

February 2019

# STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP SUMMARY

## City Parks + Public School Facilities Survey + Design Development

### 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 present the schematic design alternatives which reflect the program elements and facility improvement recommendations discussed at the first stakeholder meetings held in early December 2018. The workshops were held at Waterfront Elementary School on February 19<sup>th</sup>, Bennett High School on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and City Honors School on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Each meeting focused on parks and schools in close proximity to the workshop location:

#### **Waterfront Elementary School | February 19, 2019**

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

### **Bennett High School | February 20, 2019**

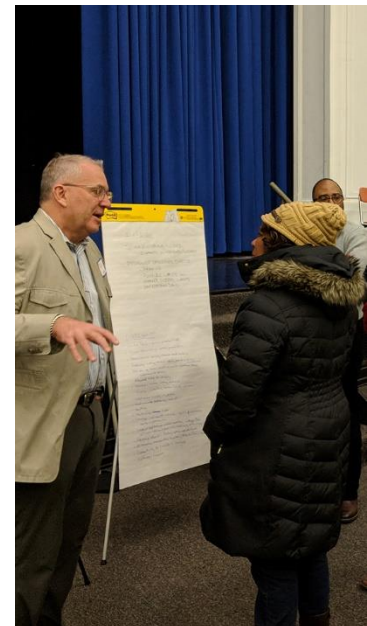
- Charles Dingboom Riverside Field
- All-High Stadium
- Grabiarz Field
- McCarthy Park

### **City Honors School | February 21, 2019**

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

The workshops included presentation boards illustrating the schematic design for each City Park and BPS School facilities. Project team members documented conversations and attendees provided comments in writing.

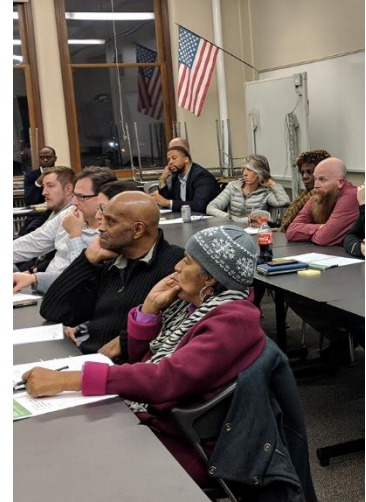
The comments received provided feedback on the proposed design improvements for each facility.



#### **Workshop Overview**

The workshops were held on February 19, 20 and 21 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 Rabb<sup>1</sup> with the City of Buffalo, Paul McDonnell<sup>2</sup> with Buffalo Public Schools, and William Price<sup>3</sup> with SWBR. The project overview included a description of the comments from the December meetings and then a presentation of the schematic design alternatives and how the planned improvements addressed the specific comments raised by stakeholders in December.



<sup>1</sup> Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works, Parks & Streets, Division of Parks & Recreation

<sup>2</sup> Director of Facilities, Office of Finance & Operations

<sup>3</sup> SWBR Project Manager and Landscape Architect

## Parks & Facilities Comments

. Comments received at the schematic design presentations are provided below.

### Glenny Park

1. Provide onsite parking. Design team pointed out proposed on-site parking and parallel parking on Fillmore Avenue.
2. Need to clear vegetation and debris along the southern boundary of site.
3. Need to control access to site and keep vehicles off the field. The design team pointed out that the fields are proposed to be lit and barriers are proposed to keep people off the fields and courts.

### JFK Park

1. Reseed and fix drainage at the youth soccer practice area.
2. Restore Olmsted's Bennett Park. Opportunity to recapture Olmsted legacy cannot be missed.
3. Water port (access point) so water wheel can serve youth soccer area

4. *Traffic control devices at all park entrance points off Hickory*

#### **JBW / Masten Park**

1. *Improve drainage and lighting*
2. *Add a regulation softball field*

#### **McCarthy Park**

1. *Discussion with residents of William Price Parkway focused on safety and recent vandalism incidents. Andy Rabb pointed out that a public right-of-way must provide access to the adjacent public park. A fixed barrier between the McCarthy Park and William Price Parkway will not be a part of the plans to limit access.*
2. *Public response vehicle access, lockable bollard design and pathway width from the cul-de-sac toward the Cordova and LaSalle entrance was discussed. Andy Rabb agreed to go out and inspect path width, bollards, fence location and ability for emergency vehicles to access.*
3. *Security cameras will be added to all public parks*
4. *Group discuss 'Next Door' web service and use of personal cameras to control vandalism.*
5. *Council Members and Block Clubs still need to review the proposed Hewitt Street Extension into the park.*

#### **Mungovan Park**

1. *Concessions and restroom facilities desired. Design team pointed out that the schematic design plans include a new concession facility.*
2. *No fence needed around the new track*
3. *No bleachers on the river side of track and field*
4. *Security cameras will be added*
5. *Geese controlled by Wildlife Management*

#### **Waterfront / Emerson Young Park**

1. *Field lighting is desired (design team pointed out that field lighting is included on the plans for the multipurpose athletic fields)*
2. *A concession and restroom building is desired (design team point out the plans include a concession facility)*
3. *Locker rooms were stated as desirable. Andy Rabb pointed out the most recent concession building constructed was at Weldon Heights. SWBR to obtain those plans.*
4. *Geese (droppings) were mentioned as a problem and health concern. Programs exist to rid park but additional measures will be considered.*
5. *More parking is needed. The plans include on-street parallel parking. The design team to consider additional angled parking areas to increase capacity.*
6. *Signage at Waterfront School parking lot to be reviewed so that parking in that lot is permitted by general public after school hours. Signage should clarify when school parking is available.*
7. *Think about long term connectivity to LaSalle Park.*
8. *Move pavilion (#5) closer to street opposite Waterfront School*
9. *Keep plaza at 7<sup>th</sup> and Court for fire equipment*
10. *Show bleachers at Waterfront multipurpose fields*
11. *Need safe way to cross Village Court*



### **All High Stadium**

1. *Sound system difficult to hear along far (east) sideline for players and spectators. Residents of William Price Parkway pointed out that it is very loud and consistent in their neighborhood.*
2. *Stakeholder mentioned the synthetic turf should be replaced immediately.*
3. *All-High should be the 'premier' stadium in the BPS system and include all amenities (i.e. electronic scoreboard, cooling stations, etc.) Paul McDonnell and design team to benchmark other districts facilities.*
4. *Stakeholders concerned that the BPS facilities are made available to non-Buffalo residents and Buffalo students and teams are not permitted to use suburban facilities.*

### **Charles Dingboom Riverside Field**

1. *Proposed ticket booth and proposed concession stand needs heat and lighting.*
2. *Higher netting needed at both end zones for football*
3. *Circulation issues at corner of Humphry Road and Review Place due to narrow street and congestion from buses parking on street. (This is a City Traffic Engineering issue.*

### **Olmsted at Kensington Field**

1. *Can the soccer field be expanded to full regulation size? Design team stated this is not possible within existing school property boundaries. BPS will engage with Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority on potential property acquisitions for Olmsted and other parcels (i.e. Fosdick Field) as a future endeavor.*
2. *Can a softball field be placed on the property with home plate near Suffolk Street and batters hitting toward the school? Design team to confirm possibility.*
3. *Can the interior courtyard area be designed to accommodate exercise and wellness activities?*
4. *Will there be additional lighting? Design team pointed out the proposed field lighting.*
5. *Make this a practice field not a regulation field (one commenter)*
6. *Include high netting along east property line with BMHA.*
1. *Confirm the minimum size soccer field that Section IV will consider using for competition. Practice field should consider synthetic turf. Turf's lifespan is 8-9 years but the bonds to pay for improvements are typically 15 years. Could have practice field to support Glenny - Game Field!*
2. *Boot camp course?*
3. *Could a regulation softball fit with accessory fields?*
4. *Needs to be better utilized*

### **General Comments**

Workshop attendees also provided additional comments and input that was not specific to an individual, project-specific recreational facility:

1. *Stakeholders were interested in synthetic turf vs. natural grass fields. Discussion focused on the benefits of extending seasonal activities as well as the lifecycle of synthetic turf (8-10 years) and cost to maintain properly including hiring trained staff.*

2. *Stakeholders mentioned the desire to schedule games on synthetic turf fields at Riverside, All-High and JBW and competition for use of those fields. Stakeholders mentioned it is difficult for non-Buffalo Public School organizations to book those fields for game use.*
3. *Include gateway signage at each City Park (traditional green signs)*
4. *Geese, dogs, birds are all create potential health issues which are an issue for grass fields and synthetic turf alike.*

### Project contact

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