

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Council Update January 25, 2010

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update has been a community planning process driven by citizen input and supported by interactive methods. The goal from the start has been to *engage all 33,690 Roseville Residents in the process.*

At the mid-way point, we feel we have done a good job at reaching into every corner of the community and reaching out to all Roseville residents.

To date;

- o 28 Member **Citizen Advisory Team** (CAT) convened in September for a 10 month review of the Roseville Parks and Recreation System and to process situational discussions, community input and professional findings.
 - CAT has spent 17 hours in scheduled committee meetings and countless hours talking with neighbors and friends, attending community meetings and listening sessions, and exploring/researching local, regional and national parks and recreation services.
 - Recently, the CAT offered insights about desired outcomes.
 - Public Health ~ physical and emotional health, and living as a community
 - Public Safety ~ stemming issues and problems by keeping children active and engaged, and by getting people out in public and populating the city's public spaces
 - Property Values ~ referencing a McKnight study that indicated that property values are higher with proximity to parks
 - Community Cultural Values ~ focusing on what a community aspires to be, and noting that programs and facilities might be considered in a separate evaluation to avoid competition for resources
 - Environmental Awareness ~ noting the presence of wildlife in the community and its parks, and the need for the continued presence of wild places in the city
 - Life-long Experiences ~ the idea that children in Roseville are being raised and are participating in programs related to parks that will carry with them for their entire lives
 - Life Education ~ lessons learned in the parks and programs are valuable to a person's life experiences – more than memories, but ways to act and interact
 - Affordable and Accessible ~ parks and programs should be within the reach of every resident, that the sense of inclusion in these programs leads to a sense of connection that is central to the idea of community
 - Civic Responsibility ~ a sense of obligation about what has been handed to the current generation of residents, and the need to convey something equally profound to succeeding generations of residents; also noted was the ways that parks and programs teach people to appreciate and protect Roseville (the community, not just the parks), and a heightened sense of stewardship resulting from engagement in parks
 - Retain and Attract Residents ~ parks and programs are something that new residents consider when making a home location decision, and that are considerations for residents deciding if they will remain in the community

- Volunteerism ~ another connection to community-building, but with the added idea that employment of high school students as part-time park employees builds leadership skills and offers life training as a part of their employment
- Stabilizing Influence ~ parks and programs offer a way of creating stability in a community that goes beyond economic conditions
- Funding ~ residents go out of Roseville to work, and they need to bring Roseville in. finding partnerships for funding; parks and programming offer an entry point for private businesses and investments
- Total Experience ~ a park experience is not a singular thing, but rather a combination of activities and experiences; Roseville's parks and recreation should somehow focus on capturing the total experience
- Ongoing Participation ~ leveraging qualitative participation by continually engaging parks and programs users
- Peer Review ~ using information to guide decision-making, focusing on tools like web reviews and statistics to "sell" programs.

Sense of community was noted as an overarching outcome – that all of the outcomes noted and discussed resulted in a greater sense of community and commitment to the idea of community.

- o Over 40 **Meeting-In-A-Box (MIB) Sessions** have introduced hundreds of community members to the master planning process.
 - MIB are a convenient way to take the master planning information to community gatherings. A MIB can be a brief 15 minute introduction or a longer event, a formalized presentation or a more casual Q and A.
 - Citizen Advisory Team members, Parks and Recreation Staff and community volunteers have met with groups of interested neighbors, homeowner associations, Commissioners, community organizations, neighborhood watch meetings, ECFE groups, school PTO, board meetings, affiliated groups and athletic associations, and meet & greet events at the library, holiday home tour, senior health fair, local church
- o 900 **Maser Plan Questionnaires** have been submitted and recorded to date.
 - This first questionnaire has inquired into how the community currently uses Roseville parks, programs and facilities, how they see themselves using the system in 15 years and needs, wishes and suggestions for Roseville Parks and Recreation.
 - Questionnaires available at Parks and Recreation facilities, available at MIB sessions and distributed by user groups and citizen organizations. Questionnaire also available online. Online availability promoted through RIF, Parks and Recreation online distribution lists and City Administration online distribution list.
 - Additional questionnaires will be used to gather additional community input
 - Questionnaire findings are reviewed with the CAT and will be included in future master plan documents.
 - Early questionnaire tabulations found the community top interests to be;
 - More/safer/better connected/better lit/better marked walking and biking trails and sidewalks
 - Community Center
 - Swimming Pool/Water Features
 - Updated and Maintained Facilities

- o Four **Community Meetings** are scheduled to bring together citizens to set the direction and help frame the future of our parks and recreation system. Community Meetings are interactive opportunities for community input.
 - Meeting #1 ~ November 5, 2009 – Issues and Ideas
 - 70 participants. Small group discussions followed by large group presentations resulted in the following considerations;
 - Roseville’s parks, facilities and programs should include an orientation to intergenerational and intercultural opportunities
 - Where possible, Roseville’s parks should retain “nature” or reestablish a sense of nature as a part of the park experience
 - Parks and recreation facilities in Roseville should be better connected to neighborhoods to community destinations and to each other
 - Opportunities to expand parkland in Roseville should result in better service to residents and more unique park and recreation opportunities for residents
 - Roseville should create mutually beneficial partnerships with other entities to better serve the park and recreation needs of residents
 - Roseville parks and park facilities should balance programmed activities with time and space for non-programmed activities
 - Roseville’s parks, facilities and programs should employ both traditional and innovative methods to serve the community
 - Improvements should be directed to enhance the visual appeal of parks and recreation facilities
 - Roseville’s parks and recreation system should have a reliable revenue stream in order to maintain the high level of service and facilities experienced by residents today
 - Roseville should implement a true community center as a component of its park and recreation system with a focus on recreation, cultural and social activities
 - Roseville should strive to expand its park and facility offerings to better serve its residents.
 - Future Community Meetings
 - #2 – Sharing the Vision
 - Wednesday, February 10, 7-9:30pm, Roseville Skating Center
 - #3 – Programs, Policies and Priorities
 - Wednesday, April 21, 7-9:30pm, Roseville Skating Center
 - #4 – Sharing the Draft Plan
 - Wednesday, June 23, 7-9:30pm, Roseville Skating Center
- o Fourteen **Listening Sessions** scheduled for December through February. Listening Sessions are important to the Master Plan process; they bring together groups of similar interest to look at ways to stimulate activity and infrastructure that distinguish our city as vibrant and unique.
 - *Staff Sessions*
 - Recreation Team, Monday, December 14
 - Maintenance Team, Monday, December 14

- *Neighborhood Sessions*
 - Area 1 ~ Southwest Corner, Thursday, January 21, 6:30-8pm @ Fairview CC
 - Area 2 ~ Business Community, Tuesday, February 2, 7:15-8:45am @ RSC
 - Area 3 ~ Northwest Corner, Thursday, January 28, 6:30-8pm @ Grace Church
 - Area 4 ~ Northeast Corner, Tuesday, February 16, 6:30-8pm @ Cedarholm GC
 - Area 5 ~ Southeast Corner, Tuesday, February 23, 6:30-8pm @ Roseville Lutheran Church
 - *Affiliated Group Sessions*
 - Sports & Facilities ~ Tuesday, January 19, 7:15-8:45am @ RSC and Thursday, February 4, 6:30-8pm @ Parkview School
 - Friends and Facilities ~ Tuesday, January 26, 7:15-8:45am @ HANC
 - Arts and Culture ~ Friday, February 12 7:15-8:45am @ Cedarholm GC
 - *Council and Commissions*
 - Meetings are planned for the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and all other City Commissions. Dates still to be determined
- o The **Technical Advisory Team** (TAT) serves as the primary body for shaping technical aspects of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The TAT includes, City Manager, Department Heads, and representatives from Roseville Area Schools, Mounds View Schools, Roseville and Mounds View Community Education, Watershed Districts, Ramsey County, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Park and Recreation Association, Active Living Ramsey County, HRA.
- First meeting held January 14, 2010.
 - Future meetings scheduled as needed