2020 Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan Update

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
Presentation to Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee
December 10, 2019
Chuck Kines, Park Planner/Coordinator
Why are we here? What do we want from you?

- Inform you about the master plan scope and schedule
- Discuss planning process, community engagement
- Solicit your ideas for improvements, changes and upgrades to the park
- Respond to your questions and concerns
Wheaton Regional Park and Vicinity Aerial
The Park Today
Distinct Park Activity Areas

1. Brookside Gardens
2. Shorefield Area
3. Rubini Athletic Complex
4. Biodiversity Area/Forest
5. Maintenance Yard
6. Equestrian Riding Center
7. Brookside Nature Center
Distinct Park Activity Areas

1. Brookside Gardens
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What can people do in Wheaton Regional Park?

Shorefield Area
Distinct Park Activity Areas

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What can people do in Wheaton Regional Park?

Rubini Athletic Complex
Distinct Park Activity Areas

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What can people do in Wheaton Regional Park?
Brookside Gardens and Nature Center
Distinct Park Activity Areas

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What can people do in Wheaton Regional Park?

Forest and Equestrian Riding Center
## Public Input Opportunities

### Plan Schedule

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<td>Attend Community Events and Meetings including Taste of Wheaton, Friendship Festival, and the Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>Issues and Outreach</td>
<td>Public Meeting #1 Plan Concepts to the Community for Input</td>
<td>Public Meeting #2 Plan Recommendations to the Community for Input</td>
<td>Targeted outreach to broader diversity of stakeholders <em>NEW</em> Focus on communities within 1 mile of the park</td>
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### Public Input Opportunities

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*NEW* Targeted outreach to broader diversity of stakeholders

Focus on communities within 1 mile of the park
Public Outreach versus Community Engagement
Public Outreach

• **Specific project**
  • Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan

• **Defined timeframe**
  • Goal is to present draft plan to the Planning Board in Fall 2020

• **Solicit input**
  • Broader effort to *inform* the larger community about the plan
  • Ask for their feedback
Community Engagement

- Communities within 1 mile of the park
- Build relationships, initiate a dialogue
- Long-term, on-going process
  - Collaborative Master Planning
  - Advocacy
  - Implementation
- Form a strong network
  - Residents
  - Community organizations
  - Businesses
- Particularly focus on communities that have typically been less involved in park planning
  - Latino/Hispanic
  - Asian/Asian-American
  - Black/African-American
Resource Atlas – Biodiversity Area
Topography
Park Analysis

Service delivery needs

- 2030 Projected Population Density/Acre
- Recreational and Regional Parks and Agricultural Farm Park
Demographics*, approximate 2-mile radius of the park

<table>
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<th>Demographics within 2 miles of the park</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
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Households with primary language other than English: 81,288 (43%)
**Demographics**, Immediate vicinity of the park

**Demographics within 1 mile of the park**

- Hispanic/Latino: 33%
- White: 32%
- Black: 20%
- Asian: 12%
- Other: 3%

**Households with primary language other than English**: 27,902 (48%)
For what issues are we taking a closer look?

- Improve trail connectivity, walkable access and pedestrian safety
- Identify opportunities for adding new facilities, including rectangular ballfields
- Identify opportunities to re-purpose aging or defunct facilities
- Address more current or emerging trends (futsal, pickleball, bike/ped safety garden)
- Correct the issue that park is hidden and doesn’t have a “front door” (including signage)
- Address reality that much of the park functions more like a local/community park
DRAFT Wheaton Regional Park MP Objectives:

- Protect and enhance natural areas
- Provide additional recreation amenities to better serve diverse communities
- Improve access, visibility and wayfinding
- Improve and expand regional trail connections and the existing trail system
- Create a unifying theme of architecture, landscape, and signage
- Improve parking and traffic circulation, pedestrian safety, and ADA compliance
- Emphasize historical, cultural and natural resources interpretation
- Improve maintenance and operational efficiency
- Pursue acquisitions to expand and improve the park
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<th>FALL 2019 – SPRING 2020</th>
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<td><strong>Targeted outreach to broader diversity of stakeholders</strong></td>
<td><strong>Staff Draft Plan to the Planning Board</strong></td>
<td><strong>Work Session(s) and Plan Adoption</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Focus on communities within 1 mile of the park</strong></td>
<td><strong>Planning Board Public Hearing</strong></td>
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### Public Input Opportunities
Thank you!

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301-495-2184