

Meeting Summary

CORE TEAM AND KICK-OFF MEETING JANUARY 15, 2019

Meeting Purpose

Gather the leaders in City departments and divisions related to this plan update to engage them at the start of the process; identify successes and challenges since the 2011 plan was adopted.

Participants

- Kelly Beymer, Community Services Administrator
- Leslie Betlach, Community Services, Parks Planning and Natural Resources Director
- Katie Buchl-Morales, Community Economic Development Assistant Planner
- Terry Flatley, Community Services, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Manager
- Cailin Hunsaker, Community Services, Parks and Trails Director
- Angie Mathias, Community Economic Development, Long Range Planning Manager
- Jeff Minisci, Community Services, Facilities Director
- Carrie Nass, Community Services, Recreation and Neighborhoods Manager
- Erica Schmitz, Community Services, Capital Improvement Project Coordinator
- Maryjane Van Cleave, Community Services, Recreation and Neighborhoods Director

The attached agenda includes two sets of questions that made up the core of the discussion in this meeting. This summary is organized by these two categories of questions, with a final section, identifying data to be explored during this process.

Changes in Renton

- Department leadership and structural changes
 - New department administrator and many division directors
 - Recreation and Neighborhood departments merging
 - Staff is engaged and ready to meet the needs of the changing community
- Growing and diversifying population
 - More ethnically/culturally diverse – minority majority
 - More multifamily, there's a need to figure out how to better engage residents living in multifamily housing
- Increased neighborhood focus and programming
 - Revamped City's Recognized Neighborhood program
 - Highlands Neighborhood Center shifted to a custodial STEM program at the request of the parents of the adjacent elementary school.



- Major new community events
 - Cruise the Loop
 - Multi-cultural Festival
 - Farmers Market
- Improving existing and exploring new programming focus areas
 - Family programming
 - Teen programming
 - Programming for adults without kids
 - Senior programming for the younger seniors in this cohort
 - Community health initiative
 - Arts and cultural programming reflective of the community
 - Moving towards an inclusive model of Adaptive Recreation (formerly specialized recreation now Adaptive Recreation)
- In-process work to be approved in 2019
 - Forestry Ordinance
 - Trails and Bicycle Master Plan
 - Family First Community Center design, fundraising, and program development

Themes to Explore in this Update

- How to shape program changes
 - What to let go of as new ideas are explored (and required capacity)
 - Outdoor education and programming
 - Filling gaps in what is offered in the community
- Recreation on/along the Cedar River
- What it means to be a regional hub for trails and some unique sites
 - Additional maintenance resources needed
- How people access information
 - Mobile internet
 - Not necessarily at the City website
 - High expectation of customization
- Updates to park facilities (interiors and entire buildings) to serve modern and future use
 - Adding flexibility and versatility
 - Increasing safety, both perceived and actual
- Expanding and formalizing partnership with the Renton School District
 - Updating expired joint-use agreement
- Inclusive engagement as a genuine exchange

Data

The following list includes data points identified in the meeting and ideas for additional comparisons to explore as part of the plan update.

- Facilities Condition Assessment
- There have been 88 external special event permits and 60 special events organized by the City (confirm number and timeframe)
- Staff per square foot of facility space
- Acres of park per maintenance person
- # of grant requests to the City and grants awarded for neighborhood events
 - Program 2.5 years old
- Recreation and Neighborhoods is pursuing major outside grants, which is new since the 2011 plan
 - Grants awarded to the City over time
- Pool costs and fees structure in relation to ongoing maintenance costs
- Confirm the City has expanded from 57 neighborhoods to 100 neighborhoods since last plan
- Daytime population in addition to resident population
- GIS maps that show demographic changes in the City. It was mentioned that the City's GIS staff has this
- Accepted forward looking population projections
- Population density: residential and employment
- Recreation demand numbers (requests vs. bookings)
- Comparisons to other jurisdictions
 - Impact fees

Next Steps

The meeting was closed with a summary of the first steps in the update process and the opportunities for staff engagement.



agenda

Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Plan Kick-Off Meeting

Date **1/15/19**

Time **3:00 – 5:00 PM**

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Welcome

- Introductions
- Agenda overview

3:15 pm – 3:35 pm

Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Plan

- Goals and purpose of the plan
- Why we are updating the plan

3:35 pm – 4:00 pm

Changes in Renton Since 2011

- See questions on reverse side
- Discussion of trends and available data

4:00 pm – 4:35 pm

Themes to Explore in this Update

- See questions on reverse side
- Discussion of themes and available data

4:35 pm – 5:00 pm

Wrap-Up

- Ongoing staff involvement in the plan
 - First steps in the update process
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Kick-Off Meeting Discussion Questions

What has changed in Renton since this plan was last updated in 2011?

- New focus within departments and divisions?
- Changes in how people use parks, natural areas and recreation facilities? Responsive strategies? (i.e. more organized sports, fewer pick-up games; demand for structured events versus drop-in or free play)
- Parks, facilities, trails, and natural areas opened or closed (or no longer programmed/available)?
- How to engage a plugged-in population with diverse needs? New communication tactics?
- Issues or topics that are important to decision makers and the community?

What important themes or topics should this update explore?

The following is the beginning of a list generated by the core project team:

- Sustaining the system through routine maintenance,
- Reinvesting in the major maintenance needs of parks and facilities,
- Meeting the present level of service needs and demands,
- Building park system capacity to meet future needs,
- Maintaining and enhancing tree canopy cover, and
- Building capacity in City staff

Add your thoughts, comments, and additions to the space below: