EMERALD VIEW PARK
REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

City of Pittsburgh
Department of City Planning
August 2021
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The establishment of Emerald View Park was made possible by the collaborative efforts of many. 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 reframe the hillside into a Regional Park platform and woodlands. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

We are pleased to publish this Emerald View Regional Park Master Plan, a unique community-driven plan for a unique regional park. The master plan, like the park itself, has been a collaborative effort, a long time in the making. Since Emerald View Park formed in 2005, many individual park improvements and plans have helped to shape the park and make it the eclectic public space we know today. However, the park lacked a cohesive and comprehensive plan, which includes everything from recreational facilities and neighborhood amenities to the formal park and trail systems. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded the City of Pittsburgh a grant to complete a master plan.

The process is the result of over a year of work led by the Department of City Planning, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and our consultant team, led by Merritt Chase landscape architects, along with a dedicated Advisory Committee and public input from residents and park users. The project looked in on a high time of uncertainty, as the global coronavirus pandemic began. Despite the limitations of many components typical to a planning process, such as group site visits, in-person public meetings, and direct engagement in the parks, we believe we were able to make up for these challenges with modified tools.

We held virtual site visits, past and present, and made use of the City’s new EngagePGH website with online surveys and virtual tools. We supplemented virtual tactics with physical signage, in-person engagement, and direct engagement in the parks, when possible. The project was led off by a high time of uncertainty, as the global coronavirus pandemic began. Despite the limitations of many components typical to a planning process, such as group site visits, in-person public meetings, and direct engagement in the parks, we believe we were able to make up for these challenges with modified tools.

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“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 PLAN

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 Park includes a variety of public open spaces, greenways and trails, Grandview Avenue (part of the Grand View Scenic Byway), and multiple neighborhood parks (Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, Bigbee Field, Elbean McCoy Playground, and Ream Park). The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan (the 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.

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 with illegal dumping of cars, tires, and parts of demolished buildings.

Today, visitors of Emerald View Park find winding trails, wooded hillsides, and surprise vistas. Historic spaces within the park feature picnic areas, playgrounds, ballfields, over balconies, and Depression-era sandstone steps and walls. Thanks to the continued efforts of groups including the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC), 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.
Planning Need
The Emerald View Park Regional Master Plan presents a unique opportunity to contribute to 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 Grand View Scenic Byway Park (2005) was a predecessor that spearheaded the formation of Emerald View Park but the plan does not include Emerald View Park’s anchor parks (e.g., Olympia Park). Additionally, while Emerald View Park is the newest Pittsburgh Regional Park, the Regional Parks Master Plan (2000) and Update (2012) and the OpenSpace/GFP plan (2012) did not include Emerald View Park in anticipation of the Emerald View Park Regional Master Plan.

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 process that has included community engagement, ecological review, and design of beautiful, functional spaces. This planning process builds upon the efforts of dedicated citizens and the work of multiple past plans for the park in order to coordinate a contemporary, comprehensive master plan to define the next generation of Emerald View Park.

Planning Scope
Emerald View Park is comprised of many different geographies that were included in the Master Plan scope including:

- Greenways & trails - the open spaces and trails along the park’s steep bluffs 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, as part of Grandview Overlook Park, are one of the most popular tourist destinations in Pittsburgh. Beginning at P.J. McAndie Roadway and 10th Street, Grandview Avenue is part of the Grand View Scenic Byway.
- Anchor parks - the larger individual parks within Emerald View Park. Three parks include Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, and Grandview Park (including Bigbee Field). These places 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 with the “front” neighborhoods and residents living within walking distance. These parks include Eileen McCoy Playground and Resin Park.

Public Engagement
Master plans not only guide the transformation of physical places but provide the opportunity to collectively build trust as a community and define paths toward implementation. Through an engaging and inclusive design process, the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan builds momentum toward the future physical improvement of the park. The Master Plan is a significant, implementable road map for the future of the park, a plan that is thoughtful and expressive, and that connects and defines the community. The Master Plan process included robust public engagement, including a specially tailored outreach and engagement process that exceeds the goals and criteria of the City of Pittsburgh’s Public Engagement Guide. The principles for engagement during this planning process included principles adapted from the City of Pittsburgh for city-wide community engagement

- Transparency and open communication - legitimate processes and credibility built through transparency, and open communication with all stakeholders.
- Building a foundation of trust - inclusive, respectful, and transparent processes to build a new foundation based on trust.
- Centering of equity and fairness - acknowledgment of systemic 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 to maximize participation of residents and stakeholders.

The Master Plan process began in the summer of 2020 and concluded in the summer of 2021. Over the course of the project, the advisory committee, community members, and stakeholders participated in a variety of in-person activities in order to shape the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan. The project team was comprised of representatives from the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of City Planning, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and the consultant team, led by Merritt Chase landscape architects. The advisory committee included participants from neighborhood community organizations, local non-profits, city departments, elected officials, and neighborhood residents.

A timeline of public engagement for the project and descriptions of public engagement activities are described in more detail on the following pages. For the full Public Engagement Plan for the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan, see Appendix A.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

Public Workshop #1
Inventory + Analysis

October 2020
Presented findings of initial analysis and historic review.

Focused Group Workshops

November 2020
Hosted smaller group work sessions focused on specific areas of Emerald View Park.

Public Workshop #2
Master Plan Ideas

February 2021
Shared design ideas for park based on community input.

Public Workshop #3
Draft Master Plan

May 2021
Presented preferred final plan.

Advisory Committee Meeting
EngagePGH feedback
Online Engagement
Public Workshop
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Beginning in July 2020, the Master Plan project team met regularly with an Advisory Committee. The Committee represented a diverse group of individuals who use the park regularly and will be involved in the future implementation of the Master Plan. The organizations and communities represented in this committee included the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (CDC), the Allegheny CDC, Neighbors on the Mount, MountWashington Community Recreation Center, Mount Washington Community Garden, and Council Districts 2 and 4. The Advisory Committee reviewed project progress, participated in virtual and in-person site visits, and helped identify and develop the community’s vision for the park.

IN-PERSON + VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

Throughout the Master Plan process, the project team conducted site visits virtually and in-person, as social distancing requirements were put in place. The project team documented seasonal changes in Emerald View Park and learned how the park was used year-round by local residents and tourists. In-person site tours included ecological observations, guided walks with local experts, and conversations with local residents.

During the summer of 2020, as larger tours were not possible due to the 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 of Emerald View Park. These virtual visits were held on Zoom using Google Earth and online sketching tools. Each tour focused on a specific aspect of Emerald View Park, including individual parks, the pathways and trails, recreational programming, business districts, and local communities.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED COMMUNICATION

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated an altered engagement strategy for the Emerald View Park Regional Master Plan process. Given the anxiety and realities of the COVID-19 virus, socially distanced engagement was required. The project team used socially distanced surveys, virtual site visits, and virtual meetings to communicate with as many residents and community members as reasonably possible.

While a majority of engagement occurred through virtual methods, the project team used the potential limitations of digital engagement and aimed to reach members of the public who did not have access to a computer or the Internet. Analog communication methods including hanging posters in individual parks, local grocery stores, and other popular neighborhood destinations. Socially distanced intercept surveys were completed in the individual parks, and paper surveys were provided to community organizations.

IN-PERSON + VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

The project team connected with residents and community members through online engagement in addition to virtual site visits. In the fall of 2020, EngagePGH (www.engagepgh.org) 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 project updates and virtual engagement activities for residents interested in project progress and upcoming public workshops.

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated an altered engagement strategy for Emerald View Park and the project team. Given the anxiety and realities of the COVID-19 virus, socially distanced engagement was required. The project team used socially distanced surveys, virtual site visits, and virtual meetings to communicate with as many residents and community members as reasonably possible.

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Three public workshops were held during the Master Plan process to gain public feedback on the project’s progress. The public workshops were held virtually. The project team used breakout rooms and virtual pin-up boards to encourage conversation and gain informal feedback from participants.

The first public workshop was held in October 2020, and focused on introducing the Master Plan project, reviewing the project team’s initial analysis, and presenting a historic review of Emerald View Park. The public workshop gathered participants’ initial feedback on goals for the park. The second public workshop was held in February 2021. The project team presented a draft of the Master Plan’s goals and design strategies. During this meeting, participants split into breakout rooms for conversation on specific geographic areas of the park, including Mt. Washington Park and Olympic Park, River Park and Eden’s McClure Playground, Greenshade Avenue and Greenshade Park, and the Ogontz Triangle Greenway and Trails. The final public workshop was held in May 2021 to review a draft of the final Master Plan.

PUBLIC FOCUSED GROUP WORKSHOPS

Emerald View Park is comprised of many individual parks within several different neighborhoods. Because of the park’s geographic complexity, the project team held public focus group workshops to gather deeper feedback on specific geographies from stakeholders.

Following the first public workshop in October 2020, the project team held focus group workshops for each individual park within Emerald View Park. These workshops were more focused and included a presentation of the project team’s initial inventory and analysis for each part of the park. Each focus group had a facilitator who was most familiar with each individual park. Feedback received included specific needs and goals of the park, existing uses and circulation patterns, historical features, and ideas for creating more accessible and inviting parks.
In September 2020, the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan project team launched a survey to gather initial public input. The survey collected information on how the park is currently used and what goals and visions should be included for the future. The survey was publicly available on EngagePgh.gov and paper copies were distributed at the park and to nearby community centers and businesses. The survey was open from September - November 2020 and received 310 responses.

The survey was split into five sections to better understand respondents' relationship to the park, ideas, and concerns:

- **Demographics**: included questions related to zip code, age, gender, race, and income level.
- **Park Overview**: included questions to understand general knowledge and perception of Emerald View Park and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected park use.
- **Your Experiences**: included questions to understand how the park is currently used and which areas and activities are most popular.
- **Your Concerns**: included questions to identify concerns about the park, including environmental and maintenance concerns.
- **Your Ideas**: included questions to understand what respondents envision for the park.

To reach as many people as possible, the project team posted flyers throughout the park and neighborhoods, provided paper surveys to community organizations, participated in socially distanced neighborhood destinations, and placed hand-out signs on properties adjacent to the individual parks. Flyers and hand-out signs provided guidance for those who were not able to attend.

Demographics of the survey respondents:

- 60% lived in the Mount Washington or Duquesne Heights neighborhoods.
- 25% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 31% identified as female, 46% as male, and 3% as non-binary or preferred not to say.
- 97% identified as white, 3% as Hispanic/Latino, 3% as Black/African American, and 1% as Asian.

Key takeaways from the survey informed the Master Plan process. Responses helped to shape the Master Plan goals and recommendations. Takeaways included:

- Over 30% of respondents said they think of the trails and the views of the city when they think of Emerald View Park.
- 27% of respondents either walk or run to Emerald View Park, and 23% drive to the park. (The survey questions allowed respondents to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%).
- Within Emerald View Park, the most popular areas are the trails, followed by Grandview Avenue and the overlooks and Grandview and Olympia parks.
- The most popular activities for respondents are hiking, walking, and visiting the overlooks. Respondents also relax, run, visit the dog parks, and picnic in the park.

The key concerns for most respondents centered on the maintenance of Emerald View Park and its trails.

When asked what Emerald View Park offers that is accessible and welcoming, respondents recommended having better signage, making the park more well-known in the city, and improving the paradox and ADA accessibility for visitors.

Many respondents’ ideas for Emerald View Park focused on the trail: create more connections between the existing ones, improve their condition, and create new trails. Respondents suggested having more places to gather as large groups for more community-focused events.

For the full results of the public engagement survey, see Appendix B.

**“We adore EVP. Mount Washington is immediately felt like home for our dogs, us, and kids because of the trails at EVP”**

**“A city treasure kept secret from most Pittsburghers. 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 it feels like you are out in the forest away 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.”**

For the full results of the public engagement survey, see Appendix B.

**What comes to mind when you think about Emerald View Park?**

- Among the most popular responses:
  - “Excellent nature experience nestled deep in the heart of a historical and unique city environment.”
  - “We adore EVP. Mount Washington immediately felt like home for our dogs, us, and kids because of the trails at EVP.”
  - “A city treasure kept secret from most Pittsburghers. 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 it feels like you are out in the forest away from everything, but then you turn a corner and you can see downtown.”

**Dream big! What is your big idea for the future of Emerald View Park?**

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INVENTORY + ANALYSIS
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 Park necessitated an inventory and analysis of the park as a whole as well as an inventory and analysis of individual parts.

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

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS
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 location for the French and Indian War in the 18th century. Perhaps most significant to Mount Washington’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 waterfront.

As Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. urged in his 1910 report on Mount Washington and the Downtown District; the Mount Washington neighborhood should be treated with respect to its vantage point of the great landscape of the City. It should be protected from defacement and its extraordinary points should be re-created 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 regional park that serves several Pittsburgh neighborhoods.

In 2002, the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) undertook a task force to establish Emerald View Park as a regional park. In 2001, a Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) task force led the effort to establish the northern hillside of Mount Washington as the “Emerald Link,” linking the park with a 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 designation.

Emerald View Park Today

In 2005, Grandview Avenue was renamed Emerald View Park in a city-wide renaming competition. Today Emerald View Park spans 257 acres in Mount Washington, Mount Washington, and Allentown.}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Olympia Park &amp; Mt. Washington Park were acquired by the City after nearby residents voiced their desire for a local neighborhood park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950s</td>
<td>Grandview Avenue was established when the railroad donated land to the City with a deed restriction for its creation. The 50 acres provided the famous scenic vistas that earned the Pennsylvania State Scenic Byway designation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before white settlers colonized the land now known as western Pennsylvania, many different indigenous cultures resided in this area between 12,000 B.C. into 1650. Living in the river basin, the Monongahela culture lived in clustered villages like the one illustrated above.

The geologic formation of Mount Washington was formed by continental collisions and periods of massive sediment erosion. Between 220-300 million years ago, the Pittsburgh area was covered by swamps and home to a hot, humid climate. This environment produced lush plant growth that transformed, with bacteria, pressure, and heat, into the bituminous coal that later led to Pittsburgh emergence as an industrial city.

When white settlers arrived in what is now Pittsburgh in the early 18th century, indigenous tribes, including the Shawnee and Osage People, 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 tribal land was signed over to the British and coal mining began on the informally named “Coal Hill.”

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.
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 hillside.

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 weave the landscape in order to attract city visitors.

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. Hillside stabilization and work was performed in the 1950s-1980s.

With the establishment of the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MW CDC), several projects were initiated along Grandview Avenue, including a corridor study by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and the conceptual design for Grandview Walk by Jennifer Higgins at MachIan, MacLachlan Cornelius & Filoni.

In 2007, the park was designated as one of Pittsburgh’s five regional parks. Key land acquisitions were led by Allegheny Land Trust in 2009 and 2011. In 2010, the park was renamed Emerald View Park in a city-wide naming competition. Today Emerald View Park spans 257 acres in Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allegheny.

**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 hillside.

**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 weave 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. Hillside stabilization and work was performed in the 1950s-1980s.

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

**EMERALD LINK & GRAND VIEW SCENIC BYWAY**
2001 - 2007
The MW CDC 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 2003, the Grand View Scenic Byway became a city park and the MW CDC continued to work to unite all of the hillside of Mount Washington.

**EMERALD VIEW PARK**
2007 - Present
In 2007, the park was designated as one of Pittsburgh’s five regional parks. Key land acquisitions were led by Allegheny Land Trust in 2009 and 2011. In 2010, the park was renamed Emerald View Park in a city-wide naming competition. Today Emerald View Park spans 257 acres in Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allegheny.
HISTORY

Historic Features

Mount Washington’s hillsides hold many features that make the history of Pittsburgh’s development visible. 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 once connected the bottom and top of the hillside. Redoubt earthworks, constructed during the Civil War, can be found near to foundations of houses built while Mount Washington was widely known as "Coal Hill." Trails connected by the Works Progress Administration during the Second New Deal program can be hiked today. The Bigham House, located in Chatham Village adjacent to Olympia Park, was a stop along the Underground Railroad and is now a cultural destination. The historic sites begin to connect the park’s fragments into a varied and layered history. These and other cultural features weave throughout the park and its neighborhoods to provide glimpses of the past and to inform Emerald View’s evolution as a regional park.

HISTORIC FEATURES

- Historic Foundation
- Historic Stream Inlet
- Historic Fountain
- Historic Steps
- Civil War Redoubt
- WPA Constructed Trail
- House Foundations
- Indian Trail
- Lewis & Clark Trail Marker
- Civil War Redoubt
- Public Water Towers
- Grandview Avenue
- Bigbee Field
- Grandview Park WPA Era Fountain
- Emerald View Park Master Plan | 28

LEGEND

- Historic Destination
- Abandoned Mine Drainage
- Mine Entry/Opening
- Coal Seam Cropline
- Existing Trail
HISTORY

Ongoing Special Projects

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

Penn Department of Transportation
- Replanting and restoration on Shaler Street (vehicle staging area)
- Grandview Ave: overlook rehabilitation (Regional Asset District (RAD) funding and Department of Public Works partnership)
- Grandview Ave: painting railings and light poles, additional sidewalk areas
- 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 Mobility and Infrastructure
- Grandview Ave: overlook rehabilitation (Regional Asset District (RAD) funding and Department of Public Works partnership)
- Grandview Ave: painting railings and light poles, additional sidewalk areas
- 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 risks, and restoration
- 2030 city tree canopy goal (increase by 33%)
- Greenleaf area: landslides and modular wall project

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) Activities: Park promotional activities, trails, ecological restoration
- Grandview Park viewed and habitat restoration project (in partnership with Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) and Pittsburgh Department of Public Works - Forestry Division)
- Garden maintenance: Anchor Green, Republic St Rain Garden, Grandview Park Entry

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

Mount Washington Community Recreation Center
- Olympia Park walking track proposal

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

2021, Members of the Explorers Club of Pittsburgh rappel from the Grandview Avenue overlook as part of the 28th annual Emerald View Park Cleanup event in Mount Washington, in partnership with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

Image Credit: Pittsburgh City Paper, Jared Wickerham
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 13% work in Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights, or Allentown. The remaining respondents worked in other areas of the Pittsburgh region. These results speak to the need for residents to connect with each other and to connect to downtown and other areas of the city.

Across the 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.

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

73.64% of Emerald View Park’s nearby residents are white, and a majority live in the Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods. 26.36% of residents are people of color and a majority live in the Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods.

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.

The total population of residents near Emerald View Park is about 14,500 people.
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 underscores the need to communicate park entrances and to distinguish between private land and public land.

The land use zoning for Emerald View Park has undergone several changes over many decades. Originally, individual parks were acquired by the City, including Grandview Park, Olympia Park, and Mt. Washington Park. In 1939, the City Planning Commission refused to include properties on slopes greater than 25% into the public sale process. This process effectively protected the Mount Washington hillsides from further development. In 1958, a new zoning classification for Special Areas (S) covered the steep hillsides and identified allowable uses to include overlooks, scenic drives, and conservation and recreation areas. In 1998, City Planning consolidated the (S) classification and the Open Space (OS) classification 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 business districts that cater to both local residents and tourists.

- Republic Street and Greenleaf Street - A small commercial corridor housing a local hair salon.
- Bigham Street - Between both Olympia Park and Ream Park, this area is popular with nearby residents. This area includes Cafe Cravings and Bigham Tavern.
- Shiloh Street and Virginia Avenue - This area is 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 the district and could help to connect visitors on Grandview Avenue and the overviews to these local businesses and the surrounding neighborhood.
- Grandview Public Realm District - This area is a specified zoning district and is bounded by East Sycamore Street and Republic Street. Its main commercial area is at the western and close to the Duquesne Incline, known as “Restaurant Row,” and includes high-end restaurants overlooking the city.
- Boggs-Bailey Avenue - This business district intersects Wyoming Street and William Street and extends south along the 43 bus line. It offers a few restaurants, a pharmacy and other small businesses.
- Warrington Avenue - This district, located in Allentown, is a popular center for restaurants, bars, art and community services. In the center of Allentown with connections to Beltzhoover, this is a commercial corridor that can help to connect the various parts of Emerald View Park.
Emerald View Park is in close proximity to, and intersects with, many unique cultural destinations. These include, historic elements, public art, schools, educational centers, restaurants located in adjacent business districts, and tourist attractions, as identified by residents and organizational leaders. It would be beneficial to provide additional trails or on-street connections to destinations located outside of the park boundaries.

**Destinations in Emerald View Park**

- **Grandview Avenue bandstand** - located in Grandview Park, currently supports movie nights and yoga, future suggestions include additional music and live performances, and restrooms.
- **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** - current T-stop with potential as a regional connection for Emerald View Park.
- **Seldom Seen Greenway** - forested area in the adjacent Beechview neighborhood with potential to connect with Emerald View Park across Saw Mill Run Boulevard.
- **McKinley Park** - a popular community park in the Beechview neighborhood.
Emerald View Park includes destinations for visitors and residents alike. The dramatic vistas along the park’s northeastern “front” edge along Grandview Avenue attract tourists and residents year-round. The Duquesne Incline, the Monongahela Incline, and the Grandview Avenue overlooks are popular destinations. Seasonal events, such as the 4th of July fireworks, draw large crowds to this part of Emerald View Park. The southwestern hillsides of Emerald View Park are home to some of the city’s most unique urban trails. Residents and visitors hike, mountain bike, forage for wineberries, and birdwatch.
Throughout Emerald View Park, visitors can find a wide variety of activities and programs, 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. Year-round youth recreation occurs at the Mount Washington Community Recreation Center. More informally, mountain biking is popular on the park trails, particularly to the south of Olympia Park and through the Duquesne Heights Greenway.

There are several noted spots for bird watching and wineberry foraging, especially in the tricks on the south side of Mount Washington. The dog park at Olympia Park is 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 Beam Park. Annual 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.

These programs illustrate the wide diversity of experiences in Emerald View Park. While the public survey completed in November 2020 revealed that most visitors come to the park to hike and walk along the park trails, a variety of programming is desired to continue to engage with Emerald View Park’s surrounding communities.

EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 40

COMMUNITY

Programming

EXISTING PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

Events

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Sports

Softball & baseball

Soccer

Basketball

Kickball

Frisbee

Flag football

Mountain biking

Boxing

Swimming

Park Activities

Bird watching

Wineberry foraging

Visiting dog park

Playing at playgrounds

PICNICKING

Taking in views

Going to restaurants

Community gardening

Hiking

Movie Nights at Grandview Park

Yoga at Grandview Park

Swimming at Ream Pool
COMMUNITY

Unauthorized Activities (observed fall 2020)

Several unauthorized activities were observed within Emerald View Park in the fall of 2020, including dumping, graffiti, encampments, motorized vehicular trail use, and tree-mounted hunting stands. The activities were primarily located along the trail system in the hillsides and less often located 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 the unauthorized activities occur on the edges of the park that are not as heavily populated as the interior individual parks. With improved trail conditions and more frequent maintenance of the park, these unauthorized activities could be deterred.
Connectivity

Connectivity within Emerald View Park and its surrounding neighborhoods, as well as within the City of Pittsburgh and its larger region, is a focus of the Master Plan. Emerald View Park does not have one main entrance that can be easily discerned from a map. Because of the park’s large geographic area and unique shape, the park can be entered from various points including individual park entrances and seventeen different trailheads.

Neighborhood Connectivity

For residents of the neighborhood, there are two primary types of connections to the park: the larger, well-marked entrances and smaller, less-visible entrances that may only be known to people who live in close proximity. Many entrances have a historic connection to the original neighborhood parks that are used by visitors from outside the neighborhood, and smaller, entrances—typically with street parking—that may also be used by residents nearby, not by visitors from the city or region. The trailheads are mostly on auxiliary streets with little traffic.

Overall, pedestrian access to the park is limited. Many entrances are unmarked or feel too close to residences. Visitors are unsure if they are on public or private property. The semi-hidden, locally-only feel of these entrances could be enhanced and expanded to better connect the neighborhood to the park. These types of connections to the park: the larger, well-marked entrances at the larger, well-marked entrances, are less likely to know a local landmark, and may be more hesitant to venture onto trails that do not feel like public property, especially where the distinction between private and public land blurs at trailheads. Several trailheads fall into this category, mostly at the smaller trailheads at the end of residential streets.

Regional Connectivity

Regional connections to the park are available for visitors within a 25-30 minute car ride to the park or via bus or 1 tor. Many visitors have similar issues as citywide visitors, however they are less likely to know a local landmark, and may not be sure if they are on public or private property. The semi-hidden, locally-only feel of these entrances could be enhanced and expanded to better connect the neighborhood to the park.

There are two trailheads with gravel parking lots, and three paved parking lots. Two of these are on the northern side, where most people enter while coming to the park. A third entrance on the southern side at Greenleaf Street. In total, these parking lots hold between 25-35 cars, roughly split between the two lots on the north, and the larger lot on the southwest.

Currently, there is no coordinated primary entry point to the park for visitors coming from the city. When searching for Emerald View Park on Google Maps, visitors are directed to the Bailey Avenue entrance to Grandview Park, miscommunicating that Emerald View Park is limited to Grandview Park’s area. Additional desirable entrance locations to the park for citywide visitors could include the Sheffield Street North entrance and the Bigelow Street entrance with views framing the city and the river.

More visitation to the park from citywide residents, and tourists staying in downtown hotels, should be encouraged. However, the goal should also be to avoid increased traffic in the neighborhood. An opportunity to allow parking at the foot of the rice and have pedestrian visitors arrive into the park so the rice can be an alternative. Additionally, a more clearly defined visitor experience of the park is needed. This may require prioritizing programming into Google Maps and other online mapping resources. Planning thinking about how cars move through the neighborhoods should be considered as well.

Accessibility

Because of its topography and location on existing steep bluffs, Emerald View Park has limited accessible entrances. A majority of the trail network, trailheads, and park entrances do not meet the 3% slope requirement for ADA access. Many trail paths are not wide enough to accommodate people to comfortably pass each other.

The lack of accessibility 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.

Trail Conditions

Emerald View Park includes miles of urban hiking trails. The trail offers a variety of experiences, ranging in difficulty from easy to intermediate to advanced. A majority of the trails are categorized as intermediate or advanced. The trails vary in width and construction, with some trails formally constructed with crushed stone or compacted dirt, while others are more minimal “cow path” forged trails. Observed maintenance issues are noted on the Trails + Trailhead Conditions map. Trailheads are in varying states of disrepair.

Emerald View Park Master Plan | 44

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Allen Street

The Allen St entrance is the only existing paved parking entrance to the park. There are no signs indicating it is the entrance to the park; however, the parking area has the standard traffic markings of a public parking area, and a basketball court across the rear of the lot. There are enough visual cues that most visitors would recognize this as a public space.

The space is open and visible, and located in proximity to the commercial district of the area. It has a more-urban condition that many of the other entrances, and backs connected to the commercial, retail, and institutional life of this part of the neighborhood.

The entrance at Clarence Street is secluded at the end of a street, and is a cul-de-sac. To a visitor not familiar with the entrance, it would not immediately be clear that this is the entrance to a public park, rather than private land.

The Bigbee Street entrance is an informal entrance into the park, and appears to be more of a service access road, although there are signs of repeated pedestrian use. The location is often good for access to the city, and is close proximity to the commercial districts in this part of the neighborhood.

Boley Avenue

Boley Avenue is the grandest of the existing entrances to the park, with both historic steps and integrated into a historic wall. The existing steps leads Grandview Park, one of the historic parks assembled into Emerald View Park, with a recognition of Emerald View Park on the same sign.

The entrance offers open spaces, with plenty of visibility, and eyes from the adjacent residential housing offering a feeling of safety.

Grace Street

Grace Street is a small, unmarked entrance, yet clearly visible from the street. To an uninitiated visitor, it would not appear to be a private drive, or private property, but it does not appear to be a public park. It is paved, and could potentially appear to be a service road for athletes.

The entrance clearly denotes that this is a public park, and not private land.

Bigbee Street

The Bigbee Street entrance is an informal entrance into the park, and appears to be more of a service access road, although there are signs of repeated pedestrian use. The entrance offers open spaces, with plenty of visibility, and eyes from the adjacent residential housing offering a feeling of safety.

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The entrance clearly denotes that this is a public park, and not private land.

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The entrance clearly denotes that this is a public park, and not private land.

The entrance clearly denotes that this is a public park, and not private land.
Greenleaf Street - North

The entrance of this part of Greenleaf Street is a pedestrian crossing that connects to 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 itself is not easily seen.

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 that is a viable park entry point.

Greenleaf Street - South

This entrance has an open, informal gravel parking lot surrounded by fencing. A small sign at the opening in the fence indicates the entrance to the trail, otherwise there are no larger signs indicating the entrance from the street. Residential housing across the street, and an open space with views and sidewalks from the street create a sense of safety for the entrance.

This entrance is easily identifiable as a public space, and most resembles a rural trailhead at a state park, with less signage. There are few residences along the entry road, with one house or other indicators that this is a public access point.

Hallock Street

The Hallock Street entrance is a small entrance adjacent to a park, clearly indicating that this is a public space. However, the informal street parking in this area is too easy to interpret. Some of these parking areas could be used as more service parking areas, rather than for park users.

The entrance to the trail is a small paved pathway that winds close proximally to several residences, potentially blurring the visitor’s understanding of whether or not this is a private trail or part of the public park. There are no clear indications of care near the entrance to indicate where to park, the nature of the trail, or other visitor information.

Norton Street

The Norton Street entrance is adjacent to a park, and feels like a public space. However, there are no signs marking the entrance to the trail, and the path to the woods seems well-traveled, but it may be unclear to a new visitor if this is a public entrance.

There is ample street parking, and the main part of the entrance is within some of residences, giving it a feeling of safety.

Republic Street

The entrance of Republic Street has a small sign posted on a wooden fence, and some standard No Parking signs and other indications of care 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 street parking adjacent to the entrance, and some residential housing, but it is relatively far away from activity and eyes on the street. There are alleys on the street—and the park is hosting fewer users—so pedestrian access from the immediate neighborhood would be good.

Marne Way

The entrance to the trail is a small paved pathway that winds close proximally to several residences, giving it a feeling of safety. This is likely used primarily by those who live near the entrance.

There is street parking adjacent to the entrance, and some indications of care 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 street parking adjacent to the entrance, and some larger signs indicating that this is a public trail, or entrance, and the pathway runs in close proximity to several residences, with some parks of the path being only 10’ away from front lawns.

It is a bit hidden, and does not promote a feeling of safety or eyes on the street, mostly being a trail that winds out in a large area.

The trail itself offers excellent views of the city and the river, and is likely used primarily by local neighbors in the immediate vicinity.

Sweetbriar Street - North

The Grandview/Sweetbriar entrance is not listed as a formal entrance to the park, and no signs indicate its connection to Emerald View Trail. However, there is a formal overlook, with excellent views of the city and the river, and a stone pearched plaza with the Point of View sculpture and interpretation signage.

There is little, if any parking at the entrance, although there is parking or street sitting nearby. The entrance is open—and clearly identified as a public space—with lot of views to and from the entrance to residential housing.

Roanoke Street

The entrance at Roanoke Street is not marked, nor is there any parking on the street or otherwise. The entrance does not have indications that this is a public trail, or entrance, and the pathway runs in close proximity to several residences, with some parks of the path being only 10’ away from front lawns.

There are no sidewalks, and it does not promote a feeling of safety or eyes on the street, mostly being a trail that winds out in a large area.

The trail itself offers excellent views of the city and the river, and is likely used primarily by local neighbors in the immediate vicinity.
CONNECTIVITY
Wayfinding & Signage

There are a variety of signage types in Emerald View Park. Signs are primarily located along the trail network and at trailheads and park entrances. Trail signage includes trail markers and on street transition signs at some trailheads, connector trail signs, and 1/5th mile markers. At individual park entrances, City of Pittsburgh regional park signage standards have been adopted for Emerald View Park. Regional park signs include the park name, rules & regulations, park hours, and a map of Emerald View Park. Additionally, there are interpretive signs along Grandview Avenue as part of the Grand View Scenic Byway. These signs describe the history and current development of Mount Washington. The interpretive sign standard used for the Grand View Scenic Byway predates the City’s standards, and will continue to be a unique character element of the Byway, commensurate with other such special locations designated by the Commonwealth.

Current signage is helpful for those who live nearby or those who are familiar with Emerald View Park. However, signage is often hidden and not readily visible. It is not clear how the park is connected as a trail network and how the individual parks fit into the larger regional park. While the existing signage is helpful, the park could benefit from additional signage to connect individual areas and highlight existing entrances.

Many trailheads do not have 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 have signage illustrate and describe trail lengths and difficulty. Interpretive trail signage could additionally highlight the historic and natural features along the trail network.

LEGEND
- 1/5th Mile Marker
- On Street Transition Signs
- Grand View Scenic Byway Interpretive Signs
- Trail Marker
- Connector Trail Signs
- Park Entrance Signs
- Existing trail
ECOLOGY

Topography

Emerald View Park has the most topographic change of any of Pittsburgh’s regional parks. The slopes of the park provide 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 is located on a 25% or steeper slope. According to the accessed LiDAR information, the topography of Emerald View Park ranges from approximate elevation of 740 ft. to the north, at the intersection of East Carson Street and Arlington Avenue, to an elevation of 1160 ft. at the northwest 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 steeper portions of the park are primarily to the south, at or above the elevation of the Pittsburgh Coal seam. The park slopes from Grandview Avenue down to Carson Street with slopes generally steeper than 65%. From the westernmost park limits to the park’s southeastern terminus along 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 in the west at the lower elevations near Saw Mill Run Boulevard; however, several steep slopes are located throughout the park at varying elevations. The slopes steeper than 25% along Carson Street and Saw Mill Run Boulevard are likely the result of excavations for roadway construction. In addition to the slopes on the northern and southern faces of the park, Emerald View Park’s topography also provides excellent views of the city and creates a celebrated sense of remoteness, but also creates many challenges related to connectivity, accessibility, and landslides.

Several small ephemeral and intermittent streams were observed throughout the park in 2020. Many of these streams appear to be isolated channels without direct connection to streams further downhill. Many streams within Pittsburgh were incorporated into the combined storm sewer system when the storm sewers were initially constructed. As a result, most streams within Emerald View Park (i.e., channelization and wash out in the upland forest or flow into a drain inlet before reaching a larger stream).

The existing trails were designed with the existing topography in mind by including switchbacks where appropriate to reduce the overall grade of trails. The condition of the existing trails is good and mostly functional. Well-maintained, wide bridges are located over wet areas in certain locations.

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 washed out from sandstone, shale, and siltstone. According to the USDA soil survey, the depth to a water-restricting feature at the site (fragipan or claypan) is at the top of Ames Limestone. The USDA soil survey also notes that the organic horizons (A1) at or above the elevation of the Pittsburgh Coal. The separation of the two geologic units is at the top of the outcropping Pittsburgh Coal, which is mapped on the upper park slopes at elevations ranging from 1020 to 1070 feet. The Callery Group with the Monongahela Formation is at the bottom of the Pittsburgh Coal. The separation of the two geologic units is at the top of the outcropping Pittsburgh Coal, which is mapped on the upper park slopes at elevations ranging from 1020 to 1070 feet. Many streams within the park are isolated channels without direct connection to streams further downhill. The existing trails were designed with the existing topography in mind by including switchbacks where appropriate to reduce the overall grade of trails. The condition of the existing trails is good and mostly functional. Well-maintained, wide bridges are located over wet areas in certain locations.

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Bedrock

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) digital map indicates the bedrock along the upper elevations of the park belong to the Monongahela Group with the majority of the park belonging to the Casselman Group. The Monongahela Group is Pennsylvanian in age and consists of cyclic sequences of limestone, shale, sandstone, and coal.

The base of the Monongahela Formation is at the bottom of the Pittsburgh Coal. The separation of the two geologic units is at the top of the outcropping Pittsburgh Coal, which is mapped on the upper park slopes at elevations ranging from 1020 to 1070 feet. The Casselman Group, also Pennsylvanian in age, consists of cyclic sequences of shale, siltstone, sandstone, chert, and siltstone. 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 at or near the ground surface. The base of the Casselman Formation is at the top of Ames Limestone.

For the full geologic assessment of Emerald View Park, see Appendix E.
Past and future landslides are of great concern to visitors to Emerald View Park due to the steepness of the slopes. The City of Pittsburgh has worked to mitigate landslides on these Hillocks, and continues to work to alleviate the stresses on the slopes. In 2020, the project team reviewed past records and recent LiDAR data to discern the condition of Emerald View Park’s slopes.

According to the referenced Allegheny County Landslide Portal (ACLP) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) landslide maps, the majority of Emerald View Park’s slopes have been labeled as slopes with moderate to severe susceptibility to landslide due to the outcropping red beds. These beds include areas of weak claystone and indurated zones of the southeastern park limit, which could affect development within the limits of the park, to the south of the mapped fill. The areas of mapped man-made fill consist of soil and bedrock, placed in uniform lift thicknesses, and adequately compacted, it is classified as uncontrolled fill. Slopes may be unstable if they were constructed entirely of uncontrolled fill, especially when overlying red beds. The thickness and consistency of the uncontrolled fill, as well as its underlying foundation soil and bedrock, should be evaluated prior to any major development in these areas. Because man-made fill placement is not usually publicly documented, other deposits of man-made fill may exist within the limits of the park.

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

Multiple landslide features were identified on the slopes throughout the park. The identified landslide characteristics include the following: (i) possible failure plane, (ii) evidence of main type of movement, and (iii) evidence of recent movement. These areas should be avoided to reduce the potential for reactivation of these landslides.

Abandoned mine drainage is a legacy effect of the mines. Drainage can be acidic and classified as acid mine drainage when water flows through abandoned mines and reacts with pyrite and other minerals to form acidic metal-laden discharges. In March 2013, the Mount Washington Regional Planning Commission recommended to obtain additional information and develop recommendations for addressing the potential risks.
Community Development Corporation (MHVDC) commissioned a report to identify and characterize the mine drainage with in Emerald View Park. The report summarized that the identified mine drainage discharges were acidic and contained elevated concentrations of metals. Treatment recommendations included continued monitoring and construction of Drainable Limestone Beds (DLB) in strategic locations.

Stormwater

Emerald View Park is located in two watersheds, the Saw Mill Run watershed and the Ohio/Monongahela River Basin watershed. A majority of the park’s stormwater flows into the Saw Mill Run watershed. Stormwater from the Duquesne Heights Greeneway, Eileen McCoy Playground, Olympic Park, Rose Park, and Mt. Washington Park flows south into the Saw Mill Run watershed. Stormwater from Grandview Avenue, Grandview Overlook Park, the Saddle, Bigbee Field, and Grandview Park flows north into the Ohio/Monongahela River Basin watershed.

A number of Emerald View Park’s existing conditions influence the existing stormwater flows and future stormwater strategies. Due to historic undermining of the park’s subsurface, there is concern about water infiltration and abandoned mine drainage. The park’s steep topography, and the presence of subsurface drainage infrastructure. The neighborhood’s rolling topography in the North-West to South-West direction also creates distinct valleys that direct stormwater across Saw Mill Run Boulevard in the Seldom Seen area. The entrance plazas, could incorporate stormwater management. The existing lower baseball field currently floods and could be renovated to include subsurface R-tanks for stormwater storage.

ECCOLOGY

Redeveloping the basketball court into a combination playground offers an opportunity to redirect stormwater from the streets into the playground area. This playground offers an opportunity to capture the stormwater coming off the street. Any minor renovations to the street itself, or new entry points, could incorporate stormwater management. The area at the foot of Woodruff Street, along the edge of Grandview Avenue, offers opportunities to capture the stormwater coming off of the street. Any minor renovations to the street itself, or new entry points, could incorporate stormwater management. The park has small areas of open space that could potentially be prime locations for stormwater management. The existing baseball field could be renovated to include subsurface R-tanks for stormwater storage.

Another opportunity outside of the park is to capture runoff in the local neighborhood streets. There are some opportunities to direct the 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 river and the adjacent neighborhoods. The park areas with programs such as sports fields, playgrounds, and other developed spaces that have been regraded offer the easiest opportunities to incorporate stormwater management into the site.

There are opportunities to use funds for stormwater management—along the path of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from the combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park properties. For example, a basketball court or soccer field could be upgraded to accommodate stormwater management, with an aim of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from the combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park properties.

There is potential to use funds for stormwater management—along the path of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from the combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park properties. For example, a basketball court or soccer field could be upgraded to accommodate stormwater management, with an aim of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from the combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park properties.
STORMWATER

The undulating topography of the Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, Allentown, and Beltzhoover neighborhoods creates distinct ridge and valley stormwater flow patterns. Major streets (e.g., Shaler Street, Olympia Street, Merrimac Street, Woodruff Street, and Bogg Avenue) follow the valleys. Many of Emerald View Park’s individual parks (e.g., Olympia Park, Ream Park, and Mt. Washington Park) are located within the valleys. Emerald View Park stormwater strategies could capitalize on naturally occurring stormwater flow into the parks.
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’s approximately 250 acres was 65.9% forested, 12.9% woodland, 10% developed land, 2.7% shrubland, 1.5% open field, and less than 1% a riparian confined stream (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 used the WPC forest study data and observed the following key differences between the 2005 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 undergrowth of invasive plants.
- The emerald ash borer infestation has resulted in the loss of green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica) throughout southwestern Pennsylvania and the park. In 2005, green ash were observed in low densities within most areas of Emerald View Park and the loss of this species has not affected forest quality.
- The highest quality habitat observed was the oak dominated forest on the southwestern side where the forest is mature, and a lower density of invasive species is present.
- An overabundance of white-tailed 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.

Invasive Plant Species

Invasive species are introduced plants and animals that negatively affect their new environment. Environmental change can occur through prolific reproduction of these new species, resulting in their competition with native species and the infection, damage, and death of native species.

The project team observed many black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) trees in poor health due to age and stressors observed recently and should be continued to be monitored as a threat to forest health.

Wildlife

Emerald View Park provides habitat for white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and many migratory songbirds. Although not directly observed, it is assumed Emerald View Park would also provide habitat for other eastern woodland/urban species including opossums, eastern cottontails, woodchucks, gray squirrels, eastern chipmunks, coyotes, raccoons, foxes, gray foxes, raccoons, skunks, and porcupines as well as migratory and resident songbird species.

In addition to invasive plant species, Emerald View Park is home to invasive pests. The spotted lantern fly has been observed recently and should be continued to be monitored as a threat to forest health.

For the full ecological assessment of Emerald View Park, see Appendix D.

Natural Resource Features

Many natural resources are present within Emerald View Park including rock outcrops, wetlands, 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, 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.

LEGEND

No change observed from 2005
Increase species observed
Native water source
Waterfall
Rock outcrop
Historic foundation
Citizen road features
GOALS + STRATEGIES

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan is driven by five goals and corresponding design and policy strategies. The goals build from the mission, vision, and strategy statements of past Emerald View Park planning efforts, and the collective input from the Master Plan advisory committee, community stakeholders, and neighbors.

Today, Emerald View Park is a constellation of amenities including large parks, wild trails, awe-inspiring views, and neighborhood gathering places. Each individual amenity supports the community in many ways, but connections between these special places remain disjointed and lack collective identity and clear circulation. The vision for Emerald View Park is fundamentally about connectivity: culturally, physically, and ecologically. The Master Plan’s goals and strategies 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.

The five Master Plan goals and their associated geographies are included below. Goals and strategies are described in further detail on the following pages:

- **Goal 1 | PARKS - Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities**
- **Goal 2 | GRANDVIEW AVENUE - Elevate the park’s identity as a regional destination**
- **Goal 3 | TRAILS + CONNECTIONS - Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system**
- **Goal 4 | ECOLOGY - Maximize the park’s ecological performance**
- **Goal 5 | PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION - Build momentum for the future of the park**
GOALS + STRATEGIES

GOAL 1 | 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 trailheads
• Improve park accessibility
• Design contemplative spaces
• Prioritize pedestrian circulation
• Introduce additional signage

GOAL 2 | 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 the larger trail network

GOAL 3 | 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 trailheads and crossings
• Improve trail materials for a variety of uses
• Connect park to public transportation hubs
• Develop parking strategy

GOAL 4 | ECOLOGY
Maximize the park’s ecological performance

Strategies*

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

GOAL 5 | 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

*For detailed descriptions of individual strategies, see Master Plan recommendations starting on page 76.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan is the guide for Emerald View Park’s future physical development. The following pages include recommendations for the park’s future physical development supported by conceptual design strategies, phasing plans, and cost estimates. These recommendations ensure 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 following pages include recommendations for Emerald View Park in its entirety and for individual geographies within the park.

The five Master Plan goals and their associated geographies provide the organizing structure for the Master Plan recommendations.

• Goal 1 | PARKS

• Goal 2 | GRANDVIEW AVENUE

• Goal 3 | TRAILS + CONNECTIONS

• Goal 4 | ECOLOGY

• Goal 5 | PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

Detailed description of the strategies associated with each goal/geography are included in each recommendations section. Specific recommendations include strategies for renovated amenities in the individual parks, proposed connections within Emerald View Park and across neighborhoods, proposed gateways, view maintenance, park edge improvements, connections to business districts, opportunities to highlight historic features, space provided 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 geography in the following recommendations sections.
RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 1

PARKS
GOAL 1 | 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 (Beam 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 these 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. Flat areas 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 presented 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 House, the Grandview Park basketball and amphitheater, and the Mt. Washington Park Shelter. Additionally, the renovation of recreational areas 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 complement 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, vertical walls, and playful misters. Use of historic precedent materials and forms is a contemporary style is recommended. Design recommendations and examples images are provided in the pages ahead.

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, while the existing park entrances are understandable, 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. Renovate of historic contributions to the park entrances and steps at many entries is recommended. New walls or stairs should take inspiration from the historic materials and incorporate stone and Belgian block.

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 connection to immediate neighbors with investment in streetscape improvements and gateways. Streetscape improvements should include new sidewalks at least 5’-8’ wide, street trees that meet the City of Pittsburgh street tree standards, underground utilities, marked pedestrian crossings, and bike lanes when feasible. Where appropriate, streetscape improvements can be the focus of urban design and neighborhood projects.

Consider parks as trailheads

Each park in Emerald View Park is also considered to be a trailhead itself by providing clear signage and well-considered points to draw residents to park amenities, each park could be considered a trailhead itself by providing clear signage and clear circulation routes to the larger trail network.

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Prepare project opportunity on forest land

Proposed park gateway or entrance

Proposed park edge improvement

Prepare project opportunity on forest land

Proposed park gateway or entrance

Proposed park edge improvement

Prepare project opportunity on forest land

Proposed park gateway or entrance

Proposed park edge improvement

Prepare project opportunity on forest land

Proposed park gateway or entrance

Proposed park edge improvement
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 Emerald View Park entrance materials.

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. Consolidation of existing signage is recommended.

Pittsburgh’s regional park signage standards have been adopted for Emerald View Park and should be used. The interpretive sign standard (used and approved by the City of Pittsburgh’s Art Commission) for the Grand View Scenic Byway pre-date the City’s standards, and will continue to be a unique character element of the Byway, commensurate with other such special locations designated by the Commonwealth.

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 lawn and seating areas. The Master Plan recommends resurfacing of 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 have created overly complicated paving patterns. The Master Plan recommends editing and simplifying path layouts to incorporate consistent widths and appropriate radii on curves. Replacement of site furniture throughout the parks is recommended. Use of City of Pittsburgh standard benches, lighting, trash cans, bike racks, and other amenities is recommended. Unnecessary chain link fencing should be removed. New fencing, where needed, should meet City of Pittsburgh regional park standards.

Prioritize pedestrian circulation
Convenient vehicular access has become a priority over the comfort of people on foot or bike throughout Emerald View Park’s individual parks. While each park requires maintenance and emergency vehicle access on primary circulation routes, the Master Plan recommends that these routes are reconfigured to prioritize pedestrian circulation and experience. Main walks should be narrowed to the minimum vehicular requirements (10’) and turning radii reduced accordingly. Use of pedestrian-scaled materials, including stone and Belgian block edging, is recommended.

Improve park accessibility
84% of Emerald View Park is on land that is 25% or higher in slope. The steep topography requires a strategic and intentional plan for integrating ADA-accessible paths and amenities where feasible. The Master Plan recommends the incorporation of ADA-accessible paths, trails, entrances, and parking in the individual parks.

Identifiable flat land for large gathering spaces
In addition to strategically planning for accessible access within Emerald View Park’s steep slopes, the Master Plan identifies available flatland for large gathering spaces. Most survey respondents commented on the need for areas for large community events. Currently most flat land in the park is used 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 correlates with recreational schedules are recommended.

Identify available flat land for large gathering spaces
In addition to strategically planning for accessible access within Emerald View Park’s steep slopes, the Master Plan identifies available flatland for large gathering spaces. Most survey respondents commented on the need for areas for large community events. Currently most flat land in the park is used 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 correlates with recreational schedules are recommended.

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

Duquesne Heights

Mount Washington

LEGEND
- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed park gateway or entrance
- Proposed park edge improvement

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS OLYMPIA PARK

Proposed Emerald View Park individual park
Proposed Emerald View Park greenway
Proposed Emerald View Park trail
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 House, a dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area (OLEA), playgrounds, recreational courts, baseball field, and trail connections.

History
Olympia Park was first acquired by the City of Pittsburgh in 1908, after local residents voiced their desire to have a 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 point in time, the park included a swimming pool and bath house. The ballfield was flooded in the winter and converted 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. The Bigham family house still stands in neighboring Chatham Village. Bigham was a known abolitionist lawyer, and his home had been a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The Olympia Park Shelter House was built in the 1914. In 2019, the building suffered a fire which closed its operations. The Department of Public Works worked on repairs since, including a roof replacement and interior demolition and stabilization work. In 2015, the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) hosted community meetings to determine the future of the building and its role in the park. The City of Pittsburgh is moving forward with a renovation of the facility starting in May 2021. The Master Plan builds on those efforts.

Existing Conditions
Olympia 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 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 Hallock 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 Shelter House. This primary route supports maintenance vehicles and vehicular access to the shelter. The route has attributes of 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/OLEA’s edge and from the middle of Hallock Street to the shelter. A public sidewalk continues along Virginia Avenue and half-way down Hallock street where it abruptly ends at the entrance to the park. Parking is available at the southern end of Hallock 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 land use and programs currently occupy the park. The Olympia Park dog park/OLEA is a popular destination for residents. The dog park is located on the western slope of the park. The existing dog park lawn is worn down but maintained annually. Entrances to the dog park are also worn down and often muddy due to stormwater collecting at low points near the entrance. Seating is limited in the dog park and grass surfaces and pavements are 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 fair condition. Site furniture including benches and trash cans are worn down.
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

1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Avenue streetscape
3. Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area
4. Playground and courts
5. Primary circulation loop
6. Trail improvements (see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)
7. Olympia Park shelter + plaza
8. Olympia Park shelter + plaza
9. Stormwater management
10. Multi-purpose field and walking track
11. Multi-purpose field and walking track
12. Multi-purpose field and walking track
13. Multi-purpose field and walking track
14. Multi-purpose field and walking track
15. Multi-purpose field and walking track
16. Multi-purpose field and walking track

PROJECTS

1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Avenue streetscape
3. Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area
4. Playground and courts
5. Primary circulation loop
6. Trail improvements (see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)
7. Olympia Park shelter + plaza
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13. Multi-purpose field and walking track
14. Multi-purpose field and walking track
15. Multi-purpose field and walking track
16. Multi-purpose field and walking track

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’s entrance, located on Virginia Avenue, is underutilized, overgrown and deteriorated. Entrance is dangerous and prioritizes vehicular access, no drop off or ADA access.

Dog park entrances are muddy, Dog park is very popular and well used, Seating areas in dog park are muddy due to stormwater and use, Dog park is very popular and well used.

Hillside is underutilized, desire for play trail, Current flooding, potential location for green infrastructure, historic location of stream and current location of PWSA combined sewer.

Olympia Park shelter + plaza, renovation needed, include restrooms and flexible community spaces.

Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area, Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area, Underutilized space, desire for contemplative space and trail around field.

入口线是危险的，并优先考虑车辆通行，没有下车或无障碍通道。

狗公园的入口很泥泞，狗公园非常受欢迎和广泛使用，狗公园的休息区由于暴雨和使用而变得泥泞。

山地被忽视，希望有一个游乐小径，当前的洪水，可能的绿色基础设施位置，历史上的溪流位置和当前的PWSA合流污水的位置。

奥林匹亚公园的露台需要进行翻新，包括洗手间和灵活的社区空间。

狗公园/无绳运动区，狗公园/无绳运动区，未充分利用的空间，希望有一个沉思的空间和沿场的步道。

 стремлением к использованию возможных пространств в парке, ограниченных по времени и загруженных посетителями, обусловленных стихийными процессами, и современными условиями в парке.

慢跑跑道

公园的现有设施和场地正在恶化，需要一个更强大的公园入口和trailhead。

现有材料正在恶化，需要一个更强大的公园入口和trailhead。
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 picnic pavilion is a hexagonal open-air structure resting on a concrete slab on grade, constructed of 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.

Recommendations

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Virginia Avenue entrance - Expand entry and improve streetscape. The entry includes access to the renovated primary circulation route, new fencing, new regional park standard signage, new stone entry walls, new concrete unit paving with an Emerald View green brick threshold, and an ADA accessible drop-off.

2. Virginia Avenue streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible), street trees, and metal fence.

3. Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area - Relocate entries with new fencing, new concrete paving, improved drainage to avoid stormwater issues, and better connections to park circulation routes.

4. Playground and courts - Replace and relocate playground equipment and courts (as needed).

5. Primary circulation loop - Improve pedestrian experience from the Virginia Avenue entrance to the Olympia Park Shelter. Renovate with new asphalt paving and Belgium block edging. Update layout of the circulation loop to allow limited vehicular access to the Olympia Park Shelter House. Improve the view of the Olympia Park Shelter House, along the primary:

Recommended Program

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Recommended Circulation

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2. Virginia Avenue streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible), street trees, and metal fence.

3. Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area - Relocate entries with new fencing, new concrete paving, improved drainage to avoid stormwater issues, and better connections to park circulation routes.

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6. **Hallock Street streetscape** - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible), street trees, and metal fence.

7. **Play area** - The new play area is located on the eastern hillside. Integrate play into the natural environment on the hillside and connect to new hillside trails.

8. **Picnic shelter** - Create strong visual terminus to the primary circulation loop and better connections among the playground, the Olympia Park Shelter, and the baseball field. Include new picnic shelter, concrete unit pavers, new trees, and a new edge between the picnic shelter and the baseball field.

9. **Olympia Park Shelter + plazas** - Olympia Park Shelter is currently being redesigned. Provide a better pedestrian experience around the shelter, establish better connections among the shelter, the park, and the baseball fields, and limit vehicular parking directly in front of the shelter. Introduce an upper and lower plaza and include concrete unit pavers, new seating, trees, and retained stone walls.

10. **Secondary circulation** - Renovated paths are recommended from the Hallock Street entrance, the dog park, and the Olympia Park Shelter. Restore stone walls and steps, asphalt and/or concrete paving, and introduce new trees.

11. **Hallock Street entrance** - The Hallock Street entrance improvements include restored stone walls and stairs, new regional park signage, and new site furniture.

12. **Hillside trails** - Provide alternative access from existing trails through Olympia Park with additional trails on the southern and eastern edges of the park.

13. **Multi-purpose field and walking track** - Renovate and restore the baseball field. Create a multi-purpose field that can be used for sports and community gatherings. High-performance turf is recommended. Include a ¼ mile walking track around the multi-purpose field. Incorporate new concrete spectator seating into the hillside between the Hallock Street entrance, the Olympia Park Shelter, and the baseball field.

14. **Stormwater management** - Include stormwater management strategies throughout the park. Design bio-swales and rain gardens along the base of

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**OLYMPIA PARK VIRGINIA AVENUE PROPOSED ENTRANCE**

- **Accessible drop-off**
- **Entry wall with signage**
- **Regional park signage**
- **Renovated primary circulation route with asphalt paving, Belgian block edging, and Emerald View green brick threshold**
- **Improved views to Olympia Park Shelter**
- **Existing planting removed, all trees introduced**
- **Entry wall**
- **Concrete sidewalks with underground utilities and metal fence (as needed)**

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**EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 90**
the eastern hillside and R-tanks underneath the multi-purpose field.

13. Contemplative space - Provide a quiet, contemplative space along the southern edge of the park as a respite in the heavily programmed park. Include seating, shade, and a focal point.

16. Hallock Street parking lot - Renovate the parking lot with newly aligned parking spaces along the multi-purpose field with access to the park and the Hallock Street trailhead. Pave parking lot with asphalt and include ADA accessible parking spaces, new regional park signage, new stone walls, and trees.

- Contemplative space - Provide a quiet, contemplative space along the southern edge of the park as a respite in the heavily programmed park. Include seating, shade, and a focal point.

- Hallock Street parking lot - Renovate the parking lot with newly aligned parking spaces along the multi-purpose field with access to the park and the Hallock Street trailhead. Pave parking lot with asphalt and include ADA accessible parking spaces, new regional park signage, new stone walls, and trees.
GRANDVIEW PARK + BIGBEE FIELD

LEGEND
- Emerald View Park individual park
- Emerald View Park greenway
- Emerald View Park trail
- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed park gateway or entrance
- Proposed park edge improvement

(Master Plan Recommendations Granview Park + Bigbee Field)

(For Granview Park trail recommendations, see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)

Mount Washington
South Side
Ohio River
Monongahela River

LEGEND
- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed park gateway or entrance
- Proposed park edge improvement

(For Granview Park trail recommendations, see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)
Grandview Park connects the Mount Washington neighborhood with the Allentown neighborhood on the northeastern slopes of Emerald View Park. It is one of the largest individual parks in Emerald View Park. The park is currently home to a bandshell and overlook, park landscapes, a playground, courts, parking, and trail connections. Pittsburgh Grandview Pre-K School is located adjacent to the park at the Allen Street entrance and shares the Allen Street parking lot and playground amenities. Grandview Park additionally includes Bigbee Field along Bigbee Street.

History

Grandview Park was the first portion of Emerald View Park 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 in the park in 1913. The merry-go-round operated until 1946 and was designed by Thomas Scott. It depicted animals including horses, lions, tigers, deer, giraffes, rhinoceros, and goats.

In 1909, the City acquired two water towers that exist in the park today. The towers were originally owned by the Monongahela Water Company. The two towers provide rudimentary water service to Allentown and Mount Washington residents.

As one of the highest points in the city, at 1255 feet above sea level, Grandview Park has been 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.

Pittsburgh Grandview Pre-K School was established at the eastern side of Grandview Park in 1961. In 1996 a playground was constructed next to the school in the park. The current location of the playground is approximately where the original shelter house was located.
Existing Conditions

Grandview Park sits on the northeastern 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 is the main pedestrian entrance and includes historic sandstone stairs and a fountain, currently in disrepair. The entrance includes a prominent vehicular entrance for park maintenance vehicles. Multiple signs are located at this entrance.

Circulation through the park consists of a primary route that runs north west to south east between the Bailey Street and Allen Street entrances. The 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 elementary school. The parking lot is not striped. ADA-accessible parking spots are not indicated. Connections to the Emerald View Park trail network exist in multiple locations in the park.

The existing open-air bandshell in Grandview Park was designed in the same era as the Grandview Avenue overviews in the late 1960s. 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. (continued on page 102)
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.

PROJECTS

1. Bailey Avenue entrance
2. Amphitheater landscape
3. Bandshell
4. Terraced lawn
5. Historic overlook

Primary circulation
Trailhead
Water tower overlook
Playground
Court

PROJECTS

1. Bailey Avenue entrance
2. Amphitheater landscape
3. Bandshell
4. Terraced lawn
5. Historic overlook

Primary circulation
Trailhead
Water tower overlook
Playground
Court

GRANDVIEW PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Viewshed management (see Ecology strategies page 167)
2. Trail improvements (see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)
3. Primary circulation
4. Trailhead
5. Water tower overlook
6. Playground
7. Court
8. Allen Street entrance
9. Allen Street parking lot
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.

Recommendations

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Bailey Avenue entrance - Restore stone entrance and fountain, incorporate additional stone retaining walls, widen sidewalk along Bailey Avenue with an Emerald View green brick inlay, narrow vehicular entrance, introduce an expanded entry garden, and consolidate regional park signage.

2. Amphitheater landscape - Restore stone steps and walls, introduce new seating areas, expand picnic areas, renovate amphitheater terraces, and manage vegetation to provide framed views of Downtown Pittsburgh and the Monongahela River.

3. Bandshell - Restore existing bandshell with architectural improvements including but not limited to...
openings of the solid stage backdrop and audio/visual upgrades. Design new restroom as a separate building in close proximity to the bandshell and amphitheater landscape.

4. Historic overlook - Restore historic overlook to take advantage of one of the Grandview Park’s highest elevations. Include new paving, seating, and planting.

5. Trailhead - Introduce new site walls and signage to clearly identify the trailhead along the primary circulation route.


7. Playground - Renovate with new playground equipment, new safety surfacing, site furniture, regional park signage, and better connections to the primary circulation route.

8. Court - Include new surfacing, new site walls, and new regional park signage.

9. Allen Street entrance - Renovate Allen Street entrance and include an improved layout with asphalt paving, Belgian block edging, and an Emerald View green brick threshold, new regional park standard signage, and new stone entry walls.

10. Allen Street parking lot - Renovate with new paving, striping, signage, and trees.
GRANDVIEW PARK PROPOSED BANDSTAND

- Terraced lawn
- Restored and expanded amphitheater landscape, includes restored stone stairs and walls, seating, and picnic areas
- Meadow planting for stormwater management and habitat
- Restored primary circulation route with asphalt paving and Belgian block edging
- Restored and expanded amphitheater and bandstand
- Framed view of Downtown Pittsburgh

Existing Grandview Park Bandstand
Existing Allen Street Entrance

GRANDVIEW PARK ALLEN STREET PROPOSED ENTRANCE

- 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
- Entry garden

Emerald View Park
Recommendations

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Multi-purpose Field - Renovate existing multi-purpose field. Include new fencing, renovated site walls (as needed), new signage, and site furniture are included.

2. Bigbee Street overlook - Introduce a formalized gathering space above Bigbee Field with new concrete paving, site furniture, and new regional park signage.

3. Bigbee Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and metal fence. Plant street trees at the ends of Ailine Street and Etta Street to provide visual cues and a sense of identity. The street trees should not obscure key views.

4. Bigbee Field entrance - Relocate entrance and include new steps and a new trailhead connection.

5. ADA accessible path - Introduce an ADA-accessible path with a sloped concrete walk and new plantings.
MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS MT. WASHINGTON PARK

(For Mt. Washington Park trail recommendations, see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)

LEGEND
- Emerald View Park individual park
- Emerald View Park greenway
- Emerald View Park trail
- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed park gateway or entrance
- Proposed park edge improvement
Mt. Washington Park is located on the southernmost point of Emerald View Park in the Mount Washington neighborhood. The park is currently home to the Mount Washington Shelter, Dilworth Field, playgrounds, a court, and the large southern hillside with trail connections.

**History**

Mt. Washington Park was established in 1908, at the request of local citizens. Once productive farmland, the parkland initially included approximately fifteen acres of the hillside.

Due to its steep topography, the park was nicknamed “goat park.” The park has also gone by the name of Wilbert’s Grove and Dilworth Park. In 2009, the Pittsburgh Boxing Club opened in Mt. Washington Park’s Dilworth Shelter House.

**Existing Conditions**

Mt. Washington Park’s main entrance is located at the intersection of Ennis Street and Norton Street with access to park amenities provided at multiple locations along Norton Street. The Ennis Street entrance includes historic sandstone stairs and trail access. Additional trail access is currently hidden behind the shelter. The park can be accessed at the end of Grace Street with a short trail connection up to Ennis Street and Norton Street.

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 lack of opacity through the facility, sightlines across and around the building are not available. Safety concerns regarding the area behind the shelter have been raised and observed. 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 renovation and increased security measures. Renovated lighting, paving, planting, signage, and potential use of security cameras (at the discretion of the City of Pittsburgh) are recommended. The benefit of the improvements is increased use of a community amenity, increased variety of programs, and increased safety for visitors.

Recommendations

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 17.

1. Ennis Street entrance - Restore stone steps and walls, introduce new regional park signage, new concrete paving, and improved access to the Ennis Street trailhead (continued on page 12).

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**Existing Program**

- Existing sloped lawn
- Existing historic steps
- Existing playground
- Existing shelter and plaza
- Existing basketball court
- Existing pedestrian route
- Existing dugout

**Existing Circulation**

- Primary pedestrian circulation
- Secondary pedestrian circulation
- Public sidewalk
- Vehicular circulation
- Park entrance

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**Existing Shelter and Plaza**

- Existing paved lawn
- Existing historic steps
- Existing shelter and plaza

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**Existing Basketball Court**

- Existing paved lawn
- Existing historic steps
- Existing shelter and plaza

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**Existing Pedestrian Route**

- Existing paved lawn
- Existing historic steps
- Existing shelter and plaza

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**Existing Dugout**

- Existing paved lawn
- Existing historic steps
- Existing shelter and plaza
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 trailhead
Desire for ADA trail
Entrance to trail is unclear
Playgrounds recently renovated
Shelter needs to be renovated with restrooms
Court surface recently refinished
Field frequently used
Field overgrown, currently flooded, one of few spaces in Emerald View Park with flat land
Historic WPA stone walls and steps
Materials and site furniture deteriorating
Difficult circulation
Desire for better stormwater management
Desire for stronger park gateway and trailhead
Materials and site furniture deteriorating
Difficult circulation

MT. WASHINGTON PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Trail improvements (see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)

PROJECTS

1. Ennis Street entrance
2. Ennis Street entrance landscape
3. Picnic grove
4. Multi-purpose field
5. ADA accessible walk
6. Spectator seating
7. Secondary circulation
8. Norton Street streetscape
9. Shelter plaza
10. Mount Washington Shelter

See detail plan
2. (continued from page 116) Ennis Street entrance landscape - Renovate lawn areas with picnic tables under large existing trees, renovate concrete walks, and restore stone steps and walls.

3. Picnic grove - Formalize the existing meadow clearing beyond the Ennis Street trailhead with picnic tables and site furniture.

4. Multi-purpose field - Renovate the existing meadow to include high-performance turf for informal games and large gatherings. Integrate stormwater management strategies into field improvements: include bioswales along the edges and rain-tanks under the field.

5. ADA-accessible trail - Provide a new ADA-accessible trail route through Mt. Washington Park. Locate the trail between the Ennis Street and Norton Street trailheads and include crushed stone and wooden boardwalk components.

6. Picnic grove - Replace existing bleachers and site furniture with concrete terraced seating integrated into the hillside between the Ennis Street entrance landscape and Dilworth Field.

7. Secondary circulation - Renovate concrete walks to connect the Ennis Street entrance landscape and Dilworth Field.

8. Norton Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible), street trees, and metal fence.

9. Shelter plaza - Renovate the gathering space between Norton Street and the Mount Washington Shelter and include new concrete paving, planting, lighting, site furniture, and regional park signage.


11. Norton Street entrance - Improve access to the trailhead behind the Mount Washington Shelter. Include new concrete paving, regional park signage, site furniture, and stone walls.
**Existing Mt. Washington Park Field**

**Mt. Washington Park Proposed Multi-Purpose Field**

- Picnic grove
- Restored concrete pathway
- Multi-purpose field
- Restored stone steps and wall
- Accessible boardwalk
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 Mount Washington Community Recreation Center, Ream Pool, a playground, and the Mount Washington 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’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. The entrance also provides access to the pool. 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 multiple community groups. The Recreation Center was included in the 2017 City of Pittsburgh Facilities Optimization Plan, conducted by Massaro Corporation. The plan identified the proposed renovation of the Recreation Center for use as office space and an addition of an elevator for accessibility. Alternate opportunities that were identified 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 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.

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Virginia Avenue entrance - Improve with new concrete paving, new stone walls, regional park signage and better connections to park circulation.
2. Virginia Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.
3. Playground - Update playground equipment; include new surfacing, and site furniture.
4. Merrimac Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.
5. Merrimac Street entrance - Introduce new steps to provide additional access to the pool and the community garden.
6. Community garden - Renovate with better circulation, new paths and steps, and new raised planting beds.
7. Woodruff Street entrance - Introduce new gateway signage, trees, and planting.
8. Woodruff Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.

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

LEGEND
- Proposed program opportunity on flat land
- Proposed park gateway or entrance
- Proposed park edge improvement

EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 1 32

EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND

Duquesne Heights

Mt. Washington

Park

Grandview

Park

Ream

Park

Olympia

Park

Grandview Avenue

Virginia Ave

Woodruff St

Bailey Ave

Shaler St

Beltzhoover Ave

Allen St

Monongahela River

Ohio River

Emerald View Park individual park
Emerald View Park greenway
Emerald View Park trail

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS 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 hillside 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’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, 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.
Recommendations

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Shaler Street streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.
2. Shaler Street entrance - Entrance improvements include stone site walls, new paving, site furniture, and new regional park signage.
3. Gateway sign - Improvements include new gateway signage, trees, and planting.
4. Basketball court - Improvements include expansion of the existing half basketball court with new surfacing and equipment.
5. Picnic area - Picnic area improvements include new lawn planting and site furniture including picnic tables.
6. Deck hockey court - Improvements include renovation of the deck hockey court with new surfacing, fencing, and site furniture.
7. Playground - Playground improvements include updated playground equipment, new surfacing, and site furniture.
8. Greenleaf entrance - Entrance improvements include new stone site walls, new paving, site furniture, and new regional park signage.
9. Greenleaf streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.
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 RECOMMENDATIONS

Desire to expand basketball court
Need to resurface deck hockey court
Some playground features recently renovated
Entrance prioritizes vehicular access
Desire to beautify entrance
Lack of sidewalk
Desire for gateway
Desire for streetscape improvements
Lawn well maintained
Entrance prioritized with other recent

EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

PROJECTS

1. Shaler Street streetscape
2. Shaler Street entrance
3. Gateway
4. Basketball court
5. Picnic area
6. Deck hockey court
7. Playground
8. Greenleaf entrance
9. Greenleaf streetscape

Recommended Circulation

Recommended Program

Existing program
Proposed program
Grandview Avenue is Emerald View Park’s regional destination. As part of the Grand View 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 from 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 trailhead 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.
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 Grand View 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. The interpretive sign standard used (and approved by the City of Pittsburgh’s Art Commission) for the Grand View Scenic Byway pre-date the City’s standards, and will continue to be a unique character element of the Byway, commensurate with other such special locations designated by the Commonwealth. Emerald View Parks medallions currently mark 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 the 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

For its first fifty years, Grandview Avenue served as a neighborhood street, used by workers to access the inclines for 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. Grandview Avenue was first paved in 1890. Decades later, as the industrial boom declined in the City of Pittsburgh, the smog cleared along Grandview Avenue showcasing the views of Downtown and the city’s three rivers. In the 1950s, Grandview Overlook Park was established when the railroad donated land to the City for the park’s creation. The park’s 50 acres provided the famous urban vista that earned a Pennsylvania State Scenic Byway designation in 1973.

Federal highway funds were used in 1963 to develop the eastern end of Grandview Avenue into a tourist destination, including restoration of the Monongahela Incline at the eastern most edge. These funds were also used to build the four observation platforms and install new lighting, fencing, park benches and street trees. The western end of Grandview Avenue was later improved to include the restoration of the Duquesne Incline and the installation of the Point of View statue. The hardscape renovation around the statue and installation of interpretive signage and sitting stones was completed in 2014.

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 of the deteriorated precast concrete beams with new precast concrete. In the Grandview Avenue overwalls are slated for renovation by DOMI and will include the rehabilitation of the four overwalls, painting of railings, minor repairing of concrete walls adjacent to the parking bumpouts, and new light poles along Grandview Avenue’s western end.
GRANDVIEW AVENUE EXISTING CHARACTER ZONES

- Western overlooks and trail connections
- Commercial district: "Restaurant Row"
- Residential district
- Intersection gateway
- Eastern overlooks

- Duquesne Incline
- Monongahela Incline
- Western overlooks
- Eastern overlooks
- Monongahela River
- Ohio River
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 COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS (WEST)

Existing streetscape

Maintain views of city skyline

Desire for streetscape improvements

Entrance to trail is unclear

Need connections to business district

GRANDVIEW AVENUE COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS (EAST)

Existing streetscape

Great views of South Side, desire for better pedestrian experience

Intersection is difficult for pedestrians, desire for a gateway

Desire for multi-modal amenities (bike racks, connections to inclines)

Desire for streetscape improvements

Desire to light the overlooks

Monongahela Incline

Desire for streetscape improvements

Great views of South Side, desire for better pedestrian experience

Existing streetscape

Existing Point of View Statue

Desire for streetscape improvements

P.J. McArdle Roadway

Cleaner pedestrian experience

Monongahela Incline

Desire for streetscape improvements

Maintain views of city skyline

Desire for streetscape improvements

Monongahela Incline

Desire for streetscape improvements

Monongahela Incline

Desire for streetscape improvements

Monongahela Incline

Desire for streetscape improvements
GRANDVIEW AVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS (WEST)

- Trail improvements (see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)
- Maintained views (see Ecology strategies page 167)
- Duquesne Incline

PROJECTS
1. Point of View statue overlook
2. Trailhead
3. Grandview Avenue West streetscape

GRANDVIEW AVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS (EAST)

- Trail improvements (see Trails + Connections strategies page 157)
- Maintained views (see Ecology strategies page 167)
- Monongahela Incline

PROJECTS
1. Grandview Avenue Central streetscape
2. P.J. McArdle Roadway gateway plaza
3. Grandview Avenue East streetscape
Recommendations

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan recommends a series of improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Point of View statue overlook - Renovation of the Point of View statue overlook includes an expanded plaza overlook with new concrete unit pavers, stone walls, seating, site furniture, and plantings.

2. Trailhead - The renovated trailhead includes new site walls and signage to clearly identify the trailhead beyond the Point of View Statue overlook.

3. Grandview Avenue West streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated, widened sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and an Emerald View Park green brick inlay, street trees (located where city views are not obscured), restored historic fencing, custom site furniture, improved crosswalks, and updated lighting. Two material options are shown on the following pages.

4. Grandview Avenue Central streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated, widened sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and an Emerald View Park green brick inlay, street trees (located where city views are not obscured), restored historic fencing, custom site furniture, improved crosswalks, and updated lighting. Two material options are shown on the following pages.

5. P. J. McArdle Roadway gateway plaza - Gateway plaza improvements include new seating, planting, regional park signage, and guard rails.

6. Grandview Avenue East streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated, widened sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and an Emerald View Park green brick inlay, street trees (located where city views are not obscured), restored historic fencing, custom site furniture, improved crosswalks, and updated lighting. Two material options are shown on the following pages.
PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (EAST) - OPTION 1

- Improved crosswalks
- Widened sidewalks with flush curbs, new paving and Emerald View green brick wayfinding
- Improved streetscape
- Repaired fencing
- Street furniture
- Managed views (see Ecology strategies page 167)

PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (EAST) - OPTION 2

- Improved crosswalks
- Widened sidewalks with flush curbs, new paving and Emerald View green brick wayfinding
- Improved streetscape
- Repaired fencing
- Managed views (see Ecology strategies page 167)
RECOMMENDATIONS
GOAL 3
TRAILS + CONNECTIONS
Emerald View Park's trail network is a hidden gem in the City of Pittsburgh. Because Emerald View Park consists of nearly 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, trails through the Saddle, and trails connected to Olympia Park, Grandview Park, and Mt. Washington Park. Most of the 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 included recommendations for trail and connector strategies to connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system. These recommendations build off recommendations from the 2010 Emerald View Park 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 these 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 Avenue, Bigbee Field, and Grandview Park. Between Wyoming Street and East Sycamore Street (location of the former Vinecliff Steps), the saddle trail is fragmented by private and abandoned properties. Maintaining easements for trail access on private property is recommended in this location. As private development pressures continue on the land, the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) and other advocacy organizations should continue to advocate for public access in community development agreements. Between East Sycamore Street and Bigbee Field, the saddle trails appear to be highly used and in need of maintenance. A crosswalk and clear trailheads with signage on both sides of East Sycamore are recommended.

An additional missing trail link is located between Mt. Washington Park and Olympia Park across Woodruff Street and through Chatham Village’s 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.

Establish stronger park connections through neighborhoods

Today, Emerald View Park’s trail network follows the park’s steep ridges along the outer edges of the park. The Master Plan recommends locations for strategic on-street urban trails to additionally connect across Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allegheny neighborhoods. While these areas are out of the explicit boundaries of Emerald View Park, the perpendicular connectors 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.

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 and urban hiking loops to facilitate stronger connections with these cultural institutions.

GOAL 3 | TRAILS + CONNECTIONS

Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system

Create stronger park connections through neighborhoods

Provide welcoming, regional connections to adjacent neighborhoods

Create stronger connections with neighborhood cultural institutions

EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 155
Historic sites

dangerous crossings for trail users on East Sycamore Street and lack of clear signage or direction currently create major roads are in need of improvements. Steep slopes in addition to trailhead improvements, trail crossings over pollinator habitat. multiple objectives can be combined, such as providing trailheads are often collocated with utility rights of way, can be achieved in a relatively well defined area. Because invasion corridors and in many cases effective control can be species control (including replanting) because they present uninviting. Trailheads should be a targeted area for invasive species are thus present near many trailheads neighborhood streets and co-located with utility ROWs, the Because trailheads are often located at the ends of most trails are not accessible due to existing challenging topography, trailheads with seating and gathering areas should be designed to be accessible. Define trailheads and crossings Most trailheads in Emerald View Park are located at the ends of neighborhood streets. Improved signage and clear trailheads would increase park usage. The Master Plan assessed each trailhead within Emerald View Park. Thoughtfully designed landscapes utilizing native tree and shrub species for low maintenance plantings near trailheads would create intentional and inviting trailheads that are clearly branded as entrances to Emerald View Park. Incorporation of stone walls, gathering spaces, parking (where necessary), wayfinding, and unique seasonal plantings are recommended. Because trailheads are often located at the ends of neighborhood streets and co-located with utility ROWs, they can be designed to be accessible.

Incorporation of stone walls, gathering spaces, parking (where necessary), wayfinding, and unique seasonal plantings are recommended. In addition to trailhead improvements, trail crossings over major roads are in need of improvements. Steep slopes and lack of clear signage or direction currently create dangerous crossings for trail users on East Sycamore Street and Shaler Street Trail crossing recommendations include vegetation clearing to provide clear lines of sight for drivers, pedestrian crossing markings, signage, and defined trailhead markers with stones or walls.

Improve trail materials for a variety of uses Generally Emerald View Park’s trails are in good condition and are maintained by volunteers, park rangers, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in partnership with landowners (when grant funding allows). 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, wood and other native materials are intended to stabilize trail edges, create seating areas, and provide safe stream/ seep crossings are recommended. The Emerald View Park Trail Master Plan should be referenced for further detail regarding trail surfacing and sustainability standards and recommendations.

Design urban hiking loops to highlight history and public art Emerald View Park is home to miles of hiking trails through steep greenways and hillside 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 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 infrastructure transportation types: roads, 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.7 stop.

Develop parking strategy The Master Plan recommends improvements to trailheads 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 used when updating or adding new parking areas.

Design for accessibility

86% of Emerald View Park is on land that is 25% or steeper slopes. The steep topography necessitates strategic and intentionally planning for the integration of ADA accessible paths and surfaces wherever feasible. The Master Plan recommends the incorporation of ADA accessible paths, trail, signage, and parking areas where possible, prioritizing parking and access to key trailheads. Most trail heads are not accessible due to existing challenging topography, trailheads with seating and gathering areas should be designed to be accessible.
PROPOSED TRAILHEAD OPTIONS

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

Typical trailhead
Typical trailhead with gathering space
Typical trailhead with gathering space + parking

Native planting and invasive species management (see Ecology strategies page 167)
Wooden bollard to prevent vehicular access
New stone gateway and wooden fence

Trailhead example
Trailhead example
Trailhead example

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD
PROPOSED TRAIL MATERIALS

Easy Trail (0-5%)

Intermediate Trail (5-10%)

Advanced Trail (>20% slope)

Stone retaining wall (as needed)

Stone retaining wall (as needed)

Wood post + rope railing (as needed)

PROPOSED TRAIL MATERIALS

Stepping Stone Trail

Wood Boardwalk Trail

Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management (see Ecology strategies page 167)

PROPOSED TRAIL MATERIALS

Stepping Stone Trail

Wood Boardwalk Trail

Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management (see Ecology strategies page 167)
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 168

GOAL 4 | ECOLOGY
Maximize the park’s ecological performance

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 investments 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 and abandoned mine drainage (AMD) 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. The presence of subsurface drainage infrastructure, and limited opportunities to divert 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 weirs and surface detention as opposed to infiltration is required.

There are opportunities to use funds for stormwater management—within the aim of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from combined stormwater and sewer systems—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 benefits to a recreational upgrade. These projects must be carefully designed, with understandings 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 Ream Park, offer opportunities to redirect stormwater from the streets into playground and court areas. Redevelopment of basketball courts or hockey decks 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, and the scope of this plan. Several streets carry large amounts of water flowing downhill on the northern side of the neighborhood into Seldom Run. Through both subsurface and surface channels, the local combined stormwater and sewer system running along Seldom Run overflows contaminated water into Seldom Run during heavy rains. There may be an opportunity within the Seldom Seen Greenway on the other side of Seldom Run Boulevard to capture some of this water, away from abandoned mine drainage and landslide issues.

There are several sites along Seldom Run that could potentially be prime locations for stormwater management. The area at the foot of Woodrow Street, across Seward Hill 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. Disconnecting some of the drains upstream would likely be needed.

Another opportunity outside of the park is to capture runoff in the neighborhood streets. There are some opportunities...
Park is the result of a large historic landslide near the edge of the park’s forest communities and how they can best be restored. In parallel with the recommended restoration approach is needed to build a scientific understanding of the ecological goal of using native species with the cultural goal of viewing the restored forest. Several methods of invasive species control are effective under different circumstances for different species. Successful methods are:

- **Grasslands:**
  - **Forestry mulcher (mower)**
  - **Goats**

The invasive species that pose the greatest threat to Emerald View Park are oriental bittersweet and Japanese knotweed. Invasive species management work that has been implemented in the past at the Point View, Bigelow Field, and Grandview Park. The suggested locations for invasive species control and management across the park and require well planned control measures. Norway maple, Japanese knotweed, and kudzu (Pueraria montana) occur in small, isolated populations in the ROWs. These species in the ROWs should be removed and replaced with vegetation, at limited strategic locations, should be targeted for immediate eradication. Strategic removal of individual trees and planting of quick-growing native trees that survive without widespread deforestation. Strategic removal of invasive tree species and retain native tree species in the ROWs should be part of an annual maintenance plan to avoid eyesores dominated by invasive species to functional wildflower meadows that support native wildlife. Once invasives are removed overall.

To improve vistas, trees and tall shrubs should be removed below view lines and replanted with native shrub species that will grow to a height that would obscure the view in the future. The Master Plan recommends installing species control plan should be developed that considers the invasive species present in the ROWs of the park’s forest communities and how they can be best managed to provide for multiple benefits: bovine resilience, stormwater attenuation, and wildlife habitat.

To direct this runoff into park areas, but not all of it can be managed in park spaces. The areas where water can be directed to the park are the proposed new access points, passive recreation, or a shelter is not recommended. Select plantings to create a unique sense of place. In addition to the close management of invasive species, the selection of new plantings that are reflective of local ecology and culture is recommended. Aligning the ecological goal of using native species with the cultural goal of viewing the restored forest. Several methods of invasive species control are effective under different circumstances for different species. Successful methods are:

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One of the few green spaces along Emerald View Park is the result of a historic landslide. These areas were largely lost a sustainable alternative, limiting their habitat value and reducing their potential to absorb stormwater runoff when compared to a forested park. This transformation of grassland to forest vegetation is a parallel process. The Master Plan suggests upslope of view lines and replanted with native shrub species that will grow to a height that would obscure the view in the future. The Master Plan recommends installing species control plan should be developed that considers the invasive species present in the ROWs of the park’s forest communities and how they can be best managed to provide for multiple benefits: bovine resilience, stormwater attenuation, and wildlife habitat.

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The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan synthesizes large amounts of data, community input, and field research into implementable goals and strategies. The Plan is a multi-year guiding tool for the City of Pittsburgh and the Emerald View Park stakeholders.

This section of the Master Plan recommends a series of strategies to build momentum for the future of the park through phasing and implementation.

Develop phasing plan

The Master Plan includes a multi-year phasing plan that identifies short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects. The phasing plan was determined by input from community residents and City of Pittsburgh staff. A selection criteria was based on feasibility, cost, and need. 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, and high visibility. Short-term projects are intended to be completed in zero to six years. The six-year time frame was selected to align with the City of Pittsburgh’s capital improvement budgeting timeline. Medium-term projects were determined based on the feasibility of implementation, funding, and implementation coordination. Medium-term projects are intended to be completed in six to ten years. Long-term projects were determined based on the aspirational vision from community residents and City of Pittsburgh staff. Long-term projects are intended to be completed in ten or more years. Efforts were made to predict appropriate phasing time frames but it is acknowledged that work completed by the City of Pittsburgh depends on yearly budget allocations with a variable of needs and changing circumstances. Phasing time frames are provided as estimated references only.

Priorities first phase projects

The Master Plan phasing plan identifies short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects. First phase projects signal investment across the entirety of Emerald View Park and provide a grounding of the realities of implementation, funding, and orders of magnitude for fundraising efforts. Relative project costs, based on phasing, are included in this section. Detailed, low-level cost estimates for individual projects and park geographies are included in Appendix F. Cost estimates are based on conceptual plans and are highly variable. Site surveys and detailed geotechnical reports are underway before implementation of any work. Site surveys were not completed as part of the Master Plan.

Physical improvements:

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 all ready 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.

While funding, partnership building, and continued analysis and design is needed for multiple medium-term and long-term projects, momentum can be built for projects in the short-term. Temporary projects can generate excitement for 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 biking loops that connect to business districts, historic sites, and public art.

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 development of a comprehensive capacity building with local existing partners and the potential of new partners to facilitate implementation.

Identify programming strategy and responsibilities

While the Master Plan recommends physical strategies for park improvement, the success of Emerald View Park is also based on the activation of the park through programming of events on a weekly and yearly basis. A coordinated programming calendar of events that maximizes the use of all of Emerald View Park is recommended. It is recommended that water or tourist programming be focused on the Grandview Avenue and Grandview Park corridors. Programming aligned with neighborhood needs should be focused on the anchor parks and smaller neighborhood parks.

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 costs, based on phasing, are included in this section. Detailed, low-level cost estimates for individual projects and park geographies are included in Appendix F. Cost estimates are based on conceptual plans and are highly variable. Site surveys and detailed geotechnical reports are underway before implementation of any work. Site surveys were not completed as part of the Master Plan.
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

**OLYMPIA PARK**

- Virginia Avenue entrance
- Virginia Avenue streetscape
- Dog park
- Playground and courts
- Primary circulation loop
- Hallock Street entrance
- Hallock Street landscape
- Hallock Street parking lot
- Contemplative space

**GRANDVIEW PARK**

- Bailey Avenue entrance
- Amphitheater landscape
- Amphitheater
- Terraced lawn
- Picnic overlook
- Primary circulation
- Trailhead
- Water tower overlook
- Playground
- Court

**PHASING**

- Long-term project
- Medium-term project
- Short-term project

**PROJECTS**
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

TRAILS

- Existing trail
- Short-term project
- Medium-term project
- Long-term project

LEGEND

* Existing trails that are not included in this planning plan are included in the trail network in Appendix F for future trail implementation purposes.

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

TRAILHEADS, TRAIL CROSSINGS, GATEWAYS, AND ENTRANCES

LEGEND

- Existing trail
- Short-term project
- Medium-term project
- Long-term project

* For trail projects incorporated into individual park improvement planning plans, see pages 176-183.

LEGEND

- Park gateway or entrance
- Trailhead or trail crossing

* For trail projects incorporated into individual park improvement planning plans, see pages 176-183.
### PHASING STRATEGY: SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Cost*</th>
<th>Potential Project Partners**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MULTIYEAR PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatham Village trail connection</td>
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<td>DPW (lead), PPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerald View Trail and curve steps</td>
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<td>DPW (lead), Landforce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidewalk trail connection and wood steps</td>
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<td>DPW (lead), Landforce</td>
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<td><strong>SHORT-TERM PROJECTS</strong></td>
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<td>Grandview Avenue West streetscape</td>
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<td>Olympia Park</td>
<td>Virginia Avenue entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Washington Park</td>
<td>Ennis Street entrance and landscape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandview Park</td>
<td>Bailey Avenue entrance and Allen Street</td>
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<td>Grandview Avenue</td>
<td>Point of View statue overlook</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bigbee Field</td>
<td>Bigbee Street entrance and ADA accessible path</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandview Avenue</td>
<td>Stormwater management capacity plans (individual parks and streets)</td>
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<td>Stormwater management plan (Emerald View Park overall)</td>
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<td>DPW (lead), PPC, Allentown CDC</td>
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<td>Sweetbriar Street/Virginia Avenue steps</td>
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<td>Wymer Street</td>
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<td>Bigbee Field</td>
<td>Multi-purpose field, Bigbee Street streetscape and pools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elijah McCoy Playground</td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
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<td>Mount Washington Park</td>
<td>Multi-purpose field and stormwater management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Washington Park</td>
<td>Picnic grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandview Park</td>
<td>Bandshell, amphitheater landscape, and terraced seating</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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*For detailed, line-item cost estimates, see Appendix 7*  
**When multiple partners are listed, lead partner is noted. Additional partners are included for potential planning, advocacy, fundraising, construction, and maintenance support.

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<th>Project Name</th>
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**LEGEND**

- 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
- Proposed, City owned parcels

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**PROJECT NAME**

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**PHASING STRATEGY**

**LONG-TERM PROJECTS**

- Trails
- On-street trail streetscape
- Park gateways
- Park streetscape
- Park amenities

---

**MOUNTAIN PROJECTS**

- Trails
- On-street trail streetscape
- Park gateways
- Park streetscape
- Park amenities

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**PHASED PROJECTS**

- Trails
- On-street trail streetscape
- Park gateways
- Park streetscape
- Park amenities

---

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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