The establishment of Emerald View Park was made possible by the collective effort of nearby communities. The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan builds upon decades of planning, design, and implementation by dedicated organizations and individuals. We thank those who committed their time, energy, and resources to realize the vision.

The land included in Emerald View Park and the parcels, and inspire the next generation of stewards of this land. The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan acknowledges that the land influenced this current moment in time. The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan acknowledges that the land defined as Emerald View Park today is the ancestral land of the Shawnee and Osage People. The Master Plan pays defined as Emerald View Park today is the ancestral land of the Shawnee and Osage People. The Master Plan pays tribute to generations whose lives and energy sustained the community. The land included in Emerald View Park is the ancestral land of the Shawnee and Osage People. The Master Plan pays tribute to generations whose lives and energy sustained the community. The land included in Emerald View Park and the parcels, and inspire the next generation of stewards of this land.

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan was completed in partnership with the Community Conservation Stewardship Fund (C2S2) and the Duquesne University Environmental Policy Institute (DUEPI) to promote the establishment of Emerald View Park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The diversity of community engagement strategies employed are outlined in the pages ahead. A community in the park’s neighborhoods adjacent to the park and those that have existed in the park are addressed in the park and its neighborhoods adjacent to the park.

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan was completed in partnership with the Community Conservation Stewardship Fund (C2S2) and the Duquesne University Environmental Policy Institute (DUEPI) to promote the establishment of Emerald View Park.
“Immediately across the Monongahela are the high and rugged hillsides of Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights... The outlook along the river with its varied activities to these hills immediately beyond would be notable in any part of the world. ...any provision close to the heart of the city, whereby the people can have the enjoyment of these mighty landscapes, is of particular importance. There is no doubt that the area in question should be preserved intact for all time as a monumental example of the Pittsburgh landscape.”

-Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
Report to the Pittsburgh Civic Commission, 1910
INTRODUCTION
EMERALD VIEW PARK

MASTER PLANNING CONTEXT

Emerald View Park is a 257-acre regional park located in the City of Pittsburgh’s Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights, and Allentown neighborhoods. Emerald View Regional Park is the most recent addition to Pittsburgh’s regional park system. Emerald View Park includes a variety of public open spaces, greenways, trails, Grandview Avenue, and multiple neighborhood parks (Olympic Park, Mt Washington Park, Grandview Park, Eileen McCoy Playground, and Beam Park). The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan will guide the future of the park.

The goal is to connect the park’s ecology, history, and culture in order to preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities and elevate its role as a regional destination.

The Planning History

Created in 2005 and named a regional park in 2007, Emerald View Park has undergone a remarkable transformation over the years. The Mount Washington of the mid-1700s was so heavily mined for bituminous coal that it was known as Coal Hill. Two centuries later, remediation and reforestation efforts began. Derelict and forgotten, the park was plagued by illegal dumping; cars, tires, and even parts of demolished buildings were discarded on the steep hills.

Today, visitors of Emerald View Park find winding trails, wooded hillsides, and surprise vistas. Historic spaces within the park feature picnic areas, playgrounds, ballfields, overlooks, and Depression-era sandstone steps and walls. Thanks to the continued efforts of groups including the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCCDC), the City of Pittsburgh, and partners in the community, the land has been reclaimed as a park through capital improvements, clean-ups, and habitat restoration. Past planning efforts have included the Master Implementation Plan (2005) and the Master Trail Plan (2010). The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan builds upon these past efforts.
The Planning Need
The Regional Park Master Plan for Emerald View Park presents a unique opportunity to continue to support the community vision of an iconic and community centered, connected public space. While individual projects have been planned and implemented over the last century, Emerald View Park has never had a comprehensive Master Plan. The Master Implementation Plan for the Grandview Scenic Byway Park was a pivotal document that spearheaded the formation of Emerald View Park but the plan does not include Emerald View Park’s anchor parks (i.e., Olympia Park). Additionally, while Emerald View Park is the newest park in Pittsburgh’s Regional Park system, the Regional Parks Master Plan (2000) and Update (2012) and the OpenSpacePGH plan (2013) intentionally did not include Emerald View Park in anticipation of the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan.

The Planning Purpose
The purpose of this Master Plan is to communicate the community’s vision for a cohesive regional park. The Master Plan has been developed through a planning process that has included community engagement, ecological review, and design of beautiful, functional spaces. This planning process builds upon the incredible efforts of dedicated citizens and the work of multiple past plans for the park and the OpenSpacePGH plan (2013) intentionally did not include Emerald View Park in anticipation of the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan.

The Planning Scope
The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan geography includes all 257 acres of the existing park. Included in this scope are the greenways and trails that navigate the steep slopes of Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown neighborhoods. These greenways include the Duquesne Heights Greenway, the trails of Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, the Saddle, and the trails below Grandview Avenue. The scope of the Master Plan additionally includes Grandview Park, the Emerald View Park anchor parks, Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, and the small neighborhood parks including Eileen McCoy Playground and Ream Park.

The Planning Process
Through an engaging and inclusive design process, the Master Plan has built momentum toward the future physical improvement of Emerald View Park. The opportunity for a diverse community to belong, feel welcome, gather, and interact in the public realm connects us to each other and our city. The Master Plan process has resulted in a culturally significant, implementable roadmap for the future of the park, a plan that is thoughtful and expressive, that connects and defines the community. The Master Planning process has included a robust engagement process. Master Plans present the opportunity to not only guide the transformation of physical space but also as an opportunity to design a unique process by which we collectively build trust as a community and define a final plan. The design of the master plan process included a specially tailored outreach and planning process that meets the goals and criteria of the City of Pittsburgh’s Public Engagement Guide. The principals for engagement during this planning process included:

- Transparency and open communication - legitimate processes and credibility were built through transparency and open communication with all stakeholders.
- Building a foundation of trust - re- positioned historic imperatives to build a new foundation based on trust.
- Centering of equity and fairness - acknowledgment of systematic issues and intentional efforts to address equity considerations throughout the engagement process.
- Valuing of relationships - recognition that human relationships with the community foster respect and increase engagement from representative community groups and residents.
- Maximized participation - design of thoughtful engagement processes maximizes participation of residents and stakeholders.

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EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN SCOPE

LEGEND
- Greenways + Trails
- Grandview Avenue
- Anchor Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Public Workshop #1**
  - Inventory + Analysis
  - Presented findings of initial analysis and historic review.
  - October 2020

- **Focused Group Workshops**
  - Hosted smaller group work sessions focused on specific areas of Emerald View Park.
  - November 2020

- **Public Workshop #2**
  - Master Plan Ideas
  - Shared design ideas for park based on community input.
  - February 2021

- **Public Workshop #3**
  - Draft Master Plan
  - Presented preferred final plan.
  - May 2021
The Master Plan project team used several methods to communicate with as many residents and community members as possible. Given the severity and realities of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the project’s process, social distancing, virtual site visits, and virtual engagement was necessary.

The project team understood the potential limitations of digital engagement and sought to reach members of the public who did not have access to a computer or the internet. Analog communication methods included hanging posters in individual parks, local grocery stores, and other popular neighborhood destinations. Socially-distanced intercept surveys were completed in the individual parks and popular neighborhood destinations. Socially distanced communication methods included hanging posters in individual parks, local grocery stores, and other popular neighborhood destinations. Socially-distanced intercept surveys were completed in the individual parks and popular neighborhood destinations. Socially distanced communication methods included hanging posters in individual parks, local grocery stores, and other popular neighborhood destinations. Socially-distanced intercept surveys were completed in the individual parks and popular neighborhood destinations. 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Throughout the Master Plan process, the project team conducted site visits both virtually and in-person, as social distancing requirements would allow. Because the process spanned over a year, the project team documented seasonal changes in Emerald View Park and learned how the park is used year-round by local residents and tourists. In-person site visits included ecological observations, guided walks with local experts, and conversations with local residents.

In the summer of 2020, as larger tours were not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic, the project team held several virtual site tours with members of the Advisory Committee and local residents to learn about key features in the park, ongoing projects, existing uses and circulation patterns, and important needs and desires in the park. These virtual tours were held on Zoom using Google Earth and online sketching. Each tour focused on a specific aspect of Emerald View Park, including individual parks, the greenways and trails, recreational programming, business districts, and hillside landscapes.

In addition to virtual meetings, the project team sought to connect with residents and community members throughout the professional process through online engagement. In the fall of 2020, EngagePGH became the City of Pittsburgh’s online engagement platform for ongoing planning and design projects, including the Emerald View Park Regional Master Plan. EngagePGH hosted virtual site visits and virtual engagement activities for residents to stay up-to-date on project process and upcoming public workshops.

On the Emerald View Park Master Plan page, the project team posted public surveys, notifications for upcoming public workshops and recordings of public workshops. In addition, the website hosted several engagement activities to collect public feedback in a variety of ways. Activities included a worksheet for children to draw their dream park, a poll for favorite memories in Emerald View Park, and an interactive map to locate current activities in the park and suggest future improvements.

The EngagePGH page for the Emerald View Park Master Plan reached over 3,000 visitors, with over 5,000 page views.
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 16

Demographics - included questions to understand the current use and perception of Emerald View Park. Included are:

- Over 30% of respondents saw the forest away from everything, but considered it a ‘beautiful nature experience nestled deep in the heart of a historical and unique city environment.”
- 14% of respondents mentioned ‘a city treasure kept secret from Schenley Parks in terms of immediate access,’ as it was ‘a city treasure kept secret from Philadelphia Great trails Mount Washington View of the city.

PUBLIC SURVEY

In September 2020, the Emerald View Park Master Plan project team launched a public survey to engage the local community and gather public feedback. The survey collected information on how the park is currently used and what goals and visions should be included in the future. The survey was published on the EngagePGH website and was additionally distributed as printed copies distributed in the park and to nearby community centers and businesses. The survey was open from September - November 2020 and received 210 responses.

The survey was split into five sections to better understand respondents’ relationships to the park, goals, and activities:

- Demographics of the survey respondents included:
- Age: 22% were 30-39, 41% were 40-59, and 37% were 60 and over.
- Resides adjacent to the individual parks: 77% of respondents either walk or run to Emerald View Park.
- To reach as many people as possible, the project team posted flyers throughout the individual parks and centers and businesses.
- The survey was open from September - November 2020 and received 310 responses.
- Respondents envision for the park are the trails, followed by Grandview Avenue and the overlooks. Respondents also mentioned they relax, run, visit the dog parks, and picnic in the park.
- When asked how Emerald View Park could be more accessible and welcoming, respondents recommended creating more connections between the existing ones, to improve their condition, and to create new trails as well.
- Respondents also suggested treating or kept up properly.
- The key concern for most respondents centered around the forest away from everything, but immediately felt like home for our dogs, us, and kiddo because of the trails at EVP.
- For most respondents, the trails are most popular, with 30% saying they first think of the forest away from everything, but immediately felt like home for our dogs, us, and kiddo because of the trails at EVP.
- 35% are between age 30-40, with all other age groups represented as well.
- Demographics included questions to understand your Ideas
- Activities most popular
- Park use
- Key takeaways from the survey directly informed the Master Plan process, as they identified the project’s goals and helped the design team to understand the current use and perception of Emerald View Park. Takeaways included:

- Over 30% of respondents said they first think of the trails and the views of the city when they think of Emerald View Park.
- 27% of respondents either walked or ran to Emerald View Park.
- 60% live in the Mount Washington or Duquesne Heights neighborhoods, 9% live in the Allentown neighborhood, and the remaining respondents live throughout Pittsburgh.
- Over 30% of respondents said they first think of the trails and views of the city when they think of Emerald View Park.
- The key concern for most respondents centered around the forest away from everything, but immediately felt like home for our dogs, us, and kiddo because of the trails at EVP.
- “We adore EVP. Mount Washington immediately felt like home for our dogs, us, and kiddo because of the trails at EVP.”

- A city treasure kept secret from most Pittsburghs. Not like Frick or Schenley Parks in terms of immediate recognition, but no less wonderful.”

- “Wonderful trails and overlooks, an amazing local benefit, though not treated or kept up properly.”

- “I love that I feels like you are out in the forest from everything, but then you turn a corner and you can see downtown.”

- “Excellent nature experience nestled deep in the heart of a historical and unique city environment.”

- “Dream big! What is your big idea for the future of Emerald View Park?”

- “What comes to mind when you think about Emerald View Park?”

- “I dream of a complete loop trail with a learning center to teach visitors about the history, ecology, and conservation efforts of the park. The loop should connect to nearby parks and trails, making it a central hub for visitors to access the entire park. The trail should be well-maintained, with plenty of seating and shade, making it a welcoming space for everyone.”

- “I envision a future where Emerald View Park becomes the central hub for all visitors to the neighborhood. The park should be well-maintained, with plenty of seating and shade, making it a welcoming space for everyone.”

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INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The inventory and analysis process for Emerald View Park included observation of existing conditions through field visits, stakeholder interviews, and mappings. The varied existing conditions of Emerald View Parks necessitated an inventory and analysis of the park as a whole as well as an inventory and analysis of individual parts. Emerald View Park is comprised of many different geographies including:

• **Greenways + Trails** - the open spaces and trails along the park’s steep ridges including the former Duquesne Heights Greenway, the Saddle, and Overlook Park
• **Grandview Avenue** - the public realm district at the northern edge or “front” of the hill overlooking Pittsburgh’s downtown. The overlooks along Grandview Avenue are one of the most popular tourist destinations in Pittsburgh
• **Anchor Parks** - the larger individual parks within Emerald View Park. These parks include Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, and Grandview Park. They were established at the beginning of the 20th century and attract both residents and visitors from around the Pittsburgh region
• **Neighborhood Parks** - the smaller parks popular within the Duquesne Heights and Mount Washington neighborhoods. These parks include Eileen McCoy Playground and Ream Park

The inventory and analysis on the following pages summarizes the project team’s findings categorized into four themes. Individual park findings are illustrated in the Master Plan Recommendations section.

• **History**
• **Community**
• **Connectivity**
• **Ecology**
Emerald View Park includes 257 acres of land that has been pieced together into a comprehensive park over a span of more than a century. The park’s unique shape around the hillside of Mount Washington is the result of decades of planning efforts and city acquisitions that have resulted in the preservation of the hillsides, investments in parks, and building of trails.

As evident from Emerald View Park’s evolution, much of the planning work was spurred by local residents seeking change within their neighborhoods. The involvement of local residents in Emerald View Park’s creation continues today through the collaborative efforts of many organizations working on different projects in the park.

Past and Ongoing Planning Efforts
The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan follows the history and effort spent to make this park what it is today. Emerald View Park has been a collaboration between many individuals and organizations, demonstrating the vast amount of time and effort spent to make this park what it is today.

HISTORY
Park Evolution
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, MWDCDC
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 McKeldin Roadway Improvement Project
2008 Grand View Scenic Byway Signage Master Plan
2009 Grand View Scenic Byway Park Trail Plan
2010 Grand View Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan
2011 Mount Washington Abandoned mine drainage Assessment Report
2012 Grand View Scenic Byway Landscape Project
2012 Greenleaf Trailhead Concept Design
2013 Grand View Scenic Byway Park Trail Landscape Project
2014 Emerald View Park Preliminary Archaeological Survey
2015 Emerald View Park User Survey
2015 Emerald View Park Trail Planning
2015 Summary and Analysis of Data Concerning Olympia Park
2016 Warfield Delevine & Stream Evaluation Report
2016 DDNR Park Trail Construction Project
2019 ParkListening 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
2000 Mount Washington Commercial District Improvement Plan
2010 MWDCDC Ten Year Neighborhood Housing Strategy
2017 MWDCDC Strategic Plan 2018-2022
2019 Allentown Vision 2030

Emerald View Park Today
2006 Emerald View Park Today

Before 1900
1897 Grandview Park
The city first acquired Grandview Park in 1897, which originally consisted of 38 acres of the Robinson Farm on the hillside. The park is one of the highest points in the city.

1900s Duquesne Heights Greenway
Neighborhood groups on Mount Washington identified the Duquesne Heights Greenway as a greenway project. 56 acres were designated as the Greenway.

1908 Olympia Park & Mt. Washington Park
In 1908, both Olympia Park and Mt. Washington Park were acquired by the city after nearby residents voiced their desire for a local neighborhood park.

1950s Grandview Avenue
Grandview Overlook Park was established when the railroad donated land to the City with a deed restriction for its creation. The 50 acres provided the famous urban vista that earned the Pennsylvania State Scenic Byway designation.

2000s Emerald Link and Grandview Scenic Byway
In 2001, on MWDCDC task force led the effort to establish the northern hillside of Mount Washington on the “Emerald Link,” which was a multi-use trail connecting the hillsides into one large open space. In 2002, the task force succeeded in designating Grandview Avenue, P.J. McArdle Roadway and E. Sycamore Street as a State Scenic Byway.

Emerald View Park Today
In 2006, Emerald View Park was named in a city-wide naming competition as one of Pittsburgh’s five regional parks. Today Emerald View Park spans over 250 acres in Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown.
HISTORY

Ongoing Special Projects

Mount Washington Community Development Corporation
- Developer’s Guide 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 Department of Public Works 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 Innovation and Performance
- Trail data collection (with Department of City Planning)

Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
- Olympia Park Shelter

Pittsburgh Department of Public Works - Forestry Division
- Grandview Park: Invasive species removal, viewed heater requests, reforestation
- 2030 City canopy goal (increase by 30%)
- Arlington
- Greenleaf area: landslides and modular wall project

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- NFP Activities: Park promotional activities, trails, ecological restoration
- Grandview Park viewed and habitat restoration project (in partnership with MWCDC and Richard King Mellon Foundation)
- Garden maintenance: Anchor Greene, 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

Mount Washington Community Recreation Center
- Olympia Park walking trail proposal

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

Emerald View Park and its surrounding neighborhoods played significant roles in Pittsburgh’s growth as a major industrial city. The park’s full history, presented in the appendices, reveals the many connections between the hillsides and the city’s various industries at the end of the 19th century. The park’s history also reveals how Mount Washington was valued, decades later, as a living open space protected for residents’ enjoyment and environmental impact, aiding in the City’s return from being considered the “Smoky City.”

Emerald View Park is located along the hillsides of Mount Washington. Prior to colonization, “The Mount” was home to indigenous cultures residing near the rivers of western Pennsylvania. The area later became a strategic position for armies in the French and Indian War and the Civil War. Perhaps most significant to Pittsburgh’s growth, the formation of Mount Washington 440 million years ago produced the bituminous coal that led to the City of Pittsburgh’s industrial growth and the neighborhood’s nickname as “Coal Hill.” Mount Washington was home to many European immigrant communities who came to Pittsburgh to work in the mines and factories on the riverfronts.

As Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. urged in his 1910 “Report on Main Thoroughfares and the Downtown District,” the Mount Washington hillsides should be “treated with respect as a vital part of the great landscape of the city. It should be protected from defacement and its earthy portions should be reclothed with the beauty of foliage.” Mount Washington became the site of resident-led environmental conservation efforts, ultimately paving the way for Emerald View Park as a forested regional park that serves several Pittsburgh communities. In addition to conservation efforts, the hillsides were saved from development because of their steepness and inability to be developed due to the underground mines.

INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT

12,000 B.C. - 1650

Before white settlers arrived in what is now Pittsburgh in the early 18th century, several indigenous tribes occupied the land after being forced from their homes further east. Conflict arose between the French and the British, leading to the French and Indian War, during which both sides built a large fort at the confluence of the three rivers. Following the war, the indigenous tribe land was signed over to the British and coal mining began on the informally named “Coal Hill.”

COLONIAL ESTABLISHMENT

1750s

As William Penn began to sell farmland and mining rights on Mount Washington, the city of Pittsburgh was established. Coal Hill became home to coal mines, glass factories and coke ovens, as well as German and Irish immigrants who worked in these industries and formed small communities at the top of the hill.

GEOLOGIC FORMATION

440 Million Years Ago - 12,000 B.C.

The geologic formation of Mount Washington included continental climates and periods of massive sediment erosion that formed Pennsylvania’s topography. Between 300-220 million years ago, Pittsburgh sat under swamps in a hot humid climate, which produces lush plant growth that was later transformed into bituminous coal by bacteria, pressure, and heat. These plants provided the material resource that led to Pittsburgh’s identity as an industrial city.
HISTORY

THE SMOKY CITY 1850s - 1900s
Iron and steel production for railroads around the country spurred the coal industry in Pittsburgh as it became a nationally recognized industrial powerhouse. On Mount Washington, inclines were built to ease transport up and down the steep slopes alongside the famous “Indian Trail” that traversed the now barren hills.

MOUNT WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT 1900s - 1930s
With a growing population on the hilltop of Mount Washington, roads including Grandview Avenue, McArdle Roadway and Shiloh street were paved, the first parks on the hillsides were established, and elementary and high schools were opened. Plans for the city of Pittsburgh also began to identify Mount Washington’s hillsides as a place to preserve and restore the landscape in order to attract city visitors.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION 1930s - 1980s
Led by the Women’s Club of Mount Washington, the city began to restore the hillsides by regulating coal mining and replanting the barren slopes through events such as the annual Arbor Day. In this time, Mount Washington residents worked to preserve nearby parks and the two remaining inclines.

GRANDVIEW AVENUE 1990 - 2000
With the establishment of the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC), several projects were initiated along Grandview Avenue, including a corridor study by Bobbi Cywinski Jackson and the conceptual design for Grandview Walk by Jennifer Higgins at Machian, MacLachlan Cornelius & Filoni.

EMERALD LINK & GRANDVIEW SCENIC BYWAY 2001 - 2007
The MWCDC led the effort to link the northern hillside of Mount Washington into one large open space. With the designation as a State Scenic Byway in 2002, the Grandview Scenic Byway became a city park and the MWCDC continued to work to unite all of the hillsides of Mount Washington.

EMERALD VIEW PARK 2007 - Present
In 2006, Emerald View Park was named in a citywide renaming competition and in 2007, the park was designated as one of Pittsburgh’s five regional parks. Today Emerald View Park spans over 250 acres in Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown.
HISTORY

HISTORIC FEATURES

Mount Washington’s hillsides hold many historic features that make visible the history of Pittsburgh’s development. The hillsides tell the story of indigenous life, early colonial settlement, industrial growth, and fortification during the Civil War. Visitors can travel across former incline sites that connected the bottom and top of the hillside. Redoubt earthworks constructed during the Civil War, can be found next to foundations of houses built while Mount Washington was widely known as “Coal Hill.” Trails constructed by the Works Progress Administration during the Second New Deal program can be hiked and the Bigham House, which is said to have been a stop along the Underground Railroad, is a destination. The historic sites begin to connect the park’s fragments into a varied and layered history. Together, the park’s historic features weave through the park and its surrounding neighborhoods to provide glimpses of the hillsides’ past and its evolving future as a regional park.

LEGEND

- Historic Destination
- Abandoned Mine Drainage
- Mine Entry/Opening
- Coal Seam Cropline
- Emerald View Park Trail Network
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. Median income is higher in the Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods and lower in the Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods.

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

The median age of residents near Emerald View Park is 35 years old.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), the population living adjacent to Emerald View Park consists largely of single-family households. Neighboring residents consist of families who have lived in these communities for decades as well as younger families who have recently moved to the neighborhoods.

Across the four Emerald View Park neighborhoods, as shown with the 2017 American Community Survey data, there is a divide between the eastern and western neighborhoods close to Emerald View Park, both in race and income. The Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods are largely white and reported a higher median income relative to the larger Pittsburgh area. The Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods are largely people of color and reported a lower to medium median income level relative to the city.

DeMographicS

Emerald View Park serves both local and regional communities of Pittsburgh. The park is physically located within three neighborhoods south of Downtown Pittsburgh, including Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington and Allentown. The park is also adjacent to the Beltzhoover neighborhood. The communities surrounding Emerald View Park are each unique and distinct from the larger Pittsburgh region.

Demographics

According to the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), the population living adjacent to Emerald View Park consists largely of single-family households. Neighboring residents consist of families who have lived in these communities for decades as well as younger families who have recently moved to the neighborhoods.

15% of respondents to the 2020 public survey completed for the Master Plan process said they worked in downtown Pittsburgh. 13% of respondents said they were retired, and another 15% work in Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights or Allentown. The remaining responses worked in other areas of the Pittsburgh region. These results speak to the need for residents to connect within the Emerald View Park communities and to connect to Pittsburgh’s downtown and other areas of the city.

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Land Use

Emerald View Park surrounds largely residential land uses, with a few small business districts interspersed between. Nearly every edge of the zoned Park and Open Space is adjacent to residential uses, which makes the need to communicate park entrances and to distinguish between private residential land and park land necessary.

Historically, the land use zoning for Emerald View Park has undergone several changes. First, individual parks were acquired by the city, including Grandview Park, Olympia Park, and Mt. Washington Park. In 1939, the City Planning Commission refused to put properties into the public sale process that were on slopes greater than 25%, in effect protecting the Mount Washington hillsides from further development. In 1958, a new zoning classification for Special Areas (S) that covered the steep hillsides, identified allowable uses to be overlooks, scenic drives, and conservation and recreation areas. Then, in 1998, City Planning eliminated the (S) classification and the Open Space (O) classification to consolidate into the Hillside (H) classification, which sought to promote infill development, particularly on steeper slopes. Today, the Parks and Open Space (P) classification intends to provide and maintain the City’s park system and accommodate for passive and active recreation.

Business Districts

Emerald View Park is adjacent to six different business districts that cater to both local residents and tourists.

Republic Street & Greenleaf Street is a very small commercial corridor housing a local hair salon.

Bigham Street, between both Olympia Park and Ream Park, is popular with nearby residents. This area includes Cafe Cravings and Bigham Tavern.

Further east is the Shiloh Street & Virginia Avenue business district, the biggest district near Emerald View Park and the most frequented by visitors. This area includes several restaurants, bars, and public art. The intersection between Shiloh Street and Grandview Avenue serves as a gateway into this district and could help to connect visitors to Grandview Avenue and the overlooks to these local businesses and the surrounding neighborhood.

The Grandview Public Realm District is a specified zoning district and is bounded by E Sycamore Street and Republic Street. Its main commercial area is at the western end close to the Duquesne Incline, known as “Restaurant Row”, and includes high end restaurants overlooking the city.

The Boggs-Bailey Avenue business district, which intersects Wyoming Street and William Street and extends south along the 43 bus line, offers a few restaurants, a pharmacy and other small businesses.

The Warrington Avenue district in Allegheny is a popular center for restaurants, bars, art and community services. In the center of Allegheny and connecting into Beltzhoover, this is a commercial corridor that can help to connect the various parts of Emerald View Park.
Cultural Destinations

In addition to proximity to business districts, Emerald View Park is close to many cultural destinations that often overlap or intersect with a part of the park’s trail network. These cultural destinations include many restaurants within the six business districts, historic destinations, public artworks, and schools or educational centers. Destinations both inside and outside of the Emerald View Park boundaries were identified through the Master Plan process by residents and organizational leaders. Destinations outside of park boundaries would be beneficial to connect to with additional trails or on-street connections.

Destinations in Emerald View Park

- Grandview Park Bandstand - located in Grandview Park, currently supports movie nights and yoga, future suggestions include additional music and other live performances and events.
- Olympia Park Shelter - located in Olympia Park, currently not in use due to fire damage, but being renovated to provide community functions.
- Grandview Avenue Overlooks - one of the most popular tourist venues in Pittsburgh, panoramic views of the city.
- Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines - popular tourist destinations with potential to support pedestrian travel to Emerald View Park.

Destinations outside of Emerald View Park

- Skookum Field - popular sports field that connects into Emerald View Park’s trail network.
- South Hills Junction - potential as a regional connection for Emerald View Park.
- Seldom Seen Greenway - located area in the adjacent Beechview neighborhood with potential to connect with Emerald View Park across Saw Mill Run Boulevard.
- McKeeley Park - popular community park in the Beltzhoover neighborhood.
Programming

Throughout Emerald View Park, visitors can find a wide variety of activities, ranging from organized recreational sports to passive relaxation in the park. Sports including soccer, ultimate frisbee, kickball and baseball are largely organized by the Pittsburgh Sports League (PSL) or the Washington Heights Athletic Association (WHAA), and cater to youth leagues as well as adult leagues. More informally, mountain biking is very popular on the park trails, particularly to the south of Olympia Park and through the Duquesne Heights Greensway.

Throughout the park, there are several noted spots for bird watching and wineberry foraging, especially in the trails on the south side of Mount Washington. The dog park at Olympia Park is also very popular with residents. Visitors to Emerald View Park enjoy the playgrounds at each of the individual parks: Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, Eileen McCoy Playground, and Ream Park. Additionally, several events take place within Emerald View Park, primarily in the flatter parts of the park where people can easily gather. These events include Arbor Day, July 4th at Grandview Avenue, vintage baseball games, the Community Day Picnic and the Turkey Bowl.

All of these programs show the wide diversity of experiences in Emerald View Park. While the Public Survey completed in November 2020 revealed that most visitors came to the park to hike and walk along its trails, this variety of programming is also highly sought after to engage with the Emerald View Park’s surrounding communities.

EXISTING PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

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Park Activities

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Playgrounds | Views of the City | Restaurants | Community Gardening

Restaurants

Community Gardening
Unauthorized Activities

Several unauthorized activities were observed within Emerald View Park, including dumping, graffiti, encampments, and tree-mounted hunting stands. These were primarily located along the trail system in the hillsides, and less within individual park areas.

There was little evidence of significant garbage dumping throughout the park. Dumping was largely limited to yard and building debris pushed from the cliffs near Chess Street and Southern Avenue near Mt. Washington Park.

Little vandalism was observed overall; however, graffiti was widespread throughout vertical concrete surfaces within the park. In many cases the graffiti was only visible at close range.

Hunting is currently not allowed within City of Pittsburgh parks; however, numerous tree-mounted deer hunting stands were observed. Most tree-mounted hunting stands were observed on the southwestern slope of the park.

Most of these activities occur on the edges of the park that are not as heavily populated on the interior individual parks. With improved trail conditions and more frequent maintenance of the park, these unauthorized activities could be deterred.
CONNECTIVITY

Unlike most parks, Emerald View Park does not have a one main entrance that can be easily discerned from a map. Because of its area and unique shape, the park can be entered from various points including access from individual parks and seventeen different trail entrances. A key focus for future projects in Emerald View Park is connectivity within the park and its surrounding neighborhoods, as well as with the city of Pittsburgh and its larger region.

Neighborhood Connectivity

For residents of the neighborhood, there are two primary types of connections to the park: the larger, well-marked entrances—typically with street parking—that may also be used by visitors from outside the neighborhood, and smaller, less-visible entrances that may only be known to people who live in close proximity. Many of these entrances have a historic connection to the original neighborhood parks that are now part of the larger Emerald View Park, and may hold significance to people in the neighborhood.

Of the seventeen existing trail entrances to the park, six do not have street parking or parking lot parking available. Most of these entrances are local neighborhood entrances, unlikely to be used by people from outside the neighborhood, or even the immediate blocks surrounding the entrance. Of the eleven entrances with parking, six of them are used mostly by residents nearby, not visitors from the rest of the city or regional visitors. These are mostly on auxiliary streets with little traffic.

Overall, pedestrian access to the park is limited, despite there being so many different entrances. Many of these entrances are only accessible to the immediately surrounding residents who know of the entrances or do not need to park their cars. Many entrances are also unmarked or feel too close to residences so that visitors are unsure if they are on public or private property.

The semi-hidden, locals-only feel of these entrances can be a positive aspect, however, and something for the park to potentially build upon. This culture allows for city residents to park at the larger entrances, while offering local neighborhood residents a unique connection to the park. These types of entrances could be enhanced and expanded to better connect the neighborhood to the park.
Emerald View Park can be reached by car in an approximate 10-15 minute drive from most nearby residential areas. There are bicycle paths connecting the park to its surrounding neighborhoods, though these connections could be improved and more defined for bicyclists to use. Access from lower elevations to Emerald View Park is available by driving up key streets or taking the inclines. The City of Pittsburgh’s Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) identified strategic bicycle and pedestrian routes throughout the Emerald View Park neighborhood in the Bike Plan.

There are two trail entrances with gravel parking lots, and one paved parking lot. Two of these are on the northern side of the park and are most used by park visitors coming from the downtown neighborhood, while one is on the southern side of the park, where most of the citywide and regional visitors. The well-known city views are on the north side of the park, where most of the citywide and regional visitors. The well-known city views are on the north side of the park, where most of the citywide and regional visitors. There are bicycle paths connecting to residential housing, but it is relatively far away from activity and access. It is not a highly visible entrance, but clearly reads as a public entrance into a park or trail. There is street parking adjacent to the entrance, and some sidewalk access near the entrance. It is not a highly visible entrance, but clearly reads as a public entrance into a park or trail.

There is no parking at this entrance, and no sidewalks for pedestrian access. There are no residences in this area; however, the views are open. This entrance is a crossing of the trail over Greenleaf Street rather than a viable park entry point.

Emerald View Park is accessible by driving up key streets or taking the inclines. There is street parking adjacent to the entrance, and some sidewalk access near the entrance. It is not a highly visible entrance, but clearly reads as a public entrance into a park or trail system. There is a short parking adjacent to the entrance, and some stimulus housing, but it is relatively far away from activity and access on the street. There are sidewalks on the streets—the roads are lined with rows of homes—and no pedestrian access from immediate neighborhood would be good.

Accessibility

Because of its topography and location on existing steep hillsides, Emerald View Park is very limited in how many accessible entrances it has. Most of the trail network and pedestrian entrances do not meet the 5% slope requirement for ADA accessibility, and many trail paths are too wide to accommodate for people to comfortably pass each other. This signals a need for more accessible entrances and pathways leading into both individual parks and into the trail network where possible with existing slope conditions.

Sweetbriar St - North

The Sweetbriar/S outraire entrance is not listed as a formal entrance to the park, and no signage indicates its connection to Emerald View Park. However, there is informal access, with excellent views of the city and river, and from a small stone paved plaza with the Foot of View sculpture and interpretive signage.

There is little, if any, parking at this entrance, although there is parking on streets nearby. This entrance is open—clearly identified as a public space—with lots of visitors and from the site to residential housing.

Convenience

There are two trail entrances with gravel parking lots, and one paved parking lot. Two of these are on the northern side of the park and are most used by park visitors coming from the downtown neighborhood, while one is on the southern side of the park, where most of the citywide and regional visitors. The well-known city views are on the north side of the park, where most of the citywide and regional visitors. There are bicycle paths connecting to residential housing, but it is relatively far away from activity and access. It is not a highly visible entrance, but clearly reads as a public entrance into a park or trail.

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Greenleaf St - Northwest

The entrance on this part of Greenleaf Street is simply a pedestrian crossing that connects into an trail in the woods. The small pedestrian crossing sign is a clear indicator that there is a trail in the area, even though the trail is not easily seen.

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Lizardi Way

This is an informal entrance in a low-density neighborhood, without any signs or other door markings indicating it is a trail entrance. For visitors outside of the neighborhood, this entrance may not even be noticed.

There seems to be little parking in this area. This entrance is likely mostly used by people in the immediate vicinity.

Greenleaf St - Southwest

The entrance on this part of Greenleaf Street is simply a pedestrian crossing that connects into a trail in the woods. The small pedestrian crossing sign is a clear indicator that there is a trail in the area, even though the trail is not easily seen.

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Republic St

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City Connectivity

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The entrance at Clarence Street is secluded at the end of a street, with no curbs or planning for this entrance to be a low-density housing area. This entrance is not marked, but offers a small gathering space, where bicycle parking may be placed.

Sweetbriar St - South

The entrance at Sweetbriar Street is at the end of a long cul-de-sac without cross streets, and no street or public parking. There is no sidewalk, however the traffic is lightest and most people would feel comfortable walking in the street or on the sidewalk.

A wooden fence is a small indication that this is a public access point to the trail and park system. However, there are no signs indicating the nature of the trail, or the path into the woods. The location of the public park is not visible from the parking area, and there are no clear views of the entrance to the park.

The street parking in this area is easy to interpret, but no formal entrance markers. There is no signage indicating this as a public space. However, the informal street parking in this area is easy to interpret. Some of these parking areas could be used for more service parking areas, rather than for park users.

Ha Locke

The Ha Locke entrance is a small entrance adjacent to a parking lot. It is at the end of a street, and the entrance is not marked, but offers a small gathering space, where bicycle parking may be placed.

The entrance to the trail is a small paved pathway that winds in close proximity to several residences, potentially limiting the visitor's understanding of whether or not this is a public trail or part of the public park. There are no signs indicating the entrance to indicate where to park, the nature of the trail, or other visitor information.

The entrance is in proximity to the commercial districts in this part of the neighborhood. Public parking in the commercial districts could support the use of the entrance if pedestrian access was improved. The entrance clearly denotes that this is a public park, and not private land.

The Allen St entrance is the only existing paved parking entrance to the park, although there are no signs indicating this as a public space. However, the entrance is at the end of a street, and the entrance is not marked, but offers a small gathering space, where bicycle parking may be placed.

Grace St

The entrance offers open spaces, with plenty of visibility, and eyes on the street. To an uninitiated visitor, it would not appear to be a public space. It is paved, and could potentially appear to an access road for utilities.

The Norton Street entrance is a small, unmarked entrance, yet clearly visible from the street. To an uninitiated visitor, it would not appear to be a public park. It is paved, and could potentially appear to an access road for utilities.

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There are a variety of signage types in Emerald View Park, primarily located on the trail network and at park entrances. The trail signage includes trail markers and on-street transition signs at some trail entrances, connector trail signs, and 1/5th mile markers. At individual park entrances, there are larger regional park signs with the park name, rules & regulations, park hours, and a map of Emerald View Park as a whole. These are interpretive signs along Grandview Avenue describing the history of Mount Washington and the views of the city seen along the Avenue.

Signage is helpful for those who live nearby or know of the trails and Emerald View Park already. However, many visitors and residents have said they were not aware of the trails at Emerald View Park even though they have lived close to them. Emerald View Park is also lesser known to those who live in the larger Pittsburgh area. Few know how the park is connected as a trail network and how the individual parks fit into this larger regional park. Thus, while the existing signage is helpful, the park could use more signage that connects each segment and makes each entrance more well known to residents and visitors.

In particular, many trail entrances do not have any signs, particularly on the southern entrances of the park and along the Saddle area to the north. In addition to marking the trails at these entrances, some visitors also suggested that it would be helpful to know how long and how steep each trail is before they start walking on them. Further, there are many historic and natural features along the trail network that could be supplemented by more interpretive signage like those already on Grandview Avenue.
Emerald View Park has the most topographical change of any of Pittsburgh's regional parks. The steepness of the park provides excellent views of the city and creates a celebrated sense of remoteness, but also creates many challenges related to connectivity, accessibility, and landslides.

86% of Emerald View Park’s area covers a 25% or steeper slope. According to the accessed LiDAR information, the topographic map of Emerald View Park ranges from approximate elevation of 760' at the north, to the intersection of East Carson Street and Arlington Avenue, to an elevation of 1600', at the northeast corner of the park, above Saw Mill Run Boulevard (Route 51). The park in its entirety consists of existing slopes with little to no flat or relatively flat grades. The flatter portions of the park are primarily to the south, at the lower elevations near Saw Mill Run Boulevard, the slopes are generally between 33% and 66%, with the exception of the steep rock faces and embankments directly adjacent to Saw Mill Run Boulevard. The majority of the 25% or steeper slopes exist along the northern park limits, near Carson Street and to the west of the lower elevations near Saw Mill Run Boulevard; however, several steep slopes are noted throughout the park at varying elevations. The slopes steeper than 66% are noted along Carson Street and Saw Mill Run Boulevard (Route 51). The park in its entirety consists of existing slopes with little to no flat or relatively flat grades.

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The existing trails were designed with the existing topography in mind by including workblocks where appropriate to reduce the overall grade of trails. The condition of the existing trails is elevated by functional, well maintained, wood bridges located over wet areas in certain locations. The majority of the near-surface site soils belong to the Gilpin, Weikert, and Culleoka channery silt loam. The Gilpin, Weikert, and Culleoka series consist of fine-loamy and acid fine-loamy residual soils weathered from sandstone, shale, and siltstone. According to the USDA soil survey, the depth to a water-restricting feature at the site (fragipan or bedrock) typically ranges from approximately 1 to more than 80 inches below ground surface (bgs), and the water table is more than 80 inches bgs. Around the perimeter of the park, the soils belong to the Urban Land- complex series. The Urban Land soil series consists of areas covered by pavement, buildings, or other human-transported materials.

Soils

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil survey for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania indicates that the majority of the near-surface site soils belong to the Gilpin, Weikert, and Culleoka channery silt loam. The Gilpin, Weikert, and Culleoka series consist of fine-loamy and acid fine-loamy residual soils weathered from sandstone, shale, and siltstone. According to the USDA soil survey, the depth to a water-restricting feature at the site (fragipan or bedrock) typically ranges from approximately 1 to more than 80 inches below ground surface (bgs), and the water table is more than 80 inches bgs. Around the perimeter of the park, the soils belong to the Urban Land- complex series. The Urban Land soil series consists of areas covered by pavement, buildings, or other human-transported materials.

Bedrock

The USGS digital maps indicate the bedrock along the upper elevations of the park belong to the Monticello Group with the majority of the park belonging to the Casselman Group. The Monticello Group is Pennsylvanian in age and consists of cyclic sequences of limestone, shale, sandstone, and coal.

The base of the Monticello Formation is at the bottom of the Pittsburgh Coal. The separation of the two geologic units is at the base of the outcropping Pittsburgh Coal, which is mapped on the upper park slopes at elevations ranging from 1020 to 1070 ft. The Casselman Group, also Pennsylvanian in age, consists of cyclic sequences of shale, shale, sandstone, red beds, shale, overlying limestone, and thin, nonpersistent coal. Red beds, which are associated with landslides, are mapped as outcropping along the park slopes, primarily below the elevation of the Pittsburgh Coal. Nearly all of the park slopes consist of outcropping red beds or at near the ground surface. The base of the Casselman Formation is at the top of Ames Limestone.
Landslides

Past and future landslides are of great concern to visitors to Emerald View Park. The steepness of the slopes. The City of Pittsburgh has worked to mitigate landslides on these hillsides, and continues to work to alleviate the stress on the slopes. In 2020, the project team reviewed past records and recent LiDAR data to discuss the condition of Emerald View Park’s slopes.

According to the referenced Allegheny County Landslide Portal (ACLP) and the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) landslide maps, the majority of Emerald View Park’s slopes have been labeled as slopes with moderate to severe susceptibility to landsliding due to the overlying red beds. Red beds include zones of weak claystone and indurated clay in which abundant, ancient, and recent landsliding has occurred. It should be recognized that claystone and red beds weather and decompose rapidly when exposed to air and water. As the red beds weather and decompose, they experience a significant loss of strength. Slopes in these materials are prone to slide over time, resulting in downslope instability and failure dependent upon the nature of the fill, foundation soils, design, and placement.

The areas of mapped non-fail fill consist of soil and backfill placed to raise the elevation of a site. When fill is placed on slopes and not properly keyed (embedded into competent underlying soils or rock), placed in uniform lift thicknesses, and adequately compacted, it is classified as uncontrolled fill. Slopes may be stable if they were constructed entirely of uncontrolled fill, especially when overlying red beds. The thickness and consistency of the non-fill fills, as well as the underlying foundation soil and backfill, should be evaluated prior to any major development in these areas. Because non-fill placement is not usually publicly documented, other deposits of non-fill may exist within the limits of the park.

Multiple landslide features were identified on the slopes throughout the park. The identified landslides are primarily active and/or re-activated by construction activities (fill placement, excavation,addition of building loads, etc.). Changing rainfall patterns resulting from development above the landslides, and from increased surface and subsurface water due to the removal of vegetation. These areas should be avoided to reduce the risk of re-activating the landslides or development should include addressing the landslide risk. The potential of development be proposed in these areas, an investigation is recommended to obtain additional information and develop recommendations for addressing the potential risks.

Coal & Mining

Emerald View Park’s history atop the infamous “Coal Hill” illustrates the necessity of studying the effects of past mining in the area, particularly as it affects future development. The Pennsylvania Geological Survey “Coal Resources of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania,” and the WPA Project No. 4443 (Dunham Sheet No. 3) indicate that underground mining has occurred within the vicinity of Emerald View Park, above the outcrop elevation of the Pittsburgh Coal seam. Based on the mapped outcrop of the Pittsburgh coal seam, between approximate elevations 1020 feet to 1070 feet, it appears that deep mining has occurred or affixed higher elevations of the park.

Detailed mine maps that include mining techniques or other mine features, such as entrances, shafts, or haulage ways are not publicly available, due in large part to the age of the mine. It is likely that several drifts (mine entrances) which accessed the coal seam outcrop are likely to exist on the upper portions of the slopes in the vicinity of the Pittsburgh Coal outcrop areas. Drift mine entrances are unlikely to exist as open shafts and have been sealed by backfill/beck or were previously covered with mine tailings after they were abandoned. This is an indication that the slopes below the mining operations, within the limits of the park, may contain remnants of mining operations such as mine spoils.

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ECOLOGY

Stormwater

A number of Emerald View Park’s existing conditions influence the existing stormwater flows and future stormwater strategy. This includes concerns about water infiltration as it relates to abandoned mine drainage and potential landslides, the park’s steep topography, the presence of subsurface drainage infrastructure, and the limited opportunities to direct water flowing downhill into the park spaces.

The greatest opportunity for stormwater management in Emerald View Park may be outside the limits of the park’s boundaries. Several streets carry large amounts of water downhill in the southern side of the park’s neighborhoods into Saw Mill Run, through both subsurface and surface channels. The local combined stormwater and sewer system running along Saw Mill Run carries contaminated water into Saw Mill Run during heavy rains. There may be an opportunity within the Seldom Seen Greenway on the other side of Saw Mill Run Boulevard to capture some of this water, away from abandoned mine drainage and landslide issues.

Another opportunity outside of the park is to capture runoff in the local neighborhood streets. There are some opportunities to direct this runoff into park areas, but not all of it can be managed in park spaces. The places where water can be directed to the park from the city streets, underground drainage system, or captured on-site within the park itself could help mitigate some of the larger stormwater issues facing Pittsburgh, including overflow of contaminated water into the rivers and the adjacent neighborhoods.

Emerald View Park has small areas of open space that could be adapted to stormwater management, including a renovation of the play area with a focus on capturing and treating stormwater.

Grandview Avenue—along the edge of Grandview Avenue there are opportunities to capture the stormwater coming off of the street. Any minor renovations to the street itself, or new entry plazas, could incorporate stormwater management.
In 2005, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) conducted an extensive forest study of Emerald View Park. According to their study, at the time, the park was approximately 438 acres with 65.9% forested, 13.9% woodland, 10% developed land, 2.7% shrubland, 1.5% open field, and less than 1% appraised vegetation cliff (WPC, 2005). In 2020, the project team reassessed the park and confirmed that the findings of the 2005 study remained largely accurate. Differences in forest composition observed were the result of increases in the number and density of non-native and invasive plants and the loss of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer infestation.

The project team utilized the WPC forest study data and observed the following key differences between the 2005 forest survey and 2020 the site conditions:

- The white ash (Fraxinus americana) mixed hardwood forest adjacent to Route 31 observed in 2005 has transitioned to a black cherry (Prunus serotina) woodland dominated by a dense understory of invasive plants.
- The emerald ash borer infestation has resulted in the loss of green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica) trees in poor health due to age and stress and confirmed large areas of the forest were dominated by Norway maple (Acer platanoides). Many areas of the park were dominated by other non-native species, which include Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum), wineberry (Rubus phoenicolasius), and tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima). Multiple utility rights-of-ways (ROW) near Pittsburgh’s West End have acted as distribution corridors for invasive species resulting in non-native trees out competing native species on the western side of the park.
- The invasive species that pose the greatest threat to Emerald View Park are oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and tree of heaven. For herbaceous invasive species resulting in non-native plants were observed in small clusters near trail heads and appeared to be healthy. This attempt at reforestation through tree planting has not resulted in a detectable forest loss; however, it has not resulted in a measurable benefit.

Invasive Plant Species

Invasive species are introduced plants and animals that negatively affect their new environment. Environmental damage can occur through prolific reproduction of these new species, resulting in their competition with native species for the selection, damage, and death of native species. The project team observed many black locusts (Robinia pseudoacacia) were in poor health due to age and stress and confirmed large areas of the forest were dominated by Norway maple (Acer platanoides). Many areas of the park were dominated by other non-native species, which include Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum), wineberry (Rubus phoenicolasius), and tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima). Multiple utility rights-of-ways (ROW) near Pittsburgh’s West End have acted as distribution corridors for herbaceous invasive species resulting in non-native trees out competing native species on the western side of the park.

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Natural Resource Features

Many natural resources are present within Emerald View Park including rock outcrops, wetlands, seeps, small streams, and small waterfalls. Most of the rock outcrops are on the northeastern slope along existing trails, and many are obscured behind dense vegetation.

Most water features are located on the southwestern slope of the park, relatively near or crossing existing trails; however, seeps and small waterfalls were observed above the cliffs near Pittsburgh’s West End away from existing trails. The water quality of the streams within the park varies from clean to contaminated with abandoned mine drainage.

Invasive Plant Species

- Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum) has been observed growing in utility ROWs. Japanese knotweed forms dense thickets that smother native vegetation that would otherwise help control runoff and reduce erosion. During winter, brittle brown stems are left behind, often revisiting garlic and garlic fern scattered through the park. These species attack the surrounding vegetation, producing a measurable benefit.

Invasive species observed

Invasive species observed by WPC include oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and tree of heaven. These species and the infection, damage, and death of native species can negatively affect their new environment. Environmental damage can occur through prolific reproduction of these new species, resulting in their competition with native species for the selection, damage, and death of native species.

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- Many natural resources are present within Emerald View Park, including rock outcrops, wetlands, seeps, small streams, and small waterfalls. These resources are the result of increases in the number and density of non-native and invasive plants and the loss of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer infestation.

- The highest quality habitat observed was the oak woodland on the southwestern side of the park where the forest is mature, and a lower density of invasive species is present.

- An overabundance of white tail deer has led to the destruction of sub-canopy vegetation and has limited tree regeneration throughout the park. Overgrazing was observed within the higher-quality forests on the southwestern side of the park as well as the invasive dominated steep northeastern slopes.

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The Emerald View Park Master Plan is driven by five goals and corresponding design and policy strategies related to each of the five goals. The goals build from the mission, vision, and strategy statements of past planning efforts, and the collective input from the Master Plan Advisory Committee, community stakeholders, and neighbors. The goals support a vision for an inclusive Emerald View Park that connects the park’s ecology, history, and culture, preserves the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities, and elevates its role as a regional destination.

Today Emerald View Park is a constellation of incredible amenities including large parks, wild trails, awe-inspiring views, and neighborhood gathering places. Each amenity individually supports the community in many ways, but connections between these special places remain disjointed, lacking collective identity and circulation.

The vision for Emerald View Park is fundamentally about connectivity; culturally, physically, and ecologically. The Master Plan goals and strategies provide public connectivity for residents and visitors together through a thoughtfully designed system of ecologically robust and expressive open spaces.

The five Master Plan goals are flushed out in further detail on the following pages:

1. Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities
2. Elevate the park’s identity as a regional destination
3. Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system
4. Maximize the park’s ecological performance
5. Build momentum for the future of the park

EMERALD VIEW PARK TODAY

EMERALD VIEW PARK IN THE FUTURE

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EMERALD VIEW PARK IN THE FUTURE
GOALS + STRATEGIES

PARKS
Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities

Strategies
• Renovate existing park amenities
• Introduce new park amenities in keeping with historical character
• Define park entrances
• Simplify site geometries and materials
• Identify available flat land for large gathering spaces
• Improve park edges and connections to immediate neighbors
• Consider parks as trail heads
• Improve park accessibility
• Design contemplative spaces
• Introduce additional signage

GRANDVIEW AVENUE
Elevate and enhance the park’s identity as a regional destination

Strategies
• Expand the Grandview Avenue visitor experience from East to West
• Improve the pedestrian experience of Grandview Avenue
• Promote connections to business districts
• Visualize park identity with regional park signage and unique Emerald View Park wayfinding
• Connect Grandview Avenue to larger trail network

TRAILS + CONNECTIONS
Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system

Strategies
• Connect missing links in trail networks
• Establish stronger park connections through neighborhoods
• Provide welcoming, regional connections to adjacent neighborhoods
• Design urban hiking loops to highlight history and public art
• Create stronger connections with neighborhood cultural institutions
• Design for accessibility
• Define trail heads and crossings
• Improve trail materials for a variety of uses
• Connect park to public transportation hubs
• Develop parking strategy

ECOLOGY
Maximize the park’s ecological performance

Strategies
• Identify locations for forest and habitat restoration
• Select native plantings to create a unique sense of place
• Balance conservation and viewshed management
• Incorporate educational opportunities
• Manage invasive species
• Mitigate erosion and landslide issues
• Manage stormwater in parks
• Manage stormwater in streets

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION
Build momentum for the future of the park

Strategies
• Develop phasing plan
• Develop cost estimates
• Prioritize first-phase projects
• Test design ideas with temporary projects
• Identify programming strategy and responsibilities
• Build capacity with local existing and new partnerships

Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities

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• Renovate existing park amenities
• Introduce new park amenities in keeping with historical character
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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Master Plan is a guide for Emerald View Park’s future physical development with conceptual design recommendations, phasing plans, and cost estimates. The Master Plan ensures that individual park improvements and day-to-day decisions fit within a larger vision, and that fundraising and implementation are properly sequenced and contribute to long-term goals.

The five Master Plan goals have been translated into physical design strategies that relate to the geographic scope of the Master Plan:

1. Parks
2. Grandview Avenue
3. Trails + Connections
4. Ecology
5. Phasing + Implementation

Specific recommendations include strategies for renovated amenities in the individual parks, proposed connections within Emerald View Park, connections across neighborhoods, proposed gateways, view maintenance, park edge improvements, connections to business districts, and opportunities to highlight historic features, provide space for new and existing programs, ecological restoration, and stormwater management. Design recommendations for these strategies are summarized on the map on the following page and elaborated in more detail by geographic scope in the recommendations section of the Master Plan.
RECOMMENDATIONS
PARKS
Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities

Some of Emerald View Park’s most loved neighborhood assets are its individual parks. The individual parks include the Emerald View Park anchor parks (Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, and Grandview Park) and the Emerald View Park small neighborhood parks (Ream Park and Eileen McCoy Playground). These spaces function in many ways as parks within the park. These parks support the daily life of Pittsburgh’s residents by providing important amenities such as walking paths, community centers, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, dog parks, and recreational fields. The first goal of this Master Plan is to preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities.

While each individual park maintains its unique history and current use, collectively these spaces share many similarities and needs for future improvement. This section of the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan includes both recommendations for strategies that are consistent for all the individual parks and site-specific strategies for each individual park.

Renovate existing park amenities

The structural bones of Emerald View Park’s individual parks are very good. Pathways are used for fields, main circulation routes logically follow the realities of topography, and overlooks take advantage of stunning views. Over the years, however, materials have degraded, renovations with budgetary constraints have created short-term solutions, and convenient vehicular access has become a priority over the comfort of people on foot or bike. As is developed in more detail in the following pages for each individual park, the Master Plan recommends the renovation of many existing park amenities. These projects include renovation of existing structures, including the Olympia Park shelter, the Grandview Park amphitheater and overlook, and the Mt. Washington Park shelter. Additionally the renovation of recreational assets is recommended. This would include the renovation of playground structures, basketball courts, lawns, community gardens, and parking lots.

Introduce new park amenities in keeping with historic character

In addition to the renovation of existing park amenities, the Master Plan recommends the introduction of new park amenities to compliment existing assets and the historic character of the park. New park amenities include new overlooks, multi-purpose fields for large gatherings, picnic groves, yoga lawns, slopes for winter activities, wetland walks, and playfields. Use of historic precedent materials and forms in a contemporary style is recommended.

Define park entrances

Emerald View Park’s individual parks function as parks within the park and there is often confusion regarding a cohesive Emerald View Park identity. Additionally, many of the existing park entrances are underutilized, cluttered, and lack the dignified stature of an entrance to a regional park. The Master Plan recommends defining park entrances to be cohesive in their material character. The use of landscape elements including stone walls, signage, concrete paving, and visual branding to identify Emerald View Park is recommended. Renovation of historic sandstone walls and stairs at many entries is recommended. New walls or stairs should take inspiration from the historic materials and incorporate stone and Belgian block.

Consider parks as trail heads

Each park in Emerald View Park is also connected to the Emerald View Park trail and greenway network. In addition
to improving the formal entrances to the individual parks, the Master Plan recommends considering the parks themselves as trail heads. By leveraging the parks’ locations and ability to draw residents to park amenities, each park could be considered a trail head itself by providing clear signage to draw residents to park amenities, each park could be considered a trail head itself by providing clear signage.

Improve park edges and connections to immediate neighbors

Currently, many of Emerald View Park’s edges are unclear, unsafe, and inaccessible. The Master Plan recommends improving the park edges and connections to immediate neighbors with investment in streetscape improvements and gateways. Site furniture such as walls should be consistent with other Park signage standard. Site features such as walls should be consistent with other Park signage standard. Gateways should include signage in keeping with the Regional Park signage standard. Site features such as walls should be consistent with other Park signage standard.

Introduce additional signage

New signage for Emerald View Park has been introduced across the park. However, multiple signs at many park entrances clutter visitors’ views and compete for attention. Where steep topography creates sharp differences in grade change between streets and parks, ornamental fencing should be considered. Gateways should include signage in keeping with the Regional Park signage standard. Site features such as walls should be consistent with other Park signage standard.

Simplify site geometries and materials

Emerald View Park site materials have been subjected to decades of wear and tear. While park maintenance occurs regularly throughout the park, the age and consistent use of park facilities is evident in worn down paving materials, crumbling walls, patched utility fixes, and over used lawns and seating areas. The Master Plan recommends replacing circulation routes through the parks using a palette of asphalt, concrete, and crushed stone. On main circulation routes, incorporation of reclaimed Belgian blocks along path edges is recommended. This paving treatment references historic paving throughout the park. In many places paving repair jobs or deteriorating edging has created overly complicated paving patterns. The Master Plan recommends editing and simplifying path layouts to consolidate existing signage is recommended. Pittsburgh’s Regional Park signage standards are also recommended for Emerald View Park’s individual parks.

Identify available flat land for large gathering spaces

In addition to strategically planning for accessible access to Emerald View Park’s steep slopes, the Master Plan identifies available flatland for large gathering spaces. Many survey respondents commented on the need for areas for large community events. Currently most flat land in the park is utilized for formal recreational fields. The Master Plan recommends continued use of the fields for recreation while incorporating design details to allow for multi-functional gathering. Turf profiles designed for high traffic use and maintenance that correlate with recreational multi-functional gathering. Turf profiles designed for high traffic use and maintenance that correlate with recreational multi-functional gathering. Turf profiles designed for high traffic use and maintenance that correlate with recreational multi-functional gathering. Turf profiles designed for high traffic use and maintenance that correlate with recreational multi-functional gathering.

Design contemplative spaces

The scenic nature of Emerald View Park’s anchor parks lend themselves well to providing small scale spaces for contemplation. Small trail loops, seating areas and groves away from high traffic areas are recommended to diversify the types of park uses available.
MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS  

OLYMPIA PARK

- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed gateways
- Proposed park edge improvements

LEGEND

Duquesne Heights
Mount Washington
Grandview Park
Ream Park
Eileen McCoy Playground
Grandview Avenue
Virginia Ave
Woodruff St
Bailey Ave
Shaler St
Beltzhoover Ave
Allen St

Duquesne Heights
Mount Washington
Grandview Park
Ream Park
Eileen McCoy Playground
Grandview Avenue
Virginia Ave
Woodruff St
Bailey Ave
Shaler St
Beltzhoover Ave
Allen St
Olympia Park, located on the South Western slopes of the Duquesne Heights neighborhood is one of the largest individual parks in Emerald View Park. The park is currently home to the Olympia Park Shelter, the Olympia Park dog park, playgrounds, recreational courts, the Olympia Park baseball field, and trail connections.

History
Olympia Park was first acquired by the city of Pittsburgh in 1908, after residents of the area voiced their desire to have a local neighborhood park. It was named Olympia Park in reference to the center of public recreation in ancient Greece. The park focused on athletic uses, containing a ball field, a recreation center and a playground for young children. At one time in its history, the park also offered a swimming pool and bath house and the ballfields was flooded in the winter to convert it into a skating rink.

Prior to its acquisition and the development of the Mount Washington neighborhood, Olympia Park was agricultural farmland owned by Thomas Bigham and his family, whose house still stands in neighboring Chatham Village. Bigham was a known abolitionist lawyer, and his home is believed to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The Olympia Park Shelter that stands in the center of the park was built in the 1930s. In 2009, the building suffered a fire which closed its operations, and the Department of Public Works has been working on its repairs since, including a roof replacement and interior demolition and stabilization work. In 2015, the MWCDC hosted community meetings to determine the future of the building and its role in the park. The Master Plan builds off of those efforts.

Existing Conditions
Olympia Park is an approximately X acre park in the Duquesne Heights neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The park sits in a small valley between Olympia Road and Hallock Street. The park’s main entrance is on Virginia Avenue near the intersection of Olympia Street. Chatham Village, located

OLYMPIA PARK

Olympia Park Development Plan, 1943

Olympia Park Landscape Plan, 1910
along the park’s eastern side, is a private community. Fencing and steep slopes currently prohibit connections between Chatham Village and the park. Connections to the Duquesne Heights Greenway trails currently exist at the end of Hollack Street.

Circulation through the park consists of a primary route that runs north to south through the middle of the park from the Virginia Avenue entrance to the Olympia Park Shelter. This primary route supports maintenance vehicles and vehicle access to the shelter. The route feels like a road with wide asphalt paving and large street signs indicating speed limits. Secondary circulation is provided on smaller concrete and asphalt paths along the dog park’s edge and from the middle of Hollack street to the shelter. A public sidewalk continues along Virginia Avenue and halfway down Hollack street where it abruptly ends at the entrance to the park. Parking is available at the southern end of Hollack Street. The parking lot is not striped and feels informal. ADA accessible parking spots are not indicated. Currently there is no pedestrian access on the southern and eastern edges of the park due to lack of trails, steeper slopes, and existing vegetation. The southern end of the park includes available space for future contemplative programs, stormwater management, and trail access. The eastern edge of the park could be maximized for access and connections to the trail network and the existing playground.

A diversity of landuse and program currently occupy the park. The Olympia Park dog park is a popular destination for residents. The dog park is located on the western slope of the park. Existing lawn is worn down and maintained annually. Entrances to the dog park are also worn down and often muddy due to stormwater collecting at the entrances that are also low points. Seating is limited in the dog park and grass surfaces and pavement is worn down and often muddy.

Passive open space with lawn planting and trees transitions from the dog park to the playground and courts. The playground was recently renovated and the courts are in okay condition. Site furniture including benches and trash cans are worn down.
OLYMPIA PARK COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

Community Input
Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

OLYMPIA PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Hillside bioswales (see Ecology strategies page 168)
The baseball field is currently well used by neighborhood recreational groups. Surrounding site walls and site furniture are worn down. Spectator seating is very limited.

The Olympia Park Shelter is an existing facility within Olympia Park, built in 1914. The City of Pittsburgh is moving forward with a renovation of the facility starting in May 2021.

The Picnic Pavilion is a hexagonal open-air structure resting on a concrete slab on grade, constructed of a painted steel structure (posts and roof framing), wood roof decking and asphalt shingle roofing. The seating is accommodated by fixed painted metal tables/benches and low precast knee walls. The ceiling of the Pavilion (underside of wood deck) is painted and requires upkeep. The condition of the Pavilion is good.
Existing Virginia Ave Entrance

OLYMPIA PARK VIRGINIA AVENUE PROPOSED ENTRANCE

- Accessible drop-off
- Concrete sidewalks with underground utilities and metal fence (as needed)
- Entry wall
- Regional park signage
- Asphalt paving, Belgian block edging, and Emerald View green brick threshold
- Improved views to Olympia Park Shelter House
- Entry wall
GRANDVIEW PARK

South Side

Mount Washington

LEGEND

Proposed program opportunity on flat land

Proposed gateways

Proposed park edge improvements

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS GRANDVIEW PARK + BIGBEE FIELD

Mount Washington Park

Grandview Park

Ream Park

Eileen McCoy Playground

Olympia Park

Grandview Avenue

Virginia Ave

Woodruff St

Bailey Ave

Shaler St

Beltzhoover Ave

Allen St

Ohio River

Monongahela River
Grandview Park, located on the North Eastern slopes of Grandview Park, connects the Mount Washington neighborhood with the Allentown neighborhood. It is one of the largest individual parks in Emerald View Park. The park is currently home to the Grandview Avenue bandshell and overlook, park landscapes, a playground, courts, parking, and trail connections. Grandview Elementary School is also located adjacent to the park and shares the parking lot and playground amenities. Grandview Park additionally includes Bigbee Field along Bigbee Street.

History

Grandview Park was the first piece of Emerald View Park to be acquired by the city of Pittsburgh. Purchased in 1897 from the Robinson family, the park originally contained eighteen acres of hillside land. A picnic shelter and a merry-go-round were built for the park in 1912, operating until 1946. The merry-go-round was designed by Thomas Scott and depicted animals including horses, lions, tigers, deer, giraffes, ostriches, kangaroos, and goats.

In 1909, the city acquired the two water towers that still stand today in Grandview Park, originally owned by the Monongahela Water Company. These two towers provide rudimentary water service to Allentown and Mount Washington residents. Together with its recreational features, Grandview Park has become a well known asset for the Mount Washington and Allentown communities.

As one of the highest points in the city at 1255 feet above sea level, Grandview Park was also used as a base for the topographical survey of Pittsburgh. An overlook was constructed in 1958 which has been used as a platform for band concerts and for theatre performances since.

In 1961, Grandview Elementary School was established at the eastern side of Grandview Park. In 1996 a playground was constructed next to the school in the park, which is also near where the original shelter house used to stand.
Existing Conditions

Grandview Park is an approximately X-acre park in the Mount Washington and Allentown neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. The park sits on the North Eastern slope of Emerald View Park. The park’s main entrance is located at the end of Bailey Avenue. A secondary entrance is located at the end of Allen Street. The Bailey Avenue entrance includes history sandstone stairs and fountain as the main pedestrian access. This entrance also includes a prominent vehicular entrance for park maintenance vehicles. Multiple signs are located at this entrance. Connection to the Emerald View Park trail network exists in multiple locations in the park.

Circulation through the park consists of a primary route that runs North West to South East. This primary route supports maintenance vehicles and vehicular access between the parks entrances. The route feels like a road with wide asphalt paving. Secondary circulation is provided on smaller concrete and asphalt paths on the sloped hillside. The Allen Street entrance includes a parking lot that is shared with the Grandview Elementary School. The parking lot is not striped. ADA accessible parking spots are not indicated.

The existing open-air Bandshell in Grandview Park was designed in the same era as the overlooks in the late 1960s, situated along Grandview Avenue. The bandshell is of mid-century modern design and cast-in-place concrete construction. There is a large circular concrete lid over full height concrete walls. Behind the bandshell, there is an occupiable platform that overlooks the City, protected by a continuous metal guardrail. The bandshell includes a service space within, locked from public access. There is minimal lighting and AV functionality. The bandshell is perched on the edge of the hillside, supported by an approximate 10’-0” concrete retaining wall. A park trail runs adjacent to the retaining wall at a slightly lower elevation and is largely hidden from public view. The concrete of the bandshell walls, lid, and retaining wall are painted. Being fully exposed to the elements (UV, rain, snow, salt, etc), the paint requires continuous upkeep to maintain. The retaining wall at the back is largely hidden from view and is covered in graffiti.

Existing Program

Existing Circulation

Existing Bailey Avenue entrance

Existing Allen Street entrance

Existing trail entrance

Existing Olympia Park Shelter

Existing amphitheater lawn

Existing amphitheater

Existing trail entrance stone steps

Existing trail entrance

Existing Olympia Park Shelter

Existing amphitheater

Existing trail entrance stone steps

Existing trail entrance

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Existing Olympia Park Shelter

Existing amphitheater

Existing trail entrance stone steps

Existing trail entrance
**GRANDVIEW PARK COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS**

- **BAILEY AVENUE**
  - Desire for better entrance and connection to business district

- **MCLAIN STREET**
  - Need for ADA parking
  - Desire for playgrounds to be renovated

- **BELTZHOOVER AVENUE**
  - Entrance prioritizes vehicular access
  - Desire to renovate fountain as part of the stairs and entrance

- **ALLEN STREET**
  - Flat area used for a variety of activities, desire for it to be larger
  - Need to maintain views of city skyline

**Community Input**

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

**GRANDVIEW PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Restored walls and steps**
- **Renovated entrance**
- **Narrowed entrance**
- **Renovated parking**
- **Restored amphitheater**
- **Overlook seating**
- **Renovated playground**
- **Renovated trail entrance**

(Images of park before and after renovation, highlighting specific areas and improvements.)
There is a cast concrete amphitheater adjacent to the bandshell that is served by stone steps. The steps are cracked, misaligned, and settling. Between the amphitheater and the bandshell is concrete hardscape, which is cracked and/or patched in multiple areas. There are portable restrooms situated at the edge of the hardscape.

The bandshell and surrounding hardscape would benefit from renovation. The benefit of the improvements is potential higher use as a community amenity and/or a revenue generator, increased variety of programs, and increased safety for visitors.

The existing playground and basketball courts are well worn and in need of site improvements and equipment replacement. Limited site furniture including benches, picnic tables, and trash cans, are located throughout the park and are in various states of disrepair.

GRANDVIEW PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommended Program
- Recommended Circulation

Maintained views (see Ecology strategies page 170)
 existing Bailey Ave. Entrance

GRANDVIEW PARK BAILEY AVENUE PROPOSED ENTRANCE

- Regional park signage
- Narrowed entrance
- Wide sidewalk
- Entry garden
- Entry wall and signage
- Restored stone entrance and fountain
Existing Allen Street Entrance

GRANDVIEW PARK ALLEN STREET PROPOSED ENTRANCE

- Entry garden
- Asphalt paving, Belgian block edging, and Emerald View green brick threshold
- Updated playground
- Regional park signage
- Renovated parking lot with designated accessible parking
- Entry wall and signage
BIGBEE FIELD RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended Circulation

- Existing program
- Proposed program

- Trail connections
- ADA accessible connection

Proposed program

Existing program

- Entrance or gateway
- Park pedestrian circulation
- Trail connections

Recommended Program

- Multi-purpose field
- Picnic terrace
- Renovated entrance, stairs, and ADA access

Bigbee Tennis Court Construction Documents, 1935

Bigbee Field, 2020

Viewshed management (see Ecology strategies page 170)
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 102

Mount Washington

MT. WASHINGTON PARK

LEGEND

- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed gateways
- Proposed park edge improvements

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS MT. WASHINGTON PARK

Mt. Washington

Monongahela River

Ohio River

Mount Washington

Park

Eileen McCoy Playground

Olympia Park

Grandview Avenue

Virginia Ave

Woodruff St

Bailey Ave

Shaler St

Beltzhoover Ave

Allen St
Mt. Washington Park is located on the southern most point of Emerald View Park in the Mount Washington neighborhood. It is the smallest anchor park in Emerald View Park. The park is currently home to the Mount Washington Shelter, Dilworth Field, a playground, courts, and trail connections.

History
Mt. Washington Park was established in 1908, again at the demand of local citizens, and in the same year Olympia Park was established. Once productive farmland, the park first covered about fifteen acres of the hillside. It is now just under twenty-one acres of land.

Much of the land is so steep that the park was nicknamed “goat park” by some. The park has also gone by the name of Wilbert’s Grove and Dilworth Park. The park includes a playing field and a children’s playground. In 2009, the Pittsburgh Boxing Club opened in Mt. Washington Park’s Dilworth Shelter House.

Existing Conditions
Mt. Washington Park is an approximately X acre park in the Mount Washington neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The park’s main entrance is located at the intersection of Ennis Street and Norton Street with access to different park amenities provided a multiple locations along Norton Street. The Ennis Street entrance includes historic sandstone stairs and trail access to the Mount Washington trails. Additional trail access is currently hidden behind the shelter.

Circulation through the park consists of a primary route that runs parallel to the sidewalk along Norton Street. Steep grade change creates divisions between circulation to the fields and the sidewalk. Existing retaining walls are in good condition but would need further investigation to determine lifespan and need for replacement.
Dilworth Field occupies a majority of the park landscape. Due to steep topography, two baseball fields are located at two different elevations and separated by a large retaining wall. Flooding in the outfield of the lower field has made the field unusable. Spectator seating for the fields is difficult to navigate and in disrepair. Simplification of the seating and integration of seating into the existing hillside is recommended.

The shelter is a one-story enclosed facility constructed of stone walls with wood framed roof structure and asphalt shingle roofing. The windows throughout are secured with metal bar grating. The entry doors are metal, and badly worn. There appear to be overhead doors for vehicular access into the facility, at both the front and the rear. The facility is symmetrical from front to back.

Due to the width and opacity of the facility, sightlines across and around the facility are not available. As the facility is one-story, it accommodates ADA accessibility. The facility is open to community groups for long-term rentals. It is currently occupied by the Pittsburgh Boxing Club. There does not appear to be visual or programmatic connection between the existing facility and the adjacent spaces (basketball court, play structure, etc). The play structures to the side and the rear of the facility have been recently renovated.

The facility and surrounding hardscape would benefit from improvement. The benefit of the improvements is potential better use as a community amenity, increased variety of programs, and increased safety for visitors.
MT. WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

Entrance to trail is unclear
Desire for stronger park gateway and trail entrance
Desire for ADA trail
Field frequently used
Field underutilized, currently floods, one of few spaces in EVP with flat land
Picnic grove in meadow clearing
Field underutilized, currently floods, one of few spaces in EVP with flat land
Desire for stronger park gateway and trail entrance
Multi-purpose field with bioswales and underground stormwater management (see Ecology strategies page 168)

Community Input

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

Entrance to trail is unclear
Desire for stronger park gateway and trail entrance
Desire for ADA trail
Field frequently used
Field underutilized, currently floods, one of few spaces in EVP with flat land
Picnic grove in meadow clearing
Field underutilized, currently floods, one of few spaces in EVP with flat land
Desire for stronger park gateway and trail entrance
Multi-purpose field with bioswales and underground stormwater management (see Ecology strategies page 168)
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN

NORTON ST
DILWORTH ST
ENNIS ST

Multi-purpose field
Renovated entrance and sidewalk

Renovated entrance

New trail entrance

Trail connections

Recommended Circulation

MT. WASHINGTON PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Field
Terraced lawn
Restored stone steps and entrance

Multi-purpose field with bioswales and underground stormwater management (see Ecology strategies page 168)

Recommended Program

Existing program
Stormwater management
Proposed program

Recommended Program

DILWORTH ST
NORTON ST

Picnic grove
Accessible boardwalk example

ADA accessible path
Multi-functional lawn example

Restored stone steps and wall

Multi-purpose field

Accessible boardwalk example

Picnic grove

MT. WASHINGTON PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Estimated trail access
Restored stone steps and wall

Multi-purpose field with bioswales and underground stormwater management (see Ecology strategies page 168)

Recommended entrance or gateway
Trail pedestrian circulation
Trail circulation
MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS REAM PARK

LEGEND
- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed gateways
- Proposed park edge improvements

MONONGAHELA RIVER
OHIO RIVER

Monongahela River
Ohio River

REAM PARK

Proposed program opportunity on flat land
Proposed gateways
Proposed park edge improvements
Ream Park, located in the Mount Washington neighborhood at the intersection of Merrimac Street, Virginia Avenue, and Woodruff Street is one of Emerald View Park’s small neighborhood parks. The park is currently home to the Warrington Recreational Center, Ream Pool, a playground, and community garden.

History

The Ream Playground was established between 1910-1923 and named after its former landowner, C. Ream. The original recreation center and swimming pool was built in 1940 and quickly became a popular spot for local Mount Washington residents.

In 2007, the Mount Washington Community Recreation Center was officially established as a non-profit organization and re-opened the center at the park, which had been closed since 1995. A year later, the playground was renovated. Today, Ream Park hosts many recreational activities for local youth, including a community garden at the southern corner.

Existing Conditions

Ream Park is an approximately X-acre park in the Mount Washington neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The park’s main entrance is located at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Merrimac Street, with access to different park amenities provided at multiple locations along Merrimac Street. Woodruff Street anchors the southern end of Ream Park. Steep grade change from north to south creates challenging access to the park. The lack of trees on Merrimac Street also creates an unpleasant pedestrian experience.

Because of the topographic change, Ream Park is divided into three main areas: the entrance and playground, the Recreation Center and pool, and the community garden. While some playground equipment has been upgraded, site furniture, paving, and amenities are in need of replacement. Playground equipment is mismatched in color. The tree canopy in the playground provides ample shade. Access to
The Recreation Center is located along Merrimac Street. This entrance also provides access to the pool entrance. Access to the Recreation Center’s garage is also located along Merrimac Street. The community garden is highly visible at the intersection of Merrimac Street and Woodruff Street but access is only available from the pool.

The Mount Washington Community Recreation Center and pool are existing facilities situated within Ream Park, built in 1940. The Recreation Center is currently in use by one or more community groups. The Recreation Center was included in the 2017 City of Pittsburgh Facilities Optimization Plan, conducted by Massaro Corporation. The summary of that plan identified the proposed renovation of the Recreation Center for use as office space and an addition of an elevator for accessibility. Alternatives included providing a new detached restroom building for the spray park or selling the Recreation Center. The conceptual estimate of cost for the renovations was estimated at $550,000 (2017 estimate). The conceptual cost of building a new restroom building was $40,000 (2017 estimate). The Optimization Plan identified that the Recreation Center is in Fair condition and has a lot of space, but it is very underutilized because of its location.

The Recreation Center, pool, and surrounding hardscape would benefit from improvement. The benefits of the improvements include potential higher use as a community amenity and/or a revenue generator, increased variety of programs, and increased accessibility.
COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

- Community garden
  - Well used but hard to access on hillside
  - Desire for better streetscape
- New sidewalk connection
- Renovated playground
- Renovated community garden
- Gateway entrance
- Renovated entrance and sidewalk
- New sidewalk connection
- Maintained vehicular access

COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Desire for gateway entrance
- Steep street lacking trees, desirability for better streetscape
- Desire for better access to pool from playground
- Desire for prominent gateway entrance
- Playgrounds well used, could be renovated
- Community garden
  - Well used but hard to access on hillside
  - Desire for better streetscape

COMMUNITY Input

- Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings.
- The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.
EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND

Duquesne Heights

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND

LEGEND

- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed gateways
- Proposed park edge improvements

0' 3000' 1500'
EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND

Eileen McCoy Playground, located in the Duquesne Heights neighborhood at the intersection of Shaler Street and Greenleaf Street is one of Emerald View Park’s small neighborhood parks. The park is currently home to playgrounds, a splash pad, swings, half basketball court, and a deck hockey court.

History

The land that is now the Eileen McCoy Playground sits on former hilly farmland owned by the Shaler family. In the 1930s, this small park was left open to become a future playground, which is now named after Eileen McCoy, a Duquesne Heights resident. The playground has several different play structures, courts, and a water spray feature for children to explore.

Existing Conditions

Eileen McCoy Playground is an approximately X acre park in the Duquesne Heights neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The park’s main entrance is located along Shaler Street. A secondary vehicular entrance is located on Greenleaf Street. The majority of the park is dedicated to playground equipment. Some playground equipment has been replaced recently but the spray fountain, site amenities, and deck hockey court are in disrepair. A sloped lawn at the intersection of Shaler Street and Greenleaf Street is underutilized and could be used for picnicking or gathering or gateway signage. Greenleaf Street lacks a sidewalk. Access to the park is hard to navigate on foot. Existing wooden steps connect Greenleaf Street and could be replaced to make a safer connection to the playground.
**EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND**

**COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS**

- **Desire to expand basketball court**
- **Need to resurface deck hockey court**
- **Some playground features recently renovated**
- **Entrances could be beautified**
- **Desire to renovate steps to connect playground and Skookum Field**
- **Lack of sidewalk**
- **Desire for gateway**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Renovated entrance**
- **Gateway signage and renovated sidewalk**
- **Renovated steps**
- **Expanded basketball court**

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**Community Input**

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

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**EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Entrance or gateway**
- **Park pedestrian circulation**

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**Recommended Circulation**

- **Existing program**
- **Proposed program**
RECOMMENDATIONS
GRANDVIEW AVENUE
Grandview Avenue is Emerald View Park’s regional destination. As part of the Grandview Scenic Byway, it is a local, regional, and national asset. Originally paved as a road in the late 1800s, Grandview Avenue, along with P.J. McArdle Roadway and East Sycamore Street, received designation as a State Scenic Byway by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2003. With stunning views of Downtown Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh’s three rivers, and the city’s surrounding landscape, Grandview Avenue is one of the City’s most memorable streets. As the city’s front porch, Grandview draws tourists and residents alike.

This section of the Emerald View Master Plan includes recommendations for strategies along Grandview Avenue to continue to elevate and enhance the park’s identity as a regional destination.

Expand the Grandview Avenue Experience from East to West

Grandview Avenue is enjoyed by many but the visitor experience has the potential to be expanded. Grandview Avenue has a strong association with many community-focused events throughout the year, giving the avenue a reputation as a memorable place in the city. Already a popular destination for city visitors, the corridor is rich in amenities including restaurants with city views, the inclines, the public library, and the business districts.

These amenities and recent renovations along Grandview Avenue, however, are not consistent along the entire length of the avenue and are not well connected as a cohesive pedestrian experience. Investment in the streetscape and renovation of overlooks is ongoing along Grandview Avenue’s eastern end. Grandview Avenue’s central core and western end suffer from poor streetscape conditions and pedestrian comfort should be improved.

Renovations are planned for the existing Grandview Avenue overlooks along Grandview Avenue’s eastern end. Investment in the renovation of the Point of View statue as an updated overlook is recommended. An expanded platform, additional seating, viewing areas, planting, paving, lighting, and real-estate signage is recommended.

Improve the pedestrian experience of Grandview Avenue

The Master Plan recommends expanding the Grandview Avenue experience to include streetscape improvements along the entirety of the avenue to improve the pedestrian experience. Currently vehicular lanes are wide, sidewalks are narrow, and shade is limited. Streetscape improvement recommendations include reduced vehicular travel lanes, specialty paving, clearly defined crosswalks, wider sidewalks, underground utility lines, repaired historic railings, and street trees where trees would not conflict with desired views.

Promote connections to business districts

Grandview Avenue benefits from close proximity to multiple business districts including Shiloh Street and “Restaurant Row” within central core of Grandview Avenue between Meridian Street and Oneida Street. Continued promotion of connections to the business districts is recommended. Streetscape improvements, gateways, signage, and programming to link Grandview Avenue to its business districts are recommended.

Additional connections through Emerald View Park to adjacent neighborhood business districts are recommended. Streetscape and wayfinding improvements to connect Grandview Avenue to the Bailey Avenue business district are recommended.

LEGEND

- Extended Grandview Avenue experience
- Proposed on street connections
- Business districts
- Views to maintain or enhance

IMPROVE THE GRANDVIEW AVENUE EXPERIENCE FROM EAST TO WEST

ELEVATE AND ENHANCE THE PARK’S IDENTITY AS A REGIONAL DESTINATION

GRANDVIEW AVENUE
and from Grandview Park along Beltzhoover Avenue and Allen Street to Allentown’s Warrington Street business district are recommended.

Visualize park identity with regional park signage and unique Emerald View Park wayfinding

Grandview Avenue is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. However, it is currently unclear that Grandview Avenue and the Grandview Scenic Byway is part of Emerald View Park. A cohesive park identity that incorporates the City’s Regional Park Signage Standards and additional visual cues is recommended. Emerald View Park wayfinding currently marks specific points along Grandview Avenue but the medallions are often easy to miss. Additional visual cues, including a trail of green bricks and interpretive signage could create a easily identifiable route along Grandview Avenue and within Emerald View Parks individual parks.

Connect Grandview Avenue to larger trail network

The western and eastern ends of Grandview Avenue currently provide access to Emerald View Park’s expansive trail network. However, the trailheads are not prominently marked and are difficult to find. There is opportunity to attract a larger, broader audience to the trail system as a regional destination. Trailhead renovations, including updated signage, site walls, native planting, and trail materials would define entrances and provide safer access to the trails.

History

Grandview Avenue has had a long history in the Mount Washington neighborhoods and its improvement was the original impetus to create an Emerald Link, now Emerald View Park, on the hillsides of Mount Washington.

In 1890, Grandview Avenue was first paved after many years of stalled planning. For its first fifty years, Grandview Avenue served as a neighborhood street used by workers to access the inclines that took them to mill, mine, and railroad jobs on the river. Houses faced the street, not the city, because the city view was obscured by smoke from the prosperous mills.

Decades later, as the industrial boom declined in the City of Pittsburgh, the area changed along Grandview Avenue when the railroad donated land to the City for a park. The park’s 50 acres provide the famous urban vista that earned a Pennsylvania State Scenic Byway designation in 2003.

Federal highway funds were used in 1963 to develop the east Grandview Avenue into a tourist destination, including the Monongahela Incline at the eastern most edge. These funds were used to build the four observation platforms, new lighting, fencing, park benches and street trees.

In 2019, the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) renovated three sections of elevated sidewalks along Grandview Avenue. The projects included replacing the deteriorated precast concrete beams with new precast concrete. The Grandview Avenue overpasses are slated for renovation by DOMI and will include the rehabilitation of the four overpasses, painting of railings, minor repairing of concrete walls adjacent to the parking bumpouts, and new light poles along Grandview Avenue's western end.
Community Input

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.
GRANDVIEW AVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS (WEST)

- Defined trail head
- Seating
- Overlook
- Defined trail head
- Overlook
- Seating
- Maintained views (see Ecology strategies page 170)

GRANDVIEW AVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS (EAST)

- Seating and views
- Renovated sidewalk and guardrail
- Streetscape improvements
- Maintained views (see Ecology strategies page 170)
- Gates
- Signage

- Overlook example
- Trail material example
- Terraced overlook example
- Visual identity example

(see Ecology strategies page 170)
Existing Grandview Avenue streetscape.

**PROPOSED STREETScape GRANDVIEW AVENUE (WEST) - OPTION 1**

- Improved crosswalks
- Undergraded utilities
- Improved streetscape

**PROPOSED STREETScape GRANDVIEW AVENUE (WEST) - OPTION 2**

- Undergraded utilities
- Improved crosswalks
- Improved streetscape

**Existing Grandview Avenue streetscape.**
PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (EAST) - OPTION 1

- Widened sidewalks with flush curbs, new paving, and Emerald View green brick wayfinding
- Improved crosswalks
- Repaired fencing
- Street furniture
- Managed views (see Ecology strategies page 170)

PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (EAST) - OPTION 2

- Widened sidewalks with flush curbs, new paving, and Emerald View green brick wayfinding
- Improved crosswalks
- Repaired fencing
- Managed views (see Ecology strategies page 170)
Emerald View Park's trail network is a hidden gem in the City of Pittsburgh. Because Emerald View Park consists of mostly steep slopes with little to no flat grades, the primary way to enjoy the park is via its trails. Emerald View Park's trails include the Duquesne Heights Greenway, trails through the Saddle, and trails connected to奥林匹a Park, Grandview Park, and Mt. Washington Park. Most dominant trails within Emerald View Park are in good condition. Community stewards of the park have provided maintenance and ongoing improvements over the years.

This section of the Emerald View Master Plan includes recommendations for trail and connection strategies to connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system. These recommendations build off of the recommendations from the 2010 Emerald View Park Trail Master Plan.

Connect missing links in trail networks

While many miles of trails have been added to Emerald View Park in recent years, there are still gaps in the trail network. The Master Plan recommends connecting those missing links in order to finalize a cohesive trail network across the park.

One area of particular focus is the Saddle, the region of the park connecting Grandview Park with Grandview Avenue. The Saddle is fragmented by roads, private property, and abandoned properties, resulting in this region not feeling like part of the park. The Saddle has easy pedestrian accessibility and appears to be highly used, which is evident by the presence of light amounts of litter. Maintaining easements for trail access on private property are recommended.

An additional missing trail link is between Mt. Washington Park and Olympia Park across Woodruff Street and through Chatham Villages private property. The Master Plan recommends working in partnership with Chatham Village to allow trail access through the property to fully connect the trail system between two of the park's most valuable assets.

Provide welcoming, regional connections to adjacent neighborhoods

The Master Plan recommends connecting Emerald View Park's trails to adjacent neighborhoods by making welcoming regional connections. Key connections to the West End neighborhood, Seldom Seen Greenway, the Southside, and Station Square are recommended. Physical improvements include streetscape improvements, gateway signage, and pedestrian crossings.

Create stronger connections with neighborhood cultural institutions

The neighborhoods of Emerald View Park benefit from a wide array of cultural institutions including schools, public libraries, and business districts. The Master Plan recommends the inclusion of new trails to facilitate stronger connections with these cultural institutions.

Design for accessibility

86% of Emerald View Park is on land that is on 25% or higher slope. The steep topography necessitates careful and intentional planning for the integration of ADA.

Establish stronger park connections through neighborhoods

Today, Emerald View Park's trail network follows the park's steep hillside along the outer edges of the park. The Master Plan recommends locations for strategic on-street trails to connect across Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown neighborhoods. While these streets are out of the explicit boundaries of Emerald View Park, the perpendicular connections they could provide would allow for greater access to the park and more opportunities for connections through the neighborhoods. Streets for on-street trails were selected based on a selection criteria that included grade change, ability to connect key park destinations, alignment with park entrances or gateways, and proximity to cultural institutions and business districts.

TRAILS + CONNECTIONS

Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system
Recommended gateways + trail heads

Emerald View Park trail network
Proposed connections
Existing trail entrances
Proposed trail entrances + crossings
Public transit

Recommended urban hiking trail loops

Emerald View Park loop 1
Emerald View Park loop 2
Emerald View Park loop 3
Emerald View Park loop 4
Emerald View Park loop 5
Historic sites
Public art
Public transit
Emerald View Park trail network
Proposed connections
Existing trail entrances
Proposed trail entrances + crossings
Public transit

Improve trail materials for a variety of uses

Generally Emerald View Park’s trails are in good condition and are maintained by volunteers and park rangers. There are opportunities to improve or restore trail materials for a variety of uses including hiking, mountain biking, cross-country running. Building off of the recommendations in the 2010 Emerald View Park Trail Master Plan, OpenSpacePGH, and the City’s Greenways for Pittsburgh Resource Guide, trail widths and materials should be determined by trail slope and proximity to seeps and streams. Integration of boulders, wooden decking, and wooden railings to stabilize trail edges, create seating areas, and provide safe stream/seep crossings are recommended.

Design urban hiking loops to highlight history and public art

Emerald View Park is home to miles of hiking trails through steep greenways and hilly forests. In addition to improving and expanding access in the wilder areas of the park, the Master Plan recommends adding urban hiking loops to the trail network. The urban hiking loops include on-street trails and park trails and are strategically aligned to highlight neighborhood history, culture, and public art.

Connect park to public transportation hubs

Emerald View Park benefits from close proximity to a variety of public transportation infrastructure types: inclines, buses, light rail, bike share, bike lanes. The Master Plan recommends adding on-street and park trails to provide more convenient and comfortable access to public transportation hubs including the Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines, bus lines, and the South Hills Junction T stop.

Develop parking strategy

The Master Plan recommends improvements to trail head parking in addition to renovations of existing parking lots in individual parks. Expansion or clarification of parking areas would increase park usage. Green infrastructure techniques could be utilized when updating or adding new parking areas.
PROPOSED TRAIL HEAD OPTIONS

- Native planting
- Stone gateway + signage
- Wooden fence
- Belgian block threshold
- Stone seatwall
- Seasonal planting
- Parking

Typical trail entrance
Typical trail entrance with gathering space
Typical trail entrance with gathering space + parking

Stone gateway and wooden fence
Native planting and invasive species management (see Ecology strategies page 170)
**PROPOSED TRAIL MATERIALS**

- **Easy Trail (0-5%)**
  - Stone retaining wall (as needed)
  - Wood post + rope railing (as needed)

- **Intermediate Trail (5-10%)**
  - Stone retaining wall (as needed)

- **Advanced Trail (>20% slope)**
  - Stone retaining wall (as needed)

**Trail material example**

- **Stepping Stone Trail**
- **Wood Boardwalk Trail**
- **Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management**
  (see Ecology strategies page 168)

**Trail material example**
RECOMMENDATIONS

ECOLOGY
Emerald View Park is an extensive ecological resource for the city of Pittsburgh. The park manages stormwater, filters air pollution, and maintains habitat for local flora and fauna. Many efforts in recent years have included projects to maximize the ecological performance of the park. Ecologically focused initiatives include innovative approaches to managing stormwater, soils, wildlife habitat and plantings; in addition to the responsible use of regional materials for site work. The Master Plan aims to continue this work and strategically align any future investment in ecological resources with placemaking aspirations. To maximize the park’s ecological performance, the Master Plan layers multiple benefits within each recommendation. Ecological strategies and their locations were based on their ability to be co-designed to include benefits to trails, parks, recreation, and placemaking.

Manage stormwater in parks

There are a number of existing conditions of Emerald View Parks surrounding context that drive the development of a stormwater strategy for the park. Concerns about water infiltration as it relates to abandoned mine drainage and potential landslides are a primary concern. The steep topography is another. And the presence of subsurface drainage infrastructure, and limited options to direct water flowing downhill into the park spaces is yet another. Incorporation of bioswales and rain gardens with native plants and educational signage into park landscape improvement projects is recommended. Due to park’s history with abandoned mine drainage and undermining, designing the green infrastructure to slow down peak flows during rain events with ways and surface detention as opposed to infiltration is required.

There are opportunities to use funds for stormwater management—with the aim of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park spaces while storing stormwater. For example, park recreational facilities in the anchor parks, such as the baseball fields, in Olympia Park and Mt. Washington Park, could be upgraded through stormwater funding to accommodate a large amount of runoff. The use of bioswales, rain gardens, or subsurface retention tanks (r-tanks) could be integrated to provide maximum stormwater benefit to a recreational upgrade. These projects must be carefully designed, with underdrains and other engineered features to prevent water infiltration and abandoned mine drainage. However, these are standard techniques that are not difficult to implement.

In addition to incorporating larger stormwater management strategies into renovation projects in the larger anchor parks, the smaller neighborhood parks including Eileen McCoy Playground and Beam Park offer opportunities to redirect stormwater from the streets into playground and court areas. Development of basketball courts or hockey rinks into a combination court/stormwater facility could manage large amounts of stormwater, and reduce the burden of pipes downstream.

Manage stormwater in streets

The greatest opportunity for stormwater management in the neighborhood may be outside of the limits of the park’s scope of this plan. Several streets carry large amounts of water down the northern side of the neighborhood into Sawmill Run, through both subsurface and surface channels. The local combined stormwater and sewer system running along Sawmill Run overflows contaminated water into Sawmill Run during heavy rains. There may be an opportunity within the Seldom Seen Greenway on the other side of Sawmill Run Boulevard to capture some of the water, away from abandoned mine drainage and landslide issues.

There are several sites along Sawmill Run that could potentially be prime locations for stormwater management. These sites include the Seldom Seen Greenway on the other side of Sawmill Run Boulevard to capture some of the water, away from abandoned mine drainage and landslide issues.

Another opportunity outside of the park is to capture runoff in the neighborhood streets. There are some opportunities to direct this runoff into park areas, but not all of it can be incorporated. The area at the foot of Woodfield Street, across Saw-Mill Run Boulevard in the land dedicated to the Seldom Seen Greenway is a prime example. This area does not have the issues with abandoned mine drainage, and has open land that could be used to detain and clean water before it enters the storm system. Discontinuing some of the drains upstream would likely be needed.

Incorporation of bioswales and rain gardens with native plants and educational signage into park landscape improvement projects is recommended. Due to park’s history with abandoned mine drainage and undermining, designing the green infrastructure to slow down peak flows during rain events with ways and surface detention as opposed to infiltration is required.
 managed in park spaces. The places where water can be directed to the park from the city streets, underground drainage system, or captured on-site within the park itself be managed to provide multiple benefits such as climate of the park’s forest communities and how they can best that considers the long-term sustainability and resilience reducing their potential to absorb stormwater runoff when lack a suitable understory, limiting their habitat value and Norway maple and tree of heaven. These forests largely forest community, dominated by invasive tree species like Previous reforestation attempts have been relatively small restoration approach is needed that is built on a scientific the park as a whole. A comprehensive, ecological measures as well as replanting plans.

Identify locations for forest and habitat restoration

Previous information attempts have been relatively small and in isolated locations. Due to their scale, they have had less effect in repairing forest health and biodiversity within the park as a whole. A comprehensive, ecological restoration approach is needed that is built on a scientific foundation that includes invasive species control measures as well as replanting plans.

A large proportion of the park is comprised of an urban forest community, dominated by invasive tree species like Norway maple and tree of heaven. These forests largely lack a suitable understory, limiting their habitat value and reducing their potential to absorb stormwater runoff when compared to a forest with a healthy understory and ground vegetation layer. It is parallel with the recommended invasive species control plan, a comprehensive forest restoration and management plan should be developed that considers the long-term sustainability and resilience of the park’s forest communities and how they can best be managed to provide multiple benefits such as climate resilience, stormwater attenuation, and wildlife habitat. One of the few green spaces along western Emerald View Park is the result of a large historic landslide near

Diverse viewsheds help manage

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Diverse viewsheds help manage
RECOMMENDATIONS
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION
This section of the Master Plan recommends a series of strategies to build momentum for the future of the park through phasing and implementation.

The Master Plan includes a multi-year phasing plan that identifies short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects. The phasing timeline was determined by input from both community residents and City of Pittsburgh staff and is based on the selection criteria of feasibility, cost, and need. Short-term projects were determined based on their ability to be quickly implemented, lower costs, and consistent feedback from stakeholders of the immediate need for improvements. Medium-term projects were determined based on the feasibility of implementation, funding, and implementation coordination. Long-term projects were determined based on the aspirational vision from stakeholders and the feasibility of implementation, higher costs, and implementation coordination.

Priorities first phase projects:

First phase projects signal an appetite to move from the Master Plan to tangible physical improvements. The Master Plan phasing plan identifies short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects. First phase short-term projects were determined based on their ability to be quickly implemented, lower costs, consistent feedback from stakeholders of the immediate need for improvements. Short-term projects additionally leverage projects that are already underway or have funding currently allocated. The Master Plan recommends a series of first phase, short-term projects that immediately build momentum for all five goals of the Master Plan.

Identify programming strategy and responsibilities:

While the Master Plan recommends physical strategies for park improvement, the success of Emerald View Park is also visible ecological improvements. Completion of currently missing trail connections would complete the Emerald View Park trail loop and connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system. Implementation of existing park amenities including the restoration of the Olympia Park Shelter and the Grandview Park amphitheater have been long-sought after by community advocates and would provide necessary community gathering space and facilities.

Programming aligned with neighborhood needs should be focused on the Grandview Avenue and Grandview Park corridor. Recommended that visitor or tourist programming be focused on the activation of the park through programming. Temporary signage could be tested with day-long pop-up events to illustrate in real-time the impact of wider sidewalks, additional seating, and programming. Partial conversion to on-street urban trails by highlighting the proposed urban hiking loops that connect to business districts, historic sites and public art.

Test design ideas with temporary projects:

While funding, partnership building, and continued analysis and design is need for both medium-term and long-term projects, momentum can be built by highlighting projects in the short-term. The use of temporary projects can generate excitement for these projects, build community interest, and test design ideas to understand the best use of space.

The streetscape recommendations for Grandview Avenue could be tested with day-long pop-up events to illustrate in real-time the impact of wider sidewalks, additional seating, and programming. Temporary signage could build momentum for on-street urban trails by highlighting the proposed urban hiking loops that connect to business districts, historic sites and public art.
## PHASING STRATEGY

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<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Project Partners</th>
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<td><strong>Short-term Projects (0-6 years)</strong></td>
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### Cost estimates for improvements across Emerald View Park

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### Build capacity with local existing and new partnerships

Emerald View Park exists because of the deep commitment of local partners, residents, and organizations. The Master Plan recommends, through the phasing strategy, continued capacity building with local existing partners and the potential of new partners to facilitate implementation.

### Develop cost estimates

Cost estimates for improvements across Emerald View Park provide a grounding of the realities of implementation and orders of magnitude for fundraising efforts. Relative project phase costs are included in this section and detailed cost estimates for individual projects and park geographies are included in the Appendix.

### Recommended Parcel Acquisition

- City-owned, legislated park parcels
- Non-city-owned, legislated park parcels
- City-owned, non-legislated park parcels
- Non-city-owned, non-legislated park parcels
- Proposed, city-owned parcels
- Proposed, privately individually owned parcels
- Proposed, privately, corporate-owned parcels
See supplemental Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan Appendices document for appendices A-F:

- Appendix A: Public Engagement Plan
- Appendix B: Public Survey Results
- Appendix C: Emerald View Park History
- Appendix D: Ecological Assessment
- Appendix E: Geologic Assessment
- Appendix F: Cost Estimates