

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



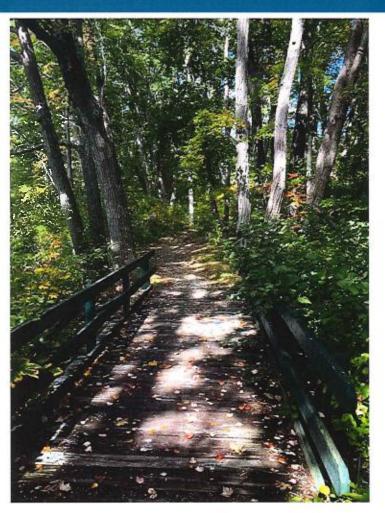
Why do you visit Hood Park?



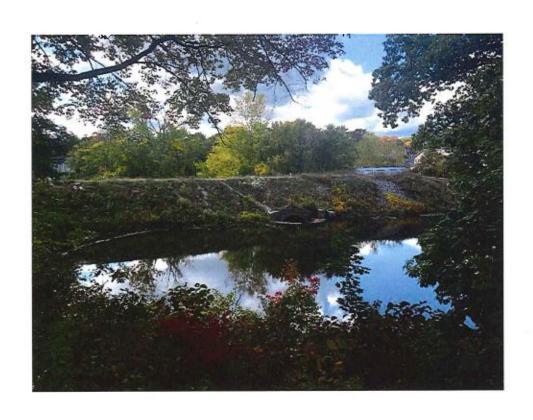
- Most common use walking, riding bikes, using the rail trail
- Visit for a variety of purposes
- Park is loved by the community
- Fond memories growing up at Hood Pond
- Some no longer visit Hood Park

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 |

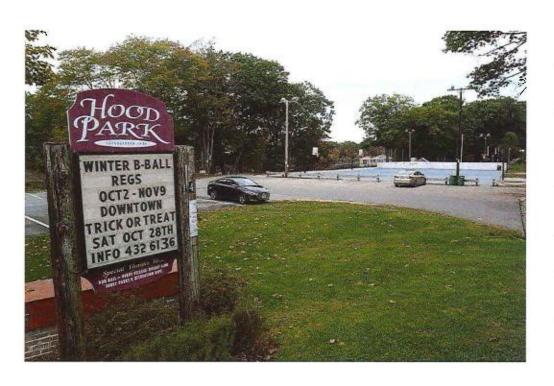
| HOOD DADY STEEDING O | OMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS | TANILLA DV 10 2021 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
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| Benchmark | Need - Want | Corresponds to: | Improvement | Antici | pated cost | Completed by |
|------------|--|-----------------|---|----------|---------------|---|
| Short term | Additional seating | 3 | Build benches and picnic tables | \$ | 2,500 | Parks & Rec staff |
| hort term | More programs & events | 4 | sponsor age appropriate events such as outdoor activities and youth arts and crafts | \$ | | Parks & Rec staff |
| hort term | Landscaping Maintenance | 5 | add seasonal plantings and other landscape enhancements | \$ | 1,000 | Parks & Rec staff |
| hort term | Food Trucks | 6 | permit single food truck or rotation of various vendors (no concession stand) | \$ | 180 | EconDev/Parks 7 Rec staff |
| hort term | Incorporate Art & Historical Elements | 12 | Engage with local artisans, similar to the Rail Trail motif | \$ | * | Residents/artisans |
| Aid Term | Improve Water quality | 1* | Installation of aeration equipment | \$5,000 | 0 - \$10,000 | Parks & Rec Department |
| Viid Term | Walking Trails | 2 | upgrade existing walking trails to carriage road standards (peastone); clear dead/live trees to revitalize forested area | \$ | 50,000 | contracted work |
| Aid Term | Improve playground | 9 | investigate and recommend possible upgrades to improve the 15 year old playground | \$ | 50,000 | Parks & Rec staff, vendors |
| Mid Term | Court improvements | 10 | Refurbish Hockey Boards | \$ | 5,000 | Parks & Rec staff |
| Aid Term | Court improvements | 10 | install new breakaway fiberglass backboards | \$ | 10,000 | Parks & Rec staff, vendors |
| Aid Term | Court improvements | 11 | Install additional netting | \$ | 5,000 | Parks & Rec staff, vendors |
| ong Term | Court improvements | 11 | Lighting and Security improvements | \$50,000 | 0 - \$100,000 | Parks & Rec staff, Information Technology staff, vendors |
| /lid Term | Court improvements | 11 | Install pickleball court with lights | \$ | 100,000 | contracted work |
| Aid Term | Access to peninsula | | create accessible access to peninsula located on the N High St. side of the Pond | un | iknown | Parks & Rec staff, vendors |
| Aid Term | Fishing amenities | 17 | review possiblity of extending a short dock into the pond to permit fishing opportunities | un | ıknown | Parks & Rec staff, vendors |
| ong Term | Rental Equipment | 10 | make equipment available for rental for water and other activites | un | known | Requires staffing and improved water quality |
| ong Term | Splash pad | 18 | consider a small splash pad that would serve as an attraction for families. 30 x 30. Revie and design for construction in 2022 | \$100,00 | 0 - \$150,000 | contracted work |
| ong Term | Arboretum & Discovery Center | | consider creating an arboretum and the conversion of the existing building into a discovery center | unknov | vn | contractracted 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