
Parks and Public Input

Master Plan Amendment Workshop

Agenda

- 9am - 11am
- **Introduction:** Dana Eness, Urban Conservancy
- **What Does the Master Plan Do?:** Jeff Thomas, Thomas Strategies
- **The NPP Process:** Keith Twitchell, Committee for a Better New Orleans
 - How does the conditional use process work now?
- **Diving into Recommendations:** Alexandra Miller, Asakura Robinson
 - Critical considerations
 - Review of existing master plan language: Volume 2, Chapter 7, Goals 12 and 13
 - Group discussion throughout recommendations process
 - Key takeaways for recommendations

Introduction

Urban Conservancy, Parks, and Public Input

- Creating policy that reflects informed public input:
 - Maintaining and disseminating information on issues requiring citizen input;
 - Gathering citizen input before decisions are made;
 - Sharing citizen input with elected officials and other decision/policy makers.
- Background and Next Steps
 - Informational forum April 21, 2016: “Green Spaces and Public Input”;
 - Today’s workshop;
 - Submission of master plan amendments collectively and individually by July 29, 2016.

What Does (and Doesn't) the Master Plan Do?



NEW ORLEANS 2030 1 | **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Implementation Framework: 1 Mandate & 11 Good Ideas

Development & Planning Goals (Non-Binding)

Vol-2-Ch-5-Neighborhoods-and-Housing

Vol-2-Ch-6-Historic-Preservation

Vol-2-Ch-7-Green-Infrastructure

Vol-2-Ch-8-Health-and-Human-Services

Vol-2-Ch-9-Enhancing-Prosperity-and-Opportunity

Vol-2-Ch-10-Community-Facilities

Vol-2-Ch-11-Transportation

Vol-2-Ch-12-Resilience

Vol-2-Ch-13-Environmental-Quality

Land Use Mandate (with “Force of Law”)

Vol-2-Ch-14-Land-Use-Plan

Decision-Making Recommendations

Vol-2-Ch-15-Neighborhood-Participation-Program

Vol-2-Ch-16-Implementation

The Meaning of “Force of Law” in the Master Plan

“All **land use actions** must be **consistent** with the goals, policies and strategies in the element (section) of the Master Plan called the “Land Use Plan. (Chapter 14)”

“**Land use actions**” include: Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance & Amendments; Subdivision Plans & Plats; Site Plans; Site-specific development plans; and Variances

“**Consistency**” means land use actions must further, or at a minimum not interfere with, the goals, policies and strategies in the Land Use Plan. (“Reflect the distribution of land use categories, densities and intensities on the Future Land Use Map and be informed by the land use, urban design, and zoning principles in the Land Use Plan.”

Existing Public Park Policy with the “Force of Law”

Park-related land use goals in Chapter 14:

“Provide areas for parks, recreational facilities and open space networks owned by public or semi-public entities while offering the opportunity to utilize such spaces for stormwater management measures.”

Range of Uses: Parks, playgrounds, recreation facilities and athletic fields; neutral grounds and passive open spaces, rain gardens, bioswales and other stormwater management measures.

Development Character: Ranges from programmatic parks and indoor and outdoor recreational areas to preserved open space, with the opportunity to provide for stormwater management measures.

Tethering Other Public Park Policy to “Force of Law”

“Implementation of strategies and actions to achieve the goals of other elements of the Master Plan, such as Transportation, Neighborhoods and Housing, Green Infrastructure, and Enhancing Prosperity and Opportunity, will **require land use actions that must be consistent with the Master Plan.**”

“All **public projects...cannot be authorized or significantly altered unless they are consistent with the Master Plan.** This conformity will occur through the operation of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and other land use actions—all of which must be consistent with the Master Plan.”

“The city government’s **5-year Capital Improvement Program and the annual capital budget must be consistent with the goals, policies and strategies in one or more of the Master Plan’s elements**...If a capital improvement is recommended in the Plan, the City is not obligated to fund that capital improvement, but to fund any capital improvement, whether or not it is in the Plan, it must be consistent with the Plan.”

The Neighborhood Participation Program

- History
- Objectives
- Current process for requesting conditional use
 - Invitees should include:
 - Property owners, residents, and businesses within 300 or 600 feet of the subject property or project depending on the project's size.
 - Sites or structures with up to 25,000 square feet will use the 300 feet radius.
 - Sites or structures 25,000 square feet or greater will use the 600 feet radius.
 - Registered neighborhood associations whose boundaries include the project.
 - The City Council member for the district where the project is located.

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Green Infrastructure

- Sets goals and recommendations for parks, open space and recreation
- Goals tend to be general priorities for what the park system can do for the city and its residents (“protect wetland areas”, “more public access to waterfronts”)
- Does not include specific recommendations on a per-park or per-operator basis
- Includes certain design and investment priorities, but is not a document related to specific park design and investment ideas

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goals 12 and 13

- Goal 12: Community participation in decision making about parks and recreation
- Goal 13: Consistent and adequate level of maintenance, operations, and programming on a per capita basis

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Goal 12: Community participation in decision making about parks and recreation
- DISCUSS:

WHO needs to participate?

IN WHAT SITUATIONS is participation needed?

WHEN (time) is participation most useful?

HOW do we set priorities for our entire park system?

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Goal 12: Community participation in decision making about parks and recreation
- Review current recommended actions under sub-goals:
 - 12.A: Survey park and recreation users on a regular basis.
 - 12.B: Establish a system for community input in park design and convene public meetings to provide input on major improvements, new park designs, and/or new recreation facilities or programs.
 - 12.C: Prepare and update a full parks and recreation master plan regularly.

DISCUSS: What's missing? How could these actions be improved?

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Potential Revisions:
 - 12.A: Prepare and update a full parks and recreation master plan regularly.
 - 12.B: Establish an annual capital improvement planning system with public participation for all parks in New Orleans.
 - 12.C: Require two public meetings for all projects in the Capital Improvement Plan that exceed \$_____ in total cost or _____ square feet in area.

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

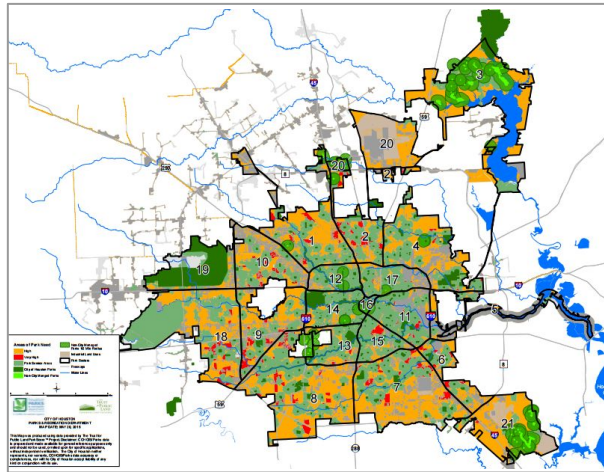
- Potential Revisions:
 - 12.A: Prepare and update a full parks and recreation master plan regularly.

A full parks and recreation plan separate from the master plan should be updated every 10 years. **As of 2016, this process is overdue as the last Parks and Open Space master plan was completed in 2002. A full update should occur as soon as possible and every 10 years, with an amendment process every five years** to continue to guide decision making about the park and recreation system. **This plan should include input from surveys of park and recreation users, as well as a substantial public input process that includes public meetings in all council districts and a stakeholder advisory committee.**

DISCUSS: Why make a separate document? Should we consider individual master plans instead?

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Potential Revisions:
 - 12.A: Prepare and update a full parks and recreation master plan regularly.



Houston - full system

NAME	LOCATION	PARK TYPE	ACREAGE	PICNIC PAVILION OR SHELTER	OPEN SPACE	WALKING PATH	BASKETBALL COURT	HORSESHOE PIT	POOL	SOCCER FIELDS	FORMAL GARDENS	TRAILHEAD	LAKE	FISHING	OVERLOOK	BASEBALL FIELD	TENNIS COURTS	SOFTBALL FIELD	YOUTH BASEBALL FIELDS	MINIGOLF	FOOTBALL FIELD	HANDBALL	DISC GOLF	TRANS	AQUATICS CENTER
Olestead Park	2774 N. Fieldbrook Ave.	M	0.6	x		x																			
Price Park	Covert Avenue	C	24.2	x	x					x															
Riverfront Park	Fulton Avenue	N	4.9			x					x														
Sheridan Park	3403 Sheridan Road	N	1.5			x			x																
Sixth Avenue Park	Sixth Avenue & Virginia Street	M	0.6	x	x																				
State Hospital Grounds Park	Vann Avenue & Lincoln Avenue	C	41.7															x					x	x	x

Evansville - assets & priorities



Northern Manhattan - design ideas for key facilities

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Potential Revisions:
 - **12.B: Establish an annual capital improvement planning system with public participation for all parks in New Orleans.**

A Capital Improvement Plan including information about all planned facility improvements should be jointly released by all park owner/operator agencies, including NORD, Audubon Commission, Board of Directors of City Park, Parks and Parkways, and the National Park Service. A public meeting should be held prior to adoption to accept public comment with representatives of all park owner/operator agencies present. The Capital Improvement Plan should be adopted into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan annually.

DISCUSS: What is promising, or not promising, about a potential joint CIP system?

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Potential Revisions:
 - 12.B: Establish an annual capital improvement planning system with public participation for all parks in New Orleans.

SF RECREATION AND PARKS

BUENA VISTA PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT
 August, 2015




Section 2 Description of Capital Item							
This project is to renovate Hartsell Recreation Center lower level. The schedule for renovations is divided into three fiscal years. The upstairs would be renovated the first year, corrective work to preserve the exterior in the second year, and renovations to the downstairs in the third year..							
Justification; and Linkage to Council Goals, Master Plans, or Dept. Goals & Objectives							
Logan Multi-Purpose Center and Academy Recreation Center have each been almost entirely renovated. The age and dysfunctional floor plan of Hartsell Recreation Center is unsafe and underutilizes the potential footprint for serving programs and general use by the public..							
History and Current Status; Impact if Cancelled or Delayed							
NOTE: 23,500 is being added back to this project to replenish funds that were transferred to another project last year. Master planning is complete and the cost estimate for renovations is \$1.3 million. This would address structural issues with the exterior, and renovations to the upper and lower levels..							
Section 3 Project Costs							
Activity	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	Future\$	Total
Building/ Utility Construction	0	255,000	180,000	780,000	0	0	1,215,000
Prelim Design/ Plans	84,000	0	0	0	0	0	84,000
Total Capital Cost Est.	84,000	255,000	180,000	780,000	0	0	1,299,000
Total Oper. Impact Est.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure Est.	84,000	255,000	180,000	780,000	0	0	1,299,000
Section 4 New or Additional Impact on Operating Budget							
Type of Expenditure	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	Future\$	Total
NONE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 5 Method(s) of Financing							
Funding Source(s)	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	Future\$	Total
Capital Reserve	84,000	0	0	0	0	0	84,000
Transfer from General Fund	0	255,000	180,000	780,000	0	0	1,215,000
Total Program Financing	84,000	255,000	180,000	780,000	0	0	1,299,000
Section 6 Maps / Charts / Tables / Pictures				Section 7 Comments for Other Depts.			

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Potential Revisions:
 - **12.C: Require two public meetings for all projects in the Capital Improvement Plan that exceed \$_____ in total cost or _____ square feet in area.**

The first public meeting should be dedicated to presenting the project concept and accepting public input. The second public meeting should occur for design review once a 60% design for the improvement is complete. Meetings should be conducted by the relevant park owner/operator agency proposing the capital improvement.

DISCUSS: What should our numbers be here?

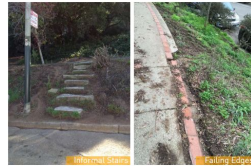
For reference, a basketball court is 4,700sf; a soccer field is 54,000-90,000sf.

Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 12

- Potential Revisions:
 - **12.C: Require two public meetings for all projects in the Capital Improvement Plan that exceed \$_____ in total cost or _____ square feet in area.**

Recommendations

After a three-meeting community planning process for the prioritization of Buena Vista Park Capital Improvement projects, it is recommended that four sets of small-scale projects be pursued. These projects align with both community values and identified capital improvement goals, are easy to implement, and provide opportunities for a pilot-based approach. These include:



1) **Perimeter Entry Improvements**
a. Below-path planting and irrigation
b. Repair perimeter walk and stairs



2) **Water Management**
a. Pilot stormwater retention project
b. Introduce alternative water source options (e.g. capturing rain, fog, dew)



3) **Soil Management**
a. Implement erosion control at high risk zones
b. Pilot circulation control project



4) **Tree Management**
a. Remove hazardous trees
b. Prune hazardous tree limbs



Volume 2, Chapter 7: Goal 13

- Consistent and adequate level of maintenance, operations and programming on a per capita basis
 - **13.A:** Provide a consistent and adequate per capita operating budget and work towards establishing a dedicated funding source for municipal park and recreation resources and programs.

DISCUSS: What can we do to move this forward and give it some teeth?

Thanks for joining us!

What can you do? Use this conversation to create and submit your own recommendations! The process can be found on the City Planning Commission's website at www.nola.gov/city-planning/mpamendments. Recommendations are due **July 29**. We will post the final Urban Conservancy recommended language on www.urbanconservancy.org when it is complete.

Contact us if you have more questions:

- Dana Eness: dana@urbanconservancy.org
- Jeff Thomas: jefftstrategies@gmail.com
- Keith Twitchell: info@cbno.org
- Alexandra Miller: alexandra@asakurarobinson.com