



41 Perimeter Center East, Suite 250
 Dunwoody, Georgia 30346
 P (678) 382-6700 F (678) 382-6701
dunwoodyga.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Warren Hutmacher, City Manager

Date: May 23, 2011

Subject: **Discussion of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan**

BACKGROUND

As discussed at previous Work Sessions, the City continues to finalize a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan based on an evaluation of the existing park conditions, assessment of the City's future park needs, benchmarking against other local government park systems, and an extensive public involvement process. Public input has been gathered through interviews, public meetings, focus group meetings, an open web-based survey and a statistically valid mail survey.

This Master Plan provides long-range guidance to the City of Dunwoody on park redevelopment, possible land acquisitions for future park space, staffing options, revenue sources and maintenance plans. Additionally, the Master Plan includes conceptual site plans for each existing park property. The entire Master Plan document is available at the City's website, www.dunwoodyga.gov through either the "Parks and Recreation" page or the project link on the homepage.

DISCUSSION

Based on discussions and additional input from the community since the last meeting, the Council has narrowed its discussion to thirteen items listed below:

1. Should we remove all three ball fields from Brook Run Park and replace them with an open, level field with terraced steps down for theater style viewing (without lighting)? If so, care would be taken to ensure that any changes are runoff-neutral or result in a net reduction in runoff.
2. The middle school/adult baseball fields, currently shown as being relocated out of Dunwoody Park, represent an important asset for our community and are part of our strategic vision. Should three ball fields (for league play and community use) be placed at a location to be acquired by the City?
3. Should we include a statement that Brook Run Park will be designated a "passive" park?
4. Should we include a statement that reaffirms the city's commitment to working in partnership with non-profits to build and establish facilities and programs? For example, the Dunwoody Nature Center for development of Dunwoody Park; Dunwoody Seniors Baseball for development of baseball facilities; the Brook Run Conservancy for renovation of the theater at Brook Run; the Spruill Center for the



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development of the NDCAC; and the Dunwoody Preservation Trust for development of the Donaldson-Chesnut house. Should the City expect these organizations to raise funds and partner with the City to ensure that cost overruns do not become a burden to taxpayers?

5. Should we reduce the budget for Brook Run Park by the \$5 million that has been allocated for the ball fields? If so, \$1 million would remain to landscape the fields as suggested in item 1.
6. Should we increase the Brook Run Park budget by \$1.2 million for restoration of the Theater/Auditorium?
7. Should we increase the budget for the Dunwoody Nature Center for construction of a Nature Center building from \$1.25 million to \$3.0 million?
8. Should we reduce the Donaldson-Chesnut budget from \$2.945 million to \$1.5 million?
9. Should we allocate \$3 million for the relocation of the three ball fields?
10. Should we add to the plan the development of a sports complex that would contain ball fields, soccer fields, concessions and an indoor/outdoor tennis center?
11. Should we remove the 4 tennis courts currently slated for the Peeler Road side of Brook Run Park and reduce the budget by \$280K?
12. Should we retain the dormitory building at Brook Run Park—relocate any amenities planned for that area to another spot at Brook Run Park. Alternate use suggestions have included (A) operating a business incubator in conjunction with a local college or (B) identifying a recreational use for the facility.
13. Should we expand upon the existing No Net Loss of Trees Policy and establish that no trees will be removed from Brook Run Park (unless they are dead) without the consent of the Sustainability Commission and the City Council?

Staff will finalize the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan based upon Council's determinations on these items.