



Extension

Hood Park Community Engagement Key Findings

Derry Hood Park Steering Committee

Presented by:

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And

Jay Tombari



Hood Park Steering Committee

The Hood Park Steering Committee was formed on July 9, 2020. All interested community members were invited to join the committee and meetings were open to the public. The purpose of the Hood Park Steering Committee is to gather input from the community to learn about their preferences and ideas about the future of Hood Park. From August through December, the Steering Committee met bi-weekly to learn about community engagement tools, develop an outreach and engagement plan, and gather community input regarding Hood Park. Following data collection and analysis, members of the Hood Park Steering Committee will present findings and recommendations to the Derry Town Council.

Steering Committee Members:

Mark Brassard – Chair
Jay Tombari – Co-Chair
Barbara Bailey – Waterview Estates
Michael Bailey – Waterview Estates
Dave Caron – Derry Town Administrator
Mark Connors – Derry Rail Trail Alliance
Melanie Davis – The Grind Café
Beverly Donovan – Derry Economic Development
Charlie Foote – Derry Town Council
Mike Fowler – Derry Department of Public Works
Kristie Kyzer – Derry Softball Coach
Paul Lindemann – Derry Heritage Commission
Marietta Majtenyi – Waterview Estates

Edith McGillen – Derry Resident
Rick Metts – Derry Village Rotary Club
LeAnn Mitchell – Waterview Estates
Karen Munday Lincoln – Public Arts
Brian Murray – Waterview Estates
Owen Provencher – Derry CAM
Doug Rathburn – Derry Information Technology
Elizabeth Robidoux – Derry Economic Development/Planning
Richard Scheib – Waterview Estates
George Sioras – Derry Planning
Eric Stern – Derry Public Library
Richard Tripp – Derry Town Council
Kim Walsh – Derry Parks and Recreation



Methods: Community Engagement Tools

- We selected 4 community engagement tools – a mix of thin & thick tools suitable for a variety of groups/audiences
- Collected data between October 6, 2020 – December 11, 2020

Method	Number
Posters	19 comments
Postcards	17 postcards
Survey	99 responses
Key Informant Interviews	34 interviewees
Youth focus group	16 participants
Direct correspondence (e-mails, Facebook comments, letters)	45 comments

Analysis

- Qualitative data analysis
- Report is organized by community engagement method, then comments for each question are organized by theme
- All comments received are not written exactly in the report
- Key findings highlight common themes, frequent responses



Why do you visit Hood Park?



- Most common use – walking, riding bikes, using the rail trail
- Visit for a variety of purposes
- Park is loved by the community
- Fond memories growing up at Hood Pond
- Some no longer visit Hood Park

What do you like about Hood Park?

- Hood Pond is a major asset
- Convenient, central location
- Natural look and feel of the park
- Something for everyone at Hood Park



What do you not like about Hood Park?



- Pond Condition – unswimmable
- Overall negative reputation
- Lack of vibrancy and disinvestment
- Wish to see more improved recreational amenities

Ideas for the Future

Idea	# of Comments
Improve Hood Pond Water Quality	45
Improve or Add More Walking Trails	35
Create Additional Seating	26
Have More Programs and Events	22
Better Landscaping and Maintenance	19
Have Food Available for Purchase	19
Create a Community Gathering Space (e.g. Nature Center, Community Center or Teen Center)	19
Gardens	18
Improve Playground	15
Create Options to Rent Boating Equipment (e.g. Kayak, Paddleboard)	15
Improve Existing Recreation Facilities (e.g. Basketball Courts, Hockey Rink)	14
Incorporate More Art	12
Build a Skate park	12
Create a Performance Space	12
Develop Winter Recreation Activities such as Ice Skating	11
Create Retail Space	11
Create Amenities for Fishing, such as a Dock	10

HOOD PARK STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS JANUARY 18, 2021

Benchmark	Need - Want	Corresponds to:	Improvement	Anticipated cost	Completed by
Short term	Additional seating	3	Build benches and picnic tables	\$ 2,500	Parks & Rec staff
Short term	More programs & events	4	sponsor age appropriate events such as outdoor activities and youth arts and crafts	\$ -	Parks & Rec staff
Short term	Landscaping	5	add seasonal plantings and other landscape enhancements	\$ 1,000	Parks & Rec staff
Short term	Maintenance	6	permit single food truck or rotation of various vendors (no concession stand)	\$ -	EconDev/Parks 7 Rec staff
Short term	Food Trucks	12	Engage with local artisans, similar to the Rail Trail motif	\$ -	Residents/artisans
Mid Term	Incorporate Art & Historical Elements	1*	Installation of aeration equipment	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Parks & Rec Department
Mid Term	Improve Water quality	2	upgrade existing walking trails to carriage road standards (peastone); clear dead/live trees to revitalize forested area	\$ 50,000	contracted work
Mid Term	Walking Trails	9	investigate and recommend possible upgrades to improve the 15 year old playground	\$ 50,000	Parks & Rec staff, vendors
Mid Term	Improve playground	10	Refurbish Hockey Boards	\$ 5,000	Parks & Rec staff
Mid Term	Court improvements	10	install new breakaway fiberglass backboards	\$ 10,000	Parks & Rec staff, vendors
Mid Term	Court improvements	11	Install additional netting	\$ 5,000	Parks & Rec staff, vendors
Long Term	Court improvements	11	Lighting and Security improvements	\$50,000 - \$100,000	Parks & Rec staff, Information Technology staff, vendors
Mid Term	Court improvements	11	Install pickleball court with lights	\$ 100,000	contracted work
Mid Term	Access to peninsula		create accessible access to peninsula located on the N High St. side of the Pond	unknown	Parks & Rec staff, vendors
Mid Term	Fishing amenities	17	review possibility of extending a short dock into the pond to permit fishing opportunities	unknown	Parks & Rec staff, vendors
Long Term	Rental Equipment	10	make equipment available for rental for water and other activities	unknown	Requires staffing and improved water quality
Long Term	Splash pad	18	consider a small splash pad that would serve as an attraction for families. 30 x 30. Review and design for construction in 2022	\$100,000 - \$150,000	contracted work
Long Term	Arboretum & Discovery Center		consider creating an arboretum and the conversion of the existing building into a discovery center	unknown	contracted work, partner with Pinkerton Academy

Key:

Short Term	complete by December, 2021
Mid Term	1-2 years, requires funding and/or design
Long term	2+ years, requires funding and/or design

Questions...and Next Steps?



- What are Next Steps?
- Re-organized committee
- Commission to implement
- Public/Private partnership
- Stakeholder involvement
- Realize the park's potential
- A uniquely Derry resource