“ 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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The establishment of Emerald View Park was made possible by the collective effort 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 reforest the hillsides, build trails, refurbish the parks, protect available parcels, and inspire the next generation of stewards of this land.

The land included in Emerald View Park and the neighborhoods adjacent to the park owe their existence and vitality to generations whose lives and energy influenced this current moment in time. The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan acknowledges that the land defined as Emerald View Park today is the ancestral land of the Shawnee and Osage People. The Master Plan pays respect to their elders, past and present, and considers the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement.

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan process began in the summer of 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the risks and additional demands of the pandemic, many stakeholders did not have the time or the ability to dedicate to this planning effort. The project team acknowledges this bias in the master plan process and made every effort to provide alternative outlets for review and input. The diversity of community engagement strategies employed are outlined in the pages ahead.

-The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan

REFERENCES

The land included in Emerald View Park and the neighborhoods adjacent to the park owe their existence and vitality to generations whose lives and energy influenced this current moment in time. The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan acknowledges that the land defined as Emerald View Park today is the ancestral land of the Shawnee and Osage People. The Master Plan pays respect to their elders, past and present, and considers the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement.

-The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan

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Emerald View Park is a 257-acre regional park located in the City of Pittsburgh’s Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights, and Allegheny neighborhoods. Emerald View Park includes a variety of public open spaces, greenways, trails, Grandview Avenue (part of the Grand View Scenic Byway), and multiple neighborhood parks (Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, Bigbee Field, Eileen 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 Need**

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan presents a unique opportunity to continue to support the community vision of an iconic and community-centered, connected public space. While individual projects have been planned and implemented over the last century, Emerald View Park has never had a comprehensive Master Plan. The Master Implementation Plan for the Grand View Scenic Byway Park (2005) was a pivotal document 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 OpenSpacePGH plan (2013) did not include Emerald View Park in anticipation of the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan.
The Master Plan process began in the summer of 2020 and concluded in the summer of 2021. Over the course of a year, the project team, the advisory committee, community members, and stakeholders participated in a variety of virtual and 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.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ad Hoc Focus Group Workshops</td>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Hosted smaller focus group workshops to gather deeper feedback on specific areas of Emerald View Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Workshop #1 Inventory + Analysis</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
<td>Presented findings of initial analysis and historic review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Workshop #2 Master Plan Ideas</td>
<td>February 2021</td>
<td>Shared design ideas for park based on community input.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Workshop #3 Draft Master Plan</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>Presented preferred final plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee Meeting</td>
<td>October 2021</td>
<td>EngagePGH online survey + feedback.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

- **Advisory committee meetings**: The Advisory Committee represented a diverse group of individuals who use the park regularly and will be involved in future implementation of the Master Plan. The committee served as a conduit between the project team, residents, and local community organizations.
- **Socially distanced communication**: The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated an altered engagement strategy. The project team used socially distanced surveys, a variety of signage, virtual site visits, and virtual meetings to communicate with residents and community members.
- **In-person and virtual site visits**: In-person and virtual site visits were conducted as social distancing requirements would allow. Virtual tours with stakeholders utilized Zoom, Google Earth, and online sketching tools to “tour” and understand areas of the park.
- **Advisory committee workshops**: Three public workshops were held to gather 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 informed feedback from participants.
- **Public focus-group workshops**: From public workshops were held to gather deeper feedback on specific geographic areas of Emerald View Park. Public focus group workshops were held in several different neighborhoods. Because of the park’s geographic complexity, the project team held public focus group workshops to gather deeper feedback on specific areas. from stakeholders.
The inventory and analysis process for Emerald View Park included observation of existing conditions through field visits, stakeholder interviews, and mappings. The inventory and analysis summarizes findings categorized into four themes: history, community, connectivity, and ecology with subcategories listed below.

**HISTORY**
- Park Evolution
- Past and Ongoing Planning Efforts
- Historic Features
- Ongoing Special Projects

**COMMUNITY**
- Demographics
- Land Use
- Business Districts
- Cultural Destinations
- Programming
- Unauthorized Activities (observed fall 2020)

**CONNECTIVITY**
- Neighborhood Connectivity
- City Connectivity
- Regional Connectivity
- Accessibility
- Trail Conditions
- Wayfinding & Signage

**ECOLOGY**
- Topography
- Soils
- Bedrock
- Landforms
- Cool & Mining
- Stormwater
- Forest Health
- Invasive Plant Species
- Natural Resource Features
- Wildlife

**EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 10**

**EMERALD VIEW PARK EVOLUTION**

1897 Grandview Park

The City first acquired Grandview Park in 1897, which originally consisted of 18 acres of the Robinson Farm on the hillside. The park is one of the highest points in the city.

1908 Olympia Park & Mt. Washington Park

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

1950s Grandview Avenue

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

1980s Duquesne Heights Greenway

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

2000s Emerald Link and Grand View Scenic Byway

In 2005, a Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) task force led the effort to establish the northern hillside of Mount Washington as the “Emerald Link,” kick-starting the work to connect the ridges into one large open space. In 2002, the task force succeeded in designating Grandview Avenue, P.J. McArdle Roadway, and E Sycamore Street as a State Scenic Byway.

Emerald View Park Today

In 2005, Grand View Scenic Byway was created, and in 2007, the park was designated as one of Pittsburgh’s five regional parks. In 2010, the park was renamed Emerald View Park in a city-wide renaming competition. Today, Emerald View Park spans 257 acres in Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown.
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 overdescs 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.

CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

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 overdescs 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.
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

*For detailed descriptions of individual strategies, see Master Plan recommendations

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

*For detailed descriptions of individual strategies, see Master Plan recommendations

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
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 pathways, 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.

LEGEND

- Proposed connection
- View to maintain or enhance
- Proposed gateway or entrance
- Proposed park edge improvement
- Proposed cultural or historic connection
- Proposed program opportunity
- Proposed ecological opportunity
- Proposed stormwater opportunity

Recommendation for Grandview Park Allen Street entrance

Recommendation for proposed trailhead
RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 1

PARKS
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 neighborhood amenities.

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, weekend walks, and playful hillsides. Use of historic precedent materials and forms in a contemporary style is recommended. Design recommendations and examples 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. Adding to the confusion is the lack of clear circulation routes to the larger trail network. Each park in Emerald View Park is also connected to the Emerald View Park trail and greenway network. In addition to providing clear signage and trailheads, by leveraging the parks’ locations and ability to serve 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.

Improve park edges and connections to immediate neighbors

Currently, many of Emerald View Park’s edges are unclear, unsightly, and inaccessible. The Master Plan recommends improving the park edges and connections to immediate neighbors with investment in street tree improvements, and gateways. Streettree improvements should include new street trees at least 3’-8” wide, street trees that meet the City of Pittsburgh street tree standards, underground utilities, marked pedestrian crossings, and bike lanes where feasible. Where steep topography creates sharp differences in grade change between streets and parks, ornamental fencing should be considered. Gateways should include signage in keeping with the regional park signage standard. Site features such as walls should be consistent with other 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 standard have been adopted for Emerald View Park and should be used. The interpretive sign standard used (and approved by the City

GOAL 1 | PARKS

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

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.
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 reoriented 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
86% 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.

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 flat land for large gathering spaces. Many survey respondents commented on the need for areas for large community events. Currently most flat land in the park is 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. Full 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.

A sampling of recommendations for individual parks are provided on the following pages. For the complete set of recommendations, see the full Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan document.
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 30

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, site of trees introduced
- Entry wall

CONCRETE SIDEWALKS
- Concrete sidewalks with underground utilities and metal fence (as needed)
- Entry wall
- 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, site of trees introduced
- Entry wall

CONCRETE SIDEWALKS
- Concrete sidewalks with underground utilities and metal fence (as needed)
- Entry wall
- 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, site of trees introduced
- Entry wall

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. Hallock Street streetscape
7. Play area
8. Picnic shelter
9. Olympia Park Shelter + plazas
10. Secondary circulation
11. Hallock Street entrance
12. Hillside trails
13. Multi-purpose field and walking track
14. Stormwater management
15. Contemplative space
16. Hallock Street parking lot
**GRANDVIEW PARK RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Viewshed management (see Ecology strategies)
- Trail improvements (see Trails + Connections strategies)

**PROJECTS**

1. Bailey Avenue entrance
2. Amphitheater landscape
3. Bandshell
4. Terraced lawn
5. Historic overlook
6. Primary circulation
7. Trailhead
8. Water tower overlook
9. Playground
10. Court
11. Allen Street entrance
12. Allen Street parking lot

**GRANDVIEW PARK PROPOSED BANDSTAND**

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

**GOAL 2 | GRANDVIEW AVENUE**

**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 regional destination, Grandview Avenue is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. However, it is currently unclear that Grandview Avenue is a popular destination for the Bailey Avenue business district and from Grandview Park along Beechview Avenue and Allegheny Street to Allison’s Warrington Street business district are recommended. Streetcape and wayfinding improvements to connect Grandview Avenue to the Bailey Avenue business district and from Grandview Park along Beechview Avenue and Allegheny Street to Allison’s Warrington Street business district are recommended.

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

Grandview Avenue is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. However, it is currently unclear that Grandview Avenue and the 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 preclude the City’s standards, and will continue to be a unique characteristic of the Byway, commensurate with other such special locations designated by the Commonwealth. Emerald View Park 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 Emerald View Park and within Emerald View Park’s 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 an 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.

For the complete set of Grandview Avenue recommendations, see the full Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan document.

**ELEVATE VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 36**

**Legend**

- Extended Grandview Avenue experience
- Proposed on-street connection
- Business district
- View to maintain or enhance

**Goal 2 | Grandview Avenue**

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

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**Expand the Grandview Avenue Experience**

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**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 an 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.

For the complete set of Grandview Avenue recommendations, see the full Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan document.
Widened sidewalks with new paving and Emerald View green brick wayfinding
Improved crosswalks
Managed views (see Ecology strategies)

PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (WEST) - OPTION 1

Underground utilities
Street furniture
Managed views (see Ecology strategies)
Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system

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

 Connect missing links in trail networks

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

 One area of particular focus is the Saddle, the region of the park connecting Grandview 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 trail appears to be highly used and in need of maintenance. A crosswalk and clear trailheads with signage on both sides of East Sycamore is 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. This 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 Connection, Seldom Seen Greenway, the Southside, and Station Square are recommended. Physical improvements include streetcar 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.
**Design for accessibility**

80% of Emerald View Park is on land that is on 25% or steeper slopes. The steep topography necessitates strategic and intentionally planning for the integration of ADA accessible paths and amenities where feasible. The Master Plan recommends the incorporation of ADA accessible paths, trails, entrances, and parking where possible, prioritizing parking and access to key trailheads. Although 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 rights of way, trailheads with seating and gathering areas that are clearly branded as entrances to 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, the trailheads also present corridors for invasive species into the park. Invasive species are thus present near many trailheads and are often dense enough to make the trailhead uninviting. Trailheads should be a targeted area for invasive species control (including replanting) because they present invasion corridors and in many cases effective control can be achieved in a relatively well defined area. Because trailheads are often co-located with utility rights of way, multiple objectives can be combined, such as providing pollinator habitat.

In addition to trailhead improvements, trail crossings over major roads are in need of improvements. Steep slopes, 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 streets or walls.

**Improve trail materials for a variety of uses**

Generally Emerald View Park’s trail’s are in good condition and are maintained by volunteers, park rangers, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in partnership with the Conservancy (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, and snowshoeing. Successful trail materials have been determined by trail slope and proximity to seeps and streams. Stream crossings and crossings over ditches, create seating areas, and provide safe stream/water crossings are recommended. The Emerald View Park Trail Master Plan should be referenced for further detail regarding trail surface characteristics 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 wider areas of the park, the Master Plan recommends adding urban hiking loops into the trail network. The urban hiking loops include on-street trails and park trails and are strategically aligned to highlight neighborhood history, culture, and public art.

**Connect park to public transportation hubs**

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

**Develop parking strategy**

The Master Plan recommends improvements to trailhead 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.

**PROPOSED TRAILHEAD OPTIONS**

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

**A sampling of recommendations for trails and connections are provided on the following page. For the complete set of recommendations, see the full Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan document.**

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[Image: Diagram of trailhead options]  
[Image: Diagram of trailhead with gathering space + parking]  
[Image: Diagram of trailhead example]  
[Image: Diagram of trailhead example with gathering space]  
[Image: Diagram of trailhead example with parking]
RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 4

ECOLOGY
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN | 48

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 planting, in addition to the responsible use of regional materials for site work. The Master Plan aims to continue this work and strategically align any future investment in ecological resources with placemaking aspirations. To maximize the park's ecological performance, the Master Plan layers multiple benefits within each recommendation. Ecological strategies and their locations were based on their ability to be co-designed to include benefits to trails, parks, recreation, and placemaking.

Manage stormwater 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 direct water flowing downhill into the park spaces is yet another. Incorporation of bioswales and rain gardens with native plants and educational signage into park landscape improvement projects is recommended. Due to park’s history with abandoned mine drainage and undermining, designing the green infrastructure to slow down peak flows during rain events with weirs and surface detention as opposed to infiltration is required.

There are opportunities to use funds for stormwater management—with the aim of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park spaces while storing stormwater. For example, park recreational facilities in the anchor parks, such as the baseball fields in Olympia Park and Mt. Washington Park, could be upgraded through stormwater funding to accommodate a large amount of runoff. The use of bioswales, rain-gardens, or subsurface retention tanks (s-traps) could be integrated to provide maximum stormwater benefit to a recreational upgrade. These projects must be carefully designed, with intentions 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 down 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 the water, away from abandoned mine drainage and landside issues.

There are several sites along Seldom Run that could potentially be prime locations for stormwater management. The area at the foot of Woodstock Street, across Swoy Hill Run Boulevard is 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. Disconnected some of the drains upstream would likely be re-wetted.

Another opportunity outside of the park is to capture runoff in the neighborhood streets. There are some opportunities
Design ideas for Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan

**Overview**
Emerald View Park is a large public park located in the heart of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The park is known for its beautiful views of downtown Pittsburgh and the nearby Allegheny River. However, the park currently faces several challenges, including invasive species, poor drainage, and a limited ability to absorb stormwater runoff. The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan aims to address these issues and create a more resilient park that can adapt to future challenges.

**Invasive Species Management**
Emerald View Park is home to several invasive species, including Norway maple, Japanese knotweed, and garlic mustard. These species can rapidly spread and outcompete native plants, reducing biodiversity and harming ecosystem function. The plan recommends a comprehensive invasive species control plan that involves multiple strategies, including mechanical removal, chemical control, and biological control. Specialized and licensed applicators will be required to ensure that control measures are carried out effectively.

**Stormwater Management**
Emerald View Park is located in an urban area and receives significant stormwater runoff. The plan recommends the implementation of rain gardens and permeable pavements to reduce stormwater runoff and improve groundwater recharge. Natural drainage systems will also be enhanced to direct runoff into park areas. The plan also recommends the incorporation of educational programs to increase public awareness of stormwater management issues.

**Viewshed Management**
Emerald View Park offers stunning views of downtown Pittsburgh and the Allegheny River. The plan recommends the removal of invasive species to improve views of the park's natural and cultural landscapes. This will involve the removal of invasive shrubs and trees, planting of native species, and the development of educational programs to promote public understanding of tree removal and restoration.

**Vegetation Management**
The park's vegetation is diverse and includes a variety of native and non-native species. The plan recommends the removal of non-native species to improve the park's ecosystem and promote biodiversity. This will involve the removal of invasive species, such as garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed, and the replacement with native species that are well-suited to the park's climate and soil conditions.

**Conclusion**
The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan is a comprehensive plan that addresses the park's current challenges and sets the stage for a more resilient, sustainable future. The plan involves multiple strategies, including invasive species control, stormwater management, and viewshed management. By implementing these strategies, the park will be better able to adapt to future challenges and provide a more enjoyable experience for visitors.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 5
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION
Build momentum for the future of the park

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 criterion 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. 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. Site surveys and detailed geotechnical reports estimates are based on conceptual plans and are highly variable. Site surveys and detailed geotechnical reports estimates are included in Appendix F. Cost project costs, based on phasing, are included in this section. Detailed line-item 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 estimates are included in Appendix F. Cost estimates are based on conceptual plans and are highly variable.

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan synthesizes large amounts of data, community input, and field research into implementable goals and strategies. The Master 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 criterion 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 stakeholders and the feasibility of implementation, higher costs, and implementation coordination. Long-term projects are intended to be completed in ten or more years. Efforts were made to predict appropriate phasing time frames. 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 the Emerald View Park stakeholders. This section of the Master Plan recommends a series of first phase, short-term projects that immediately build momentum for all five goals of the Master Plan.

Park entrance improvements and trailhead renovations signal investment across the entirety of Emerald View Park while elevating the visual identity of the park, as a regional destination and providing opportunities to make highly visible ecological improvements. Completion of currently missing trail connections would complete the Emerald View Park trail loop and connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system. Improvement of existing park amenities including the recreation of the Olympia Park Shelter and the Grandview Park amphitheater have been long-sought after by community advocates and would provide necessary community gathering space and facilities.

Test design ideas with temporary projects

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.

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 outdoor or touring 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.

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 mixed-use capacity building with local existing partners and the potential of new partners to facilitate implementation.

Develop cost estimates

Cost estimates for improvements across Emerald View Park provide a grounding of the realities of implementation, funding, and orders of magnitude for fundraising efforts. Relative project costs, based on phasing, are included in this section. Detailed, line-item 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 estimates are included in Appendix F. Site surveys and detailed geotechnical reports estimates are included in Appendix F. Site surveys and detailed geotechnical reports estimates are included in Appendix F.

A sampling of phasing recommendations for individual parks are provided on the following pages for the complete set of recommendations. See the Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan document.
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

OLYMPIA PARK

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

PROJECTS
1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Avenue streetscape
3. Dog park
4. Playground and courts
5. Primary circulation loop
6. Hallock Street entrance
7. Hillside trail
8. Multi-purpose field and walking track
9. Stormwater management
10. Contemplative space
11. Hallock Street parking lot
12. Hallock Street streetscape
13. Play area
14. Picnic shelter
15. Olympia Park Shelter + plaza
16. Secondary circulation
17. Picnic grove
18. Secondary circulation
19. Spectator seating
20. Norton Street entrance

MT. WASHINGTON PARK

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

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. Norton Street streetscape
8. Mount Washington Shelter
9. Norton Street entrance
10. Shelter plaza
11. Secondary circulation
12. Norton Street entrance
PROJECTS
1 Point of View statue overlook
2 Trailhead
3 Grandview Avenue West streetscape
4 Grandview Avenue Central streetscape

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

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION GRANDVIEW AVENUE

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION TRAILS

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

*Existing trails that are not included in this phasing plan are included in the cost estimate in Appendix F for future trail improvement purposes.