

Full Group Report Back:

Breakout 1 additions:

- Native wildflower seeds in wet areas

Revisiting community open spaces could also remove just vacant lands so it doesn't affect ability to site marijuana business

Breakout 2 additions:

People are getting picked up by other departments after they have received a lot of training but don't have opportunities to move up

Chat:

Almost no usage, saved Ron Aubert's comment: "I felt this was really informative and productive. Thanks for all the participation"

Other:

Mentimeter:

Please list your name, organization/department, and one sentence describing a memorable experience in a park in Detroit.

Joel, GSD/Sustainability - playing at Scripps park with my kids!

Children running up sharing how much they love their park.

Nishaat Killeen, Recycling Coordinator with the Department of Public Works. I loved walking through Palmer Park with my dog!

Ron Aubert, Facility Maintenance. Hanging out in the shade on a sunny summer day

Jeff Klein, GSD. Enjoying a break and swinging.

Rosemary Edwards GSD - Grounds Maintenance; children sharing how much they love their park.

Will / GSD I met some of my neighbors for the first time at a park near me.

Jacob Fawaz - GSD/Grounds Taking my dogs to Riverside Dog Park first thing in the morning on the weekend

Sandra, GSD. Running up and down the hills at Pingree North with my toddlers

Brandon Meadows, GSD. One day while at Mariner Park on the riverfront when the sun was just right, reflecting off the water, with the lighthouse and all the boats, the fishermen, I had to pinch myself, it was lovely.

David Sumners, GSD PDU. At Eliza Howell I fell in the Rouge River and saw an eagle at the same time.

Stakeholder Focus Group #2.2: Adaptive Park Maintenance Session Notes - 3/26/21

Attending: David Sumners; Tim Karl; Nishaat Killeen; Barry Burton; Jamal Harrison; Rosemary Edwards; Chris Romeo; Brandon Meadows; Jacob Fawaz; Ronald Aubert; Barrett Irving; Shay Lewis; Erin Casey; Rayshaun Landrum; Joel Howrani Heeres; Jeff Klein; Justin Schott; Sandra Yu Stahl, William Niblock

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Justin Schott, Joel Howrani Heeres

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Trash

1. *Planning in the Long Term*
2. *Adaptivity in Peak Times*
3. *Other Support for GSD Teams*

Park Facilities

1. *Planning in the Long Term*
2. *Adaptivity in Peak Times*
3. *Other Support for GSD Teams*

Breakout Room #1: Topic - Trash

1. How can we plan for park trash in the long-term?

- Future placement of tip rings? How are these planned?
 - Need to be ordered.. Installed by park development
 - Grounds puts barrels in.
 - Landscape design should determine where these go
 - By programmed activities?
- Some get removed/Stolen
- Before winter... pull the cans back
- Trash getting dumped out (looking for returnables)
- Trash schedule determines which list
 - Puts trash on a regular schedule
 - Can increase frequency if needed

2. How can we plan to be more adaptive for peak times?

A. Seasonal issues

- Planning and manpower issues - never enough hands
 - Maheras: plenty of cans... so much pick up still happening
- Holidays & Mondays - big issues
 - Work weekends too

B. Shifted schedule

- Afternoon shift: T-Sat
- Sunday OT day

C. Planning for reductions and expanded capacity

D. "Hot spots"

- Daily pick-up: trash removal and pickups
 - Also on 7-10 day rotation
- Cleaning crew assigned to each district (New)
 - Travel from park to park
 - Daily clean-up
- Satellite Parks - bigger park, heavily used
 - Continual maintenance
 - Challenge maintaining -- add additional
 - Trying to increase satellite staff by one additional person
- Amenities going to add to cleaning needs
 - O'hare: as an example: soccer fields
- Try some signage here
 - Leave your area how you found it.

E. Difficult spaces, ie. dog parks

F. Dumping

- Outer Drive @ Rouge - packer picking up dumping
- Citizens putting bulk on the park properties
- Coordinate with DPW(Doug) on this?
 - Talking about installing cameras
 - In contact with him.
- Generally GSD crew
- Detroit Dumping.com

G. Anti-litter campaign?

- Keep our parks clean
 - Becomes self policing
 - "Don't mess with Texas" - good example
 - "Don't disappoint Detroit" ; "don't trash Detroit"
 - Outside Ad agency?
 - Keep it positive
- How can we limit what gets put down.
- Where to put bulk should be a part of this.
- Partners: GTF Waste; County Commissioner
- Events:
 - Have permits
 - Can a "deposit" be used to clean up after events
 - Get it back if it's clean
 - Sunday permitter calling about Saturday permitter trashing park

- Goes into a special fund for keeping parks clean
- What would we need to do to have recycling in parks?

3. What other support do GSD teams need?

Breakout Room #2: Topic - Park Facilities

1. How can we plan for park facilities in the long-term?

- Facilities needs to be present for determining if any projects should happen, community engagement piece important to explain why this should/should not happen
- Look at labor costs for every facilities-related amenity planned for parks
Need additional staff when additional facilities brought online, need forecast in advance
- Anticipate new tech, like solar, would like to see that incorp into these comfort stations, keep fountains clean from bacteria, charging stations, etc. Charging stations needed (talked with DDOT solar to light bus stations at night) - use something similar for our comfort stations.

2. Focused Discussion on:

A. Shelters

- Need more shelters in parks, especially in large parks
- Power wash before events (also fitness equipment)
- Need more anti-bird “spikes”
- Geese issue! Dog-run service, can be too costly and non-local (ie Belle Isle), Forestry doing goose egg removal

B. Splash pads

- 2 rounds per day (current)
- Season: on the pool schedule, memorial day to labor day

C. Comfort stations

- Bennett one works well, community keeps clean
- Clean them during the summer season
- 3 rounds per day (current)
- Issue with extended season because lack of heat, pipes need to be winterized, for those that are heated, or in year-round use areas (ie Riverside) maintained in winter, homeless issue for heated facilities - but locked in the evening to address this
- Current season: beginning of April till Nov. 1st

D. Vault toilets

- Issues with maintenance and cleanliness, get used all through the winter - Need to be added to a winter schedule (1/week), but won't be able to power wash when below freezing
- Need to be power washed, issue with bugs/pests
- Can't wash hands, unsanitary
- Want comfort stations instead
- Can we add a swing door? At least for the winter months. Privacy

issue

E. Porta potties

- \$120/month, cleaned on a regular basis

F. Drinking fountains

- Issue with them being shut down, getting vandalized, wasting water
- Requires a lot of staff time during peak seasons
- Be able to shut them off after hours, along with comfort stations, especially for those on comfort stations

Stakeholder Focus Group #2.3: Adaptive Park Maintenance Session Notes - 4/9/21

Attending: David Sumners; Tim Karl; Nishaat Killeen; Barry Burton; Jamal Harrison; Jeff Klein; Rosemary Edwards; Chris Romeo; Brandon Meadows; Jacob Fawaz; Sandra Yu Stahl; Ronald Aubert; Barrett Irving; Shay Lewis; Erin Casey; Rayshaun Landrum; Justin Schott; Joel Howrani Heeres, William Niblock

Staff: Juliana Fulton, unknown

Discussion Notes

Breakout Room #1: Topic - Mowing Revisions

1. Cleanup takes away from mowing needs
 - Stimulus- Workforce development (trash too)
 - Extend seasons
 - Extend shifts
2. Problem spots - low mow area
 - Make it look like it was meant to be there
 - Defined line around wild area
 - Intentional, not forgotten about
 - Edges and lines very important
 - Exploring this @ AB Ford
 - Reforestation & Meadows
 - Dense trees (Hantz) makes maintenance easier
 - Very expensive- reduce expense for initiation
3. Meadows
 - 3 trees in a 50 * 50 area
 - Eventually grow into shaded area
 - Pilot planting (AB Ford)
 - Can we replicate?
4. Adopt a Park (Refocus)
 - Need a person (at least ½)- was Marcella
 - Remove mowing (don't need help with this)
 - Adopting specific sites (baseball fields/soccer, etc)
 - Combine adopting/permitting
 - Programming is a need
4. Community open spaces - non active parks

- Check in more frequently
- Helps with ordinance compliance (Marihuana)

Breakout Room #2: Topic - Park Repairs Revisions

1. Budget
 - Can't come from general
2. Asset management
3. Develop staff
 - Advancement opportunities
 - Park trades specific positions
 - How can they move and specialize
 - Synergy with Workforce/Stimulus
 - Industry recognized credentials
 - Baseball/Sports maintenance
 - Irrigation/Drainage
 - Green Stormwater infrastructure Maint/ Ecological Restoration
 - Entrepreneurship/Business Skills
4. Scheduling
 - Have a seasonal calendar (hard to follow) (repairs/maint)
 - Snow days: Park Dev could help
 - No downtime (snow removal)

Breakout Room #3: Topic - Trash Revisions

1. Additional staff
 - Trash cleanup takes us away from hitting 7-10 day schedule
 - 3 hrs budget not enough
 - 2 staff on Riverside - not enough
 - Workforce Dev/Stimulus support
2. Anti-Litter campaign
 - Community support on this
 - "Clean Up Doe!" (don't mess with Texas Detroit version)
 - How can ppl police themselves?
 - Grant Opportunity
 - Cite potential savings
 - Partner with DPW?
 - Blow litter to street
 - Sweep it up
 - Spills over everywhere
 - Tie in Eric Thomas (Chief Storyteller)
3. Waste Fees
4. Winter Trash

5. Recycle Bins

- 11 parks this year; 77 locations
- Many more round hole containers
- DPW does not have the ability to drive through grassy areas
- Basketball courts
- Must be right next to trash container
- Can we use just one vehicle for both?
 - For the gater serviced ones,

Breakout Room #4: Topic - Facilities Revisions

1. Connections

2. Winter restroom needs

- Need for winterizing
- Cannot do powerwashing
- Bennett better?
 - Running water
 - Electricity
 - Private

3. Hygienic facilities

- Hand washing stations?
- New technologies
- Riverside/Palmer - has heating
- Homeless technologies

4. New Technology

- Electric
 - Need to have adequate capacity
 - Extra batteries
 - Need to be able to support 8 hour use
- Propane mowers?
 - Is this still a thing?

Stakeholder Focus Group #3.0: Fitness & Athletics: Health & Rec Session Notes - 3/16/21

Attending: Sam Shopinski (Natl Kidney Fdn of MI), Ryan Dinkgrave (Eastern Market), Donna Givens Davison (Eastside Community Network), Myra Tetteh (Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI Foundation), Lyke Thompson (Wayne State), Kenyetta Walker (Detroit Health Dept), Donna Miller (DPW), Nick Leonard (Great Lakes Envl Law Center), Alex Hill (Wayne State)

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Erin Casey, Justin Schott

General comments / suggestions

Erin noting that all of the survey responses were adults; there is a separate process for reaching out to youth focus groups, will present to them next month and they were also consulted before developing the survey.

Questions

Q : How was the health department involved in the survey and engagement work?

A : This is first meeting about the Parks & Rec Strategic Plan
Had focus group to design survey, which included some health staff

Q : Do you have an estimate of private grants that come in to Parks & Rec now, outside of govt grants?

A : Don't have exact number right now, but on the order of \$21M over 3 years through neighborhood fund.

The PRSP will help our eligibility for additional grants, which are the primary funds for supporting neighborhood parks

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Develop connections and resources from health care partners to address critical needs through the parks & rec system:

- 1. Improved access to healthy food*
- 2. Improved access to health care*
- 3. Improved access to mental health*

1. Improve access to healthy food

A. Define healthy food first

- Milk always served, but people are vegan, lactose intolerant, etc based on

- food pyramids and charts that are outdated or not universal
- Can be tied to funding, e.g. USDA wants tied to My Plate, which is tied to dairy council
- Healthy food can push people in many ways - requires cooking, new foods like greens, don't know how to prepare or how to make tasty
- Best practice for defining healthy food?
- Address gluten allergies, diabetes
- No such thing as universal diet
- Needs to be fresh
- Seasoning - e.g. salt, ranch dressing can make foods less healthy, but need to balance with desirability

B. Physical space

- Food trucks - can be healthy, not greasy. Should have variety and healthy options that are affordable or can use Bridge card.
- Farmers markets - doctors writing prescriptions to use Double Up Food Bucks. Can health systems connect and support use of farmers markets?
- Concession opportunities at Parks - Eastern Market looked for healthy, attractive, and affordable with MI Health Endowments grant. Hard to win on all three.
- Explore other parks to serve as community market sites (Palmer as an example)
- Leverage existing spaces like commercial kitchens, concession spaces - allows control over vendor offerings if done park by park
- Hard to maintain same level of quality and service as scaling up, especially during COVID when need is higher. Examples from other communities?
- Detroit Public Schools, creating Office of Nutrition (started by Betty Wiggins) allowed for control over what came in. Chef Kevin Frank of same mindset.
- Possibility of offering access to quality, (flash)frozen foods?
- Safe locations to access food are important
- Relationships between law enforcement and community - dedicated park patrol during warm season. Some parks have teachers present. Need to feel welcoming, working to ensure it doesn't feel like constant surveillance. Opportunities to focus on areas of greatest need

C. Programs / education

- Couple with food distribution - e.g. nutrition education. Nutrition education alone is a hard sell
- Take advantage of Zoom fatigue because people want in-person activities. How to go beyond a one-touch experience?
- Takes time to plan, integrate cooking demos, etc

D. Current & potential partners

- Already major food distributor, 1.5 million meals with Gleaners and others
- Urban ag community
- Detroit Black Community Food Security Network runs farm for years at Rouge Park. How has that relationship been?

- Provide park land for urban ag growers; land acquisition and tenure are big issues for many. Done in some other cities.
- Eastern Market helps coordinate the Fresh Prescription network in Detroit. <https://www.detroitmarkets.org/food-assistance> - there are opportunities to grow and improve it!
- What qualifies as a rec center and how accessible are they?
- E.g. Lacking in D4, Butzel not the most accessible
- Balduck) has commercial kitchen, but not well used
- Some partnerships with schools with afterschool programming; expanded to 11 community-based sites that are not rec centers, especially for youth access
- → How do people find out where to get access, what resources are available for food providers, etc? Exists but hard to find, not easy to navigate.

2. Improve access to health care

A. Increased use of rec centers / space

- Addition of walking trails that allow adults to exercise
- Hosting health fairs? Have had some at rec centers but not aware of them in parks. Would like to have community health workers present, start access to health and behavioral care there
- Connect with high use functions (e.g. basketball tournaments)

B. Mobile health care

- Chandler park connected programming with health screening
- On-site health referrals, educate on eligibility for insurance / ACA, preventative care
- Lead screening - only 30% of kids who should be tested are. Lead 2 tests are mobile and affordable. Especially important because of pause in testing with Covid

C. Current & potential partners

- Make it easier for non-city entities to provide service.
 - Detroit Parks Coalition - more regular communication has increased access, understanding of processes
 - Easier processes / reduced forms
- Who are the community, health-related groups that use parks & rec centers?
 - May need to reach back out to groups that lost spaces in Covid.
 - Can parks facilitate connections for groups to access spaces?
 - Healthy Environments Partnership (via Detroit Urban Research Center, U of M SPH) sponsored walking clubs
 - Have created spaces people don't use due to safety / aesthetic concerns, e.g. greenways, high schools
- Host community calendar? Yes, available through new software

3. Improve access to mental health

A. Increased use of physical spaces

- Park appearance, texture, colors help release endorphins, boost mental health
- Connections to behavioral health services at health fairs, someone / partners with specific expertise (Health Dept or Detroit-Wayne Integrated Health Network?)
 - Mental health first aid training with Det-Wayne Integrated Health (coaches, staff, etc)
- Education on the connections between physical and mental health

Chat:

15:59:53 From Ryan Michael Dinkgrave to Everyone : Food prescription programs were just mentioned. Eastern Market helps coordinate the Fresh Prescription network in Detroit. <https://www.detroitmarkets.org/food-assistance> - there are opportunities to grow and improve it!

16:00:40 From Myra Tetteh (BCBCM Foundation) to Everyone : Thank you, Ryan!

16:34:00 From Ryan Michael Dinkgrave to Everyone : Very good point about displaced resources like the high school, greenway.

16:39:07 From Ryan Michael Dinkgrave to Everyone : Behavioral health awareness is critical. Mental Health First Aid is a good starting place. But even just addressing stigma is helpful. The parks should be places for all.

Stakeholder Focus Group #3.1: Fitness & Athletics: Parks & Rec Centers Session Notes - 4/27/21

Attending: Erin Casey; Shay Lewis; Lauren Wright; Donna Miller; logan.ziegler@detcityfc.com; nate@soardetroit.com; Paula Trilety (pjtrilety2@yahoo.com); Libby Levy (libby.l.levy@gmail.com); rlento@dykema.com (rlento@dykema.com); joseph rashid (josephrashid@gmail.com); Michele Hodges; Sally Petrella (sallypetrella@gmail.com); anthony benavides (benavidesacpc@gmail.com); Alex Allen; Ryan Myers-Johnson; Kevin.Brown@hockeytown.com (kevin.brown@hockeytown.com); monica@detroitpal.org; thanh@accelerate4kids.org; Alexa Bush; Carlita Carr, Tim Karl; Chaudhry Farhat; David Sumners; Keith Flournoy; Ricardo Marble; Jac Kyle; mdejesus@detroitpal.org; Madhavi Reddy; Stacey Young; Jessica Brown; Yelena Ramautar; Christina Peltier; Ruth Johnson; Abram, Camery Amari; Francis Grunow (francisgrunow@gmail.com); Mike Williams; Nancy Capers

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Lauren Wright, Jac Kyle, Chaudhry Farhat, Erin Casey, Donna Miller, Keith Flournoy

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Parks

1. *Physical Space / Amenities*
2. *Programs / Education*
3. *Current and Potential Partners*

Rec Centers

1. *Physical Space / Amenities*
2. *Programs / Education*
3. *Current and Potential Partners*

Parks

1. Physical Space / Amenities:

A. What amenities / equipment / spaces should be available in parks to encourage year-round fitness? (regional vs. neighborhood)?

- Walking path with distance markers +
- Place where people can check out equipment (jump rope, baseball, tennis racquets, basketballs etc.
- Seasonal sports; Standard annual calendar for events/programs happening distributed to community and posted in the park for reference
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Transitioning outdoor sports into indoor rec centers

- Running/jogging track
- Electronic/interactive playscapes
- Musical instruments
- Rock climbing walls, fitness obstacles
- Incorporating heat path technology into walking paths, tennis courts etc.
- Wifi at the park

B. How can we address the barriers that keep residents from using parks for fitness activities?

- Weather
- Walking paths/sidewalks in the parks are maintained during the winter
- Equipment/amenities that allow for participation year-round (snowshoes, ice skates etc.)
- Hot chocolate
- Extending programming, maintenance for the parks
- More garbage cans placed throughout the parks
- Having neighborhood volunteers and groups providing beautification

C. Trails: How can we use trails and greenways to encourage year-round fitness? (walking/biking number one activity from survey)

2. Programs / education:

A. How can we get the word out about existing programs?

- Collaborate with nonprofits, youth orgs, block clubs/community orgs to ensure the word gets to the youth
- Department of Neighborhood meetings
- Schools
- Having a board/kiosk/signage that lists programs at the park
- Flyer/mailer to households +
- Shared calendar about events and programming at parks across the city
- Partner with state reps and senators representing City of Detroit to get info out in their newsletters

B. How can we encourage winter season fitness activities?

- Bonfire and storytelling for families
- Family-oriented activities

3. Current & potential partners

A. How can we coordinate with other organizations fill in rec gaps for fitness?

- Accelerate 4 Kids has a tennis and tech program and yoga and coding (seasonal)
- School cheerleading and dance teams could fill in between summer and winter
- Senior aerobic activities
- Silver sneakers - year round and requires relationship building
- AAA assists in reaching seniors
- Boys and Girls Club, Detroit PAL, Chandler Park Conservancy, DPSCD,

- Detroit Public Library
- Newsletter is sent out every year to students across SE Michigan
- PBA Royal Performing Arts and Training School
- Community Development Organizations
- Youth Development Resource Center
- Urban League of Detroit - develop programs for year round fitness
- Partner with corporations doing business downtown asking them to donate supplies for park/recreation activities
- Detroit Outdoors is a potential partner

Rec Centers

1. Physical Space / Amenities:

A. How can we address the barriers that keep residents from using the Fitness centers in our rec centers? (ie transportation, cost, etc.)

- membership fee is minimal - however for the weightroom fee may be a challenge. Youth \$5, Senior \$10, Weightroom \$120 --
- possibly increase membership fee for youth and seniors \$20 to include the weightroom- would this allow partnering with an organization such as Planet Fitness for an additional fee - i.e yoga class will be additional fee for the instructor
- good customer service - provide a clean environment, maintaining the equipment, knowledgeable staff to inform participants how to use the equipment
- getting the word out- make the public aware of what is available in the rec centers in their neighborhood
- make the centers a safe/secure environment, welcoming to the public
- hours of operation for the centers - earliest center opens at 7:00 am -
- make a portion of the center open for a particular area such as the weightroom - cost effective

B. What amenities should be available in City recreation centers?

- "Launch Pad" for children, safe space, using technology to track every thing kids are doing.
- Gym, Pool, space for additional classes, room for technology (computer lab), install one in District 4 - robotics, arts & crafts, flexibility, culinary arts classes (kitchen)

C. What would be appropriate hours of operation be for our rec centers?

- Compete with other local gyms - what are their hours, what are they offering
- Offer various programs to match the clients - what is the demand for the programs, what are we offering the public based on what the people want

2. Programs / education:

A. How can we get the word out about existing programs?

- Utilizing Block Clubs, Churches, Police Precincts
- Being consistent with the program schedule - create program for the entire year - so people can plan ahead
- Marketing has to be ongoing - have a marketing plan - two -three months in advance of program date
- How much do we utilize Channel 10
- Community mailing, we did have a course catalogue --doing a wider distribution, incorporating marketing software
- Mailer distributed in the various districts
- mailer/media is very expensive to the department
- Social media is used Facebook, Twitter, Instagram - is utilized we have a medium following
- Word of Mouth - sharing good experiences - main line of communication still effective
- Is information shared through schools? Yes, we share information directly to schools
- Informing the staff - so they can answer questions and share with the public

B. What can we do to reduce barriers for using programs (ie child care, etc.)?

- Timing/scheduling of programs - adjusting the timing to meet the needs of the community
- Is it feasible to provide transportation? Having a bus to pick up kids to bring to the rec centers Programming may be too expensive for parents, having to pay for equipment

3. Current & potential partners

A. How can we coordinate with schools, community organizations/churches to fill in rec gaps for year round fitness?

- Forming relationships take time
- Potential partners:
 - Accelerate4KIDS (hosts community events, STEM and fitness activities)
 - School cheer teams & dance groups
 - Silver sneakers - year round, transition activity
 - Target senior groups
 - Boys & Girls Clubs
 - Park friends groups
 - DPS - programming book that gets distributed / newsletter at the end of the season for kids summer activities - throughout SE Michigan
 - Detroit Public Library - programs and activities as well as getting the word out
 - PBA performing arts school
 - Community Development Corps - already do some youth

programming

- You development resource center - that has a library of youth programs
- Urban League of Detroit - physical program for year-round fitness
- Corporations based in Detroit to donate/sponsor equipment and programs
- Family gear give-aways as part of existing programs

Stakeholder Focus Group #3.2: Fitness & Athletics: Facilities & Programs

Session Notes - 5/4/21

Attending: Shay Lewis; Lauren Wright; Donna Miller; logan.ziegler@detcityfc.com; nate@soardetroit.com; Paula Trilety (pjtrilety2@yahoo.com); Libby Levy (libby.l.levy@gmail.com); rlento@dykema.com (rlento@dykema.com); joseph rashid (josephrashid@gmail.com); Michele Hodges; anthony benavides (benavidesacpc@gmail.com); Alex Allen; Ryan Myers-Johnson; Kevin.Brown@hockeytown.com (kevin.brown@hockeytown.com); monica@detroitpal.org; thanh@accelerate4kids.org; Alexa Bush; Carlita Carr; Erin Casey; Sally Petrella (sallypetrella@gmail.com), Tim Karl; Chaudhry Farhat; David Sumners; Christina Peltier; Keith Flournoy; Ricardo Marble; Jac Kyle; Abram, Camery Amari; mdejesus@detroitpal.org; Madhavi Reddy; Stacey Young; Francis Grunow (francisgrunow@gmail.com); Jessica Brown; Yelena Ramautar; Ruth Johnson

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Chaudhry Farhat, Shay Lewis, Lauren Wright, Donna Miller

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Facilities: Athletics > Neighborhoods

1. *Expanding Interest in Athletics*
2. *Athletic Spaces in Parks*
3. *Athletic Spaces in Rec Centers*
4. *Other Unmet Needs*

Programs: Neighborhoods > Athletics

1. *Addressing Geographic Disconnection and Transportation Needs*
2. *Providing Diverse, Quality Opportunities*
3. *Expanding Programming through Local Groups*

Facilities

1. How can we expand interest in athletics, including providing opportunities for unstructured play / games?

- Additional means to be able to register and promote for programs
- Listen to the needs of the community, important to provide information to residents in surrounding communities.
- Multiply activities at one field is necessary
- Open dialogue with residents to better understand what programs they'd like to see
- Have a better understanding what programs are already being offered in the area outside of Parks & Rec and create new/ different programs for

residents through Parks & Rec

- Soccer Hubs were helpful
- Offering various types of activities
- Constant communication to residents providing details about programs that are offered at City parks
- Constant exposure of new programs is pivotal for sustainability
- Hosting an open house to residents/park goers each month to introduce upcoming programming
- Utilizing Playleaders for teaching various activities, playing checkers, touch football - and the Recreation Leader would oversee the programming.
- Partnering with DPS schools - utilizing facilities/along with the after school program with the teachers for structured activities.
- Regional/Neighborhood parks - Regional is more organized because organizations run the programs while neighborhood parks are more open play
- General open space can be used for open play where neighborhood kids can practice as opposed to playing league games
- Multi-lingual play leaders that is appropriate for the neighborhood
- Posting instructions on how to play specific games (GA-GA Court)

2. What criteria should be taken into account when adding athletic spaces in neighborhood parks?

- Fields connected to football, softball, soccer - football is most popular because a lot of teams utilize the fields. Listening to the community and what they want in the parks. Promoting what we have is an opportunity to bring in additional activities for participation. What do we need? What does the community need? Also, listening to the Recreation staff - they know the community and its people.
- Properly permitting the fields - making the community aware of the permitting requirements to reduce conflicting events. Using a QR code to sign up on the Smartsheet
- Keeping an open dialogue with the community of their park needs for athletic
- Knowing what other athletic programs exist in the various neighborhoods - updated plan will provide current demographics

3. For rec centers?

- Listening to the community for what needs do they have for park criteria

4. How can we address other unmet needs (physical meeting space/storage/gear)?

- Potential building small storage building that blends in with the neighborhood
- Nature groups - having a check out process for winter gear such as snow shoes, or tennis rackets
- Utilize District Offices for check out - a small deposit would be left and upon the return of the equipment they would get their deposit back....this would allow people to get equipment to use in the park for various games and activities; called a Picnic Pack.

- Provide signage or bulletin board giving information to park user on how to obtain the picnic pack and where to go to get a park permit.
- Bike repair stations -
- Provide a QR code
- Translation services with signage on site
- Include mile markers in the parks for walking/running paths
- Utilize District Offices for equipment pickup Ex: balls, picnic pack
- In the past this allowed residents to use equipment for a small deposit that was returned after usage
- Provide signage in the park to let participants know what parks offer what
- Provide a park bulletin at each location
- Have a site leader at each park

Programs

1. How can we address the geographic disconnect between athletic offerings and where people/youth live (transportation needs)?

- teenagers who are not able to drive, need transportation to the programming locations
- bus transportation can get expensive
- smaller parks have basketball courts and smaller green area that can be used for soccer - challenge to get resources to staff smaller parks
- have sports hubs for smaller parks
- bus tickets
- community partnership for ride share programs - maybe taxi cab services
- maybe City of Detroit can create their own rideshare program
- recreational shuttle services between parks and rec centers - make it accessible for people with disabilities
- transportation need to be more inclusive
- neighborhoods need small pocket park - maintenance might be an issue
- teachers would work after school hours at the parks to engage community children
- funding could be a challenge
- putting in new amenities has allowed the community to enjoy the park closer to home
- reach out to block clubs to aid in the promotion of activities in the park, closer to home
- partnering with churches and schools for promotion of activities in the park
- mobile rec at smaller parks -challenge could not get children to participate in the programming

2. How can we provide diverse, quality opportunities for athletics across the city? What does high quality opportunities entail?

- more organic play
- mobile athletics - introducing different sports to youth in different neighborhoods- time could be after 3pm
- Soccer program is a good example of programming across the city - children are excited to learn and play the sport

- use the soccer model to create new programming
- we can incentivize the learning/engagement with new sports like archery, lacrosse - offer like a \$500 scholarship for colleges/university
- we can offer stipends for active participation
- need to push our youths beyond their comfort zone/ expose them to different sports
- have a piston or lions player speak at a lacrosse or soccer meet - spark their interest in other sports
- include famous people from each of the sports- someone who the youth can relate to
- very important to introduce our youth to other sports besides basketball and football, must stay consistent with the outreach and exposure
- how do we retain the students? Youth need good experience playing the sports

3. How can we expand Detroit athletic programming through capacity building of local groups? What capacity building is needed?

Stakeholder Focus Group #4.1: Safe Access in Parks & Rec Session Notes - 5/18/21

Attending: Derek Blackmon – Black Family Development dblackmon@blackfamilydevelopment.org, Adam Jenks, Adaora Ezike – Detroit Health Dept, Ani Grigorian – Accessibility consultant with Detroit Disability Power, Betsy Palazzola – HRD, Dan Comer – Bridging Communities, Caitlin Malloy-Marckle – DPW, Carsten Applegate – DDOT, Chisara Brown – DPW, Chanise Knighton – Disability Network, Christopher Samp – Office of Disability Affairs, COD, Dustin Hagfors – SMART, Jaime Junior – Office of Disability Affairs, Katie Trudeau – DPD, Khalil Ligon – DPD, Megan Owens – Transportation Riders United, Michele Flournoy – DPD, Nicole Brown – Detroit Future City, Ramona Washington – WSU AmeriCorps Urban Safety Project, Regina Hardy – DPSCD, Todd Scott – Detroit Greenways Coalition, Tom Woiwode – Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Tyler Klifman – SEMCOG, William McCarley – GSD

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Donna Miller, Joel Howrani Heeres, Erika Linenfelser, Christina Peltier, Justin Schott

Questions

Q: Do you have census data or preliminary data? How will it affect the parks plan?

A: The Census helps inform where and when we should invest in capital improvements – blocks with higher density, more youth, more seniors. The goal is to get to all of the parks, but this helps us determine the order or improvements.

Q: Connection or correlation between block clubs and adopting parks?

A: Yes, we have a focus group specifically on park stewardship, Wednesday, 5/26 at 5pm. There is another level of stewardship for Park Ambassadors, not taking on mowing needed to fully adopt a park, but serving in other stewardship capacities.

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Guiding Questions:

1. *Walking access*
2. *Biking access*
3. *General access: How can we address the other issues related to safe access + increase greenway usage?*
4. *How can we improve access for those with disabilities?*

1. Walking access:

A total of 83% of respondents walk to parks, but 44% of respondents said parks are too far. How can we improve access? Share ideas, best practices, etc. (Reference: gap map)

- ++ Struck by modest use of Fitzgerald Greenway - perception of being far away may be because people don't know about existence of parks / greenways or amenities are lacking so they don't think about neighborhood park, minds go to "the Big 5", Dequindre, etc → publicity could make parks feel more accessible
 - Neighborhood parks may be just a grass field and trees - no playground or other facilities, not kid-friendly. Combination of improving awareness and amenities → wayfinding signs
 - General issues of streetlights, sidewalks, crime - hard to overcome issue of people not feeling safe to walk in general
 - SEMCOG has parks analysis tool - allows geographic analysis of features like access to playgrounds vs % of households with children. Also covers transportation options. Detail includes transportation routes and entrances
 - Consider "stroll" accessibility for wheelchair users - distinct from walking and biking, important to have curb cuts. Taking kids to park requires additional access - hard to cross grass to playground, e.g. Additional paths needed
 - Dilapidated and unconnected sidewalks - physical infrastructure needs to be present to enable walking
 - Improve amenity and program options at parks. Increase access points, eg. use of wayfinding, creating safe, low stress connections along existing ROWs, and eliminating vacant structures along designated park feeder routes.
-
- Signage would be great in the neighborhoods adjacent to parks
 - Adding Segway scooters to parks
 - Look at walking routes to parks and where it's possible to improve sidewalks and do demolitions and/or board ups of houses
 - Safe crossings and street lights
 - Include how far the park is on wayfinding signage (distance in mi.)
 - Can we add parks to the 'gap' areas? Why is the investment in parks uneven throughout the city?
 - Flyers to advertise parks
 - Accessible public transportation to every park to make parks accessible to individuals with disabilities. Notifications of parks along bus routes. Making parks accessible (by cost as well)
 - Add winter maintenance along routes to parks?
-
- Important to have good sidewalks leading to the park
 - Importance of involving block clubs and relationships within the community to increase people's comfort / safety walking to parks (walk with someone else)
 - Signage - like Ferndale, Royaloak, that help direct you to a park that is nearby, and note the distance "5 minutes" or "0.2 miles" etc. Also would help to market the park. A lot of positive feedback where they've been put in in the City.
 - We need more than just signage but address the safety concern, think to public safety (not just infrastructure)
 - Work with neighborhood patrol groups, they volunteer but have some costs (gas, etc.) that would be very helpful if the City could help them.
 - People that are technically within a 10-minute walk may not feel close enough.
 - And some parks are not true "active" parks. How to address this? 1) Example of Tarnow-Kirkwood small pocket park or 2) add to larger existing parks

- Need emergency phones / posts more often, add lighting, covered benches for resting, need more trash cans, recycle bins and dog waste bins
- Issues with scooters - not everyone has ability to connect to them, look at trolleys instead
- Make more aware of parks near other neighborhood destinations / businesses
- A lot of parks surrounded by single family neighborhoods, but bringing more users can bring more eyes on the park and more safety

2. Biking access:

A total of 66% of respondents have biked to a park. How can we increase biking access / use?

Issues include lack of access to bikes, traffic, crime, blight.

- Has MoGo network been mapped over the bike lane & greenway map? Maybe there are more opportunities based on new pricing by time. Still a challenge to both start and end near MoGo stations.
- Add MOGO (and scooter) stations at all active City recreation centers
- Need ways to safely lock bike, along with maintenance stations in case of flat tires, etc - know you'll get home safely. Mt. Elliott is a good example
- Affordability is critical for MoGo - is there a way to ensure everyone has affordable access?
- Protected bike lanes increases use dramatically, confirmed by multiple studies
- More sidepath design protected bike lanes (not bollards)
- Improve continuity of bike routes/infrastructure
- Are there unintended consequences for pedestrians / wheelchair users when they intersect bike lanes?
- Limitations for different people based on age and ability, think of access from multiple perspectives
- Winter access - maintenance is poor, snow is piled in bike lanes, accumulate ice
- Getting bikes on buses - great that all buses have racks, but don't have a way to know if a particular bus will be full. Is there a way to track the racks that are in use vs. available? Other cities that have an app?
- Making sure there's bike parking available at every park
- More connections to bike lane networks
- Street trees to make walking a better experience
- Working with 3rd party providers (MoGo for example) to add more stations to various city parks
- Bike share at every park
- Work with nonprofits to do specific rides / celebrations to local parks within neighborhoods
- More traffic calming and slowing speeds on key bike routes
- Bike repair stations
- Non-motorized safety campaign with SEMCOG, DONS,
- Guided bike rides, hyper local groups to help people feel more comfortable
- Wayfinding and other visual cues to help draw people to the parks
- Can we give people a biking route from bigger destinations
 - Major bus routes, or transfer points between routes
 - Dense commercial corridors
- Coordinate with DPW on their "slow streets", where they are planning routes they can line up with parks and transit locations.

- It would be great if the city could provide free bike horns, reflectors and lights the same way marihuana lock boxes and gun lock boxes are provided by DPD

3. General access:

How can we address the other issues related to safe access, such as crime, blight and traffic?

How can we increase greenway usage? (Reference: biking map and Greenways statistics)

What information do we want to track next year as the Joe Louis Greenway construction starts?

- Parking is an issue for downtown parks, Riverwalk
- Bus lines should have maps and signage for what is accessible along their specific routes
- Need information blitz about parks in your neighborhood - e.g. colorful bulletin boards at Gratiot and 7 Mile; grocery stores could have signage (e.g. Meijer on Grand River; 8 Mile & Woodward)
- General Access: Integrate park, greenway, slow streets, safe routes, and other off-road routes in popular map apps (eg. Apple, Google, Waze, etc.)
- Creating space to attract commerce - e.g. food truck access on Greenways, could track usage / spending
- Greenway usage tracking (consider surveys on site)
 - Group size / type, esp families
 - Ages
 - Wheelchair and stroller users
 - Time of day
 - Purpose (recreational, transportation)
 - Access to vehicles, how accessing greenways (Mogo, car, bus, walk)
 - Points of access used
- More group/all-wheel events that allow people to congregate, discover new amenities/routes/neighborhoods, and move safely through areas (eg. Slow Roll, Tour de Troit). Potentially partner with Detroit-based philanthropy/corporations
- Maps for bikes and transit needed to be more accessible on smartphones, great maps on a computer are often not mobile compatible / friendly → non-vehicular wayfinding
 - Isn't Google and Microsoft here in city now? Maybe we could do some collabs to add these to their platforms
 - SEMCOG collected 360 degree imagery (like Google Street View) for more popular parks and greenways (but needs computer to view)
 - Apps that show access routes for people with disabilities
- Street/sidewalk lighting, areas should be well-lit for increased safety
- Interdepartmental coordination, DONS, neighborhood orgs → neighborhood patrols. Working with local police officers to patrol routes near parks
- Blue light emergency call box
- Absentee landlords are largely contributing to blight
- Trash pick up organized by neighborhood org. City should support these efforts in any way possible.
- BSEED enforcement along routes
- Greenway useage:
 - Add sensory playground for individuals with disabilities (e.g., New Jersey has an accessible playground that attracts children on autism spectrum)
 - What is a greenway? Educating Detroiters on what a greenway is

- More activation along greenways
 - Set up a small vendor permit process, to allow hot dog stands or similar at Detroit parks
 - Access to safe, ADA restrooms that have a regular cleaning schedule
 - Partner with local community organizations to host small festivals at the parks (e.g., art festival, movie night, etc.)
 - Seating, benches along greenways
 - Information kiosks with resources and info about services
 - Greenway minimum standards, so there is a uniform expectation of what a greenway is and what the experience of it will be
- You need to see a plan when looking at crime and blight data when thinking about parks for kids (block count) - to identify areas of highest use and highest issues
 - Is there any correlation between crime-blight-and traffic?
 - Cleanliness of parks signals security, and that a space is cared for and safe
 - Helpful to have a close relationship with DPD, esp park patrol unit to focus on heavy use parks in the summer. Police on a bike, visual presence, also have an emergency phone in the parks.
 - Park Patrol need to extend their season and hours
 - Close parks down at night - that is when a lot of the issues happen
 - Lock gates to driveways and parking lots
 - Security camera concerns
 - Parks can't solve all issues

4. How can we improve access for those with disabilities?

- Ensuring access to electricity in case mobility scooters power down (specs for Riverwalk included additional outlets) + signage
- Smooth paths really important
- Respite areas - is the seating close enough, well-lit, comfortable?
- For visually impaired - braille, could be attached to benches on inside of green way away from street. Other ideas?
 - For braille, would this go on park/entrance signage? Need to consider how this would be accomplished through wayfinding design (blind can't reach banner pole signage)
- Must improve condition of ROW/sidewalks, other access routes. Create continuous and clearly marked routes. Integrate technology (eg. audible crosswalks) that identifies where/how to get to park/open space amenities. Improve lighting and eliminate vacant structures along routes.
- Take advantage of universal design resources - for both parks and greenways.
- Universal standards cater to people of any ability
- Rescue Plan funds - digital inclusion & wi-fi access coming to parks and rec centers. Are there other technological solutions that could make parks more accessible for people with disabilities (e.g. verbal cues)
 - Information centers along the way, could also act as hot spots
- Work with ADA community/experts and those employing best practices else where to design these amenities/functions. Create an ADA design guide that can be included in construction/redevelopment scopes of work/contracts
 - ADA often does not create access to the full range of public space amenities. When we were working on universal design associated with parks, we often found that ADA compliant was not necessarily universal.

- Modal splits of how people get there
 - How far are people travelling on it
 - if construction will block sidewalk, prepare a safe accessible route for pedestrians to get around construction sites
-
- Understand where people are coming from - to look at connectivity between destinations and parks and focus sidewalk improvements there.
 - Start at outer perimeter of the parks to ADA access
 - JLG is going to be aggregate for running and concrete for the sidewalks and lanes, but consider how materials affect folks with disabilities
 - Also consider non-physical disabilities. We already have to meet ADA: consider visual and other impairments. Need to learn more about what is needed braille on park signs?
 - We design parks to meet minimum ADA standards, if they fall into disrepair, quickly no longer accessible. Need to either improve maintenance so they don't fall into disrepair or we need to improve our design standards
 - Need a guide or directory for special accessible playgrounds
 - Benches/tables that leave space for wheelchairs are good, but make sure the walkway connects to those tables
 - Issue with gravel parking lots!
 - Also work with local NPO's to provide specific programming for residents with disabilities.

Chat:

15:31:31 From Nicole Brown to Everyone:

Hello everyone!

15:39:40 From Ani Michelle Grigorian to Everyone:

Awesome!!!

15:58:06 From Derek Blackmon to Everyone:

Derek Blackmon--Black Family Development--dblackmon@blackfamilydevelopment.org

15:58:12 From Todd Scott to Everyone:

Wish I could stay on, but I plan on attending the next focus meeting.

16:08:52 From Tyler Klifman, SEMCOG to Everyone:

https://maps.semco.org/accessparks/?amenity=All_Access_Points&mode=walk_amenity_access&mcd=5

16:14:28 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Walking Access: Improve amenity and program options at parks. Increase access points, eg. use of wayfinding, creating safe, low stress connections along existing ROWs, and eliminating vacant structures along designated park feeder routes.

16:14:50 From Justin Schott - he.him to Everyone:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1x74NqNBAAlVWfmLhg93iL2Yv75tOwldmKRUnI_pVaas/edit#slide=id.gd91ccf5d56_0_11

16:18:42 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Add MOGO (and scooter) stations at all active City recreation centers

16:19:57 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Mt. Elliott Park good example of bike access & support amenities (eg. parking, repair)

16:21:40 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

More sidepath design protected bike lanes (not bollards)

16:25:19 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Bike Access: Improve continuity of bike routes/infrastructure

16:27:32 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

General Access: Integrate park, greenway, slow streets, safe routes, and other off-road routes in popular map apps (eg. Apple, Google, Waze, etc.)

16:31:41 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

General Access: More group/all-wheel events that allow people to congregate, discover new amenities/routes/neighborhoods, and move safely through areas (eg. Slow Roll, Tour de Troit). Potentially partner with Detroit-based philanthropy/corporations

16:34:24 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Disability Access: Must improve condition of ROW/sidewalks, other access routes. Create continuous and clearly marked routes. Integrate technology (eg. audible crosswalks) that identifies where/how to get to park/open space amenities. Improve lighting and eliminate vacant structures along routes.

16:37:01 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Disability Access: For braille, would this go on park/entrance signage? Need to consider how this would be accomplished

through wayfinding design (blind can't reach banner pole signage)

16:39:13 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Disability Access: Work with ADA community/experts and those employing best practices elsewhere to design these amenities/functions. Create an ADA design guide that can be included in construction/redevelopment scopes of work/contracts

16:41:26 From Tom & Anne Woiwode to Everyone:

ADA often does not create access to the full range of public space amenities. When we were working on universal design associated with parks, we often found that ADA compliant was not necessarily universal.

16:42:54 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

Isn't Google and Microsoft here in city now? Maybe we could do some collabs to add these to their platforms

16:43:33 From Khalil Ligon to Everyone:

*non-vehicle route/wayfinding

Other:

Jamboard: <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1lc54iBYvOnHoMjyIJuO8cSbVclNizApXchD5CNYfoGM/edit?usp=sharing>

For transcription and image, see Focus Group Public Session #4

Stakeholder Focus Group #4.2: Safe Access in Parks & Rec Session Notes - 5/25/21

Attending: Christina Peltier; Erika Linenfelser; Joel Howrani Heeres; Justin Schott; William McCarley; Ozell Gothard; Donna Miller; Todd Scott (todd@detroitgreenways.org); standardv@udmercy.edu; Matthew Webb; Tom Woiwode; as0293@wayne.edu; Katie Alexander (kalexander@michiganfitness.org); Karen Slaughter-DuPerry; mrynas@southwestdetroit.com; regina.hardy@detroitk12.org; Dan Commer; nbrown@detroitfuturecity.com; Michele Flournoy; connercreek@detroitgreenways.org; Prasad Nannapaneni; ajenks@michiganfitness.org; dwan@liferemodeled.com (dwan@liferemodeled.com); Sally Petrella; priscilla.morris@detroitk12.org; abramovich@semcog.org; Pawlik@semcog.org; Tyler Klifman (klifman@semcog.org); dblackmon@blackfamilydevelopment.org; Carsten Applegate; Jeff Klein; Adaora Ezike; Katy Trudeau; Betsy Palazzola; Chisara Brown; Gustavo Serratos; mikhen@detromi.gov; daustin0475@icloud.com; joelbatterman@gmail.com; actnowdetroit@gmail.com; rcramer@smartbus.org; Jonathan Flint; Caitlin Marcon; Rory Lincoln (rory@mogodetroit.org); mowens@detroittransit.org; bstrader@mkskstudios.com; vlickliter@rtamichigan.org; chaunise@dnwayne.org; lori.hill@dnwayne.org; jeffrey@detroitdisabilitypower.com; theodore@detroitdisabilitypower.com; Detroit Office of Disability Affairs; wow4metrodetroit@yahoo.com; dessa@detroitdisabilitypower.org; Christopher Samp; Jamie Junior; renard@liferemodeled.org; Stupka, Benjamin; Hagfors, Dustin; Cassly Sullen; Cynthia Dowe; Calvin (cevans@detroitlive.org); Janine Matthews; Robert Sanders; Streeter, Sherelle; Khalil Ligon; ani@detroitdisabilitypower.org; mark.wallace@detroitriverfront.org (mark.wallace@detroitriverfront.org)

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Donna Miller, Joel Howrani Heeres, Erika Linenfelser, William McCarley, Justin Schott, Ozell Gothard

Questions

Q : If we missed a focus group, can we still contribute to that topic?

A: Yes, all presentations are all publicly available. I can share the link for you to add feedback directly to slides or email me with your thoughts and we'll add them into the notes.

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

Accessibility for those with Disabilities:

1. Infrastructure & Maintenance
2. Program Inclusivity
3. Communications & Marketing
4. Partners

Public Transportation to Rec

1. Access to Rec via Transit

Connecting the System (Greenways)

1. Gaps and Potential Connections

Breakout Room #1: Topic - Accessibility for those with Disabilities

1. Improve infrastructure & maintenance:

Ensuring access to and through the park

Thinking beyond ADA to universal accessibility:

What are current maintenance issues for accessibility, how can they be addressed?

- Major maintenance issue - sidewalks not connected, fragmented and overgrown. Pushes people in wheelchairs and mobility devices into the streets to get around.

- How far from parks should sidewalks be maintained? → at least to the nearest bus stop, one block minimum.

- Seating for seniors - some benches have been removed in places

- Bus stops - need canopies for rain protection

- What about people in neighborhoods not traveling by vehicle? Who needs access and what kinds of supports at each park?

- Could use inventory of accessibility access, identify which parks are good for which users (e.g.

- Do not have current City-wide assessment or inventory → could use map of accessibility features in 300 parks, schedule assessments over time

- Scripps is accessible for the blind). Move from universal approach to parks to tailored approach to individual parks.

- Cross walks - check both visual and audio signals are working

- What data is currently being collected; how can we collect anecdotal data from residents?

- Working with DPW - need to hear maintenance considerations around and beyond park boundaries. Recommend contacting DPW about specific locations where needed

- Speed control - stop signs and speed bumps. Have seen increasing bad driving
 - → Can impede access for people who are walking or rolling if there is not sidewalk access around them

- Picnic tables - should have cut outs for wheelchairs (typically included for 1 out of 4 tables)

2. Ensure rec programs are inclusive: what needs to be provided?

- Inclusive rec programs - accessibility should be budgeted, e.g. ASL interpreters, braille → universal design

- Adaptive equipment for disabled participants

- Playgrounds - there is a park in Southfield that accommodates wheelchairs on merry-go-rounds and some of the playscapes, has heavy duty paths for multiple mobility devices. Astroturf or rubberized is a good surface to use - both smooth and cushioning in case of fall

- Swimming pools at City parks / rec centers? Are there lifts for access?

- Locker rooms and showers should be accessible & ADA compliant

3. Address the communication / marketing gap - Develop an online guide or directory for accessible amenities / playgrounds

- A lot of website content is not accessible, cannot be read by screen readers as scanned PDFs, big issue
- Provide ASL versions of communications - need to be video with captions, caption-enabled
- Provide as much information as possible about access features. What does "accessible" mean? Paved surfaces and curb cuts,, seating, restrooms. Pictures are valuable to show what is available, info needs to be in different accessible forms.
- Digital suggestion boxes on site (or other ways of soliciting feedback)
 - Emphasize use of Improve Detroit (aka See Click Fix) app to call out issues

4. More coordination with partners who are doing this work

- DPSCD, also charter schools
- Arc of Detroit, step programs
- Churches & faith communities - what kind of outreach has there been?
- Police - change to louder evening scene can make it uncomfortable for families, could use support (not with force) to make it feel safe
- Block clubs
- Neighborhood patrols / police cadets / ROTC - could recruit for specific connection to parks
- Ani - 4 part accessibility evaluation tool developed for Huron & Clinton MetroParks. → useful if shareable, Ani can follow up with Juliana

Breakout Room #2: Topic - Public Transportation to Rec

1. Provide easy access to rec centers and regional parks via transit.

Where are the current gaps? What are some other modes of transit beyond buses, that we should consider for accessing parks? More coordination between partners (MoGo/Lyft/DDOT)

- Gaps: Far-west side and far-east side.
- Are bus frequencies aligned with programming / needs
- Are there well maintained bus stops near parks/rec centers
- Is the bus visible during nighttime / bad weather
- Are bus times / map of routes available?
- Are route changes communicated well in advance and accessible?
- Parks along greenways should be connected
- Scooters available across the city near parks, in areas with lots of young people and children
- Expanding MoGo to more parks
- Increasing paratransit options in areas with higher numbers of folks with accessibility issues.
- Charging stations, esp. at parks in areas with high numbers of seniors to charge scooters, etc.
- Materials about transit in rec centers, in various languages
- Good wayfinding signage esp at large parks.

- Multimodal sites are entrances of parks and rec centers. with info and access to MoGo, scooters, lyft/uber, DDOT, etc + charging stations
- Coordinate with schools to do programming in parks/rec centers and/or for pick-up/drop-off locations
- Improved / one payment system for multiple modes of transit (ex: DDOT + MOGO)
- Include transit info in event/programming notices
- Send this info to major employers as well
- Improve awareness of SMART routes, as they connect to Detroit parks and rec centers & metroparks
- DDOT & SMART to coordinate on improved access to Huron-Clinton MetroPark & Riverfront (<https://www.metroparks.com/drfc/>)
- Promoting transit / park+ride options to parks, rail trails, bike routes
- Car-share could serve as last-mile transit?
- Definition and/or list of regional parks
- Improving DDOT transit frequency & hours
- Improve Transit infrastructure clean, well-lite, safe, paved with ideally a shelter and bench
- TransitApp, QR codes advertising transitapp / transit info
- Resilience hubs - indoor spaces with community resources (charging, cooling-centers, etc.)

Breakout Room #3: Topic - Connecting the System (Greenways)

1. Where are the current gaps in the system?

Where are some key potential connections?

Where are there gaps in current greenways?

- What is the cut off for being a Greenway.
- Jos Campau Greenway East of the Belt Line - Community group is working on
- West side of the Greenway. Hoping to connect the Iron Bell to the greenways - not sure when they are with that connection.
- Would it be helpful to show all greenways?
- Provide a family friendly loop of bike lanes in Rouge, Palmer, and Chandler Parks; is this helpful.
- We have alot of gaps in the 7 mile/Gratiot area - map is missing the Grand River bike lanes (need to incorporate update map)
- Also include the Outer Drive connection gap.
- Not everyone is comfortable utilizing bike lanes - look into the demographics of protected bike lanes.
- **there seems not be routes for bike lanes moving East to West - there should be a connection between Rouge to Livernois
- Is Conner Creek off road once you get to Woodmere?
- Protected bike lanes need for East to West Outer Drive.
- Connectivity to parks and recreation centers is more of a priority instead of commercial and retail areas.
- East/West connections to railways?
- Neighborhood connectors - different tiers of greenway to focus on amenities - John R, Second
- Rouge Greenway (Rogell) - obstacle is a private owned driving range - using
- Wayne County Hines Drive to extend connectivity

- West Jefferson Plan (State of MI) connecting the five cities south of Detroit - bike lanes built in River Rouge/Trenton
- SEMCOG map - <https://bicycle-and-pedestrian-mobility-maps-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/> on the Mobility Network page, there is a tab for the Planned Bicycle and Pedestrian Network (for looking at regional connections)
- Wayne County bike lanes - some are protected some are not
- "Sidewalks" - discussion to create oversized sidewalks create a more enjoyable walking experience -
- Green Alleys - activate the alleys on Vernor - looking into creating walking connections possibly on Meade street include Hines Drive and the Rouge Gateway
- Safe Rec Routes could be incorporated into this plan.
- What is the authority of the City in Commercial districts? Does the City have jurisdiction over sidewalks to expand eating and shopping on sidewalks? - streamlining the permit process 6ft is the minimum standard
- NRPA - Safe Routes program - look into this
- Gratiot - connection to the upper Eastside to the downtown area
- Link to 2002 RTC rail study: www.railstotrails.org/resource-library/resources/greenways-initiative-planning-for-detroits-rail-trails/?tag=Corridor+Research
- In addition to speed bumps - need to include signage - maybe coordinate with DPW to add additional stop signs and various intersections.

Other:

Jamboard: <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1lc54iBYvOnHoMjyIJuO8cSbVcINizApXchD5CNYfoGM/edit?usp=sharing>

For transcription and image, see Focus Group Public Session #4

Stakeholder Focus Group #5.1: Access & Connectivity: School +Libraries + Rec Centers Session Notes - 6/8/21

Attending: Erin Casey; Lauren Wright; Sandra Yu Stahl; Keith Flournoy; donnell.burroughs@detroitk12.org; georgina.tait@detroitk12.org; murleen.coakley@detroitk12.org; tammy.mitchell@detroitk12.org; Angela.kemp@detroitk12.org; adriana.rendon@detroitk12.org; sharon.lee@detroitk12.org; christa.reeves@detroitk12.org; akeya.murphy@detroitk12.org; erika.jones@detroitk12.org; krystal.robinson@detroitk12.org; david.boyce@detroitk12.org; kimberly.bonk@detroitk12.org; marcy.troy@detroitk12.org; desheil.echols@detroitk12.org; kalonda.colson@detroitk12.org; amber.daniels@detroitk12.org; sabrina.evans@detroitk12.org; michele.massey@detroitk12.org; randall.coleman@detroitk12.org; deanna.hunt@detroitk12.org; pamala.brown@detroitk12.org; bobbie.posey@detroitk12.org; monica.hester@detroitk12.org; orlando.bogins@detroitk12.org; sharon.williams03@detroitk12.org; jennifer.spencer@detroitk12.org; kurtis.brown@detroitk12.org; pamela.bilbrew@detroitk12.org; sakina.bolden@detroitk12.org; william.jackson@detroitk12.org; georgia.hubbard@detroitk12.org; karla.craig@detroitk12.org; kevin.fite@detroitk12.org; kathryn.stopler@detroitk12.org; sara@detroitcitydrc.org; yvonne@detroitcitydrc.org; tammie@earlyworkslc.com; nickolefox@gmail.com; twhitfield@skillman.org; dir@detroitpubliclibrary.org; mbruni@detroitpubliclibrary.org; krjohnson@detroitpubliclibrary.org; ajfunchess@detroitpubliclibrary.org; carol.weaver@detroitk12.org; iranetta.wright@detroitk12.org; alycia.mereweather@detroitk12.org; elliott.attisha@detroitk12.org; Donna Miller, Machion Jackson; Adam Kind; dkhayes@atbat.org; Maria Galarza; Beth Gonzalez

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Donna Miller, Christine Peltier, Justin Schott, Joel Howrani Heeres, Erika Linenfelser

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

1. Park gaps
 - Amenities on school or library grounds?
 - Shared use agreements?
2. Rec center / year-round facility gap
 - Partner on programs
 - Partner on facility space
3. Collaboration where parks are adjacent to libraries and schools
4. Anything else? Other areas for collaborations?

1. What are some potential collaboration to address park gaps:
 - Amenities on school or library grounds? Shared use agreements?

- Include youth population overlay when looking at gaps

- Look at other youth development facilities that are not city owned - full ecosystem of youth facilities
- Small grants for residents and non-profits AND EDUCATORS to activate/ steward parks - capacity building and create more synergies between schools and parks
 - Examples: After school matters (stipend that includes liability and insurance coverage); Grassroots org that puts together a budget to propose this (Lisa Leverette)
 - Residents versus LLC- their needs are different
 - \$10,000 for 8-10 week session currently missing, begun to be filled (versus larger \$50k, year round providers)
 - How are young people's voice part of the selection process (Clark youth advisory board as an example -- or high school advisory group)
- No idea what park is closest - need to get the word out and cultivate neighborhood engagement
- Broken park equipment important to get fixed
- Grow Detroit Young talent program - use them for park programs and fill gaps

2. What are some potential collaboration to address Rec center / year-round facility gaps: Partner on programs? Partner on facility space?

- Add STEM enrichment programs, collaborate with robots and chess programs - provide the space and tables, etc.
- Everyone is looking for afterschool space - partner that could help provide this would be perfect
- Space for small grants, stipend teachers or neighbor residents for this, help with transportation costs
- Different activity sampling - help kids experience more variety
- Rec center is more about drop in activities that are consistent - routine plus choice, consistent opportunities but not require to attend every session, etc.
- How to know who to partner with and what's available - one central person/ contact, to streamline the connection and partnership with adjacent schools and libraries - make the process easier, reach out from the parks & rec side.
- Wonder about a community liaison for each rec center who is more externally facing and builds relationships with schools, housing developments, etc.. in the walkable neighborhood.
- Demographic tracking would be helpful (age) what is offered for this different age ranges - parents informed
- Swimming - need more pool time for kids (program already filled up)
- Allow other providers to offer programming within the centers
- Inter and intra - generational programming, so they all have activities at the centers and can go together
- Example of a "soft playroom" for little ones
- How can resources fit int to this to provide social, emotional support to those entering rec centers
- Be more intentional about what foundations fund in regards to dual collaboration grants - external partners to reduce bureaucracy but have certified providers with a process for DPRD to certify themselves and help empower them when they go to funders to fund their programs, and connect them to capacity building and continuous improvement process - shared list/ certification program between schools and DPRD

- Current opportunities:
 - Rec center mini-libraries that could coordinate with school curriculum (serve as intros to bigger libraries)
 - Mobile libraries - park them in parks and cross-collaboration for recreation events

3. What are some potential collaborations where parks are adjacent to libraries and schools? Anything else?

- How are is the programming coordinated between the different organizations, that works together content and timing wise (“walking trains” between programs/sites)
- After school programs about tutoring versus recreation - offer both, library for quiet reading time and rec center for basketball, etc. Co-marketing for non-school spaces and programs available for kids. Libraries coming into rec centers to do their programs (mobile libraries)
- Have incentives for using the program, to help with school work but also still have fun and get a reward. Help them build responsibility.
- Engaging kids in bike riding and safety - access important
- Kids able to get to school and parks safely

4. Other ideas for collaboration?

- Immediate:
- Short term: (2-4 years)
- Long term: (5-10 years)

Stakeholder Focus Group #5.2: Access & Connectivity: Rec Centers Visioning Session Session Notes - 6/15/21

Attending: Donna Miller; Erin Casey; Keith Flournoy; Rhea Bautista; Jamal Harrison; Justin Schott; Joel Howrani Heeres; Maria Galarza; Sandra Yu Stahl; Lauren Wright; Marci Barmore; Valerie Kokoszka; Marissa Earl; Andrea Robinson; Morae Cochran; Phillip Hytower; Katherine Braggs; Loretta Hardman; Angela Peavy; Michael West; Byron Spivey; Alexandria Spofford
Staff: Juliana Fulton, Donna Miller, Erin Casey, Lauren Wright

Discussion Notes

Prompts:

1. Capital Improvements
2. Programming
3. Accessibility
4. Maintenance / security

1. Capital improvements

What are the needs of each rec center: thinking beyond state of good repair
What facilities should a rec center offer? (tiers of service based on center)

- Playground repairs needed at some centers
- Yearly inspection of facilities
- Need upgraded computer lab
- Community office spaces taking up a lot of rec center spaces (Patton, Butzel Family), so that you can have wrap around services WITHOUT taking away from programming space. Large meetings can damage spaces (ie gym floors)
- Need more pools! Including no-depth entry for small kids and ADA, for smaller centers could use splash pads instead of pools.
- Or if there is no gym then there is a small racket room, etc.
- Centers could specialize in certain uses - where they are a destination (ie boxing or racket ball)
- Heilmann: needs a/c in the gym (better ventilation); dance/exercise room
- needs better flooring (currently concrete); wants saunas (only at Coleman Young and Williams)
- Butzel Family needs more spaces besides community offices
- ABC - Needs more space! (only 3 programmable rooms in the center!)
- Lasky - Also needs more room! Too small currently.
- Crowell - Also more space/ Currently fully booked during the peak times
- Programs need spaces

- HVAC updates
- More inviting spaces
- Weight room / update equipment (Crowell)
- Lasky - boxing room (ropes need updating)
- Childcare specific room / area paired with adult programming
- Space for community meetings (the only space is the gym and it messes up the floors!)
 - Room just for community meetings! (occupancy 100 pp) / Once a month request
- Add pool

2. Programming

What programs should a rec center offer? (tiers of service based on center)

What we heard from the Community Needs Assessment:

- “Literacy” education (financial, civic, health)
- Information source (community/block club information and information about the city)
- Daycare / childcare
- Employment / trade programs for teens and younger adults
- Wifi access (with digital literacy education)

- Not sure about the need for daycare (also not currently licensed), but all others listed above is very important.
- But the issue is advertising, we can offer these programs but need to get the word out to get people to attend. It's the same people we're in touch with, need to reach more people. IF they knew it was there they would come.
- Don't get enough flyers, have staff that could hand them out if given the resources. Takes too long to get translated
- Need more bilingual services, and more rec center workers that reflect the local cultures/ethnicities/languages
- Lasky - Program to assist the community with english as second language (Bangladeshi community - for adults and kids).
- Boxing Program (ABC, Lasky, Crowell) - make sure that the paperwork is in order! To maximize the boxing gym (waivers, certifications, etc).
- Recreation (3-5 currently not served)
- Adult education (communication to the public is lacking)

3. Accessibility

How can we address these reported issues:

- Lack of information about the center, services and programs
- Hours of operation
- Cost / affordability
- Accessibility for all Detroit residents

- Need to pay staff a decent wage, you get low quality employees when you don't pay a decent wage
- RCS would like to be able to make requests for equipment (ie score clocks) that would increase their ability to program, or offer multiple programs
- Verify WHO is stating that the rec centers are not open enough hours - some are open 6am to 9pm others are more limited - what do people want?
- Mailers are critical to getting the word out (can't just be digital and reach all),

want quarterly postcards about the rec center offerings

- Not a lot of people that come at 6 am (ABC)
- Transportation problem for some residents. Also for people with disabilities and seniors.
- It is currently affordable!
- Lasky - building hours would need to change
- Crowell - hours are working well. // Exterior presence needs to improve!
- Appearance / First impression makes a BIG difference! Lasky mural is working!
- Word to mouth /
- Crowell - ADA entry is confusing

4. Maintenance / security

Any short or long term goals?

- Used to have more building attendants and maintenance staff - need more now, people complain about complaining - need to be there on site continuously when open. Should depend upon the hours of operation and the size. Need proper equipment (to reach high windows, push behind machines, etc.)
- Building janitorial services everyday (twice a week is NOT ENOUGH)
- Fire alarms / building security alarms
- Security cameras / updated to current technology (NEED!)
- Procedure for emergencies (what does GSD security do?)
- Collaborate with DPD // Currently security is reactive
- Green Light Program at Rec
- Outside lighting
- ABC - street Linden St - currently dark! / Cemetery dark adjacent to center
- Lasky - ramp currently not monitored - areas with blind spots
- Blocking out park parking lots on the weekends (after hours)

Stakeholder Focus Group #6.0: Parks & Rec Permitting Visioning Session Session Notes - 5/14/21

Attending: Maria Galarza; Carlita Carr; Keith Flournoy; Erin Casey

Staff: Juliana Fulton

Discussion Notes

1. Include Waste Fees in Permits: Add a "waste" fee to each park permit that gets returned if the park was left clean after the event.

- Marketing challenge - not evident on website, etc. maybe needs to be more prominent - recently has been promoted
- Need to educate people on where to find the information on the website
- Starting to put up the shelter permitting stickers (install by PDU)
- Efficient signage - display the right message (first come first serve Mon-Fri), for weekends and holidays must have a permit
- The fee not posted - needs to get fee schedule posted online
- What do you do when people show up without permits? - need to make sure
- people have a contact person when they reserve the shelter
- Share permitting schedule with Park Patrol so that they can enforce
- Fees on the spot, from welcoming committee (incl. Shelters, bounce houses, etc.)
- How to enforce waste fees, what if others leave trash after you leave? Would involve cutting checks to return the fee, big issue - will be addressed in the new software system. COuld we use a app like see-click fix to show cleaned up shelter - use that for enforcement
- Cash deposit for picnic packs
- Develop quick checklist of what is available AND what you need to do if you rent a shelter (bring trash bags, clean up, etc.)

2. Add park kiosks/signs that list programs, events, permitting and other relevant information, such as QR codes/apps that link to permit applications, reporting park issues and a calendar of events.

3. Create a shared calendar about events and programming at parks and rec centers across the city, including programs offered by other organizations through a comprehensive database of partner organizations.

4. Develop a continuous marketing strategy, releasing information / a course catalogue two -three months in advance of program date, and incorporating cost-saving marketing software.

5. Think long-term for program scheduling, to ensure it is consistent and can build the user

base. Listen to the community when developing the schedule so that the timing and programs address the community's' needs (develop focus group for vetting).

6. Develop partnerships with existing organizations to expand program offerings, for example yoga classes or nature programs. Reduce barriers for partners, to make the process easier with better communication (esp. permitting). DPRD to provide assistance with capacity building, supplies and mobile rec, etc.

- DPRD starting to charge fees for fields again, concern with programming partners that used fields for free

7. Other Ideas for Permitting?

A. Immediate: (1 year)

- Use the smartsheet
- Educate the average user on where to find permitting information (still need to provide it for those who do not use computers)
- Staffing - we need support staff out in the community, being our ambassadors and greeters about what they should be doing in those spaces, collecting money, work closely with Park Patrol
- Make sure "shelter must be permitted" signs present
 - Try to use Play leaders for this season
- Shelter permits for 6am-10pm (whole day), but if used 3pm-8pm - how to ensure it is clean and unoccupied - encourage permit holders to get to their shelters by 10am, etc.
 - What do permit holders get sent? Instructions, recommendations, etc. - used to be on the registration forms, needs to be verified with the smartsheet system
 - Shelters permit-able a year in advance
- Put **"quick" sheet** of bullet points on website on 1) how to sign up, 2) fee, 3) what the rules are
- Add **fee schedule** to the website, immediate
 - Work with mayor's office design team
 - Make easier to find on the website (add to search options "words")

Short term : (2-4 years)

- Brochure of rental sites - for marketing purposes, shows what's available
- **New software** coming in June - will be able to streamline a lot of processes, add a waste fee perhaps
- Mobile Rec - kids don't just show up in parks to play anymore, just campers show up
 - Y on the Fly model - can we partner with them to do this more, instead of us / look at their data
 - Need much more marketing
 - Tie to special initiatives, such as demo for new sport or specific activation (pistons clinic)
- Kiosks/signs that list park events - might want this to be online unless community group takes on the role of actually posting to a physical kiosk

Long term : (5-10 years)

- More neighborhood-style events for their parks, movie nights, small festivals
 - Rent movie screens
 - Rental game kits “picnic packs”
 - **Gear libraries**
 - Concert series (at parks where there were rec centers), used to have this program, grant funded, using mobile stage
- Can rec centers have special “light” programming when rec centers are cooling centers to feel more welcoming (all rec centers = cooling centers until 8pm)
 - Currently partner with DTE
 - Centers with pools get the biggest audiences on hot days

Stakeholder Focus Group #6.1: Parks & Rec Security Visioning Session Session Notes - 6/11/21

Attending: Maria Galarza <galarzam@detroitmi.gov>; Timothy Vernon544 <vernont544@detroitmi.gov>; Timothy Barr 193 <BARRT193@detroitmi.gov>; Lawrence Purifoy 146 <PURIFOYL146@detroitmi.gov>; Eric Ewing 182 <EWINGE182@detroitmi.gov>; Kenneth Williams 315 <WILLIAMSK315@detroitmi.gov>; Terence Mathis <Terence.Mathis@detroitmi.gov>; Tim Karl <tkarl@detroitmi.gov>; Arianna Zannetti <zannettia@detroitmi.gov>; Keeth Williams 307 <WILLIAMSK307@detroitmi.gov>; David Sumners <sumnerd@detroitmi.gov>; Nicholas Giaquinto 875 <GIAQUINTON875@detroitmi.gov>; Juliana Fulton <fultonj@detroitmi.gov>

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Maria Galarza

Discussion Notes

1. Who to call for park security: provide clarity on when to call Local Precinct versus Park Patrol versus DPRD Security - clarify roles

- Emergency call 911 dispatch (for anything criminal), call Parks Line for anything else, ie parking. Hotline for reporting littering, etc. (get language from sgt. barr)
- Would love to see additional security forces in parks (in addition to DPD for support)

2. Physically close parks at night, discuss what is needed to close parking lot gates at night, where the majority of the issues occur.

- Partner with GSD security, working out well so far for West side parks, this year much better. Locking parking lots important after clearing it out for the night to not relocate the issue
 - Gates on parking lots - PDU has plans to repair some (Dave to share)
 - No standing after 10pm signs on key roads

3. Ensuring all park users feel safe: Feeling safe in a park means different things to different people, more police presence is often but not always the solution. Invest in crime deterrents besides police/security presence:

- A. Clear sightlines
- B. DPRD staff presence when possible (what should this look like?)
- C. Park rules posted (clearly)
- D. Active park stewards / community presence
- E. Others?
 - How to make people feel safer: cameras tied to greenlight program and blue emergency phones (like Riverfront) -- but potential issue with privacy rights (how to correct false narrative to be able to use this crime prevention tools?)

4. Issues with ATVs and vehicles driving in parks, proposed strategies?

- ATV prevention: get Law department involved to prosecute - get dollar amount of damage to charge - and get that publicized so the public knows (we have some numbers on the damage cost - GSD (Dave) put together invoices)
- Ticket malicious activity
- Make sure there is ADA and drop off access near amenities to deter driving for drop offs
- ATVS can only be kept out with fencing, boulders won't work
- Need more park rules signs - helps with enforcement (liked the brighter color better)
 - Need multiple per larger parks - for parking lots and entrances
 - GSD needs standards for all signage (parking, rules, etc.) - signage plan
 - Have contractors install signs, pick up from PDU

5. Other ideas for security?

A. Immediate: (1 year)

- Get from Maria (regarding Riverfront parks)

B. Short term: (2-4 years)

- See previous 2 slides

C. Long term: (5-10 years)

- When parks gets renovated with long drives before parking spaces - being able to control flow at a choke point, to control capacity and entry/exit (currently very challenging especially at the Riverfront parks)
- Capacity limits designated for popular parks

Stakeholder Focus Group #6.2: Parks & Rec Equity Visioning Session Session Notes - 6/23/21

Attending: Erin Casey; Donna Miller; Joel Howrani Heeres; Justin Schott; Maria Galarza; Jeremy Thomas, Erica Hill; Alexandria Spofford; Kimberly Rustem; Christopher Samp; Terra Linzner; Aaron Goodman; Brad Dick; Nikita Bland; Alexis Alexander; Shani Campbell; Christina Peltier; Tim Karl; Jeff Klein

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Maria Galarza, Donna Miller

Discussion Notes

1. Parks & programs for all users

A. Inclusive parks for all ages:

- Under 5
- Teens
- Seniors

B. Rec Programs for all:

- Activities for underrepresented groups...
- Special programs for those with disabilities
(work with partner organizations)

C. Inclusive parks for homeless residents

- How to balance the needs of homeless residents with other community members

D. Inclusive parks for those with disabilities:

- Mental
- Physical (besides ADA wheelchair access)

- Architectural design for etc...benches that allow people to lay down and rest - to address all people

- Parks that feel clean for all residents

- Make sure there are specific areas labeled (with images) so people know what is allowed

- Work with ODA office on recommendations for accessibility when designing parks - include those with mental and emotional disabilities are also thought of as part of the design process.

- Consider the seeing impaired

- Get input from teens on what to include in parks for their age group and how they can integrate better into the parkspaces

- CNA youth group met (age 12-17) to review findings of CNA - will be pulled into

final recommendations

2. Ensuring all park users feel safe

A. Invest in crime deterrents besides police/security presence. Feeling safe in a park means different things to different people, more police presence is often but not always the solution.

- Clear sightlines
 - Park rules posted (clearly)
 - Active park stewards / community presence
 - DPRD Park Ambassadors - a special operations unit that could assist with collecting trash, talking with and answering park goers questions, and overall making sure that things are running smoothly
- Cameras at park? Some residents want, but concern about over policing public parks, this can be an issue from an equity perspective (x3). Feels like hyper surveillance
- Example of security car always at AB Ford - gives the impression that something negative has happened there, is alarming
- Signage so people know where things are within the parks
- Park ambassadors great idea, but need to figure out management, but the idea is great - friendly reminders rather than punitive

B. Who to call for park security: provide clarity on when to call local precinct versus Park Patrol versus DPRD security

- Make it as simple as possible for people calling police / security concerns (let the City figure out who to route it to)

C. Physically close parks at night, focus on closing parking lot gates at night, where the majority of the issues occur

- Gates aren't in all parks, so those parks can't close
- Driving in parks is an issue

D. Issues with ATVs and vehicles driving in parks, proposed strategies?

3. Collaborative marketing to reach all Detroiters

A. What can DPRD do better?

B. Who can we collaborate with to expand our reach?

C. Improve the website for finding out about parks, amenities, and programs

D. Improve the permitting process

E. How to expand social media presence

F. Branding? (other cities' have specific p&r brands...)

- Struggle with the most is analogue and online marketing approach. Limited funds for mailers, a lot of announcements go out as lawn signs (pretty successful). How to reach people who are not connected?

- Work with other groups who are already doing mailers, such as state reps., etc.
- Text messaging - can reach another segment of people
- We also provide a lot of social services, like food distribution during covid, success for those who knew about it, but did we reach all Detroiters, such as homeless residents?
 - Information shared through other services such as shelters and social services
- go to where people are congregating, but another great resource is working with community leaders interacting and working with people experiencing homelessness
 - We are struggling with social media and that we don't have designated staff - which is what is needed to get the word out.
 - Also be aware of those who are not connected to social media and the needed for printed publications (quarterly programming guide)
 - Glossy, comprehensive guide that is available at rec centers, too costly to send out, could we send out a postcard to all (cheaper)
 - Partner with faith-based org and businesses - blitz for those businesses to get the info out to their groups
 - Work with CRIO to make sure businesses know the permitting process for vending in parks - make sure the opportunity is open for more (such as a fair), accelerator grants to waive permit fees, etc. - work with OCP & grants & DEGC on this
 - Social Media advertising / paid ads on social media
 - Success: Swim lessons (cross marketing with partners Clinton-Huron Metro Parks and Riverfront Conservancy) - Lots of media attention!

Focus Group Summaries

Public Focus Groups



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Reader's Guide

This appendix includes a record of each public focus group that were held as part of the 2022 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. The heading indicates the number and name of the focus group, as well as the date on which it occurred.

Attending lists members of the public who were invited or attended the meeting. Staff lists the staff members leading and documenting the session.

Each session may include questions and comments posed during the full group portion of the session.

Breakout notes are recorded according to their corresponding question. While some session included unique prompts for each breakout room, other sessions provided the same prompts to all groups. Comment color indicates which breakout room it came from.

Plum indicates breakout room #1

Spirit Green indicates breakout room #2

Spring Leaf indicates breakout room #3

Note: In Public Focus Group #2: Stewardship, comment color also indicates geographic focus of the commenters, as indicated within the notes. Responses to the comments and revisions to the recommendations are included where necessary.

Public Focus Group #1: Nature Session Notes - 5/26/21

Attending: Ayo Thomas, Candace Calloway, Carol Hoades, Carole Cook, Chris Jackson, Christine Soave, Darius Brantley (youth), Drew Hurst, Dave Summers, Dessa Cosma Diane Cheklich, Eleanor Oakes, Erin Kelly, Erma Leaphart, Gail Tubbs, Garrett Dempsey, Jayna Sames, John Barker, Lisa Perez, Mary Bohling, Natalie Ramos, Peggy Dankery, Peter Croce, Robert Burns, Sarah Stoolmiller, Sigal Hemy, Stephen Cooke, Tepfirah Rushdan, Todd Scott, Valerie Strassberg
Staff: Arianna Zannetti, Donna Miller, Erin Casey, Jac Kyle, Jeff Klein, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Julian Fulton, Justin Schott

Questions:

Q : Can people join the next sessions?

A : If working in the field, yes, but check with us first.

Q : Is the goal to have the same people at both sessions?

A : Yes.

Q : Is there staff from the City who would add more diversity to the leadership and these focus groups?

A : Good point, these are staff who work around nature access, will look different at other sessions.

Q : Can we create space for teens and youth to be at focus groups? Seniors?

A : Yes, there are focus groups specifically for them.

Breakout Notes

Breakout Room #1 - Access to Nature

1. Recommendations #1: Get the word out: Use marketing & social media outreach to address the issues of lack of awareness, including an online park/nature finder map app, identifying nature trails/amenities/areas.

Comments:

- Distributing map of Rouge significantly increased use, very important. Include park amenities like trails. Lean on other groups to help get the word out.

- Ambassador program? At some individual parks and hosted by community orgs, but not city-wide. Would like to see youth in this role (align with junior rangers) Adopt-a-park folks could double as ambassadors. Ambassadors model increased accessibility and increase awareness, visibility, education.

- Show people with diverse disabilities in the marketing materials. Maps etc should be accessible to use (color, font). Show accessible trails, surface type, etc.

- Information about organic walking paths (incl alleys) and connections

between pocket parks, ability to access without a car.

- Good webpage more valuable than app
- Popular media ads, visuals, highlight new park elements
- Info on how to access parks via public transit

2. Recommendation #2: Focus on education: Teach about native plants & eco systems, especially for early education and exposure, provide outdoor classrooms and gathering spaces

Comments:

- Enhance use of gear libraries
- Signage for existing ecological highlights / amenities (species sightings, tree IDs)
- For teachers: district-specific focus on what nature activities can be done in parks
- School partnerships: parks have historically been hubs of education and field science, but dependent on school proximity, lead teacher - teacher liaison / ambassadors? More explicit curriculum connections and resources for using parks
- Featuring wildlife - petting zoo
- Virtual field trips - align with curriculum standards
- Link to higher ed / cultural institutions / corporate sponsors to support student-driven projects
- Teaching about the human story - how we connect to nature, culture, history, nature as a mirror

3. Recommendation #3: Build gear libraries: Provide storage areas in regional parks with natural areas to make rec equipment available.

Comments:

- Tool stations for bike maintenance
- Set up in partnership with schools?
- Include adaptive equipment for variety of physical needs
- Would be nice to have in each park. Could include basketballs, ice skates, small items
- Buildings at Rouge - seems like just sitting, could be used for gear libraries
- Support for idea, more access - YMCA "project play" is a model
- Winter in the DEN was successful, easy to access
- Need to accompany gear access with education on how to use it safely & properly

4. Recommendation #4. Invest in signage: Add signs for self-learning, self-exploration, and directional signs to get people there.

Comments:

- Watershed education, incl underground streams
- Gets damaged / destroyed - use indestructible materials

5. Recommendation #5: Create nature pockets: Treat natural areas as an important amenity in every neighborhood park for nature play and exploration, including forest patches, pollinator & rain gardens, etc.

Comments:

- Role of ambassadors and maintenance

- Education about creating nature pockets in resident's own yards - signage + programming
- Connect back to getting the word out; could people share their own pockets (e.g. personal rain gardens) on website, etc?
- Siting - alleys (pollinator garden)
- Could use more forest patches with native tree species (e.g. white pines) - potential use of vacant lots
- Marshes? Good for bird habitat
- Connect natural areas in neighborhoods to parks (e.g. GSI, canals)-->target new pockets that connect to / enhance city network

6. Recommendation #6: Ensure transit options: Create shuttles to programs / activities, as well as mobile programming brought to neighborhoods (themed sprinter vans), ensure public transportation access to regional parks (bus stops at key access points)

Comments:

- Free passes for MoGo bike share +2
- Clarifying shuttles are for both people and stuff. Needs to be wheelchair accessible
- Mobile programming to 20% of neighborhoods that aren't within 10-min walk

Response: Combined with another section about park & rec access

Revised: See Safe Access recommendations

7. Recommendation #7: Create nature hubs that align with current interests:

Activities & amenities that connect residents' current interests with natural spaces, such as art, environmental science, adventure education (camping, hiking, climbing), outdoor fitness, and trails.

Comments:

- Opportunity to advance partnerships, connect rather than reinvent the wheel
- What does the environment lend itself to? Align with characteristics of the place (scenic, active recreation, etc)
- Embrace the impermanence of nature - some aspects are meant to be seasonal, cyclical (e.g. art)
- Use recycled materials for benches, etc
- Botanical garden, tourist destination and research center

Other comments: None

Breakout Room #2 - Adaptive Park Maintenance

8. Recommendation #8: Manage natural areas: To ensure that the natural areas are safe, clean, free of invasive weeds and welcoming. Maintenance of these natural areas requires dedicated staff and should be ~25% of the budget.

Comments:

- Invasive species work needs to include the whole riparian corridor
- Dedicated Invasive species person to manage volunteers and city resources
- Mechanical approaches: tractor and chopper
- Connect with other organizations: Friends, SEMCOG, etc
- Person with Big Picture look → action
- Need to ensure maintenance in constructed wetlands - full of invasive species = not good
- Need more knowledge about vernal pools, can cost more \$, but pays
- DWSD works with NCS on landscape maintenance
- GSD/DWSD maintenance can cross train with invasive species SMEs
- Tools for GSI maintenance: opportunities for sharing these? (sweepers, etc)
- Specialty tools & techniques should be shared across departments
- Landscape maintenance
 - Is this being done proactively?
 - Need scheduled maintenance of trees/shrubs
 - Example: fully grown invasive trees
 - Can we create a schedule for this?
 - How do we prioritize/phase invasive species removal?
 - Utilize asset management approach
 - How do we prioritize staff time re: Friends vs. not

9. Recommendation #9: Develop staff: Create park-specific positions for repair staff with opportunities for advancement, and provide training specific to park repairs.

Comments:

- Specific training for natural areas
- PPP very supportive of park's specific
- Liaising with park steward orgs part of role
- Staff people assigned to parks

10. Recommendation #10: Budget for parks long-term: Increase park repair budget to reflect 2.5% of the values of current park assets, to ensure repair and replacement costs are available.

Comments:

-None

11. Recommendation #11: Use asset management tools: Dedicated system (such as Cartegraph) and staff person(s) to track and manage park assets. Including asset conditions, age, replacements, etc.. Also incorporate natural areas as capital assets to be include in maintenance budgeting and improve sustainability

Comments:

-None

12. Recommendation #12: Reduce “problem” spots & expand low-mow areas: For perennially wet “problem” areas, work with Floriculture to turn it into unmowed planted areas. Expand low-mow areas in non-rec areas of large parks. Create a process for determining where these sites are: the severity of the

grading issue, distance from residences, signage opportunities, etc.

Comments:

- Look at elevation and hydric soils
- Enhance as natural features (cannot think only from an engineering standpoint)
- Parks inventory: Where are natural low points?
- Educational signage - communicate the intentionality of natural areas
- Animal control/pest control part of intentionality
- Burns more appropriate than low mowing (fire department has helped)
- Cannot use low mow as an excuse to allow invasives to flourish (not “no maintenance”)
- Still need maintenance dollars to maintain “low mow” areas

13. Recommendation #13: Launch anti-litter campaign: Partner with related agencies to launch a large-scale anti-littering campaign that is positive and Detroit-focused. Include anti-dumping, bulk, yard waste and micro-trash education.

Comments:

- Great place to partner with other orgs
- Detroit Parks Coalition
- City could add capacity to this

14. Recommendation #14: Encourage stewardship--refocus Adopt-a-Park: Given the city’s and community groups’ maintenance capacities, transition the program from mowing/maintenance focus to “Park Stewardship”, including clean-up efforts and programming.

Comments:

- None

Other Comments: Added content from this break out group was added to the corresponding recommendations form other groups.

Breakout Room #3 - Topic: Protecting Natural Resources

15. Recommendation #15: Expand parks & habitats: Look at expanding and creating new parks using vacant land, ideally 10-20 acres for habitat and recreational value.

Comments:

- Where did that 10-20 acre number come from? Since we’re at only 6% are we aiming for getting to the national average or part way there in the next 10 years? What’s a metric we can use?
- Or enlarge existing small parks to 10-20 acres, some wildlife like pheasants need larger acreage (at least 10 acres) - pheasants are important to Detroiters
- Park size “ideal” tied to use
- How valuable the programs like Palmer Lake Frances restoration and habitat and Patton NFWF grant

Response: Modify the listed target to allow for more nuisance.

Revised: Look at expanding and creating new parks using vacant land, ideally larger areas for habitat and recreational value.

16. Recommendation #16: Design with wildlife in mind: Include wildlife needs in the park design process, including timed lighting, soft shore restoration and green bulkheads. Use trees and other natives to combat climate change and restore habitat. Consider what the park was before development and highlight native ecosystems.

Comments:

- Flexibility to adapt as things get warmer is important, tied to maintenance such as disturbing nesting birds - timing important, work with Audubon on mowing schedule
- Make sure shorelines are safe, fishing near CSO
- Can we do low and no mow in vacant land, linked together for pedestrians/cyclist to be off street and wildlife
- The land does not need to be "park" but could be managed as another type, but for natural resources that aligns with residents interests

17. Recommendation #17: Get pollution out of parks: Work with regional partners to address CSOs (combined sewer overflows), to ensure that rivers in public parks are safe for residents to use in the next ten years.

Comments:

- Soil type in selection process for vacant land, consider contamination from demoed houses
- There is discussion about creating a Detroit watershed plan that is not covered by the Rouge Watershed plan

18. Recommendation #18: Reinstate the SCA in Detroit: Work with partners to bring back the Student Conservation Association within Detroit, to invest in trail building and maintenance as well as providing exposure to nature and nature-related jobs for Detroit youth.

Comments:

- City should support SCA with detailed plans
- Metric around "people stuff" education and trust building, build up future generations (like SCA) - look into SER Metro version
- Bring back the Play Leaders (seasonal staff), allow the city to direct resources where there is interest

Response: Changed to not specify one type of group, but broaden to youth stewardship-focused groups.

Revised: **Invest in youth stewardship:** Work with partners to fund a student/youth stewardship program (such as the Student Conservation Association), to invest in natural areas maintenance, as well as providing exposure to nature and nature-related jobs for Detroit youth.

19. Recommendation #19: Separate natural and active park areas: Keep high impact activities separate from sensitive wildlife areas and use trails to allow people to enjoy nature with limited impact.

Comments:

- When uses shifted on Belle Isle, need to keep areas with limited impact
- No speed races in parks!
- ATVs / dirt bikes? Safety, land impact are big concerns

20. Recommendation #20: Invest in GSI: Work collaboratively to develop more Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) projects in parks, to address areas with high runoff as well as perennially wet areas, look at hydrology and old drainage systems. Incorporate programming and education opportunities.

Comments:

- GSI: Tremendous open space opportunities with all the vacant land, divert and remove pollutants before they get to the river and into the ecosystem
- Water retention areas that are attractive and incorporate ecological and recreational opportunities, hydrology matters in site selection, put in places where we already have flooding
 - Examples of larger features that incorporate all of this: Atlanta, Millikin, new Wilson park
 - Opportunity at Rogell?
- Stormwater strategy that is more biodiversity oriented (surface treatments rather than underground storage tanks), put them in parks where there is standing water already - include pollinator friendly plant varieties
- Rouge River watershed plan (covers Detroit), Alliance of Rouge communities (Detroit needs to join), Clinton River watershed (northern Detroit) and Lake St Clair watershed
- Try to incorporate more GSI in areas that have CSO issues, create incentive program for developers (make economically viable), need to make sure pollutants are not put directly into river but incorporated into GSI retention
- If neighbors knew the value of GSI the support for those spaces would increase - same for mowed lawn versus "natural" less mowed areas - education and programming needed
 - Rain gardens to the rescue program
- Potential for GSD to aim higher than city's stormwater requirements (not pound or tanks, but material choices
- Need for one Green Infrastructure plan, including GSI, trees

21. Recommendation #21: (ADDED) Trees:

Comments:

- Include / link to Detroit's reforestation plan (the rationale from the plan applied to parks), there is twice as much forest / canopy cover in vacant land than in parks. These are in jeopardy given the tree types and vacant land clearing
- Allow for natural aging of some trees (wildlife value), but also ensure aged, hazardous trees are removed
- Plant native trees when possible, keep out invasives
- Tree maintenance - biggest bird habitat is dead trees, what to keep natural and what to do maintenance on
- Monitor diseased trees - need better data on Detroit trees, active tree maintenance
- Encourage more exploration of trees, like tree walks, bird watching,

nature play -- work with programming partners

- Sidewalk Detroit as an example

Response: Added new recommendation related to trees and the comments.

Revised: **Increase tree canopy in parks:** double the current number of park trees to combat flooding, climate change and restore habitat, in alignment with Detroit's Reforestation Plan.

Other comments: None

Common to All Breakouts

22. Recommendation #22: Form partnerships: Work with existing organizations that are doing the work: Schools, NGOs, or those with broad outreach, and make the process easier with better communication (esp. permitting).

Comments:

- More Jac Kyles! (more connected, collaborative staff - acknowledging and thanking partners)
- Thinking about needs of City and partners should go both ways
- Careful that focus on one use / type of partner doesn't exclude others.
- Think about system-wide needs to accommodate multiple uses
- More partners who can contextualize the spaces historically, culturally, ecologically
- Programming vs stewardship (i.e. maintenance)
- Use of private lands? Contact neighborhood orgs & block clubs to find out about local spaces that are accessible
- Dedicated places for youth-led groups, teams - facilitate their use of parks
- Place for people to go within the city
- Volunteer coordinator(s) needed: leverages dollars farther
- Volunteer groups need to have same level of expertise
- Allows paid positions to have higher value
- Bioswales at Eliza Howell and Stoeple No.1 parks are very attractive - example of DWSD and GSD/DPRD working together for high quality GSI projects
- Extend this idea to the partnerships with schools - we need partners for this theme because we don't have to do this alone - need clear priorities to allow other partners to step up
- SEMI wild as a partner
- College for Creative Studies
- Tie into the Governor's climate solutions "natural working lands" subcommittee, first address our heat islands and health issues
- Connect with Colleges/Universities
 - UM Dearborn Env. interpretive center
 - Students that have clubs/ orgs bond ra

23. Recommendation #23: Develop green careers: Ensure BIPOC representation in City parks & rec, contract with BIPOC local orgs, and provide exposure to workforce development opportunities.

Comments:

- These are undervalued ... low wages
- Need to pay people with the appropriate skillsets enough (\$12 not enough)
- Where does 2.5% come from?
- Per 2'c'...I'm also curious about how the parks land-value assessment that the 2.5% is applied to. Particularly if there is a lower land-value attribution for 'no mow' areas
- Value they are providing is more
- Certified pesticide applicator (at least \$15)
 - Closer to \$20 (private sector)

24. Recommendation #24: Use parks & trails as connection corridors: Invest in connectivity across the parks and recreation system, to ensure access for residents as well as creating habitat corridors for wildlife, this is especially true of greenways and water trails.

Comments:

- Rouge river has beavers... would be in conflict with water trail connectivity

Chat

17:32:47 From Chris to Everyone : <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/parks-recreation/adopt-park>

17:33:47 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : Will these four points/ppt slides be shared?

17:34:38 From Chris to Everyone : <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people/youth-conservation-corps-opportunities>

17:34:43 From Todd Scott to Everyone : I believe this is the link. See page 41.

17:34:46 From Todd Scott to Everyone : <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kJD5FHRqddBPNiV38YgGPUsr6jcxbr1KRR1AZBdrUBM/edit?usp=sharing>

17:35:21 From Chris to Everyone : <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/ycc.htm>

17:38:31 From Chris to Everyone : https://www.discovermymobility.com/store/personaltransportationvehicle/submit/hummerextreem/index.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjw9_mDBhCGARIsAN3PaFOXEQv06kG1cU7HINg515gFNJIUHXRhCA-IHj6kN8IDw5kHZAuMdlAancZEAw_wcB

17:39:24 From Chris to Everyone : Mary can you share your contact information?

17:40:25 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : are there local orgs that do native plant education that could tailor their programming for young people?

17:41:10 From Mary E Bohling to Everyone : bohling@msu.edu 313-410-9431 <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/> <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/about/who-we-are/michigan-sea-grant-staff/mary-bohling/>

17:41:15 From Dessa Cosma to Everyone : Re: Chris- wow! What an amazing all terrain chair!

17:43:00 From Chris to Everyone : I have a few contacts and ideas Erin. Let's talk more.

17:43:20 From Mary E Bohling to Everyone : Center for Great Lakes Literacy has some great resources for pre-K to 12 learners. <https://www.cgll.org/for-educators/>

17:44:22 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : Building off Eleanor and Paula's points - safe routes from schools to parks. It will take Admin changes to have students leave school not on a bus, but I've done it with Ann Arbor Trails to Rouge park and it was amazing. I'd saw an increase of students on the trails after the walking field trips.

17:45:58 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : Opossum rehabilitation

17:46:00 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : What about virtual "field trips", or curriculum enhancement tools?

17:46:05 From Garrett Dempsey to Everyone : Don't pet the rouge park coyotes

17:46:36 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : Virtual Birdwatching Tours in the local parks

17:47:01 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : Ooo like the nest cams! or bird feeder cameras!

17:47:32 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : or talking to writing teachers at schools to do a virtual lesson on Nature Journaling to get kids outside to write about things they see/hear/observe

17:47:43 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : U Mich Applied Wildlife Ecology Lab has trail cameras that capture Detroit wildlife and engage community members/schools to identify images

17:48:08 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : Virtual educational signage design contest for young people

17:48:20 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : Citizen Science

17:49:57 From Chris to Everyone : <https://www.audubon.org/app>

17:50:50 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : I did! Tons of fun at Winter in the DEN

17:51:11 From Chris to Everyone : <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

17:51:20 From Eleanor Oakes to Everyone : Love this idea!

17:55:24 From Chris to Everyone : The DEN

17:56:33 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : Oh great thanks @Chris I wasn't sure if that was just the name of the event

17:57:46 From Chris to Everyone : <https://www.facebook.com/DPRDTheDEN/>

17:58:38 From Chris to Everyone : <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=Detroit%20Outdoors>

18:01:38 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : Check out the Detroit Stormwater Hub for GSI Projects in Detroit - detroitstormwater.org

18:06:19 From Dessa Cosma to Everyone : Do people or just stuff get shuttled?
18:07:32 From Dessa Cosma to Everyone : Thanks. Since it includes people, we need to think about wheelchair accessible transit.
18:07:46 From Candace Calloway to Everyone : Have to log off! But appreciate the conversation! Go parks and rec!
18:08:15 From Dave Hurst (Ford) to Everyone : Autonomous shuttles arrive in Yellowstone... Detroit parks next? <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/nation-world/national/article250815409.html>
18:08:17 From Jac Kyle to Everyone : Field trips of elders to parks, maybe through rec programming. Amenities and access need to be improved
18:15:41 From Eleanor Oakes to Everyone : I second!
18:16:52 From Chris to Everyone : More nature based Parks&Rec staff!!!
18:16:59 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : Yes.
18:22:36 From Eleanor Oakes to Everyone : Sorry I have to jump off, but thank you for trying to make our city a more natural place!
18:23:31 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : Service for highly mobile and transient populations also

Email feedback:

From: Fai Foen <fai@greeningofdetroit.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6:03 PM
To: Joel Howrani Heeres <howraniheeresj@detroitmi.gov>; Juliana Fulton <fultonj@detroitmi.gov>; Jeff Klein <kleinj@detroitmi.gov>; Jac Kyle <kylej@detroitmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Natural Areas Resources

Hi Folks,

I wanted to send a few resources that could be useful based on the focus group conversations. US Forest Service Changing Landscapes webinar. The webinar is intended for natural resource professionals to understand planning and policy, but I see the information useful both ways.

Lisa Perez is a great resource. Intro Video

Detailed, US Forest Service Changing Landscapes Factsheets I'm really pleased to learn about these.

Water trails MI Paddle Stewards program

Highlands Conservancy: Former golf course project in Grand Rapids. The work is partnered with Blandford Nature Center. They conducted a prescribed burn several weeks ago, over the course of 3 hours from beginning to end.

Prescribed Burns: Michigan DNR GIS Story Map, City of Ann Arbor, and I guess there's a Michigan Prescribed Burn Council

Invasive species and learning about CISMAS. TNC's Chris May is in charge of Detroit and Western Lake Erie CISMA, but they aren't working very much in urban areas. I found Oakland County's CISMA is responsive, has great information, and hosts virtual meetings.

Generally: Remnant or unique ecosystems and wetlands. I'm a fan of MNFI

We have a great spot at Meyers Nursery that poses the perennial question: wetland or not a wetland?

Also, Friends of the Rouge ArcGIS Map is awesome. Matthew Bertrand over there created it and he happens to also be a UM trained landscape architect.

Sorry for the long list, but I hope it's more useful than tiring!

- Fai

Public Focus Group #2: Stewardship

Session Notes - 5/26/21

Attending: Justin Schott, Juliana Fulton, Cara Beld, Dianne Robinson, Joyce Daniel, Donna Miller, Edward Smith, Fai Foen, Abram Camery, Farhat Chaudhry, Alex Allen, James Hamilton, Alex Niehaus, Joel Howrani Heeres, Alisha Bell, John DeRuiter, Anthony, John Myers, Arianna Zannetti, Karen Slaughter-DuPerry, Bob Gregory, Lisa Williams, Brodrick Wilks, Carole Pickens, Byron, Maria Galarza, Callie Sullivan, Marie McCormick, Ozell Gothard, Dianne Bostick Robinson, Boston Edison Association, John Myers, Joyce Moresat, Pat Dockery, Rieanna Stewart, Patricia Dockery, Peggy Dankert, Rayshaun L, Rieanna Stewart, Rochelle Lento, Sally Petrella, Sandra Turner-Handy, Sheanal Carter, Sigal Hemy, Susan Stellar, Ted Tansley, Tim Karl, Zenaida Flores, Angie Webb, Sheanal Carter

Staff: Farhat Chaudhry, Juliana Fulton, Rayshaun Landrum, John DeRuiter, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Ozell Gothard, Tim Karl, Arianna Zannetti, Maria Galarza

Questions:

Q : How do we join upcoming focus groups?

A : Will see dates in the notes; email jfulton@detroitmi.gov to join a future session or request notes from a previous

A : Follow up - notes compiled about Stewardship will be sent out later in summer before incorporation in the final plan

Breakout Notes:

Northwest

Central West

Southwest

Northeast

Southeast

1. Recommendation #1: Increase Maintenance Capacity & Flexibility: Increase capacity to meet a 7-10 clean and cut schedule goal and to address high-use days (such as holidays and weekends) and high-use areas (hot spots); including attracting and hiring additional staff, (especially for trash), developing crew shifts for weather-related flexibility, and a dedicated crew(s) for special needs.

Comments:

- Increase use at Palmer phenomenal, how do we get to a point of pristine maintenance (short term goal), versus the other goals are long term

- Get started yesterday

- Strengthen the adoptive park program. It used to help with maintenance

- Bathrooms - how often cleaned, who is the staff.

- +2 on increased maintenance at Rouge (trash), but also at smaller parks (mowing, trash pick up, dumping)

- Lost funding during Covid for trash pick up and mowing

- Extend the season for maintenance, goes beyond memorial day to labor

day

- Timely cleanup of garbage (so the bags don't get ripped open)
- Need to establish linkage between events and clean up crew.
 - Especially if they paid for the trash pickup
- Help the city with hiring seasonals! Hire seasonals earlier in the season.

2. Recommendation #2: Expand low-mow & no-mow areas: For perennially wet "problem" areas establish no-mowed planted areas. Expand low-mow areas in non-rec areas of large parks. Create a process for determining where these sites are: the severity of the grading issue, distance from residences, signage opportunities, etc. Maintained edges are critical to ensure these areas look intentional and well kept.

Comments:

- Seem to wait too long to mow in spring (not just in no mow areas)
- Needs extensive interpretive signage and clear borders
- Educate users about the purpose of that.

3. Recommendation #3: Encourage stewardship--refocus Adopt-a-Park. Given the city's and community groups' maintenance capacities, transition the program from mowing/maintenance focus to "Park Stewardship", including clean-up efforts and programming.

Comments:

- Strengthen the adoptive park program. It used to help with maintenance.
- In the 90's Skillman Foundation studied Adopted parks and found them to be better maintained AND used than the other parks. Adopt a Park facilitates neighbors becoming. "Eyes and ears" and cooperation with both maintenance and programming.
- Youth - boy and girl scout troops "adopt a park", each troop gets assigned a park
- For sports leagues and programs the permits are season-long, it would be nice to connect with the community groups/stewards
- How to encourage people to pick up dog poop?
- +1 Global day of service - groups, classes pick a park to clean up, motor city makeover
- +++Build relationships - share appreciation with people who care for parks; confront people who don't use appropriately
- Event to bring Parks staff and neighbors together, share what everyone is doing
- Stewardship and access go hand in hand
- If you know it, you will love it and protect it.

- We would like to foster those relationship with ambassadors for the parks-that way we can consolidate efforts by naming a contact person for each neighborhood or park.

- When are they going to start Adopt-A-Park program? We want Adopt-A-Park program for Commemoration Park. Adopt-A-Park program is currently being run by Rosemary Edwards, Supt of Grounds Maintenance. Currently the biggest problem is getting people to come in for work. Grounds maintenance is approx.. 75 employees short due to various reasons. We are looking to add new employees for these programs. We are not directly involved in Adopt-A-Park, if City had employees for

maintenance we would be able to use Adopt-A-Park for other partnering endeavors.

- GSD is doing a great job overall, however they keep changing the Grounds dept./staff. It is difficult when you start to establish relationships and the Staff keeps changing. When there are changes, can something more official be done to notify the community and exchange the new contact information?

- The City is doing a great job keeping Voigt Park mowed, however lawn mowers/trimmers are damaging smaller trees in the park. Stewardship is building relationships. Blockclubs working with the City and Motorcity Makeover will restore flower beds, this will be completed by our Blockclub.

- The continuous changing of staff especially at Skinner Park, where we have 30 raised beds, and the removal of water tanks resulted in the apple trees dying. We need better connection and follow thru., When staff changes are made the personnel don't communicate what was previously completed or not completed.

- The Blockclubs at Voigt have plans to prevent tree damage to smaller trees by installing mulch donuts. They have volunteers for this effort.

- We can look into installing tree guards for Voigt and Skinner parks. Need to follow-up with David Sumners, as I mentioned before we can install them at Voigt Overall there is a lot of interest in "Tree Guards" for trees, Greening of Detroit receives a lot of feedback on the importance of installing them, especially on younger trees.

- GSD can supply tree guards for community groups to install.

- Bradby Park organization has been licensed by the City to operate in the park since 2013. They have put a lot of resources in the park. They have spent over \$200,000 dollars on roofing for Rec. building, new basketball courts, picnic shelter, upgraded the football fields and new fencing. How do they go about securing an agreement with the City. They want to figure out a process in order to have legal binding agreement for Bradby Park. Is there a process for the community that has stewardship over parks? Bradby was to belong to the community for a one dollar, however transfer that never happened. Best recommendation is to establish an M.O.U., however the department has changed staff. Has Corporation ready to invest in the park, not able to donate the money to City. What about "Asset Improvement Form" to renovate or add amenities to the park.

- Neighborhood partners at Skinner raised large amounts of money for park renovations. When they want to plan events in the park, the City requires them to obtain permits etc., they feel like they are the greatest stewards for the park and this process makes them feel uncomfortable. Like the park does not belong to the community.

- Skinner water containment system was removed, placing a burden on the school to water their plant beds.

- We have to get the M.O.U. in place so that there is a better understanding in place unfortunately we are short staff/personnel has changed and there

are broken continuity in some areas.

- GSD is doing a great job cleaning up Skinner Park and the neighborhood group want to be recognized as a partner with the City.
- Stewardship, M.O.U. agreements and how do we formalize the process.

- How can we encourage users to be responsible in their parks? The neighborhood group at Skinner will meet with organization planning events in the park prior to their use and at the end of the event to ensure the organization are maintaining the park. Delores Bennett was a great example of park stewardship. She would for example charge patrons for littering, because the City can't always be there.

- Ambassadors for Skinner & Commemoration, they pickup and plant flowers in the park. This is the best part of Partnership. Very much appreciated.

4. Recommendation #4: Extend the season for programming and maintenance

in Detroit parks, to encourage year-round park use. Strategies include winter maintenance for walking paths, offering winter events (bonfire and storytelling for families, hot chocolate, etc.), year-round trash pick up and restrooms (such as heating comfort stations, cleaning vault toilets or providing porta-potties) in well-used areas.

Comments:

- Bathrooms - how often cleaned, who is the staff.
- Extend the season for maintenance, goes beyond memorial day to labor day
- Structures to extend season and provide more shelter from weather - gazebos, reading nooks
- We should add more trash bins to the park! (particularly around the comfort stations). The challenge might be lack of trash containers.
- Understand the rules around trash collection. If there are extra garbage bags where should they go?
- Is it possible to get a dumpster? (maybe high use parks)

5. Recommendation #5: Launch anti-litter campaign: Partner with related agencies to launch a large-scale anti-littering campaign that is positive and Detroit-focused. Include anti-dumping, bulk, yard waste and micro-trash education.

Comments:

- How to encourage people to pick up dog poop?
- Trash - not just anti-litter campaign, lots of illegal dumping from suburbs, especially contractors (couches, landscape materials) --> cameras, public shaming
- No dumping signs, more cans
- Not always an issue of not having trash cans
- More marketing, communicating norms of keeping clean
- Need public officials to talk about cleaning up the City, not just downtown but in the neighborhoods, teach that it is a responsibility, start with kids
- Contest for kids to make art as part of anti-litter campaign
- +1 Global day of service - groups, classes pick a park to clean up, motor city makeover
- +++Build relationships - share appreciation with people who care for

parks; confront people who don't use appropriately

- Event to bring Parks staff and neighbors together, share what everyone is doing
 - Support this
 - SEMCOG: a la "one Water" campaign ~ one week blitz
 - Pilot project and test different messages
 - When places are clear of litter...tendencies to add more less likely
 - Who is best messenger: ambassadors and respected organizations likely more effective than the CITY
 - Anti-littering signage? Educate that trash ends up in the river. Encourage proper disposal of trash! Maybe people can bring their trash with them!
 - For those that want to recycle, create signage to educate how to recycle.
 - PSA on trash disposal / anti-littering / coal disposal / with someone prominent! Video
- Add info on who to contact when trash cans are full! Same for comfort station servicing. Not just application. provide a phone number as well!

6. Recommendation #6: Include Waste Fees in Permits: Add a "waste" fee to each park permit that gets returned if the park was left clean after the event.

Comments:

- Need better technology for permitting, before and after photos for "waste fee" deposit for shelters
- Get disposable trash boxes included with a permit - so people have the ability to clean up after themselves and then GSD comes and collects them
- For sports leagues and programs the permits are season-long, it would be nice to connect with the community groups/stewards
- What's the process for shelter "trash fee / deposit"? Not clear
- Supportive of Waste Permits

7. Recommendation #7: Add Recycle Bins: Add recycle bins in high-use areas, where trash cans are already present, to prevent trash getting dumped (in search for returnables). Coordinate with DPW on locations and pick-up.

Comments:

- Also, recycling bins - add, will need additional signage
- For those that want to recycle, create signage to educate how to recycle.

Response: Add educational component.

Revised: **Add recycle bins in high-use areas**, where trash cans are already present, to prevent trash getting dumped (in search for returnables). Coordinate with DPW on locations, pick-up and educational information.

8. Recommendation #8: Manage natural areas: To ensure that the natural areas are safe, clean, free of invasive weeds and welcoming. Maintenance of these natural areas requires dedicated staff.

Comments:

- None

9. Recommendation #9: Invest in youth stewardship: Work with partners to fund a student/youth stewardship program (such as the Student Conservation Association), to invest in natural areas maintenance, as well as providing exposure to nature and nature-related jobs for Detroit youth.

Comments:

- Youth - boy and girl scout troops “adopt a park”, each troop gets assigned a park
- Give out lessons that are relevant to kids, like drone lessons, kites, how to use a bike safely
- +1 Global day of service - groups, classes pick a park to clean up, motor city makeover
- Stewardship and access go hand in hand
- If you know it, you will love it and protect it.

10. Recommendation #10: Create nature pockets: Treat natural areas as an important amenity in every neighborhood park for nature play and exploration, including forest patches, pollinator & rain gardens, etc.

Comments:

- None

11. Recommendation #11: Separate natural and active park areas: Keep high impact activities separate from sensitive wildlife areas and use trails to allow people to enjoy nature with limited impact.

Comments:

- What does it mean to separate natural and active park areas?
- Yes! Some areas should have their own area. Like picnics and passive areas are separate from high activity area (soccer balls/etc)

12. Recommendation #12: Establish gear libraries that provide rental equipment: that increase access to sports, nature activities and encourage year-round park use. Use existing rec facilities (ie centers and concessions buildings) for residents to check out sports/fitness equipment and seasonal gear (snow shoes, etc.) and staff to demonstrate use.

Comments:

- Gear libraries - what do these look like?
 - E.g. bike repair stations, libraries, rec equipment, camping “library” at Rouge Park
 - Had this in ‘60s and ‘70s - house at the park
- Important aspect of equitable access
- Water parks: kayaks, other water equipment
- Add umbrellas for tables and wagons for picnic load in load out to the gear library!

13. Recommendation #13: Support self-directed play: especially for new amenities and nature play. Provide posted instructions on how to play specific games (ie gaga ball court, pickleball court) or nature guides (ie scavenger hunt).

Comments:

- Blend in park programs for both kids, adults and seniors, play leaders serve all not just kids. Develop play leaders for nature - including science and STEM teaching out in parks.
- +1 self-directed play

14. Recommendation #14: Add distance markers to all walking loops, to encourage walking and fitness.

Comments:

- +1 on distance markers for trails

15. Recommendation #15: Add park kiosks/signs that list programs, events, permitting and other relevant information, such as QR codes/apps that link to permit applications, reporting park issues and a calendar of events (have all parks' "kiosks" listed online).

Comments:

- +2 Kiosks - like with roof & plexiglass, place to post flyers
- Digital boards - like idea, need weatherproofing. \$\$\$, but keeps info is up to date, no paper waste

16. Recommendation #16: Provide flexible amenities at neighborhood parks: to provide the most diverse opportunities where people live, including multi-use fields and courts (ie tennis-pickleball-futsal-volleyball courts) with general open space for free play and pick up games.

Comments:

- Questions about amenities - wifi is not accessible in many homes and need it in the park with charging stations
- Bike repairs stations/teach kids how to fix bikes
- Want archery in more parks, like at Rouge
- Provide flexible amenities at neighborhood parks is important, especially for those that do not have certain amenities - want those amenities listed
- publicly so that people know what they can find at each park
- Lending library sounds good
- Re-evaluate amenities in each park, since neighborhoods changes
- How can we improve the little libraries so we can have them but avoid the vandalism issues

17. Recommendation #17: Create sports hubs at regional parks to provide a wider array of amenities and programs: that focuses on both diversity of offerings and capacity for leagues. Connect to future opportunities for youth. Include outreach, such as hosting an open house to introduce new/upcoming programming.

Comments:

- See comments above
- Helps take pressure off smaller parks

18. Recommendation #18: Make permitting easier and educate park users on the process: simplify the process, create a "quick sheet" guide for permitting, including how to sign up, the fee schedule and the park rules. In the long-term develop a brochure of rental sites - for marketing purposes, that shows what is available, etc.

Comments:

- First-come-first-serve conflicts with reservations - need to be able to look up who reserves it (and collect fees)
- Get disposable trash boxes included with a permit - so people have the ability to clean up after themselves and then GSD comes and collects them
- For sports leagues and programs the permits are season-long, it would be nice to connect with the community groups/stewards
- Permitting process: Not working, many people still used to just showing up early to get a spot
- +1 Can park adopters be notified when someone reserves, so they can communicate if there are issues. Could revoke privileges
- Could require picture to show leaving area clean

- Don't get communication back from City after requesting permit, even months in advance
- Too many requests going to Friends groups about how to reserve
- Stickers to reserve (with QR code) - should be on posts at shelter entrances, haven't seen in Rouge
- Post schedule for the week so not occupied early
- Make permitting easier:
 - Landscape maintenance agreement was difficult
 - Intergovernmental opportunities for reducing barriers
 - Permits for shelters, park fields
 - People show up and are having a giant concert
 - Need to let the Friends group to let them know what is happening
 - Example: Cinco de Mayo
 - Police department was not notified
 - 100s of people
 - Staff needs to know what is happening
 - Were given permission or access when fields already in use
 - Notification to the friends group
 - Supportive of Waste Permits
- Permitting should look at potentially shuttling for large events like Tour Detroit. (use other parking lots in the area)
- Make sure that the area being permitted is clean and prepare for the patron who is paying for the permit.

Response: Include making the information available on-site and online. Also include making the reservation information publicly available or available for community groups.

Revised: **Make permitting easier and educate park users on the process**, simplify the process, create a guide for permitting, including how to sign up, the fee schedule and the park rules - add this at the shelters and online. Make reservation information publicly available. In the long-term develop a brochure of rental sites - for marketing purposes, that shows what is available, etc.

19. Recommendation #19: Develop a continuous marketing strategy: releasing information / a course catalogue two -three months in advance of program date, and incorporating cost-saving marketing software.

Comments:

- Marketing strategy - how do we get people to come out and use the parks, but maintenance and programming will encourage positive attention
- Recognize digital divide - work through partner orgs in neighborhoods, looking to be inviting to Detroiters first
- +++Build relationships - share appreciation with people who care for parks; confront people who don't use appropriately
- Event to bring Parks staff and neighbors together, share what everyone is doing
- Website kept up to date
- Flyers
- Calendar on the website
- Parks photo contest - could post these
 - Helps people build pride in their park
 - Have district to district competition

Response: Add an additional recommendation to address the digital divide and getting mailers out.

Revised: **Produce different types of printed publications:** quarterly postcards, in-depth recreation catalogue by season (released ahead of program dates); work with sponsors on printing costs.

20. Recommendation #20: Think long-term for program scheduling: to ensure it is consistent and can build the user base. Listen to the community when developing the schedule so that the timing and programs address the community's' needs (develop focus group for vetting).

Comments:

- None

21. Recommendation #21: Re-establish a robust Rec-led programming in regional parks: focusing on exposing kids to a wide-variety sports and games, while also serving as a park ambassador for the community and recruiting for rec programs and events.

Comments:

- What's Good in my Hood adventure camp at Tindal last summer, wide variety of activities, all outside - camping, cooking, etc. recreate favorite summer memories (9 weeks long)

- Teachers working temp summer jobs - e.g. lifeguards, athletic programs

- Outdoor movie nights & bike rides

- Bring day camp back to Joe Prance park

- What love City to work with us to use ball fields (Littlefield)

- City has limited capacity; need partners to come together to offer programming

22. Recommendation #22: Develop partnerships with existing organizations to expand program offerings, for example yoga classes or nature programs. Reduce barriers for partners, to make the process easier with better communication (esp. permitting). DPRD to provide assistance with capacity building, supplies and mobile rec, etc.

Comments:

- Various parks groups/partner together to provide help with what they are experts on (ie archery, outdoor camping, etc.)

- Like develop partnerships to expand program offerings

- Drop Everything and Read (DEAR), pull out of their bookbags

- I like the idea of getting the libraries involved (like traditional library)

23. Recommendation #23: Create a shared calendar about events and programming at parks and rec centers across the city, including programs offered by other organizations through a comprehensive database of partner organizations.

Comments:

- +1 shared calendar - could be displayed on digital kiosks

- Support for this... allows ppl to understand where activities are happening

24. Recommendation #24: Collaborate with existing groups to get the word out about rec programs develop a database of groups that do extensive outreach. Groups include: local nonprofits, youth orgs, block clubs/community orgs, as well as police precincts, libraries, DONs, schools and state reps and senator.

Comments:

- Partner with health care facilities
- Green prescription to spend time in the parks!
- Local clinic or hospitals
- Wayfinding: this park is X minutes away

25. Recommendation #25: Develop green careers: Ensure BIPOC representation in City parks & rec, contract with BIPOC local orgs, and provide exposure to workforce development opportunities.

Comments:

- Green careers - what do they look like? Have focused on green stormwater infrastructure (construction, plant selection, maintenance)
- Need low barriers to entry, support capacity building
- Working on GSI infrastructure maintenance
- Woody debris maintenance (essential for river trails!)
- Light maintenance & graffiti removal

26. Recommendation #26: Continue to conduct community engagement for determining parks and rec programs and amenities for each neighborhood.

Comments:

- +++Build relationships - share appreciation with people who care for parks; confront people who don't use appropriately
- Event to bring Parks staff and neighbors together, share what everyone is doing

Other comments:

What else can the City do to help foster park stewardship? And enable you to do your work?

- Increase and enhance relationship between DPD and park users
- Consequences for misbehaviour
- ATV problems/control ATVs
- Volunteers self clean up encouraged
- Lighting in the Parks
- User friendly parks for all ages (kids to senior citizens)
- ADA
- Fly drone lessons
- Youth investment/ Boys Scouts, girl scouts
- Patrols - not specific Parks & Rec police, but DPD does patrol; concerns 5pm - 2am, esp weekends

Mixed opinions, some opposition to additional monitoring

- Green infrastructure - support in concept, but some overuse of parks for this by DWSD, tearing up land, bioswales that fill up with weeds and trash instead of natives, underestimating maintenance demands. Maintenance is harder than installation, look to block clubs, churches, schools, neighborhood orgs to help maintain
- Thinking about how to encourage positive activity
 - Play structures or other things that encourage positive use
 - Planning gatherings in the park: happy hour
 - Motor City makeover events at the park
- Universal Access to Parks

- Need to be accessible to all
- Be mindful of existing uses and enhance them
 - ie: fisherman on Rouge River
 - Informal picnic spaces
- Be mindful/ honor the historical nature of the spaces and connections with arts
 - Local art and talent
- Syracuse park was improved as part of neighborhood 40, they would like to see more amenities for the park. Will be meeting with park advocate to discuss options for the park. Park advocates at a Skinner park are happy with their amenities, However would like to advocate for more park “Programming”.
- See also, Northeast comments above under Encourage Stewardship.
- What about parking? How is that being managed?
Do an analysis of parking lots. People speed through parking lots (maybe speed humps will help) also explore angle parking.
Look to make park access safer (de-prioritize cars) allow for bikes and walking to get to parks
Include law enforcement strategies with parking speed issues at parks / near parks.
- Greenway connections-figure out how to better connect parks to each other and to other greenways.

Chat:

17:00:10 From Juliana Fulton to Justin Schott(Direct Message):
Today's presentation link (please have open when we get to the breakout rooms): <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RQwC8tESOpHuZXjoNbJN4COevfp6HJUeLQUQuVNIKPU/edit?usp=sharing>

17:00:29 From Justin Schott to Juliana Fulton(Direct Message):
Thanks

17:15:06 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
So many diverse people, parks and districts represented here tonight. This is great :)

17:15:13 From Fai Foen to Everyone:
Love this photo of Scripps Park!

17:19:51 From Ted Tansley to Everyone:
how do we join focus groups?

17:20:48 From Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks to Everyone:
We will open up breakouts after we run through draft recommendations

17:39:48 From Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks to Everyone:
If you want to follow along, we're on slide 33: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RQwC8tESOpHuZXjoNbJN4COevfp6HJUeLQUQuVNIKPU/edit#slide=id.gd83921f37e_0_87

17:48:09 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
I like the extend programming and maintenance for the season — the more events and activities in the parks — helps encourage usage by neighbors / keep the trash cleaned up a bit more — but necessary to have weather appropriate structures to make that possible in winter & rain (i.e. overhead shelter/gazebos/reading nooks etc.)

17:49:39 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
Also - I think if recycling bins are added, proper signage about how / what to recycle needs to be added. To ensure those items can actually be recycled / not just become more trash and unable to recycle

17:50:09 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks(Direct Message):
I am putting some comments in the chat — because I know timing is short

17:51:41 From Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks to Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge(Direct Message):
Thank you - we will capture those in the notes

17:55:16 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
I would love if the parks had kiosks/signs that list programs, events, etc... maybe they could be digital displays? I would be concerned lots of old info would get stuck there / may reduce printing things to install at those, or outdated info being there etc. ?

17:55:59 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
If they are not digital boards, making sure the kiosks have some weather protections on there? They are great!

18:02:24 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks(Direct Message):
I do have some concerns about request of increased police patrol in the parks after 5pm — I would down vote that feedback. Not sure what that means, but definitely not a feedback I'd want to have backed by me for this slide.

18:03:11 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
 I love the self-directed play !! I think encourages people to try out new activities

18:08:58 From Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks to Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge(Direct Message):
 Got that on the additional police presence

18:11:14 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks(Direct Message):
 Thank you! Appreciate you :)

18:14:02 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Justin Schott (he/him) - EcoWorks(Direct Message):
 I think a shared calendar is a great idea // again thinking big, would be awesome if this was also displayed on digital kiosks to help get word about programs to people without internet/wifi access to get to a digital calendar

18:20:00 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
 YES !! +++ what Littlefield is sharing :)

18:20:25 From Sally Petrella to Everyone:
 +++

18:23:09 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
 Awesome ! :)

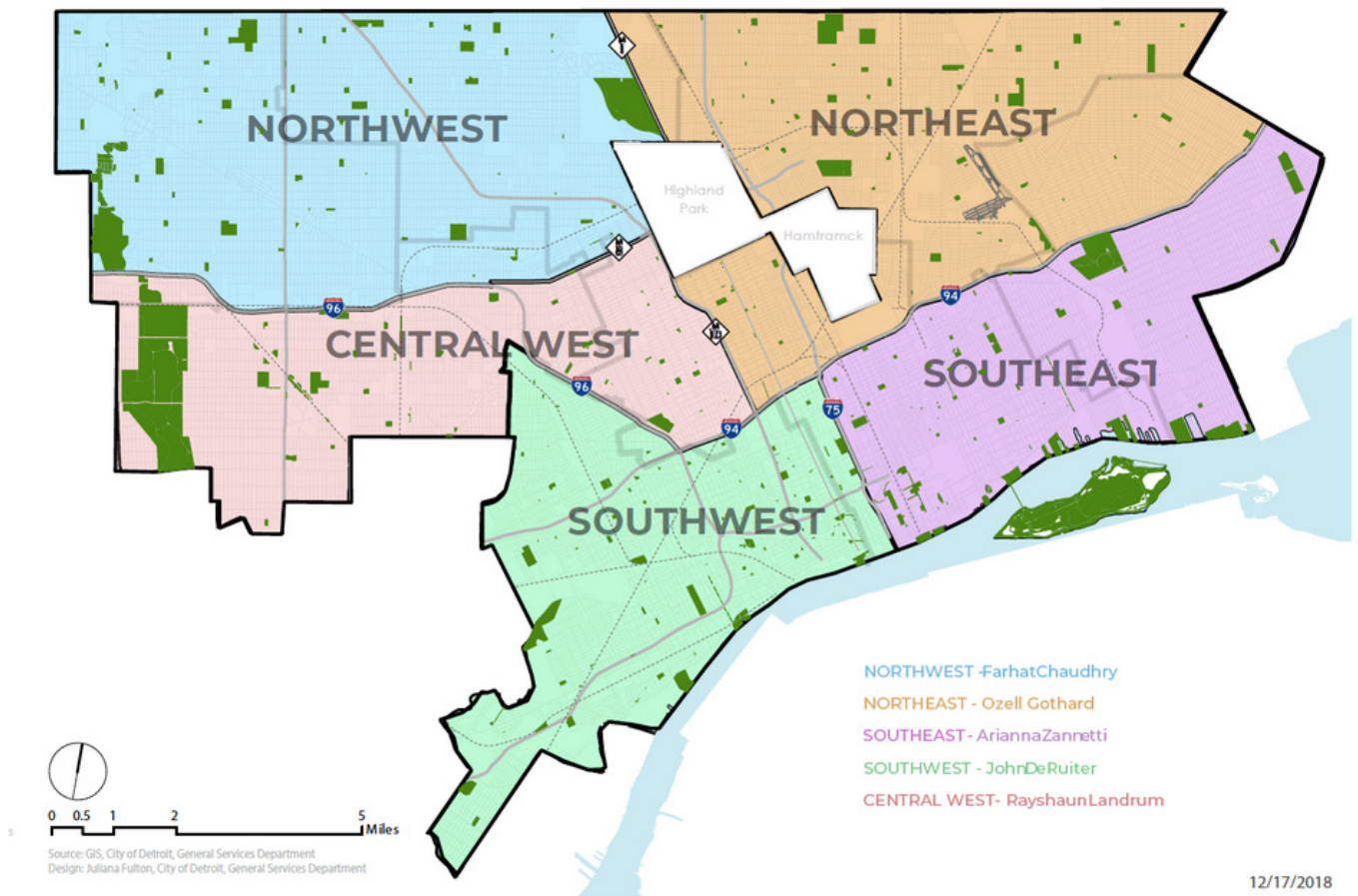
18:26:05 From Rieanna Stewart (she/her) - Woodbridge to Everyone:
 More info on Woodbrige programs / contact info here: <https://www.modeldmedia.com/features/resilient-neighborhoods-woodbridge-neighborhood-development-scripps-park-programming-covid.aspx>

Email:

Unknown

Other:

Map of Districts



12/17/2018

Public Focus Group #3: Fitness & Athletics

Session Notes - 5/11/21

Attending: Lauren Wright; Shay Lewis; Erin Casey; Donna Miller; Chaudhry Farhat; alora.riley@gmail.com; Coachregwin@yahoo.com; eleanoroakes@gmail.com; jrisgin@gmail.com; nbcddcdetroit@gmail.com; Fai Foen (fai@greeningofdetroit.com), Carlita Carr; thanh@accelerate4kids.org; monica@detroitpal.org; Kevin.Brown@hockeytown.com (kevin.brown@hockeytown.com); Alex Allen; Michele Hodges; joseph rashid (josephrashid@gmail.com); anthony benavides (benavidesacpc@gmail.com); rlento@dykema.com (rlento@dykema.com); Paula Triletty (pjtriletty2@yahoo.com); nate@soardetroit.com; logan.ziegler@detcityfc.com; Ricardo Marble; Tim Karl; mdejesus@detroitpal.org; Stacey Young; Jessica Brown; Ruth Johnson; Yelena Ramautar; Francis Grunow (francisgrunow@gmail.com); Madhavi Reddy; Abram, Camery Amari; Keith Flournoy; Jac Kyle; David Sumners; Christina Peltier

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Shay Lewis, Chaudhry Farhat, Donna Miller, Erin Casey, Lauren Wright

Breakout Notes

Breakout Room #1 - Topic: Parks

1. Recommendation #1: Add park kiosks or signs that list programs, events, permitting and other relevant information, such as QR codes and apps that link to permit applications, reporting park issues and a calendar of events.

Comments:

- Q: Unclear on if the signs are about city-wide or park specific programs/event. Two types of signs: 1) permitting and rules; 2) changes with the season about events and programs
- Who maintains the sign/kiosk? Capacity question, can community groups manage this? Determined park-by-park.
- Make the QR codes attractive

Response: Potentially the City could manage electronic “kiosks” and permanent signs, and park stewards/community groups manage any physical “kiosks”.

Revised: N/A

2. Recommendations #2: Create a shared calendar about events and programming at parks and rec centers across the city, including programs offered by other organizations through a comprehensive database of partner organizations.

Comments:

- Like the shared calendar - would this be park specific, or the ability to filter out by specific park - kept of city site
- Shared calendar would really help encourage year-round fitness

3. Recommendation #3: Extend the season for programming and maintenance in Detroit parks, to encourage year-round park use. Strategies include walking paths that are maintained during the winter and offering winter events (bonfire and storytelling for families, hot chocolate, etc.).

Comments:

- Need trash pick up and maintenance in the winter, keep it going year-round, people use the park all year (can be scaled back, but is needed)
- Start earlier, end later in the year for maintenance
- Example of Balduck sledding hill, lots of trash in winter; walking/running year-round in Palmer
- Restrooms open year-round
- Likes DEN winter activities to get people out in the parks in the winter, winter programming important

4. Recommendation #4: Reinstate “Picnic Packs” that provide rental equipment that increase access to sports and encourage year-round park use.

Use existing rec facilities (i.e. centers and concessions buildings) for residents to check out sports/fitness equipment (jump rope, pickleball rackets, basketballs etc.), including seasonal gear (snow shoes, etc.).

Comments:

- More consistent programming and gear, such as archery. How to house the gear and staff it, to show people how to use the gear
- Need consistent programming, example of one-time Pistons programs at Palmer less successful
- Chandler 6-week sports camp exposes kids to variety of sports, try new sports, can add as long as there is capacity, such as lacrosse

5. Recommendations #5: Re-establish a robust Rec-led programming in regional parks, focusing on exposing kids to a wide-variety of sports and games, while also serving as a park ambassador for the community and recruiting for rec programs and events.

Comments:

- City programming: City needs to determine where the gaps are, if it is already done at a park through partners, such as Palmer sponsored/led program, then the City should fill in the gaps that are not being covered, such as volley ball at Palmer (new court, not used), and pickleball courts, new outdoor fitness equipment, handball courts, etc.
- Visiting trainers to help teach people how to use new equipment, courts, etc.

Response: Add information about how programming is determined - city identifies gaps, etc.

Revised: **Re-establish a robust Rec-led programming in regional parks,** focusing on exposing kids to a wide-variety of sports and games, with programs determined through an analysis of current offerings, needs and gaps.

6. Recommendation #6: Add distance markers to all walking loops (and nature trails), to encourage walking and fitness in Detroit parks

- Distance markers are good, they will encourage walkers.
- Can add the distance markers to nature trails as well

7. Recommendation #7: Encourage self-directed play, especially for new amenities and nature play. Provide posted instructions on how to play specific games (ie gaga ball court, pickleball court) or nature guides (ie scavenger hunt).

Comments:

- Interactive art pieces, that kids can climb and interact with, such as action-figure, trolls, etc. sculptures that kids can climb on - string a series together to form a fun play area
- Eliza Howell nature sculpture that is interactive, can use sculptures to get people into trails and encourage walking and exploration

8. Recommendation #8: Provide flexible amenities at neighborhood parks to provide the most diverse opportunities where people live, including multi-use fields and courts (ie tennis-pickleball-futsal-volleyball courts) with general open space for free play and pick up games.

Comments:

- Most flexible amenity is a playscape and some open space - needed at all the parks
- Add climbing boulders / walls, climbing logs, exploration areas and natural play areas
- Sand - can be bring sand areas back, make sure it is maintained

9. Recommendation #9: Establish a partnership program with community groups to program neighborhood parks across the city to provide greater access, while DPRD provides assistance with capacity building, supplies and mobile rec, etc.

Comments:

- Ninja warrior course, programming for teens, compete locally - youth olympics (modeled after senior olympics, but non-traditional teen-focused sports)
- Gaga ball or pickleball, etc. campaigns to introduce new sports and amenities

10. Recommendation #10: Create sports hubs at regional parks to provide a wider array of amenities and programs that focuses on both diversity of offerings and capacity for leagues. Connect to future opportunities, such as high school leagues or colleges/university scholarships for new sports (ie archery, lacrosse). Include outreach, such as hosting an open house to introduce new/upcoming programming.

Comments:

- Key is instructors or coaches and coordinating resources
- Some of these non-traditional sports/activities take a while to get established, so you need to commit to several seasons

Response: Reduce down the recommendation to cover more broad components.

Revised: **Create sports hubs at regional parks** to provide a wider array of amenities, sports and programs that focuses on both diversity of offerings and capacity for leagues. Include outreach, such as hosting an open house to introduce new/upcoming programming.

11. Recommendation #11: Continue to conduct community engagement for determining parks and rec programs and amenities for each neighborhood.

Comments:

- Community engagement is critical, before programs are established, example of a dog park or skatepark - use surveys for outreach to make sure you're reaching the community around the park
- Also use observation on how people use the park currently, tells a story
- Lesson of how people are currently using the park, such as perimeter walking - make sure those activities are safe and provided for (example Palmer)

Other comments: None

Breakout Room #2 - Rec Centers

12. Recommendation #12: Evaluate a small increase in rec center membership fee, to include the fitness/weight rooms, in order to provide more accessible and affordable year-round fitness opportunities for Detroiters.

Comments:

- Good.

13. Recommendation #13: Develop partnerships with existing organizations to expand fitness offerings in rec centers, for example yoga classes for an additional fee.

Comments:

- Good.

14. Recommendation #14: Focus on good customer service at rec centers

to encourage visitation, provide a clean environment, well-maintained equipment, knowledgeable staff to inform participants how to use the equipment, ensuring the centers are welcoming to the public.

Comments:

- Good. Recommend language for rec centers should also be clean and accessible.

15. Recommendation #15: Adapt hours of operation for the centers to reflect community needs, including opening a portion of the center such as the fitness and weight room earlier or later to match what is offered at other local gyms and facilities.

Comments:

- Good.

16. Recommendation #16: Expand the After School Program, to use DPSCD facilities for summer programs for seniors and families, as well as youth, focusing on schools in "rec center gap" areas.

Comments:

- Good. Would senior and family co-mingling similar to Saturday in the D event?

17. Recommendation #17: Provide transportation options to regional parks and rec centers to ensure access to all, including: shuttles between rec centers (and neighborhoods), free bus passes for athletic programs, ride share programs for

community partners, all while considering accessibility for people with disabilities.

Comments:

- Do we have relationships with transportation companies? In the past we had contractual partners providing transportation to rec centers and playing fields. But no formal partnership programs with private companies.

18. Recommendation #18: Develop a continuous marketing strategy, releasing information / a course catalogue two -three months in advance of program date, and incorporating cost-saving marketing software.

Comments:

- Utilizing social media is likely to reach the younger population, but using all channels available will reach even more people. It should be cost effective for the department.

19. Recommendation #18: Think long-term for program scheduling, to ensure it is consistent and can build the user base. Listen to the community when developing the schedule so that the timing and programs address the community's needs (develop focus group for vetting).

Comments:

- In response to vetting what is happening and when it is happening,
- May want to do a survey asking questions regarding timing.

Response: Incorporate survey as an additional option to focus group.

Revised: **Think long-term for program scheduling**, to ensure it is consistent and builds a user base. Develop a survey or focus group when developing the schedule so that the timing and programs align with the community's needs.

20. Recommendation #20: Collaborate with existing groups to get the word out about rec programs, develop a database of groups that do extensive outreach. Groups include: local nonprofits, youth orgs, block clubs/community orgs, as well as police precincts, libraries, DONs, schools and state reps and senator.

Comments:

- Good.

21. Recommendation #21: Partner with a recreation organization to create centers in "gap areas" such as City Council districts 4 and 7.

Comments:

- Examples of partnerships: Safe Play Detroit, Mitch Album - align with other organizations to support the community Would you open additional recreation centers? Looking at a more cost effective model to fill the gap. Need to have a full understanding of what the private organizations are providing.

22. Recommendation #22: Ensure there are quality amenities available in City recreation centers, including a gym, pool, classrooms, computer lab (robotics), arts & crafts, kitchen (teach culinary arts, nutrition) and kids tech space ("launch pad").

Comments:

- “Launch Pad - make believe sport play MLSC Launch Pad - technology based” - future field trip for recreation department.

Response: Broaden so the recommendation is more applicable to the different spaces.

Revised: **Ensure all rec centers have the essential rec spaces**, such as a gym or active rec space, fitness room, classrooms, computer lab, kitchen, etc.

Other comments: None

Public Focus Group #4: Safe Access in Parks & Rec Session Notes - 6/1/21

Attending: Christina Peltier; William McCarley; Justin Schott; Joel Howrani Heeres, salevinson@gmail.com; samantha@environmentalcouncil.org; mmccormick@therouge.org; fai@greeningofdetroit.com; cmatlock@dmc.org; alora.riley@gmail.com; deniselyles24@yahoo.com; tdshelt@gmail.com; jrisgin@gmail.com; cmatlock111@gmail.com, Christina Peltier; Erika Linenfelser; Joel Howrani Heeres; Justin Schott; William McCarley; Ozell Gothard; Donna Miller, Todd Scott (todd@detroitgreenways.org); standardv@udmercy.edu; Matthew Webb; Tom Woiwode; as0293@wayne.edu; Katie Alexander (kalexander@michiganfitness.org); Karen Slaughter-DuPerry; mark.wallace@detroitriverfront.org (mark.wallace@detroitriverfront.org); mrynas@southwestdetroit.com; regina.hardy@detroitk12.org; Dan Commer; nbrown@detroitfuturecity.com; Michele Flournoy; connercreek@detroitgreenways.org; Prasad Nannapaneni; ajenks@michiganfitness.org; dwan@liferemodeled.com (dwan@liferemodeled.com); Sally Petrella; priscilla.morris@detroitk12.org; abramovich@semcog.org; Pawlik@semcog.org; Tyler Klifman (klifman@semcog.org); dblackmon@blackfamilydevelopment.org; Carsten Applegate; Jeff Klein; Adaora Ezike; Katy Trudeau; Betsy Palazzola; Chisara Brown; Gustavo Serratos; mikhen@detromi.gov; daustin0475@icloud.com; joelbatterman@gmail.com; actnowdetroit@gmail.com; rcramer@smartbus.org; Jonathan Flint; Caitlin Marcon; Rory Lincoln (rory@mogodetroit.org); mowens@detroittransit.org; bstrader@mkskstudios.com; vlickliter@rtamichigan.org; chaunise@dnwayne.org; lori.hill@dnwayne.org; jeffrey@detroitdisabilitypower.com; theodore@detroitdisabilitypower.com; Detroit Office of Disability Affairsj; wow4metrodetroit@yahoo.com; dessa@detroitdisabilitypower.org; Christopher Samp; Jamie Junior; renard@liferemodeled.org; Stupka, Benjamin; Hagfors, Dustin; Cassly Sullen; Cynthia Dowe; Calvin (cevans@detroitlive.org); Janine Matthews; Robert Sanders; Khalil Ligon; ani@detroitdisabilitypower.org; Kayla Morse; Jeneil Stallion; Aisha Griffin; Aisha Griffin; Gloria McCastle; drgrenae@gmail.com; kmitch.nd@classagency.org (kmitch.nd@classagency.org)

Staff: William McCarley, Donna Miller, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Erika Linenfelser, Christina Peltier, Juliana Fulton

Breakout Notes

Breakout Room #1 - Topic: Accessibility for Disabilities

1. Recommendation #1: Make sure sidewalks and crosswalks to parks are in good condition, especially those from the bus stop(s) to the park.

Comments:

- Non-existing sidewalks in some neighborhoods, possibly repair sidewalks.

2. Recommendation #2: Work with DPW to address speeding issues near parks, using stop signs, speed bumps and bump outs.

Comments:

- Speed Bumps (stretches across the entire street making it difficult for people in wheelchairs- include a wider pass through or on the side. Speed

Table integrated into the sidewalk.

3. Recommendation #3: Ensure there is access to and through the park, with ample seating, ADA picnic tables, accessible restrooms, smooth continuous paths, curb cuts, and no gravel parking lots.

Comments:

- For people with Service Dogs - making accommodations for people with service dogs

4. Recommendation #4: Build beyond ADA to universal accessibility, including sensory playgrounds, braille signs, wheelchair charging stations. Invest in adaptive equipment for disabled participants, such as playgrounds that accommodate wheelchairs.

Comments:

- Inclusive playgrounds - www.playlsi.com - landscape structures - playground equipment company. More inclusive playgrounds... [accessible playgrounds.net](http://accessibleplaygrounds.net)

5. Recommendation #5: Create an universal accessibility design guide that can be included in construction scopes and contracts.

Comments:

- Design Guidelines - can ODA offer any guidelines for accessibility

6. Recommendation #6: Make sure all rec center facilities are accessible, including lifts for pools and accessible locker rooms and showers.

Comments:

- Family style locker room to provide a private space for family members/care-givers

7. Recommendation #7: Ensure rec programs are inclusive, budget for adaptive equipment and interpreters so they can be easily provided as needed.

Comments:

- None

8. Recommendation #8: Develop an online guide or directory for accessible park amenities, including a mapping tool.

Comments:

- Provide information on rec centers - what is available, easy to find the information

9. Recommendation #9: Make sure all parks and rec information is accessible, including the DPRD website and public meetings, using ASL formatting, caption-enabled videos and interpreters.

Comments:

- Be-aware of colors, sounds, perceptions

10. Recommendation #10: Coordinate with partners who are doing this work, to provide infrastructure assessments, staff trainings and resources.

Comments:

- Send Standard Operating Procedures for the Recreation Centers to do an assessment

- Making sure people /young people are not taken advantage of - how the center is staffed or how the center operates
- Train the neighborhood police officers to handle/recognize individuals with disabilities
- Have rec staff trained on overdose emergency response and treatment

Other Comments: None

Breakout Room #2 - Topic: Walking and Biking Access

11. Recommendation #11: Increase BSEED blight enforcement along park routes.

Comments:

- Good maintenance contributes to feelings of safety: grass cutting; tree spacing and placement

12. Recommendation #12: Focus on park security, including extending the season/hours for DPD's Park Patrol and closing parks down at night (lock gates to parking lots).

Comments:

- Access to cell phone service (Rouge Park)
- Trails through parks should be kept open for transportation needs (cannot close at 10 pm)

Response: Closing the parks and locking gates refers to parking lots and not roads, trails, or other routes that go through the park.

13. Recommendation #13: Ensure there is winter maintenance for bike lanes and walking paths along major routes.

Comments:

- Good maintenance contributes to feelings of safety: grass cutting; tree spacing and placement

14. Recommendation #14: Invest in safe bike parking and repair stations

Comments:

- None

15. Recommendation #15: Transition to protected bike lanes, especially sidepath protected bike lanes (versus bollards).

Comments:

- None

16. Recommendation #16: Increase connections from bike routes to parks, especially from major bus routes and dense commercial corridors

Comments:

- Trails through parks should be kept open for transportation needs (cannot close at 10 pm)

17. Recommendation #17: Provide educational biking tours to introduce people to greenways and/or biking safety.

Comments:

- None

18. Recommendation #18: Add wayfinding signs from bus stops and/or major thoroughfares to parks.

Comments:

- None

19. Recommendation #19: Add more MoGo stops at parks and rec centers.

Comments:

- None

20. Recommendation #20: Make sure bus stops are located near parks and rec centers, and that they are well maintained, covered, lit and have seating.

Comments:

- Transit kiosks within the Rec Centers --- know when the next bus is coming

- Good maintenance contributes to feelings of safety: grass cutting; tree spacing and placement

21. Recommendation #21: Create “multimodal hubs” at rec centers and major parks, providing info and access to MoGo, scooters, ride sharing, charging stations, SMART and DDOT bus schedules/route changes.

Comments:

- Lots of support for this idea. Desired more in SW Detroit.

- E-bike and motorized wheelchair charging stations

22. Recommendation #22: Ensure programs align with transit schedules.

Comments:

- None

Other Comments: **ADD: Map missing trails including planned Rouge Gateway Greenway; parallel to Rouge, Lower Rouge Greenway, and Downriver linked greenways.**

Breakout Room #3 - Topic: Greenways

23. Recommendation #23: Create a connected network of greenways, with safe walking and biking routes to connect people to parks, centers and other destinations.

Comments:

- Include connectors to the JLG: example of Meade; but focus more on connected routes, like at Mound - include these in the PRSP Plan

- Lightweight interventions for connecting neighborhoods to the regional greenway (Conner, Rouge, JLG) - sharrows, signs, etc.

- Example of on-street connections to the Cut, but most families do not feel comfortable on street

- Add water trails to the map (or on a separate map, looking regionally, include future “trolley”

Response: Include blueways.

Revised: Create a connected network of greenways (and blueways), with safe walking and biking routes to connect people to parks, centers and other destinations.

24. Recommendation #24: Produce a detailed, accurate map of greenways network

Comments:

- Need a network showing protected bike lanes.
- Need a map of greenways and all protected bike lanes for families
- Make sure you signify what is protected, for families

25. Recommendation #25: Invest in areas where there are gaps in connectivity, such as adding east-west connectors, and adding to the spoke roads (Gratiot and north Grand River).

Comments:

- See notes above under "Create a connected network".
- Water trails - need to address CSO issues. Can we create placeholders for future amenities?
- Connect Balduck to Chandler Park
- Could there be a connection to McDougall Hunt neighborhood from Joseph Campau Greenway, crosswalk over Vernor
- Connect through Heidelberg Project Neighborhood
- How can we connect far east riverfront besides Jefferson
- Blueway opportunities to connect far east side
- People requested Joseph Campau and BeltLine Greenway.

26. Recommendation #26: Consider greenways features by size/type; on-road vs. off-road, regional vs. neighborhood-scale greenways warrant different features and amenities.

Comments:

- Q: What should each look like?
A: Example of on-street connections to the Cut, but most families do not feel comfortable with on-street.
- How is a greenway defined?
- How are they classified?
- Who is the point person at the City? Who is managing the smaller greenways (like beltline)?

27. Recommendation #27: Connect to regional greenways/paths across southeast Michigan, including the Iron Belle Trail, Downriver linked Greenways, Great Lakes Way, Hines Drive and Rouge Gateway Greenways, Redford Link, etc.

Comments:

- None

28. Recommendation #28: Include neighborhood connectors in the greenway plan

Comments:

- Q: Any that we should be aware of?
A: Greenways to add: Milbank, Braden, Linden, Riverwalk/Uniroyal site

A: There was a connection behind Joe Muir site, most likely the Elmwood Connector

-Lightweight interventions for connecting neighborhoods to the regional greenway (Conner, Rouge, JLG) - sharrows, signs, etc.

Other comments: None

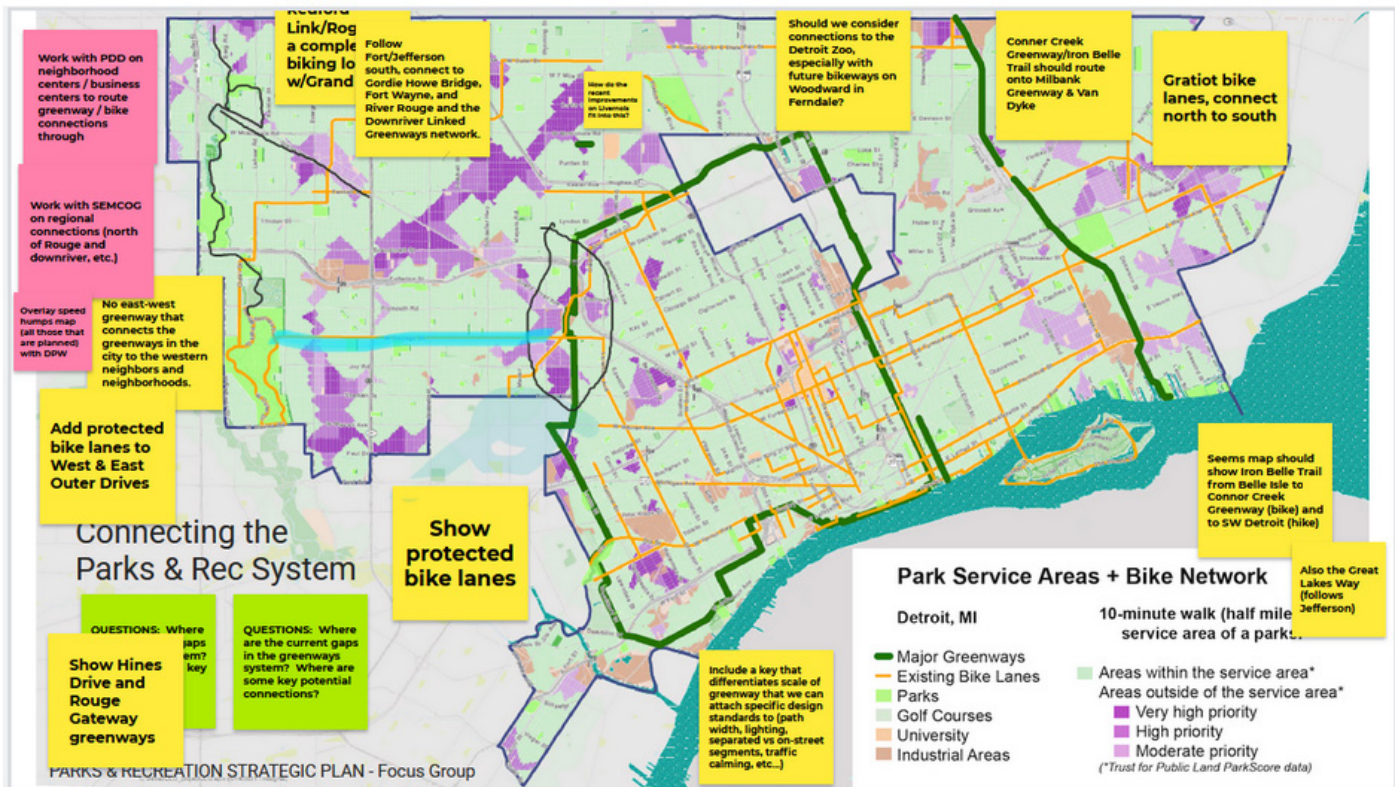
Common to All Breakout Rooms:

Improve access to information: People need access to information about accessible programs and amenities, times and locations of transit, locations of bicycle infrastructure (including routes and hubs), and greenway locations. Maps need to be created and existing maps updated to reflect the current resources and gaps in each area.

Other:

Greenways Jamboard:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1lc54iBYvOnHoMjyIJuO8cSbVclNizApXchD5CNYfoGM/edit?usp=sharing>



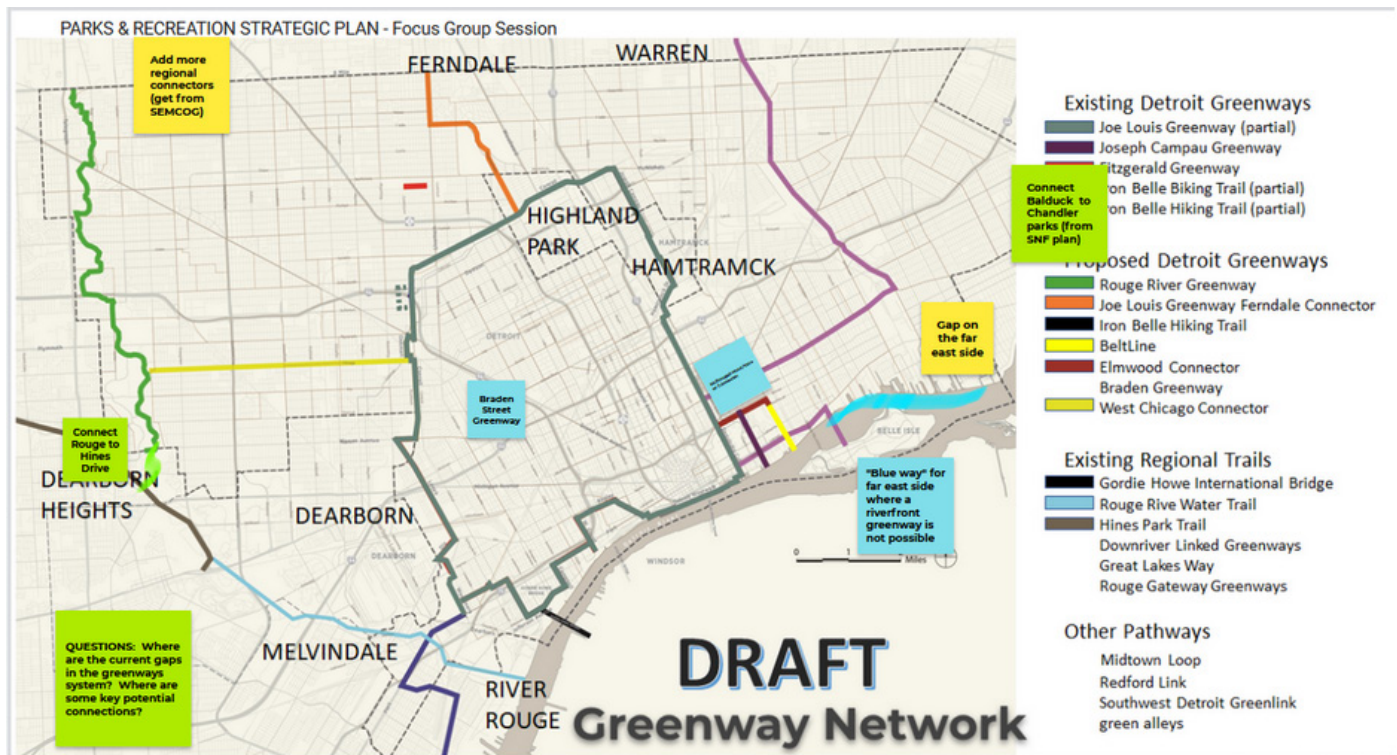
Jamboard Notes: Board 1

Map: Park Service Areas + Bike Network

Questions: "Where are the current gaps in the parks system? What are some key potential connections?"

Responses:

- Work with PDD on neighborhood centers / business centers to route greenway / bike connections through
- Worth with SEMCOG on regional connections (north of Rouge and downriver, etc.)
- Overlay speed humps map (all those that are planned) with DPW
- No east-west greenway that connects the greenways in the city to the western neighbors and neighborhoods.
- Add protected bike lanes to West & East Outer Drives
- Show Hines Drive and Rouge Gateway greenways
- Show protected bike lanes
- Include a key that differentiates scale of greenway that we can attach specific design standards to (path width, lighting, separated vs on-street segments, traffic calming, etc...)
- Seems map should show Iron Belle Trail from Belle Isle to Connor Creek Greenway (bike) and to SW Detroit (hike)
- Also the Great Lakes Way (follows Jefferson)
- Gratiot bike lanes, connect north to south
- Connor Creek Greenway/Iron Belle Trail should route onto Milbank Greenway & Van Dyke
- Should we consider connections to the Detroit Zoo, especially with future bikeways on Woodward in Ferndale?
- How do the recent improvements on Livernois fit into this?
- Follow Fort/Jefferson south, connect to Gordie Howe Bridge, Fort Wayne, and River Rouge and the Downriver Linked Greenways network.
- Add Old Redford Link/Rogell as a complete biking loop w/Grand River.



Jamboard 2:

Map: Draft Greenway Network

Questions: "Where are the current gaps in the greenways system? Where are some key potential connections?"

Responses:

- Connect Rouge to Hines Drive
- Braden Street Greenway
- McDougall-Hunt/Vernor Connector
- “Blue way” for far east side where a riverfront greenway is not possible
- Gap on the far east side
- Connect Balduck to Chandler parks (from SNF plan)
- Add more regional connectors (get from SEMCOG)

Public Focus Group #5: Health & Resiliency in Rec Session Notes - 6/22/21

Attending: aallen@detroiteastside.org, alaskey@uci.edu, angy.webb@yahoo.com, ar1086@wayne.edu, benavidesacpc@gmail.com, caseye@detroitmi.gov, casschavrette@gmail.com, cecily@live6detroit.org, cmatlock@dmc.org, couponchess@gmail.com, david@centurypartners.com, dcc@cheklich.com, Donna Givens Davidson <dgivens@ecn-detroit.org>, director@soulardarity.com, fai@greeningofdetroit.com, flournoyk@detroitmi.gov, Maria Galarza <galarzam@detroitmi.gov>, hillalex@detroitmi.gov, howraniheeresj@detroitmi.gov, Urban Neighborhood Initiative Kansas City <information@uni-kc.org>, joy4therapy@gmail.com, jrisgin@gmail.com, jschott@ecoworksdetroit.org, kelking@biggreen.org, kevin.fite@detroitk12.org, kseaman@historicbostonedison.org, lauren.wright@detroitmi.gov, ls@usnapbac.org, lykethompson@gmail.com, maria.adams-lawton@sbcglobal.net, millerdo@detroitmi.gov, "Myra M. Tetteh" <mtetteh@umich.edu>, myersjohnm@hotmail.com, nicholas.leonard@glelc.org, nuvideo1@gmail.com, oren@developdetroit.org, quentin.turner@sierraclub.org, rackerman@ecn-detroit.org, samantha@environmentalcouncil.org, schristensen@waynemetrometro.org, srusinowski@detroitfuturecity.com, sshopinski@nkfm.org, tchlaf@aol.com, tdtansle@gmail.com, twhitfield@skillman.org, villagendet@aol.com, walkermiller@wmenergy.com, winona.dfpc@gmail.com

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Christina Peltier, Erika Linenfelser, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Donna Miller, William McCarley, Alexandria Spofford

Questions

Q : Where are people going if not rec centers?

A : Good question. We have some information from people who responded that they use private gyms.

Q : How do we define resilience?

A : Multifaceted: Both technical and social meanings

Sustainability

Space where community can come together in an emergency

Desired resource: provide emergency power during power outages

Q : Did the survey address transportation and accessibility?

A : Yes, there were questions regarding walking and biking as well as responses about transportation (need for bus access, ability/desire to drive to parks). Additionally, previous focus groups included a group with disability advocates and a group with Dep. Transportation. Further discussion on these topics will occur at the next focus group, Equity.

Q : Can the presentation link be shared so that participants can look at it and comment on it later?

A : ?

Q : Who should you speak to if you want to host an event at a park or rec center?

A : Rec centers: individual rec center manager

Parks: Juliana Fulton for collaborations, Karlita's team for permitting

Breakout Notes

Topic 1: Expanded Services & Improved Maintenance

1. Recommendation #1: Think long term for program scheduling, to ensure it is consistent and can build the user base. Listen to the community when developing the schedule so that the timing and programs address the community's' needs (develop focus group for vetting).

Comments:

- Consistency is key in both communication and program offerings
- Address the lack of a sense of belonging for many community members.
- Parks and rec centers can feel like they are for "others", not for long-time Detroiters or recent immigrants, but for new, more affluent communities (gentrification concerns).
- What can we do to make the park feel like it belongs to the current neighborhood?
- Programs & amenities: cricket and soccer might not fit all residents - look at universal amenities.
- Possibility for special events / ethnic festivals to celebrate a local culture - need to create a sense that it is the local community's park
- Consider adding cultural features and art, renaming parks to reflect important figures in the community's specific history.

2. Recommendation #2: Coordinate inter and intra - generational programming, so the entire family have activities at the centers.

Comments:

- Seniors are often isolated in senior specific events, important to interact in intergenerational ways, cultural events
- Important for social cohesion and belonging (see above)

3. Recommendation #3: Provide different activity sampling, to help kids experience a larger variety of activities.

Comments:

- Example of Dearborn with weekly themes over the summer, like science or arts, etc. - idea of themes and focus to engage and excite families

4. Recommendation #4: Offer drop in activities that are consistent, which are reliably offered but do not require attendance at every session.

Comments:

- None

5. Recommendation #5: Develop a continuous marketing strategy, releasing information / a course catalogue two -three months in advance of program date, and incorporating cost-saving marketing software.

Comments:

- See comment below on mailers.
- City and center websites improvements regarding information (hours, activities, availability of space, permitting instructions)
- Include non-traditional communication methods like facebook, instagram, twitter or other social media platforms. Many folks don't regularly check email. Need to be more robust on social media accounts.
- Consistency is key for communication. The same message should be

conveyed across all channels. If schedules are sent out, they should be repeatedly sent on a regular basis, as people will expect it. If one mode of communication will be phased out and a new one introduced, make sure to thoroughly inform people about the change and where to find new information.

- Look to Atlanta as an example. They are advertising their new trail to get moving, support wellness and health campaign. Keep residents in the loop with each other about activities across rec centers.

6. Recommendation #6: Expand multilingual services for rec center programs and materials.

Comments:

- Language accessibility should reflect community needs. For example, Southwest Detroit needs more spanish services and staff members.

7. Recommendation #7: Produce quarterly mailers / postcards to get the word out about the rec center offerings.

Comments:

- Like the idea of mailers. Important to diversify marketing and informational materials because not everyone is on social media or will see signs posted.

- More information on the postcard would be great

- Need to improve the website for easier navigation.

- Look to other communities as examples of success with seasonal guides (Spring and Winter). This works well for those without computers, wifi access, or ability to use online resources.

8. Recommendation #8: Ensure all rec centers have the essential rec spaces, such as a gym or active rec space, fitness room, classrooms, computer lab, kitchen, etc.

Comments:

- None

9. Recommendation #9: Develop childcare specific areas: example of a “soft playroom” for children under 3.

Comments:

- None

10. Recommendation #10: Provide separate community meeting spaces, to enable wrap around services without taking away from programming space or damaging gym floors.

Comments:

- Improve awareness of meeting space availability and permitting process with easy instructions and online submission of materials.

11. Recommendation #11: Fundraise for improved pools, including no-depth entry. For smaller centers add other water-play such as splash pads.

Comments:

- None

12. Recommendation #12: Include specialized uses at rec centers, by offering special uses like boxing or racquetball, at a regional center that would serve city-wide.

Comments:

-None

13. Recommendation #13: Invest in more inviting, attractive exterior, entry and rooms.

Comments:

- Improve access to drinking water. Ensure that water fountains are functional, clean, and running. An alternative for drinking fountains could be water bottle refill stations. This could encourage reusable bottles, and therefore, less trash.
- See parking lot comments below under "Provide transportation options."
- See hearing impaired comments below under "Other comments"

14. Recommendation #14: Update technology within rec centers, such as course enrollment and payment systems.

Comments:

- Digital support for wifi
- Community access point to computers

Other Comments: ADD: Expand considerations for hearing impaired to rec center entrances. Hearing impairment is already addressed to some extent through center programming and resources. However, this could be improved, with special attention to rec center entrances.
ADD: Gender specific programming to accommodate people of all cultures and faiths. I. e. Separate swim hours, specifically mentioned for Hammtramck.

Topic 2: Operations

15. Recommendation #15: Focus on good customer service at rec centers to encourage visitation, provide a clean environment, well-maintained equipment, knowledgeable staff to inform participants how to use the equipment, ensuring the centers are welcoming to the public.

Comments:

- Address the lack of a sense of belonging for many community members. Parks and rec centers can feel like they are for "others", not for long-time Detroiters or recent immigrants, but for new, more affluent communities (gentrification concerns).
- What can we do to make the park feel like it belongs to the current neighborhood?
- Programs & amenities: cricket and soccer might not fit all residents - look at universal amenities.
- Possibility for special events / ethnic festivals to celebrate a local culture - need to create a sense that it is the local community's park
- Consider adding cultural features and art, renaming parks to reflect important figures in the community's specific history.

Response: Add new Recommendation about: Increase feeling of belonging among residents through suitable, community specific programming and amenities.

16. Recommendation #16: Increase maintenance staff, ensure cleaning staff are on site during the hours of operation, and are provided with proper equipment.

Comments:

- None

17. Recommendation #17: Evaluate a small increase in rec center membership fee, to include the fitness/weight rooms, in order to provide more accessible and affordable year-round fitness opportunities for Detroiters.

Comments:

- Current membership fee per year: (seniors = free, youth = \$5, adult = \$10, universal (all rec centers) = \$25; weight room = additional \$120). Proposed to raise adult memberships from \$10 to \$20 per year, while removing the additional weight room fee, allowing access for all non-youth members.
- Wanted to join a local rec center but didn't get the membership since it did not include the weight room, and a gym was cheaper than the current weight room membership - x 2 responses
- Create a neighborhood fund, scholarship program, or membership matching program to encourage people to pay for a neighbor's membership. This would remove the cost burden from low-income residents and be a reasonable ask for other community members. One idea is to allow people to donate a membership through their own membership application by including a "fund a neighbor's membership" option.

Response: Include allowing neighbors to sponsor others for an additional fee.

Revised: **Evaluate a small increase in rec center membership fee, to include the fitness/weight rooms,** in order to provide more accessible and affordable year-round fitness opportunities for Detroiters, with sponsorships and scholarships available.

18. Recommendation #18: Adapt hours of operation for the centers to reflect community needs, including opening a portion of the center such as the fitness/weight room earlier or later to match what is offered at other local gyms/facilities.

Comments:

- Neighborhood association wanted to meet at a local rec center, but it closed too early (at 7pm)
- Can hours be extended by request?
- Typical rec center hours need to reflect the needs of the community and be clearly advertised on the website.
- Can the website or some other method be used to collect information about each community's preferred hours (generally and for events)?

19. Recommendation #12: Attract more local staff, specifically more rec center workers that reflect the local cultures/ethnicities/languages. Consider increasing pay to attract talent.

Comments:

- Need more Spanish speakers in SW Detroit.
- Need more staff that live in the neighborhood and speak Spanish at rec centers there (specifically Patton)
- Pay more for rec centers staff across the board
- Language access is especially important in areas with non-English language speakers. Immigrants would love to use the rec centers, but language is a major barrier for access currently.

Other Comments: ADD: Streamline the permitting process by making the forms easy to understand and accessible online. Community groups need access to rec centers for meetings and additional programs. It has been challenging in the past to arrange meetings and events in rec centers due to the complicated process and forms, and the need to file paperwork in person. We should streamline the process and make it available online. Neighborhood association wanted to meet at a local rec center, but it closed too early (at 7pm) - can we get the hours extended to reflect the needs of the community - advertise on the website.

Topic 3: Collaborative marketing to reach all Detroiters

20. Recommendation #20: Inventory rec/youth facilities that are not city owned to evaluate current gaps for residents.

Comments:

-None

21. Recommendation #21: Expand the After School Program, to use DPSCD facilities for summer programs for seniors and families, as well as youth, focusing on schools in “rec center gap” areas.

Comments:

-None

22. Recommendation #22: Allow other providers to offer programming, within the centers, including certifying providers (in partnership with DPSCD) to enable the groups to fundraise, expand and build capacity.

Comments:

-None

23. Recommendation #23: Co-market spaces and programs, available for kids, such as rec centers, libraries, parks and other non-school spaces that can be used outside of school hours. Example: libraries coming into rec centers to do their programs (mobile libraries).

Comments:

-None

24. Recommendation #24: Designate one central partnerships liaison, to streamline the connection and with adjacent schools, libraries and other organizations.

Comments:

-None

25. Recommendation #25: Apply for dual collaboration grants and offer small grants for education nonprofits and educators to create more synergies between schools and parks.

Comments:

-None

26. Recommendation #26: Partner with organizations to provide support services to those entering rec centers.

Comments:

- None

26. Recommendation #26: Collaborate with existing groups to get the word out about rec programs, develop a database of groups that do extensive outreach. Groups include: local nonprofits, youth orgs, block clubs/community orgs, as well as police precincts, libraries, DONs, schools and state reps and senators.

Comments:

-None

27. Recommendation #27: Partner with a recreation organization to create rec centers in “gap areas” such as City Council districts 4 and 7.

Comments:

-None

28. Recommendation #28: Develop partnerships with existing organizations to expand fitness offerings in rec centers, for example yoga classes for an additional fee.

Comments:

- Health and wellness program(s) across all centers
- Detroit Riverfront Conservancy?

29. Recommendation #29: Provide transportation options to regional parks and rec centers, to ensure access to all, including: shuttles between rec centers (and neighborhoods), free bus passes for athletic programs, ride share programs for community partners, all while considering accessibility for people with disabilities.

Comments:

- To address the resiliency concept, the space around the center and beyond the grounds should be connected. Consider how to connect people to the center in ways that are easier and safer for those who aren't driving.
- Mogo for last mile. Need for multimodal stations (mentioned Jefferson and Chalmers)
- Don't put cars first (climate resiliency)
- Parking lots need to be lit, clean and paved without potholes else it deters people from using the rec centers. Incorporate design features within the lots (islands and bumpouts) to prevent unwanted vehicular behavior and incorporate stormwater catchment systems.

30. Recommendation #30: (ADDED) Specialize in community-specific programming and amenities, to increase the feeling of belonging among residents of different cultures.

Other Comments: Incorporated into new and existing recommendations.

Public Focus Group #6: Equity in Parks & Rec Session Notes - 6/29/21

Attending: Juliana Fulton, Aaron Goodman, Ayo Thomas, Ben Ratner, Calandra Jones, Christopher Samp, Deb Stewart Anderson, Donna Miller, Erin Casey, Fae Foen, Joel Howrani Heeres, John Myers, Kimberly Rustem, Maria Galarza, Myra Tetteh, Sarah Hayosh, Sigal Hemy, Ted Tansley, Terry Whitfield, Iphone (unknown)

Staff: Juliana Fulton, Erin Casey, Joel Howrani-Heeres, Donna Miller, Maria Galarza, Alexandria Spofford

Questions

Q: If we attended the previous one [meeting] for equity, should we join this one?

A: Yes, thank you for joining us again!

Q: Will the quarterly programming be aligned with the seasons?

A: Some programs will be seasonal and aligned with the seasons. Other programs will last 10 weeks, others will be shorter. Depends on nature of the program.

Q: When recommendations are finalized, it will go to council and become a guiding document? Or will it be receiving money?

A: It will be a guiding document. There is no money tied to the plan, though there is a capital improvements document which indicates what gets funded when. This will guide what our annual budget is, but does not tie us to what we actually get.

Breakout Notes

Topic 1: Parks & Programs for All Users

1. Recommendation #1: Create inclusive parks for all ages, including those under 5 years, seniors and teenagers.

Comments:

- None

- Design of programming the park and designing the park space; consider two separate elements. To bring programming into the parks.

- All users: are we speaking of only human users vs pollinators and other possible users

-A lot of people only use the parks in the mornings and don't feel welcome at other times

- Different age groups is important to consider. Adults can follow and show toddlers how to use parks and equipment. Parks with multiple ages, some kids more loud, good to have separate spaces to make spaces comfortable for a range of users.

- Small kids, elderly, diabetics, it takes longer. More physical and mental chal

lenges that should be considered to help people get outside.

2. Recommendation #2: Coordinate inter and intra - generational programming

Comments:

- None
- Design of programming the park and designing the park space; consider two separate elements. To bring programming into the parks
- Micro grant system for programming in parks.
- Q:What is the process to develop programming at the parks? Is this part of this strategic plan or another project?
A:Each rec center developed own programs. Deployed statistically significant survey (Community Needs Assessment) will be included in strategic plan.
- Q:How flexible/far in advance are programs scheduled? How often are rec centers taking input on what people want.
A:Very flexible, not planned too far in advance, always looking for partners
- Q:Examples of intra and inter generational programming?
A:Idea of activities for seniors who bring their grandchildren. Dance, festivals. Events where there is an activity for everyone.
Response:Love that idea. Beacon park art installation + house/ techno dance party, could bring own food, lots of kids but the structures were strong enough to support adults as well.
Great idea!

3. Recommendation #3: Design park spaces for those with mental and emotional disabilities

Comments:

- None
- Clarify designing park space for those with mental and emotional disabilities: what is the process for designing wellness into a park space/ programming.
- Even if we add more bathrooms to parks, need to make sure that they are well lit, clean, and have necessary materials. Well lit important for visual impairment. Spaces can be overstimulating for individuals that need less stimulation or have social anxieties.
- Teaming up with programs that are already supporting parents to communicate which parks have special features or are designed with that in mind

4. Recommendation #4: Consider residents experiencing homelessness when designing parks

Comments:

- Who is doing work to serve the homeless and how can we learn from that work? What type of other supportive services are connected to addressing housing for the homeless?
- Working with organizations with expertise dealing with homeless community: create mutual understanding
- Including charging stations, lockers for securing personal items
- None

5. Recommendation #5: Add more bathrooms to parks.

Comments:

- Excited about prospect of adding bathrooms to parks, particularly along transit routes.
- None
- Even if we add more bathrooms to parks, need to make sure that they are well lit, clean, and have necessary materials. Well lit important for visual impairment. Spaces can be overstimulating for individuals that need less stimulation or have social anxieties.
- Bathrooms +1, safety measures, blockading the parking lots after hours, probably should lock the bathrooms
- Bathrooms to parks: Kemeny Rec Center's set up and outdoor handwashing stations, like this thinking. Innovation of technical. More people have access and facilities where people feel safe and clean. Older residents doing walking groups like the pathways.

6. Recommendation #6: Ensure signs are multilingual.

Comments:

- None
- None
- None

Other Comments: "Street connections are critical but also connecting spaces by bike or scooter. Ensuring there is the proper space for that type of mobility. Collaborate with PDD to make a cohesive plan. Does it go the other spaces like libraries, schools etc."

Topic 2: Ensuring All Park Users Feel Safe

7. Recommendation #7: Invest in crime deterrents besides police/security presence.

Comments:

- What is the community engagement strategy (block clubs) in the safety of that park and how do those orgs also help support the safety of the park?
- Engaging with people to understand their capabilities in stewardship and support of the park.
- Working with block clubs to facilitate events in the park and support these events. How do we encourage residents not to drive there to reduce congestion.
- None
- Marketing for anti-trash. People not knowing how to use the space. You need to be invited to use the space. If you don't have the culture of going outdoors, it is important to see that, +1 park ranger. Consistent advertising for programs. Knowing it's there and dependable. The more I saw it, the more I would participate. Especially for kids if their parents can't drive them.
- Growing up across the street from a park with gangs, would have wanted police protection to make the park for the residents.
- Trash (Maheris Gentry) at a certain time of day there will be trash piled near trash cans. How can we help each other respect the space? Loud

music at night, etc. Space is meant for everyone but it has to be kept nice. Make sure people who are there for trouble are not welcome.

8. Recommendation #8: Create Park Rangers.

Comments:

- Use parkranger as a way to bring people into the workforce and future opportunity for themselves.
- Get people representative of the age group you are trying to engage to promote/communicate.
- Park Rangers - may need to be defined, will they be able to respond to issues of the park where DPD is not needed. Not security more like a Park Ambassador - promoting activities in the park, engage with park users; being more proactive.
- You need to be invited to use the space. If you don't have the culture of going outdoors, it is important to see that, +1 park ranger.

9. Recommendation #9: Provide clarity on who to call for park security.

Comments:

- None
- Possibly have a security phone that is connected immediately to Police or a designated phone number to call for emergencies
- Relationships between the precincts are usually good. Program to meet precinct officers (touch a truck event, etc) combined with summer kickoff. Way to show people who to call when in need.

10. Recommendation #10: Physically close parks at night.

Comments:

- In JC they talk about closing off the parks at the end of the corridor and would like to have opportunities like in other places where you could have a beer and stroll around. Closing the parks results in folks moving to parks without gates. Thinks that at least closing the park to traffic would reduce trash accumulating in parks.
- Clarify closing parks at night to speak of parking lots.
- Homeless people with a vehicle may need to use the parking lot as a safe location to park their car. Is closing the parking lots really a good idea?
- Q: What does it mean to physically close a park?
A: Most parks do not have a gate. Putting gates at the parking lots and closing them. Prevents people from driving into the parking lot.
- ATV concerns. People like the rock program. People partying at AB Ford trash everything. Solutions?
- Bathrooms +1, safety measures, if we are blockading the parking lots after hours, probably should lock the bathrooms

11. Recommendation #11: Add park kiosks or informational signs that list rules, programs, events, permitting and other relevant information.

Comments:

- None
- None
- Marketing for anti-trash. People not knowing how to use the space. You need to be invited to use the space. If you don't have the culture of going outdoors, it is important to see that, +1 park ranger. Consistent advertising

for programs. Knowing it's there and dependable. The more I saw it, the more I would participate. Especially for kids if their parents can't drive them.

Other Comments: None

Topic 3: Collaborative marketing to reach all Detroiters

12. Recommendation #12: Develop a continuous digital marketing strategy.

Comments:

- Get people representative of the age group you are trying to engage to promote/communicate.
- Add descriptions of the amenities that the parks have on google or link it to the Detroit website
- Making information on the parks to find and access.
- The app Waze,
- Create a map that shows all parks near schools and the amenities that they have there. Do the same for other high points of interest. Visual representation of where the parks are relative to other points of interest. I.e. poster in high traffic areas like a school hallway.
- Cost of marketing materials: should not be a deterrent; digital divide is a real issue, not equitable making sure the printed materials are available to the public.
- Way of doing a digital version of the mailer? (rec center catalog mailer online)
- Q: How do you find information:
 - A: Use Facebook (nonprofits, older folks, its free)
 - A: Send it to one's staff/shared through work
 - A: Organization's Facebook and Instagram (partner with interested organizations, Detroit Parks Conservancy)
 - A: Highlight new equipment through videos on social media
 - A: Through friends/word of mouth, facebook/twitter/instagram
 - A: Don't seek out programming, but visit parks for personal interest in walking/nature/etc
 - A: Local news (tv, radio) +2, great avenue for seniors and others that aren't on social media
 - A: Text function for community info, fun (Councilman Scott Benson district 3)
 - A: Nextdoor app
- My organization uses Facebook ads for our community events

13. Recommendation #13: Expand multilingual services.

Comments:

- None
- None
- None

14. Recommendation #14: Produce different types of printed publications.

Comments:

- None
- Cost of marketing materials: should not be a deterrent; digital divide is a

real issue, not equitable making sure the printed materials are available to the public.

- Having wide distribution of printed materials
- None

15. Recommendation #15: Collaborate with existing groups to get the word out about rec programs.

Comments:

- Get people representative of the age group you are trying to engage to promote/communicate.
- Collaboration: very important to be connected to community groups and organizations
- Establishing a mini grant program to help fund organizations able to provide park programming, will it be a yearly possibility?
- Q: How do you find information:
A: Organization's Facebook and Instagram (partner with interested organizations, Detroit Parks Conservancy)

16. Recommendation #16: Make permitting easier and educate park users on the process.

Comments:

- A number to call to let someone know if there is a permitting conflict
- Permitting: creative video to help people understand how and also instructions should be available in print
- None

17. Recommendation #17: Create a shared calendar about events and programming.

Comments:

- None
- Quarterly Calendar: community should have a say as to how the branding/messaging is communicated; streamlining the process, making it more efficient would be helpful.
- A mini-grant award for a community group or resident to redesign the calendar every year.
- Alternatively, you could make it accessible for local businesses, galleries, and nonprofits to sponsor the design of the calendar. Similar to the Google Doodle program
- None

Other Comments: None

Chat

16:58:37 From Juliana Fulton to Alexandria Spofford(Direct Message) : Presentation link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jaOUVFZutmx8c1J1BHI8sUj-V9hxextrHOnT_Y8ijk/edit?usp=sharing

16:58:54 From Juliana Fulton to Alexandria Spofford(Direct Message) : Can you take notes for one of the breakout sessions? Justin couldn't make it

16:59:01 From Alexandria Spofford to Juliana Fulton(Direct Message) : Absolutely!

16:59:16 From Juliana Fulton to Alexandria Spofford(Direct Message) : Great! I will let you know when which one, etc.

17:00:09 From Alexandria Spofford to Juliana Fulton(Direct Message) : Sounds good!

17:01:33 From Ben Ratner to Everyone : Afternoon, everyone!

17:04:15 From Shani Campbell to Everyone : Question- if we attended the previous one for equity, should we join this one?
17:06:56 From Alexandria Spofford to Everyone : Shani, yes, thank you for joining us again!
17:09:58 From Deb Stewart Anderson to Everyone : sorry cannot get mike to work
17:17:03 From Ben Ratner to Everyone : I've heard of the Park Ranger idea and love it
17:19:24 From Sarah Hayosh to Everyone : love the postcard and quarterly programming schedule
17:20:05 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : will the quarterly programming be aligned with seasons?
17:20:23 From Calandra Jones to Everyone : Great question, Ayo!
17:22:18 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : wondering about seasons vs calendar year*
17:23:36 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : Thank you
17:25:42 From Ayo Thomas to Everyone : Please make sure that both of my devices are in the same one! Having technical difficulties :)
17:26:13 From Sarah Hayosh to Everyone : sorry if I missed it during the beginning, but does this planning process include getting input on the types of programming that could occur at parks and Rec centers?
17:28:10 From Sarah Hayosh to Everyone : sorry I can't stay the whole time, FYI
17:31:30 From Maria Galarza to Everyone : No problem Sarah! - Thanks for sharing!
17:34:23 From F Foen to Everyone : I really love this whole conversation. If you are making it safer for families with kids of all ages, makes it safer for folks who need more time to navigate spaces.
17:38:15 From Sarah Hayosh to Everyone : I have to hope off, looking forward to hearing more updates about the plan, thanks!
18:01:28 From Calandra Jones to Everyone : I have another meeting to attend! If more feedback is desired, or if there's way to continue participation after 6:30pm, please let me know. Calandra Jones, Detroit Future City, cjones@detroitfuturecity.com
18:02:19 From F Foen to Everyone : Bravo for leading this process and gaining feedback!