Recreation and Parks Master Plan Update
August 21, 2018
Master Plan

• Background
  • Project was awarded to Barge Design Solutions in December 2017
  • Council appointed an advisory committee chaired by Ken Dishman

• Completed to date:
  • Focus groups and first public meeting
  • Park system inventory and assessment
  • Operational analysis
  • Organizational analysis
  • Programs and services assessment
  • Park maintenance assessment
  • Statistically valid survey of urban core area
MPI Summary

• General Sports
  • Average or above average demand for general sport activities

• Fitness
  • Average demand for fitness activities

• Outdoor Activities
  • Average or above average demand for most outdoor activities
The national benchmark for program participation is 34%.
The national benchmark for excellent is 36%.
Q8. Facilities That Are Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices

- Hiking trails (natural surface): 53%
- Multi-use trails: 49%
- Dog parks: 30%
- Amphitheater: 22%
- Community gardens: 21%
- Playgrounds: 21%
- Pavilions/picnic sites: 17%
- Canoe/kayak access: 14%
- Indoor pool: 14%
- Recreation center/gym: 12%
- Outdoor pools: 10%
- Splash pad: 8%
- Soccer/lacrosse multi-purpose fields: 6%
- Fishing pier/docks: 5%
- Mountain bike trails: 5%
- Basketball courts: 5%
- Multi-purpose meeting rooms: 4%
- Banquet/meeting rooms: 4%
- Disc golf course: 3%
- Ropes course/zipline: 2%
- Baseball fields: 2%
- Softball fields: 2%
- Sand volleyball courts: 2%
- Skateboard area: 2%
- Football fields: 1%

Source: ETC Institute (2018)
Q10. Programs That Are Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices

- Community special events: 47%
- Fitness & wellness programs: 35%
- Performing arts programs: 26%
- Art classes: 23%
- Outdoor programs: 22%
- Senior programs & services: 21%
- Gardening classes & events: 19%
- Running events: 15%
- Walking/jogging/running clubs: 14%
- Golf lessons/clinics: 9%
- Tennis lessons & leagues: 9%
- Water fitness programs/lap swimming: 8%
- After school programs/out-of-school camps: 8%
- Adult basketball/volleyball programs: 6%
- Bicycle lessons & clubs: 6%
- Youth soccer programs: 5%
- Youth enrichment programs: 5%
- Youth learn to swim programs: 5%
- Swim lessons: 4%
- Sand volleyball programs: 3%
- Youth gymnastics: 3%
- Programs for people with special needs: 3%
- Youth baseball/softball programs: 2%
- Recreation/competitive swim team: 2%
- Youth lacrosse programs: 2%
- Youth basketball/volleyball programs: 1%
- Youth football programs: 0%

Source: ETC Institute (2013)
# Programs and Services Prioritized Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Service</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fitness and Wellness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Special Events</td>
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<td>Art and Culture</td>
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<td>Outdoor Recreation Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socialization with Dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Parks (playgrounds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpretive and Naturalist Programs</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Programs and Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walking/jogging/running events and clubs</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Golf</td>
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<td>Water fitness programs/ lap swimming</td>
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<td>Picnicking</td>
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<td>Tennis</td>
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<td>Adult Sports</td>
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<td>Swim Lessons/ Swim Teams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs for people with special needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Sports</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Out of School Programs/Camps</td>
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</tbody>
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## Park, Facility, and Amenity Prioritized Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility/Amenity</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking, Hiking and Biking Soft Surface Trails</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-use Trails (Paved for walk/run/bike)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Bike Trails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pools/Splash Pads</td>
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<td>Canoe/Kayak Access</td>
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<td>Community Kayak Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog Parks</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Meeting/Event Spaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disc Golf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavilions and Picnic Shelters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Basketball Courts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic Fields</td>
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<td>Skateparks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Gymnasiums</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<td>Outdoor Basketball Courts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts</td>
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<td>Ropes Courses/Ziplines</td>
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Q11. Level of Support for Various Actions: Developing New Facilities

by percentage of respondents (Excluding "Not Provided")

- Develop new parks: 69% Very Supportive, 23% Somewhat Supportive, 7% Not Supportive
- Purchase land to preserve open space: 70% Very Supportive, 19% Somewhat Supportive, 8% Not Supportive
- Develop new walking & biking trails: 67% Very Supportive, 22% Somewhat Supportive, 8% Not Supportive
- Develop new plaza area for community events: 35% Very Supportive, 33% Somewhat Supportive, 21% Not Sure, 11% Not Supportive
- Develop a new off-leash dog park: 36% Very Supportive, 22% Somewhat Supportive, 21% Not Supportive, 20% Not Supportive
- Develop new indoor recreation facilities: 25% Very Supportive, 32% Somewhat Supportive, 30% Not Sure, 13% Not Supportive
- Develop a new sports complex: 22% Very Supportive, 27% Somewhat Supportive, 32% Not Sure, 19% Not Supportive
- Develop an outdoor adventure area: 25% Very Supportive, 22% Somewhat Supportive, 29% Not Sure, 24% Not Supportive

Source: ETC Institute (2018)
Summary of Public Support

• Improvements to Existing System
  • Take care of what already have
  • Add loop trails to existing parks
  • Improve existing trail system

• Expansion of System
  • Develop new parks
  • Preserve open space
  • Develop new trails

• Most Willing to Fund
  • Trails, trails, trails
  • Open space preservation
Benchmark Cities

Next Ten Comp Plan

ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1000 RESIDENTS

(Sandy Springs acreage derived from 2014 population estimates from ACS and acres of green space from data from http://www.sandyspringsga.org.
All other data from "2015 City Park Facts", The Trust for Public Land, 2015.)
Next Steps

• Complete city-wide survey instrument
• Finalize level of service recommendation with benchmarks of local communities
• Develop strategic implementation plan
• Develop budgeting and funding plan
• Prepare draft report for staff
• Present report to City Council in November