

Project Summary

The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo received a grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation to perform surveying and design development recommendations for athletic and recreation facilities in 11 neighborhood City of Buffalo parks and Buffalo Public School sites. The improvements will include sports fields and courts (turf, drainage, lighting, watering), spectator stands and press boxes, landscaping, play equipment, walkways, parking, green infrastructure and public amenities.

City of Buffalo Parks

- Glenny Park
- JFK Park
- JBW / Masten Park
- McCarthy Park
- Mungovan Park
- Waterfront / Emerson Young Park

Buffalo Public Schools Facilities

- All High Stadium
- Charles Dingboom Riverside Field
- Grabiarz Field
- Olmsted at Kensington Field
- Seneca High School Field - MST

Workshop Format

The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, in partnership with the City of Buffalo and Buffalo Public Schools, held three consecutive workshops with the project design team (SWBR, Fisher Associates, Mustard Seed World Consulting Group and Great Lakes Athletic Fields) and community stakeholders to collaboratively identify priority improvements and increase community use. The workshops were held at Waterfront Elementary School on December 4, Bennett High School on December 5, and City Honors School on December 6, 2018. Each meeting focused on parks and schools in close proximity to the workshop location:

Waterfront Elementary School | December 4, 2018

- Mungovan Park
- JFK Park
- Waterfront / Emerson Young Park

Bennett High School | December 5, 2018

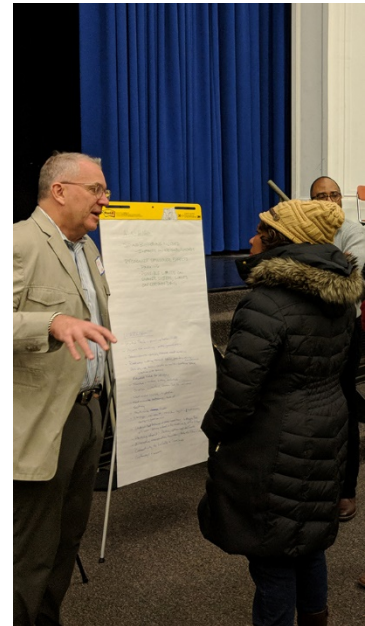
- Charles Dingboom Riverside Field
- All-High Stadium
- Grabiarz Field
- McCarthy Park

City Honors School | December 6, 2018

- Johnnie B. Wiley / Masten Park
- Glenny Park
- Olmsted at Kensington Field
- Seneca High School Field

The workshops included presentation boards for each recreational facility with identified issues and assets. Project team members documented conversations and attendees provided comments in writing.

The comments received on needed improvements and desired amenities will be used to develop project priorities for each facility. The preliminary designs will be presented in late January with workshops for stakeholder review and comment. All identified stakeholders and workshop attendees will be notified of the next series of workshops.



Workshop Overview

The workshops were held on December 4, 5, and 6 with more than **50 stakeholders participating**. Workshop participants included principals, teachers, and coaches from various Buffalo Public Schools, Common Council and School Board representatives, community organizations, neighborhood associations, block clubs, community athletic leagues, and representatives from various City of Buffalo departments.

Each workshop included a welcome and project overview by Andrew Rabb¹ with the City of Buffalo, Paul McDonnell² with Buffalo Public Schools, and William Price³ with SWBR. The project overview included a description of the project's goals, physical and programmatic descriptions of each facility, and the goals of the first series of workshops.



¹ Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works, Parks & Streets, Division of Parks & Recreation

² Director of Facilities, Office of Finance & Operations

³ SWBR Project Manager and Landscape Architect

City of Buffalo Parks Facilities

McCarthy Park

- Proximity of athletic fields to homes on William Price Parkway
- Consider reorienting northern multi-use field 90 degrees and southerly
- Add vegetation buffer to cul-de-sac
- Extend perimeter walking path
- Add fitness stations
- Add lighting to pathways / parking areas
- Add security cameras
- Orient some play spaces to neighborhood streets
- Give a park-like character vs athletic field
- Improve spectator seating locations / orientation
- Pavilions for shade near each athletic field, courts and baseball complex
- Boulders are maintenance issue
- Consider removing fencing at perimeter; overgrowth difficult to maintain

Glenny Park

- Additional off-street parking for games and practice
- Field lighting for practice (users park on grass currently)
- Concessions / Restroom building needs to be enlarged and upgraded (electric, plumbing)
- Storage for athletic equipment
- Changing room and lockers
- Drainage issue between football and basketball courts
- 4 Wheel vehicles access off of Filmore Ave.
- Fences / screens to keep balls from crossing into adjacent fields
- Additional bleachers
- Football goal posts
- Synthetic turf baseball / softball fields
- Use of MST Seneca for games

Masten & Johnnie B. Wiley

Masten Park

- Buffalo City Hoop tournament annually
- Permit and insurance process intimidating
- Shelters and tables needed for spectators and visitors
- Parking needed (designated off-street)
- Full time lifeguards needed while pool is open summer months
- Playground equipment and surface improvements needed
- Building is always closed
- Need access to restrooms
- Open concessions building
- Define potential uses for building
- Scoreboard desirable
- Additional seating for spectators at basketball courts
- Lighting for basketball
- Storage facilities
- Electrical outlets
- Security cameras (who monitors)
- Pool deck improvements needed
- Accessibility to pool
- Formal softball field for City Honors
- Multi-use practice field for Charter School football programs
- Repair stairs on north side; lighting, cameras
- Historic wall repairs (drainage, joint re-pointing)

- Repair of eliminate stairs on Masten (memorial concern)
- Slope maintenance
- National Guard uses field for workouts

Johnnie B. Wiley

- South pavilion tower renovated to boxing facility
- South pavilion roof replacement (critical)
- Runoff from hill onto baseball field needs to be addressed
- Lighting of baseball field
- Synthetic turf for baseball / softball fields
- No pedestrian access from Dodge Street for pedestrians
- Rivalry games require additional parking
- New press box needed
- Locker rooms too small for entire team
- General (non-field) lighting needed
- High netting needed between baseball field and track
- Relocate the shot-put space

Waterfront / Emerson Young Park

- Hutch Tech uses for practice field
- Emerson, Waterfront and Herman Badillo all use fields
- Perimeter walking path for neighbors and general public
- Remove or relocate tennis courts
- Roadway (Village Court) cuts through space
- Utilities run through (across) park
- Repurpose the tennis courts to multi-use surface (i.e. street hockey)
- Make all field multi-use (football, soccer, lacrosse)
- Fountain at 7th & Court Street should be restored, seating refurbished
- Water supply (fountain) needed for hydration
- Accessible restrooms needed (Parks staffing issue)
- Concessions building desirable
- Spectator seating needed
- Playground hidden and far from fields
- Storage needed for league equipment
- Free play options at gateways and unused spaces
- Underutilized due to poor condition
- Designated parking – Waterfront School signed restricting access
- Alternative transportation (coordinate with Bike Master Plan)
- Add bike racks
- Connectivity to City Hall, LaSalle Park and Canalside
- Develop gateways and designed access points
- Re-establish historic street pattern?? Review other study recommendations
- Green ash dying near Busti Street
- Visibility issue between Village Court and Busti
- Vandalism issue
- General site lighting needed
- Need concrete picnic benches
- Baseball field may not be needed as much as multi-use fields
- Drainage problems north of basketball and tennis courts / Mucky in spring; can't mow
- Keep fountain and seating near Court and 7th ; eliminate gardens behind fountain, make easy to mow
- Rock and pipe at surface of field across from Waterfront school entrance
- Multi-use field
- Parks maintains lawn between 4th Street and Thruway

JFK Park

- Field improvements; crowning and reseeding; lighting
- Fence repairs
- Playground safety surface (annual program)
- Recent drainage improvements adjacent to south football field / gravel parking area
- Need water for irrigation
- Make all fields multi-use (football, soccer, lacrosse)
- Track improvements; synthetic surface, 8 lane, open to community
- Additional tennis courts
- Landscape perimeters
- Workout areas / equipment stations
- Improve paver path around playgrounds; pavers thrown around park
- Improve amphitheater walls, seating; segmented block deteriorating
- Bike accessible, place bike racks and repair stations
- Connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods
- Free play options at gateways and unused spaces
- Gateways; creative way to introduce play spaces
- Pool deck needs improvement; accessibility concerns including to /from rec center
- Parking lots need total reconstruction; east end, central gravel areas, north lot
- Baseball field improvement's
- Reconstruction of Pine, Eagle and Clinton streets

Mungovan Park

- Shoreline trail access along Buffalo River
- Treatment of river shoreline
- Add formal gateway entrance and parking off Pomeroy
- Parking lot conflict with Southside School
- Connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods and streets
- Athletic fields / track in poor condition due to drainage; uneven surfaces / REBUILD
- Keep passive park on west side of river

Buffalo Public School Facilities

Grabiarz / Barrett Park

- Vegetation buffer along perimeter
- Under utilized
- Security cameras needed
- Consider synthetic turf field (Nichol's School example)
- Perimeter landscaping
- Access for community
- Improvement to playground; safety surface and drainage

All-High

- Sound buffering to reduce impact to neighbors (especially Sunday)
- Modify policy of use of loud speakers and/or reorient
- Additional access adjacent to Hill Street parking lot
- Open facility to neighborhood so people can use the track
- Concessions in main concourse area
- Improved press box
- New score board
- Turf replacement
- Track surface replacement
- Connectivity and access to McCarthy Park

Riverside Field

- Open to neighborhood
- Soccer groups want to use
- Non-school league use (soccer and lacrosse)
- Concessions between pavilion and stands
- Purchase of adjacent property to expand field
- Too tight for multi-use fields, cheerleading
- Ambulance access off Humphrey Street

FL Olmsted at Kensington

- Need better grading and drainage
- East fence line filled with vegetation and falling apart
- Buffalo Public Housing property adjacent is open storage of materials and equipment
- Students who attend school have safety concern because of multiple bus routes and transfers
- Open to neighborhood
- Consider discussions with BPH to take back some parking lot space for athletic field expansion. Buffalo Public Schools to approach Buffalo Public Housing

MST Seneca High School

- Game field for teams / organizations that use Glenny Park
- Practice field for teams / organizations that use Glenny Park
- Multi-use athletic fields (define and line)
- Possible boot camp site
- Include regulation softball field?
- Provide shared parking with ECMC
- Open access from ECMC
- Perimeter walking surface (Wellness for ECMC staff / visitors)

Additional uses

- Street hockey (Shoshone model in all parks)
- Sand volleyball
- Field hockey

Common Issues

- Need more fields (soccer, lacrosse)
- City needs 1 or 2 more synthetic tracks (invitational style vs. dual meets)
- Water fountains
- Bike access; bike features (racks, repair stations)
- Use of school facilities by neighbors (walking, training)
- Permitting (consistent policy on use, i.e. BPS, legacy users)
- Consistent permit pricing
- Insurance requirements
- Management and logistics of facility use / scheduling (who says 'don't use'??)
- Communicating availability of facilities (school and parks)
- Access to rest rooms
- Access to and use of concessions
- Storage of equipment
- Field painting
- Parking lot lighting
- Trail and pedestrian lighting
- Lighting of athletic (general area vs. regulation)

- Synthetic turf baseball / softball fields due to weather / limited season
- BPS vs. City Parks control of facilities
- Policing / Monitoring
- Consistent maintenance (frequency and quality)
- Superintendent of BPS 4 goals (state-of-the-art athletic facilities)
- Sports authority
- Olmsted Conservancy model
- Improvements will bring competition for facility use and higher permit fees
- Technology needed for access control and management (wifi)
- Fosdick Field / Fruit Belt neighborhood character
- Cost / benefit of synthetic turf vs. natural grass
 - 10-year best practices plan
 - What does City and BPS need to maintain facilities (staff and equipment)?
 - What expertise is required?

Additional stakeholder outreach

- Buffalo Public Schools Board Members
- Coaches
- Referees
- Phys Ed teachers
- Hasek's Hero's
- Mill's Sports
- Legacy Group

Aspirational Parks

- Tom Higgins Park
- Nichol's School
- Sweet Home High School
- Depew Central Schools
- Young's Road, Williamsville
- Gow School, South Wales, NY

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