

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 periodic assessments of park and recreation users, as well as a substantial public input process that includes public meetings in all planning districts and a stakeholder advisory committee that includes agency and resident representatives. The plan should include overall priorities for the parks and recreation system and should provide a detailed, facilities-based assessment and plan for achieving the individual goals and objectives described in this Master Plan document. It should include a full assessment of parks and recreation facilities available, and provide priorities and locations where additional facilities are needed to provide equitable access to park facilities across the City of New Orleans.

Recommended Actions

1. Update the plan every 10 years; conduct an amendment process five years after the adoption of each updated plan.
Who: CPC, working with NORDC, Parks and Parkways, Audubon Commission, Board of Directors of City Park, National Park Service, French Market Corporation (Managers of Crescent Park), any other managing entities for parks
When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process
Resources: Staff time (for update and amendment process); possible outside consultant and \$500-600K per update (for update only)
2. Conduct a systematic assessment of park users before each full Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and each amendment process, in order to inform the update and amendment processes. This assessment should incorporate on-site observation of park and recreation spaces at multiple times of the week and multiple times of day.
Who: Mayor's Office of Innovation to partner with CPC and park provider agencies to develop technology and manage and supervise park operator agencies and volunteers; possible outside consultant
When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process
Resources: Staff time for volunteer management; general fund; volunteer support
3. Conduct a full assessment of park facilities as part of each Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and recommend needed facility changes for each park location.

Who: CPC with all park provider agencies; possibly with assistance from outside consultant

When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process

Resources: Staff time; funding for possible outside consultant

4. Include a substantive public input process for each Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and amendment process that includes a public meeting in every Planning District to gather input, a stakeholder advisory committee guiding the process that includes both park owners/operators and residents, and a final town hall to present a late draft of the plan and gather final revisions.

Who: CPC; possible assistance from outside consultant

When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process

Resources: Staff time; funding for outside consultant

5. Ensure that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is consistent with Volume 2, Chapter 7 and Volume 2, Chapter 14 of the *Plan for the 21st Century*, and makes actionable recommendations that allow the realization of key *Plan for the 21st Century* priorities.

Who: CPC; possible assistance from outside consultant

When: Ongoing

Resources: Staff time; funding for outside consultant

12.B: Require that all Capital Improvement Plans demonstrate consistency with Chapter 7 of this Master Plan, as amended, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, in order to be approved. Establish a streamlined public participation process that allows public input into each agency's Capital Improvement Plan.

Each year, the City Planning Commission receives capital project proposals from various City agencies. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes the sources of funding for each project - such as general obligation bonds, State capital outlay funds, or federal funds - and the amount of funding to be spent in each year for the next five years. The City Planning Commission holds public hearings with each agency to gain further information about the proposals and to obtain input from the public, and determines whether or not each proposal is consistent with the City's Master Plan, which is required under the City Charter. Following the hearings, the City Planning Commission makes final recommendations regarding which projects should be funded over the following five-year period. NORDC, New Orleans City Park, the Audubon Commission, and Parks & Parkways all participate in the CIP process.

When the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan is completed, the CPC should require consistency with both the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan before making final determinations on project funding. In addition, the CIP process for park provider agencies should be made more transparent by requiring that representatives from all park

provider agencies hold a joint public meeting at least 30 days prior to the official public hearings to accept input from the public on needed CIP priorities for park space. Finally, the dates and times of the final CIP public hearings involving all park and recreation agencies should take place on the same date, and should be publicized via the City's Neighborhood Engagement Office (NEO), who should communicate the date and times of these CIP meetings with all registered neighborhood associations and Friends of Parks groups at least 30 days in advance of the meetings.

Recommended Actions

1. Require consistency with both the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan before making final determinations on project funding.

Who: CPC

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

While the City's Master Plan establishes general priorities for the parks and recreation system, the completed Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide more concrete recommendations about how resources should be allocated and prioritized throughout the park system. This makes the Parks and Recreation Master Plan a more ideal tool for determining whether proposed CIP projects are consistent with the City's and the public's priorities for public open space.

2. Enhance transparency around capital improvements within the City's park and recreation system by requiring all park owners/operators who currently participate in the CIP process to hold a public joint meeting at least 30 days prior to final CIP public hearings in order to present draft CIP concepts and accept feedback from the public. This meeting must be held at a time outside of normal working hours in an accessible location.

Who: CPC

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

3. The CPC should improve the public's ability to comment in final CIP hearings by setting all park agencies' meetings on the same date and working with the Neighborhood Engagement Office (NEO) to send notice of the date 30 days in advance to all registered neighborhood associations and Friends of Parks groups.

Who: CPC, Neighborhood Engagement Office

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

4. The final CIP for all park agencies should be adopted into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on an annual basis.

Who: CPC

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

12.C: Require that individual park provider agencies including either complete and abide by individual Programming and Design Plans (developed with public input) for their park facilities that include clear, specific design and programming recommendations, or submit all projects in the Capital Improvement Plan that exceed \$100,000 in total cost or 10,000 square feet in area to a design review process that includes three public meetings.

In order to ensure that the public has understanding and ability to comment on other objectives written in this Master Plan, such as ensuring no net loss of park space; balancing passive and active uses of park space; and providing recreational opportunities suited to the demographics of surrounding neighborhoods, the public must be able to have an early understanding of proposed changes to existing park space and to provide substantive comment on the design and location of these proposed investments and alterations. This must be balanced with park agencies' need to make improvements without constant meetings. Two alternative pathways for meeting this need for public input are described within the Recommended Actions.

Recommended Actions

1. Park agencies including NORDC, Parks and Parkways, New Orleans City Park, and the Audubon Commission may complete and abide by individual Programming and Design Plans for their park facilities, in order to avoid an extensive individual design review process for major investments. In order to solicit public input on these Programming and Design Plans, park users and community members should be invited to a series of meetings: the first to gather information on issues and concerns; the second to present a conceptual version of the plan for discussion; and the third to present a final draft of the detailed plan for discussion.

Who: All park provider agencies; CPC to review and approve

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

All Programming and Design Plans shall be completed by 2019 and shall include clear, specific design and programming recommendations for the entirety of the park facilities under each agency's control. Individual design review as described in Recommended Action 2 will not be required for projects that comply with the Programming and Design Plan, but will be required for all projects over \$100,000 or 10,000 square feet in area that do not comply with or are not mentioned in the Programming and Design Plan. The CPC will review these plans for completeness and compliance with the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan and all individual Programming & Design Plans shall be made available online at the CPC website.

2. All projects over \$100,000 or 10,000 square feet in area in an agency's CIP that do not comply with or are not mentioned in an adopted Programming and Design Plan shall undergo a public design review process. The process shall consist of three meetings: the first to gather information on issues and concerns; the second to present a conceptual design for discussion; and the third to present the detailed design for discussion.

Who: Parks and Parkways, NORDC, New Orleans City Park, Audubon Commission; CPC to review and certify public process

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time