EMERALD VIEW REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Public Workshop #1
October 22, 2020
WELCOME!
QUICK ZOOM TUTORIAL

Please mute your audio, unless you are talking.

If you’d prefer, use the chat to type questions.
WHY WE’RE HERE TODAY

Purpose

• Introduce the Master Plan process
• Share what has been learned
• Invite additional feedback

Agenda

1. Project overview
2. Public engagement approach
3. What we’ve learned
4. Small group discussion (breakout rooms)
5. Regroup and next steps
INTRODUCTIONS
INTRODUCTIONS

Project Team

• City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
• Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Design Team

• Merritt Chase (Lead)
  Landscape Architecture
• Mon-Win Consulting
  Public Engagement
• Spackman Mossop Michaels
  Park + Stormwater Planning
• Civil & Environmental Consultants
  Ecology + Engineering
• Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
  Architecture
INTRODUCTIONS

Advisory Committee

- Allentown CDC
- City Council Office
- Council District 2, Theresa Kail-Smith
- Council District 4, Anthony Coghill
- Department of Mobility and Infrastructure
- Department of Public Works
- Hilltop Alliance
- Mayor’s Office
- Mount Washington CDC
- Mount Washington Community Garden
- Neighbors on the Mount
- Office of Management & Budget
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Public Safety (Park Rangers)
- Ream Recreation Center
- Washington Heights Athletic Association
Master Plan Purpose

- Communicate the community’s vision for a cohesive regional park
- Guide Emerald View Park’s future physical development with conceptual design recommendations, a phasing plan, and cost estimates
- Ensure that individual park improvements and day-to-day decisions fit within a larger vision
- Ensure that fundraising and implementation are properly sequenced and contribute to long-term goals
- Inspire local stewardship and build momentum for future project implementation
- Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities and elevate its role as a regional destination
City of Pittsburgh Park Master Plan Example: South Side Park Master Plan

1. Parcel acquired for green infrastructure
2. Renovated parking (30 spots)
3. Drive
4. ADA-accessible boardwalk
5. Parking (60 spots)
6. Shared-use (bike) paths
7. Community event area
8. Open-air pavilion over small building (includes bathrooms)
9. Amphitheater
10. Lawn
11. Paved push-ramp for cyclists and green infrastructure detention cells
12. Renovated entrance with parking (5 spots)
13. Children’s Discovery Garden
14. Basketball court + marble rings
15. Resurfaced rectangular field with subsurface detention
16. Embankment bleachers
17. Renovated bathrooms, concessions, scoreboard
18. Parking (40 spots)
19. Public art opportunity
20. BMX pump track (third-party operator)
21. Trail for BMX access
22. Embankment slides
23. Ropes course (third-party operator)
24. Embankment bleachers and new scoreboard
25. Sculptural overlook + parking (9 spots)
26. Basketball court and play area renovations
27. Renovate Arlington Rec Center
28. Manage invasive species with native planting
29. Seating at Jurassic Valley Overlook
30. 1040 Trail and interpretive art
31. East/West Connector Trail
32. Revealed seeps + seating
33. Tombstone Trail considered for ADA accessibility
34. Trail through plateau and wetlands +picnic platforms
35. New Sierra St. entrance, steps + Sierra Connector Trail
36. Canopy overlook
37. Boardwalk and wetlands
38. Mission St. Connector Trail
39. Renovated parking and entrance area with seating
40. Drive-gated (vehicle access for garden members)
Why plan?

- Emerald View Park has never had a Master Plan
- Individual projects have been planned and implemented but a holistic Master Plan has not been completed
- The Master Implementation Plan for the Grandview Scenic Byway Park (2005) does not include Emerald View Park’s anchor parks (ie: Olympia Park)
- Emerald View Park is the newest park in Pittsburgh’s Regional Park system
- The Regional Parks Master Plan (2000) and Update (2012) does not include Emerald View Park
- Funding opportunities are easier to pursue for projects that are the result of a Master Plan
- The OpenSpacePGH plan (2013) has resulted in park master plans and recent park implementation projects
EMERALD VIEW REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mount Washington Park
- Olympia Park
- Eileen McCoy Playground
- Ream Parklet
- Duquesne Heights Greenway
- Grandview Avenue and Overlooks
- Grandview Park
- The Saddle
- Mount Washington Park

Key:
- Anchor parks
- Smaller parks
- Greenways + trails
- Grandview Avenue

Monongahela River
MASTER PLAN PROCESS + SCHEDULE
Emerald View Regional Park Master Plan

1 | LOOK + LISTEN
- Project Management
- Existing Material Review
- Project Kick-off
- Inventory and Analysis

2020
- June: AC Meeting #1 Kickoff
- July: Virtual Site Tours
- August: AC Meeting #2 Inventory and Analysis
- September: Survey 1 Open
- October: Public Workshop #1 Inventory and Analysis
- November: AC Meeting #3 Master Plan Options
- December: Public Workshop #2 Master Plan Options

2 | DESIGN + ENGAGE
- Design Kick-off
- Master Plan Development
- Master Plan Refinement

- 2021
- January: Focused Group Workshops
- February: AC Meeting #4 Draft Master Plan
- March: Public Workshop #3 Draft Master Plan Feedback
- April: AC Meeting #5 Final Master Plan Review
- May: Public Workshop #4 Final Master Plan

3 | DOCUMENT + PHASE
- Draft Master Plan Report
- Final Master Plan Report

PROJECT SCHEDULE
What is a Public Engagement Plan?

- A Public Engagement Plan (PEP) is required for all applicable City projects and programs.

- The PEP ensures that the project fulfills public engagement principles established by the Department of City Planning’s Public Engagement Guide.

- The PEP is a living document. It defines the engagement approach, sets public expectations for engagement, and records all project engagements.

- The PEP for Emerald View Park reflects the principles and guidance of the City’s Public Engagement Guide.
Public Engagement Principles

Transparency and Open Communication
Legitimate processes and credibility are built through transparency and open communication with all stakeholders.

Build a Foundation of Trust
Reconcile historic inequities to build a new foundation based on trust.

Center Equity and Fairness
Acknowledge systematic issues and make intentional efforts to address equity considerations in any engagement process.

Value Relationships
Human relationships with the community foster respect and increase engagement from representative community groups and residents. Project leads should value those relationships in any process.

Maximize Participation
Well-designed engagement processes maximize participation of residents and stakeholders.
Public Engagement Schedule

**Public Workshop #1**
- **Inventory + Analysis**
- **Survey 1**
- **October 22**
- Present findings of initial analysis and historic review.

**Focused Group Workshops**
- **November**
- Host smaller group work sessions focused on specific areas of Emerald View Park.

**Public Workshop #2**
- **Public Workshop #2 Master Plan Options**
- **Survey 2**
- **January**
- Share alternatives for park based on community input.

**Public Workshop #3**
- **Public Workshop #3 Draft Master Plan**
- **Advisory Committee Meeting**
- **March**
- Present preferred final plan for park.

**Advisory Committee Meeting**
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED

Site Visits
Online Survey
Inventory + Analysis
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED
Site Visits

OLYMPIA PARK

OLYMPIA PARK

EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND

MT WASHINGTON PARK

MT WASHINGTON PARK

REAM PARKLET

GRANDVIEW PARK

GRANDVIEW PARK

GRANDVIEW PARK
WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Site Visits

DUQUESNE HEIGHTS GREENWAY

GRANDVIEW AVE

GRANDVIEW AVE

GRANDVIEW AVE

GRANDVIEW AVE

GRANDVIEW AVE

GRANDVIEW AVE
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED
Virtual Site Tours

Virtual site tours themes

- Anchor Parks and Programming
- Business Districts
- Greenway and Trails
- Landslides
- Outdoor Recreation

Virtual site tours participants

- Mayor’s Office | Henry Horn Pyatt
- Hilltop Alliance | Aaron Sukenik
- DPW | Andrea Ketzel
- Ream Rec Center | John Macellaro
- Athletic Association | Matt Smith
- Duquesne University | Eva Simms
- DOMI | Eric Setzler
- Pittsburgh City Ranger | Zach Zelazny
- DPW - Forestry Division | Lisa Ceoffe
- BikePGH | Anna Tang
- Venture Outdoors | Ashley Martin
- Landforce | Ilyssa Manspeizer
WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Virtual Site Tours Summary
Emerald View Park is well known for its trails and views
Online it is unclear if Emerald View Park is only Grandview Park

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED
Public Perception
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED

Site Visits
Online Survey
Inventory + Analysis
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED
Public Survey Results

What is your age?

- 10-20%
- 20-30%
- 30-40%
- 40-50%
- 50-60%
- 60-70%
- 70-80%
- 80+

What neighborhood do you live in?

- Mount Washington
- Allentown
- Duquesne Heights
- Etna
- Jefferson Hills
- Highland Park
- North Oakland
- Upper St. Clair
- Greenfield
- Beltzhoover
- Ohara
- Downtown
- South Hills
- Brighton Heights
- Banksville
- Chatham Village
- South Side slopes
- Brookline
- South Side Flats
- Regent Square
- Mount Lebanon
- Bon Air
- Bethel Park
- Arlington

Emerald View Regional Park Master Plan Public Workshop #1 - October 22, 2020
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED
Public Survey Results

How often do you go to Emerald View Park?

- FREQUENTLY: 70%
- INFREQUENTLY: 20%
- I’VE NEVER BEEN THERE: 10%

*The survey question allowed the respondent to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%

What time of day do you go to Emerald View Park?

- MORNING: 50%
- AFTERNOON: 50%
- EVENING: 50%

*The survey question allowed the respondent to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%
**What we’ve learned**

**Public survey results**

How do you usually get to Emerald View Park?

- **77%** Walking or Running
- **33%** Driving
- **12%** Bicycling
- **8%** Incline
- **5%** Bus or Light Rail

*The survey question allowed the respondent to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%*
Where do you go within Emerald View Park?

GRANDVIEW AVENUE & OVERLOOKS: 75%
GRANDVIEW PARK: 60%
OLYMPIA PARK: 55%
MT. WASHINGTON PARK: 30%
EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND: 20%
REAM PARK: 25%
DUQUESNE HEIGHTS GREENWAY: 25%
TRAILS: 80%
OTHER: 5%

*The survey question allowed the respondent to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%
WHAT WE'VE LEARNED
Public Survey Results

What do you do when you visit Emerald View Park?

- Attend an Event
- Bicycling
- Bird watching
- Commuting
- Eating/Picnic
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Organized sports
- Casual sports
- Playing
- Reading
- Relaxation/Wellness
- Running/Jogging
- Slacklining
- Swimming
- Visiting dog parks
- Visiting historic sites
- Visiting overlooks
- Walking
- Yoga
- Other

*The survey question allowed the respondent to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%
Do you have environmental or ecological concerns about Emerald View Park?

- Landslides/Erosion
- Flooding/Stormwater
- Invasive Species
- Contaminated soil/water
- Air Pollution
- Pests
- Loss of Habitat
- Tree Canopy Health
- Noise Pollution
- Light Pollution
- Other

*The survey question allowed the respondent to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%*
Do you have maintenance or management concerns about Emerald View Park?

- LITTER AND TRASH
- DUMPING
- DOG WASTE
- SAFETY CONCERNS
- LIGHTING
- GENERAL UPKEEP OF PARK FEATURES
- OVERGROWN VEGETATION
- TRAIL CONDITIONS
- VIEWS
- DISUSE
- ACCESSIBILITY
- OTHER

*The survey question allowed the respondent to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%
What special events or festivals could happen in Emerald View Park?
How can Emerald View Park be more accessible and welcoming to everyone?
Dream big! What is your big idea for the future of Emerald View Park?
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED

Site Visits
Online Survey
Inventory + Analysis
HISTORY

- Park evolution
- Past planning
- Ongoing projects

CONNECTIVITY

- Individual parks
- Circulation
- Entrances
- Accessibility

COMMUNITY

- Demographics
- Partners
- Destinations
- Programming

ECOLOGY

- Forest Health
- Wildlife
- Natural Resources
- Stormwater
- Topography
- Landslides
History
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
History | Park Evolution

GEOLOGIC FORMATION
440 MIL. - 20,000 YEARS AGO

INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT & COLONIAL ESTABLISHMENT
12,000 BC - 1783

CITY GROWTH & COAL HILL
1780s - 1850s

THE SMOKY CITY
1850s - 1890s

MT WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT
1889 - 1935

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
1939 - 1985

GRANDVIEW AVENUE
1990 - 1997

THE EMERALD LINK & GRANDVIEW SCENIC BYWAY
1998 - 2006

EMERALD VIEW PARK
2007 - TODAY
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
History | Park Evolution

1897 Grandview Park
1908 Olympia Park & Mount Washington Park
1950s Grandview Avenue
1980s Duquesne Heights Greenway
1998 Emerald Link and Grandview Scenic Byway
2020 Emerald View Park
Emerald View Park Planning and Design

1943  Historical Data for Pittsburgh Public Parks
1970  Mount Washington-Duquesne Heights: A Study for the Department of Parks and Recreation
1972  Mount Washington-Duquesne Heights: A Program for Implementation
1995  Grandview Avenue Corridor Urban Design & Development Study, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
1995  Conceptual Design for the Grandview Walk, Jennifer Higgins
2002  Mount Washington’s Emerald Link, MWCDC
2005  Grand View Scenic Byway Park Master Implementation Plan
2005  Grand View Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan
2007  A Study on Grandview Park, Student Conservation Association
2008  The McArdele Roadway Improvement Project
2008  Grand View Scenic Byway Signage Meeting
2010  Grand View Scenic Byway Park Trail Plan
2011  CEC Habitat and View Restoration in Emerald View Park
2011  Olympia Park, R. Paul Manion Recreation Center Analysis
2013  Mt. Washington Acid Mine Drainage Assessment + Report
2013  Land Use History of Emerald View Park (Summer Research Project)
2013  Greenleaf Trailhead Concept Design
2014  Grand View Scenic Byway Point of View Landscape Project
2014  Emerald View Park Preliminary Archaeological Survey
2015  Emerald View Park User Surveys
2015  Emerald View Park Trail Naming
2015  Summary and Analysis of Data Concerning Olympia Park
2016  Wetland Delineation & Stream Evaluation Report
2016  DCNR Fort Pitt Tunnel Trail Connector Project
2019  Park Listening Tour (part of Restoring Pittsburgh Parks Plan)
2019  Emerald View Park Phase 1 Signage Design and Installation

Neighborhood Plans

1997  Virginia/Shiloh Avenue Development Plan
2008  Mount Washington Commercial Business District Improvement Plan
2010  MWCDC Ten Year Neighborhood Housing Strategy
2017  MWCDC Strategic Plan 2018-2022
2019  Allentown Vision 2030

Pittsburgh Open Space Planning

2012  Regional Parks Master Plan Update
2013  OpenSpacePGH
2017  Greenways for Pittsburgh Guide
2018  Regional Parks Signage Manual Update
2019  Restoring Pittsburgh Parks Plan
2020  ForgingPGH Comprehensive Plan
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
History | Ongoing Special Projects

Mount Washington Community Development Corporation
- Developer’s Guide: how to reduce stormwater impact
- Development Committee Curb appeal project
- Grandview Park: replanting planters
- Application to WPC Treevitalize program for neighborhood street trees
- Woodruff and Warrington: entrance plantings

PennDOT
- Replanting and restoration on Shaler Street (vehicle staging area)

Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure
- Grandview Ave: overlook rehabilitation (RAD funding and DPW partnership)
- Grandview Ave: painting railings and light poles, additional sidewalk repairs
- Grandview & Wyoming: retaining wall repair
- Saddle area: landslide area projects (William St, McArdle and Arlington)
- Greenleaf area: landslides and modular wall project

Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
- Trail data collection (with DCP and GIS)
- Olympia Park Shelter

Pittsburgh Department of Public Works - Forestry Division
- Grandview Park: Invasive species removal, viewshed requests, reforestation
- 2030 City tree canopy goal (increase by 50%)

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- NPP Activities: Park promotional activities, trails, ecological restoration
- Grandview Park viewshed and habitat restoration project (in partnership with MWCDC and Richard King Mellon Foundation)
- Garden maintenance: Anchor Green, Republic St Rain Garden, Grandview Park Entry

Pittsburgh Public Safety Department - Park Rangers
- Papoose Conservation Wildlife Fund grant for pollinator garden in Olympia Park (in partnership with MWCDC)

Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Republic St rain garden: signage installation

Ream Recreation Center
- Olympia Park Track Proposal

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Saddle area and Grandview Park slope: Native tree planting through the Redbud Project
Community
Community Organizations

- Allentown Community Development Corporation
- Allentown Learning and Engagement Center (ALEC)
- Friends of Grandview Park
- Hilltop Alliance
- Grandview Lions Club
- Mount Washington Community Development Corporation
- Mount Washington Community Garden
- Neighbors on the Mount
- Ream Rec Center
- Society for the Preservation of the Duquesne Incline
- Washington Heights Athletic Association (WHAA)

City Government Partners

- City Council
- Citiparks
- Department of City Planning
- Department of Mobility and Infrastructure
- Department of Public Works
- Mayor’s Office
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Public Safety (Park Rangers, EMS, Fire, Police)
- Urban Redevelopment Authority

Non-Profit Partners

- Allegheny Land Trust
- BikePGH
- Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
- Landforce
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- Pittsburgh Sports League/PUMP
- Riverlife
- Venture Outdoors
- VisitPittsburgh
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

State Government Partners

- Allegheny County Conservation District
- PennDot
- Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Port Authority of Allegheny County
The median age of residents near Emerald View Park is **35 years old**.

An average of **73.64% of Emerald View Park’s nearby residents are white**, and mostly live in the Mt. Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods. **26.36% of residents are POC** and mostly live in the Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods.

The total population of residents near Emerald View Park is **about 14,500 people**.

The median income of residents near Emerald View Park is **$46,700 per year**. This number is higher in the Mt. Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods and lower in the Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods.
Connectivity
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
Connectivity | Individual Parks

- Mount Washington Park
- Olympia Park
- Ream Parklet
- Eileen McCoy Playground
- Duquesne Heights Greenway
- Grandview Avenue and Overlooks
- The Saddle
- Mount Washington Park
- Grandview Park

Legend:
- Anchor parks
- Smaller parks
- Greenways + trails
- Grandview Avenue
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
Connectivity | Pedestrian & Vehicular Routes

Emerald View Park trail network
- Pittsburgh steps
- Primary vehicular routes
- Primary pedestrian routes
- Emerald View Park trail network
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
Connectivity | Bicycle Routes
Source: BikePGH

Emerald View Park trail network
Cautionary bike route (high level of stress)
On street bike route
Shared roadway (sharrow)

Healthy Ride Station
Shared roadway (sharrow)
On street bike route
Cautionary bike route (high level of stress)
Emerald View Park trail network
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Sweetbriar St - North** | Lookout point  
Leo Club Memorial  
Binoculars  
Information signage visible  
Signs for trailhead visible  
Street parking available, but not on Grandview Ave |
| **Homer St**           | George and Guy Trail continues across Homer St  
Private use, signs of “No Outlet” and stop sign |
| **Greenleaf St - Northwest** | Approx. 40’ diameter clearance at the end of paved street  
2’ tall wooden fence  
Entrance surrounded by trees  
No park signage visible  
Street parking available |
| **Lizardi Way**        | Open view into a residential backyard  
Further in, beautiful view of South EVP and Beechview Seldom Seen Greenway |
| **Greenleaf St - Southwest** | Existing gravel parking lot  
Sign for trailhead entrance  
Trash receptacles (x2)  
View of residential front yards  
2’ tall wooden fence around lot |
| **Republic St**        | Sign for trailhead entrance  
2’ tall wooden fence at entrance  
No parking signs  
Trash receptacle  
Street parking available |
| **Clarence St**        | Approx. 40’ diameter of clearance at the end of paved street  
2’ tall wooden fence  
Entrance surrounded by trees  
No park signage visible  
Street parking available |
| **Sweetbriar St - South** | No street parking available  
2’ tall wooden fence at entrance  
No parking signs visible  
View of residential front yards |
| **Hallock St**         | View of residential front yards  
Public parking available at Olympia  
Street parking available  
Signs for trailhead visible |
| **E Sycamore St**      | Signs for trailhead visible  
Gravel parking lot available, ownership unknown  
View of residential backyard |
Ecology
86% of Emerald View Park is a 25% or higher slope
Key Takeaways

- Loss of ash trees has led to increase in invasive species
- Comprehensive plan necessary for invasive species control and reforestation
- Priority for species control should be on empress tree and kudzu populations
- Healthier forests near Chatham Village and west of Warrington Ave
- ROWs near West End need to be reevaluated for width size and maintenance strategies because they are allowing invasive species to spread.
Key Takeaways

- Deer overabundance has destroyed forest sub-canopy and limited natural regeneration
- Deer hunting stands observed
- Turkeys, forest songbirds, and rabbits also...
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
Ecology | Natural and Historic Features

Key Takeaways

- Water features include small streams, wetlands, and small waterfalls
- Several rock outcrops along trails
- Historic foundations observed have potential to become points for signage and education
- Evidence of ad hoc improvements to trails including added stones, steps, bridges
SAWMILL RUN WATERSHED

Emerald View Park trail network

Mount Washington Park

Grandview Avenue and Overlooks

Eileen McCoy Playground

Duquesne Heights Greenway

OHIO/MONONGAHELA RIVER BASIN

Watersheds

Sub-watersheds

Emerald View Park trail network

- Sub-watersheds
- Watersheds
- Emerald View Park trail network
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MURAL Board

Room 3 | Emerald View Park | Public Workshop #1

Emerald View Regional Park Master Plan
Public Workshop #1

What comes to mind when you think of Emerald View Park?

What could be improved at Emerald View Park?

What is your big idea for the future of Emerald View Park?
The public survey will be open until Oct 30th
NEXT STEPS
Focused Group Workshops
NEXT STEPS
Focused Group Workshops

Join us for individual park workshops on the following dates:

- Mount Washington Park  Nov 9th
- Olympia Park  Nov 9th
- Grandview Park  Nov 10th
- Grandview Avenue & Overlooks  Nov 10th
- Ream Park & Eileen McCoy Playground  Nov 12th
- Duquesne Heights Greenway & The Saddle  Nov 12th

Registration will be posted on the EngagePGH website.

LIVE POLL: What time periods work best for you? Morning (9-12am) / Afternoon (2-5pm) / Evening (5-8pm)
NEXT STEPS
Public Workshop #2

Public Workshop #2 will review conceptual design options for the master plan. It be scheduled during the month of January, and will likely be a virtual zoom event.

It will be announced on the EngagePGH website.