



MEETING DATE: **October 13, 2015**
TIME: 8:30-10:30 AM
PLACE: Cumberland Park
10580 Cumberland Road
Fishers, Indiana 46037

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Rodney Retzner, Cecilia Coble, Corby Thompson, Tim Russell, John Amos, Jocelyn Vare

Members Not Present: Cathy Ferree, Natalie Temeya

Others Present: Caleb Gutshall, Leah McGrath, Connie Nimmo, Tony Elliot, Jason Taylor, Sean O'Grady, Matt Walker

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Members who attended the Parks tour noted that there are many beautiful parks in Fishers, however they have low visibility within the community.
 - Vandalism is an issue in some of the parks.
 - The acquisition of new parks, such as Heritage Park, will provide the City with local partnerships and historical value.
 - Some Hamilton County Parks (Geist Park) are in need of maintenance. It is unclear to a passerby that those parks are not City parks.
- Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:
 - Visibility of Trails and paths are low.
 - They are identified with maps on individual park properties. Hamilton County has a fold-out map that highlights select trails in Fishers.
 - A mobile app that indicated points of interest on and connectivity of trails would raise awareness and usage of paths.
 - Bike share programs would encourage more path usage.
 - Right-of-way constraints can limit how much land can be used for paths.
 - Land to create paths can be acquired through dedication in the development process
 - Paths will be connected to neighboring communities with bridges, shared lanes, etc.
- Draft 2040 Parks and Recreation Master Plan:
 - Section 6: Land Acquisition Analysis
 - More park space will need to be added to maintain the current park to resident ratio.
 - The western portion of the City could use more amenities, i.e. Holland Park, Richey Woods, Heritage Park.
 - Connectivity and accessibility is lacking on that end of the City, e.g. Holland Park to the Amphitheater.
 - It's important to "keep parks flexible for future use." - Rodney Retzner
 - Areas with less parks per resident should be targeted as areas that need more green space.
 - New developments should be encouraged to build more open space in these areas as it adds more amenities to the neighborhood and value to homes.
 - Neighborhood parks (golf courses, schools, etc.) should be considered in survey hot spots.
 - Section 7: Park Design (in relation to goals)

- Goal 1: The parks system offers a broad spectrum of accessible four-season recreational opportunities throughout the City for a variety of ages and abilities.
 - We need a policy, programs, facilities that innovative in terms of ADA and go beyond just being legally compliant.
- Goal 2: A mix of amenities, along with active and passive spaces are integrated at each site that promote healthy living and educational opportunities.
- Goal 3: Smart and environmentally sustainable design, products, and practices are utilized throughout the park system.
- Goal 4: Parks are designed to offer a variety of community gathering spaces that celebrate Fishers vibrant community spirit and identity.
 - Elkhart is a great example of a community that created opportunities for civic space and engagement.
 - Growing population is becoming more diverse.
- Goal 5: Public safety is a key consideration in the design, operation and maintenance of all new and redeveloped parks.
 - We need to continue discussions with FPD for future park patrol.
 - We should encourage “Friends of Parks” creation that could essentially adopt a park and help keep it up and deter vandalism and improve safety.
 - Add more signage in parks identifying that the parks are being watched.
- Goal 6: Regional assets are leveraged to maximize access to area amenities and foster a seamless network which optimizes the use of all park resources.
- Goal 7: Innovative practices and partnerships are incorporated in parks to ensure the quality and excellence of maintenance may be sustained.
- Section 8: Park Impact Fees
 - Generally, paths only receive \$300,000 of funding annually. Impact fees contribute to that amount. One path can cost upwards of \$2 million.
 - Impact fees may decline in 2025 as new development will be limited.
 - Grants and federal funding can help connect and create paths.
 - Fundraisers by local groups could generate revenue and encourage activity.

ACTION ITEMS

- Update master plan based on meeting discussion. - Staff

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Policy Analytics Report](#)
- [Vision Statement and Goals](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Sections 6-11](#)