
MEETING NOTES

Project:	Detweiler Park Master Site Plan	Project No.:	19060.10
Location:	100 Fort Hunter Road Harrisburg PA 17110 <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Meeting Date/Time:	01/27/2021 7:00PM – 8:30 PM
Re:	Public Meeting #4: Final Master Plan		

ATTENDEES:

See Attached Record:

NOTES:

Simone Collins on behalf of Dauphin County Parks and Recreation held a Microsoft Teams Live Event to present the Detweiler Park final Master Plan to the public. A recording of the presentation can be watched by following the link below.

[Click Here to Watch Meeting](#)

The following is the record of questions and comments submitted by the public during the virtual live event. Order of questions have been revised to group similar comments together. Simone Collins has edited submitted questions for grammar and spelling errors. Moderator (Simone Collins) responses have been revised for clarity. Names have been associated with comments when they were provided.

1. Anonymous – Shouldn't the objective be appreciation of nature's beauty rather than distractions from man-made structures and "art?" I find the "art in nature" displays at Wildwood detract from the experience.
 - Peter Simone – thank you for expressing your opinion. There may be some that agree with you and others that would disagree. It is more important that any discussion with art in the park begin with an investigation the many different options of how art has been used successfully within a natural park environment. It may be found that only having temporary art installations work best for this park.
2. Anonymous - Have there been preliminary discussions with the ATC about the connecting trail and, if so, has the proposed connector from a mountain biking trail inhibited their enthusiasm of this plan? Bikes are not permitted on this section of the AT.
 - Peter S. – The design team had interviewed the Regional Manager of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to learn of the process of how trails are linked to the AT and shared this information in the report. It starts with reaching out to the local group. This process has not been started. The connection also may need an easement. If this connection starts to become a reality, then the County can start the process. As a point of

clarification, the connector trail is for hiking only and not intended for biking, which is permitted on the trail used to access the connector trail.

3. Anonymous - What happened to the HAFS airfield?
 - Peter S. – During this process, it was decided by the committee and the public to concentrate this site for providing habitat. The meadows will be an important area for nesting birds and the model airplanes would interfere and discourage important bird species from using the space. The committee determined that the long-term use of the site for recreational modal air planes was in conflict with the plan goals.
4. Scott Rogers - Sincerely appreciate everything your team as done, is there anything in the works for a 5K running trail/cross country running course that could handle community/group runs?
 - Peter S. –The team had not looked into specific programs that could be done within the park. This does sound like a great idea and can be something to be explored in the future with the County.
5. Anonymous - Has SAAMBA looked at the Mountain Bike trail options.
 - Peter S. – yes, the team has had conversations with SAAMBA. They can be an important partner with stewardship of the site. The plan does not propose an intensive development of mountain biking trails. Both the team and SAAMBA do not see this park as a big draw for advanced mountain bikers. Most likely it would be used by local riders or beginners to get a quick ride.
6. Anonymous - If SAAMBA will self-monitor, does that mean that bike use will be limited to members of SAAMBA?
 - Peter S. – SAAMBA would not be the only mountain bicyclists, but they would be an important partner for assisting with expected cyclist behavior and rules. Groups such as SAAMBA are typically good stewards when they are given trails to ride on and will do what they can to make sure that they do not lose the privilege to use the trails.
7. Anonymous - Please comment on security. A short walk on the AT from Rt. 225 to the power lines illustrates the graffiti that can occur if security is not properly addressed.
 - Peter S. – the team has provided suggestions for improved security on site, including adding a full-time, on-site park manager. The best security is having visitors at the park to assist in policing the site.
8. Anonymous - Lots of emphasis on deer exclosure, what is the recommendation on hunting?
 - Peter S. – Great question. It was noted in both the forestry report and the ecological assessment report that there are a lot of deer on site, and continued deer browsing has decimated the forest understudy. A deer exclosure is only one piece of the puzzle to assist with restoration efforts in a concentrated area. It will still have to be monitored. Our suggestion is to include some type of hunting program as well as the deer exclosure to insure the County's investment of restoration of the site. The plan is not meant to determine the specifics of hunting on site. The specifics of a hunting program will be investigated by the County with partnerships to determine what type of program would best suit this site as a next step.
9. Anonymous - Who do you see initiating the "Friends of Detweiler Park" foundation - the county, private citizens?
 - Peter S. – A Friends group is citizen lead organization that works in conjunction with the property owner, the county in this case. The first steps of starting an organization

would involve reaching out to Carl Dickson, Director of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation to determine if there are like-minded people and start the process of 501c. nonprofit organization. Often finding a willing lawyer to assist in this within a potential member pool is not difficult.

10. Anonymous - Could you please explain what disc golf is? I do not find it invasive to the setting and it provides an alternative use.
 - Peter S. – This is a sport where people use a frisbee disc to throw at baskets like targets. The infrastructure is often limited to signage, hiking trails, and the baskets. This activity has a big following and could create another partner for stewardship. The area where the disc golf course is proposed is already under stress from invasive plants, the creation the course hiking trails would be paired with a larger understory restoration geared towards the removal of invasives. The courses often are developed in existing forest and the more trees that are included into a particular hole, the more of a challenge it becomes.
11. Anonymous - The phasing proposed seems random, why not work west to east or north to south.
 - Peter S. – The phasing plan is to provide a starting point. Our approach was to address basic needs of improved access in the earlier phases. The phasing plan is structured so that each park area is broken down into smaller pieces; this will give the County the ability to adjust the phasing plan as opportunities arise or priorities change. The phasing will change depending on funding sources or as specific areas interest arise.
12. Anonymous - No question, just want to thank you and everyone involved for this process and for recognizing the natural value of this park.
13. Anonymous - Will any of the trails be suitable for x country skiing?
 - Peter S. – Yes. There are a number of trails that are to be ADA accessible and would be very suitable for cross country skiing.
14. Anonymous - Are you able to make the data underlying the riparian plan available to the public to view potential water overflow impact, particularly in the wet season?
 - Peter S. – How this question is asked is a little confusing. The idea is to improve riparian zones which would reduce stormwater impacts. Creating big riparian buffers and creating BMPs will improve the hydrology of the site.
 - Mike McGraw – As restoration is completed and the forest floor is re-established, the amount of overland sheet flow water that enters the streams would be greatly reduced and the water quality would improve.
15. Anonymous - do the fishery first since everyone will see the output since it is on the road.
16. Anonymous - To whom should violations be reported?
 - Peter S. – There should be a set of rules and regulations posted at various areas of the park that should provide visitors with information such as who to call for emergencies or to report violations.
17. Anonymous - The trails really need to be marked. Is it a priority that will be addressed in the first phase?
 - Peter S. – We agree, and in the report, trail markers are discussed as well as the type of information that should be displayed. Wayfinding is a very important component of any park.

18. Tim - Phased improvements with emphasis on improved and increased parking, and improved foot access to existing meadow trails would be a great start.
19. Peter S. concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation with the Detweiler Park Master Plan.

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Rob Gladfelter
Project Landscape Architect