

# Deerfield Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

## Workshop 1 Summary

The first of four public workshops for the Deerfield Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update was held Wednesday, June 27 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Originally scheduled for the Columbia Intermediate School, the location was changed the night before to Kings High School. Township staff were able to use an email and social media to get the word out and even posted someone at the intermediate school to direct people to the high school, in case they didn't receive the notice electronically.

Sign-in sheets indicate an attendance of 21 people, though there may have been some who did not sign in.

The workshop kicked off with introductions and a brief presentation by Bruce Rankin about the purpose of the plan update and the process for public engagement. Then the attendees were invited to organize into three working groups to discuss a series of prepared conversation prompts. During this time, Township staff and members of the Board of Trustees moved freely from table to table to participate in conversation or simply listen.

The discussion groups answered the following questions and were given 20 minutes to address each:

1. What is working?
2. What is not working?
3. What would you like to see in the future?

They then prioritized their top three responses for each question and reported them to the group. And, as there was still time left in the evening, they did this once more, sharing three more priorities for each question until they felt they had covered everything. At which point, we invited them to continue to participate in the process and to invite their friends and neighbors to join us at the next workshop.

## Results of Group Discussions

### What is working?

The Township acquired Kingswood Park

Trails

Some parks provide shade with treed areas

Decent bike trails in several parks

Good baseball and soccer facilities

Trees, water, trees, trees – keep the green space

All parks are clean and well maintained

The Arts Alliance and other Cottell programs (Snyder House is easy to rent, 5K runs, butterfly walk, Shakespeare in the Park)

Mowing and maintenance is good and there are some wild areas, like in Kingswood and Carter

The dog park

Sports fields

The state park

Kings Mansion

Volunteers at Schappacher keep things well mulched, facilities clean

Sports at Fleckenstein

## What is not working?

Parking – quantity and location within and around parks

Lack of treed areas, natural resources and native species and shade

Lack of parking, access and signage at Kingswood

Parks need comprehensive update to facilities such as restrooms and water fountains (including bottle filling stations)

Bike/hiking trails need better maintenance

Lack of security, patrols and emergency response phones

Kingswood needs a safe way to cross the new road to get from parking to the rest of the park

No bathrooms at Kingswood

Need more advertising about all the parks – where they are and what they offer

Need more access to the river

Need to be more inclusive of all parks, not just Kingswood

Would like rentable facilities like shelters

Traffic management at Landen, Cottell and maybe others

Walking safety and access

Lack of comprehensive parks planning

Counting pocket parks as parks

Snyder House needs a refresh

## What would you like to see in the future?

Eco-friendly – solar power, porous parking, riparian easements, general plan for wetland conservation, native species

Secure large treed areas – prioritize trees and shade (paid for by parks levy)

Nature playscape

Splash pads and wet parks

Food trucks and concessions

Amphitheater

Covered structure for farmer's market

Rentable shelters and pavilions

More programming: nature programs, adult programming, community events, concerts, performances, movie night, fun runs

Connectivity of bike trails from park to park

More native species

Bathrooms at every park

Shut down Kingswood Road on the weekends

A standard of acres of parks per so many residents and hold to it (exclude pocket parks)

Community gardens but not just vegetable plots

Signage

Highlight township history

More dog parks

Exercise facilities

Promotion of parks, facilities and activities