

Rec. Park Master Plan “Frequently Asked Questions”

How much public involvement has there been thus far in the process?

- Public work sessions have been conducted monthly since October 2008.
- Four, large group, “Listening Sessions” have been hosted beginning in November of 2008.
- A “Master Plan” link on our website, www.GrandMaraisRecreationArea.com, was established early on as a means to engage the public, as well as provide up-to-date access to draft planning documents.
- Postcards describing our planning efforts and soliciting comments were mailed to our seasonal guests in February 2009.
- All public meetings have been extensively advertised and promoted by staff using local newspaper, internet, radio and poster boards throughout the community.
- To date, over 50, written comments sheets have been submitted
- The average number of people at listening sessions has been 30, with over 50 at the most recent session in May.

When would changes begin to take effect as a result of an approved plan?

- No changes to campsite configurations 2009-2010
- Before any new construction, we need to make sure the numbers work. This analysis will take time and is not part of the master planning process.
- The ball field and pool will be phased out once suitable replacements are ready at the community center location.
- Additional planning and funding is necessary to re-locate the public works garages.

What level of detail is the concept design map and master plan intended to represent?

- The master plan projects a vision for the park 25 years and beyond.
- Goals and policies are desired outcomes. Policies guide day-to-day actions that collectively work towards achieving the goals.
- Activity zones and layout of land usage is what a concept map depicts.
- Capital infrastructure improvement planning is necessary to achieve the desired outcomes depicted on the master plan map.

How does the plan protect the natural resources on site?

- Goals and Policies 8, 9 and 11 are for resource protection.
- Impervious surfaces will be minimized.
- Wetland delineation will be required for elements of implementation.
- The Minnesota Land Trust will continue to hold a conservation easement on the site, and the terms of the easement are to be respected.

How have decisions been made regarding major elements such as the ball field, pool and public works garages?

- We have received over 50 comment sheets and attendance at listening sessions has averaged 30 people per session; we've had a great deal of input.
- Ongoing planning efforts such as the Cook County Community Recreation Center Project, provide much of the framework for decision making regarding the pool and ball field.
- County Board / City Council consensus on the future of a community pool has solidified the decision to not show a pool in the rec. park 25 years from now.
- The ball field would not be removed until suitable replacements are available at the Community Center location.
- Input to move the public works garages off-site has been unanimous and will proceed when planning and funding is in place.

What happens if and when my seasonal site is phased out?

- No changes to campsites 2009-2010
- Quality, replacement, seasonal sites will be made available and offered to those effected by change.
- We will continue to offer seasonal campsites.

Questions the Master Plan attempts to answer:

- How much and what part of the site should be for: camping and facilities, land side marina support, trails, roads and parking, playgrounds, open space.
- How can we continue to keep our community connection if the pool and ball field are relocated.
- What are our goals and policies for the rec. park

Questions the Master Plan does not intend to answer:

- How much annual revenue would result from the approved plan? These numbers are impossible to project. Goal 6 states: "The rec. park should generate revenue; direct to city and to a visitor-based local economy."
- What is the future of the marina? The City Council continues to pursue marina improvements, but it is a separate planning process.