



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Brent Walker, Parks and Recreation Manager

Date: July 12, 2010

Subject: **Parks and Recreation Master Planning**

BACKGROUND

With last month's acquisition of parkland, the City now has an opportunity to establish its vision for our parks and greenspace. Although a Master Plan for the entire DeKalb County parks system was conducted in July 2009 and a Brook Run Master Plan was conducted in 2003, both these documents should now be updated in order to best serve the current and future needs of our community.

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan will establish the direction for parks and recreation improvements and functions. The first phase of this plan would likely include a greenspace and open space needs assessment to evaluate current level of service, study potential and appropriate acquisition needs, and identify existing private recreation opportunities to help determine how our public amenities could compliment these options.

The second phase of the overall parks and recreation master plan will include public involvement to capture the park and recreation needs and desires of the community. By engaging the community, our residents will be able to help determine the best uses for specific sites and help us to optimize the management of our park and recreation resources based on their needs. As part of this process, or as a concurrent project, the Brook Run Master Plan should also be updated with public involvement to better represent the current and future needs of our community.

The final phase of the master plan process will likely combine the public input with analyses of current trends and future needs identified in the needs assessment to help craft a long-range blueprint for use of our park and recreation areas

As the first Dunwoody-specific parks and recreation master planning effort, a thorough overall plan and updated Brook Run plan, is likely to cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 depending upon the exact scope.

NEXT STEPS

If Council is still amenable to a parks and recreation master planning effort, staff could prepare a Request for Qualifications and bring a recommendation for a qualified firm to Council as early as the end of this summer or early fall. Alternatively, we could delay this process until early next year.