

Mason Mill Park – Master Plan MEETING SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Mason Mill Park Master Plan - **THIRD** Public Meeting
DATE: January 22, 2009
PLACE: DeKalb Recreation Center, Mason Mill Park
PRESENT: DeKalb County: Marvin Billips, John Anderson
MACTEC: Ron Huffman, Jon Hart, Nadine Levy (UpBuild Design)

INTRODUCTION: MACTEC was selected by DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Department to prepare a Master Plan for Mason Mill Park. The process used to develop a Master Plan for the park includes inventory and analysis of existing site conditions, public input meetings, presentation of alternative concepts, and development of recommendations for the park. Based on cost estimates for the recommendations, available funding and community input, priorities will then established for the implementation of the recommendations.

MACTEC staff presented a summary of the first two public meetings with a 'PowerPoint' slideshow. The following exhibits were summarized:

- Aerial Photograph basemap (1st Public Meeting)
- Existing Conditions basemap (1st Public Meeting)
- Site Inventory photographs
- Site Constraints Exhibit (2nd Public Meeting)
- Area Exhibit (2nd Public Meeting)
- Draft Master Plan (2nd Public Meeting)
- Day Use Area Enlargement #1 (2nd Public Meeting)
- Day Use Area Enlargement #2 (2nd Public Meeting)

MACTEC staff then presented new plans based on input from Parks and Recreation Staff and previous public meetings. The following plans and exhibits were also presented in 'PowerPoint' format:

- Overall Master Plan for Mason Mill Park - The Overall Master Plan illustrates conceptual park facilities such as trails, boardwalks, playgrounds, and parking areas. These facilities are proposed in terms of the area character established by the Area Exhibit. The Overall Master Plan is an update to the Draft Master Plan based on public input and meetings held with

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County Parks and Recreation Staff. Revisions to the Draft Master Plan include an updated library footprint, incorporation of the Day Use Area final plan and incorporation of the Waterworks Area final plan

- Melton Neighborhood Park Enlargement – This plan re-states the design considerations presented in the Area Exhibit and illustrates the major proposed facilities for this area of Mason Mill Park.
- Jameston Neighborhood Park Enlargement – This plan re-states the design considerations presented in the Area Exhibit and illustrates the major proposed facilities for this area of Mason Mill Park.
- Relocated Off-leash Area Enlargement – This plan re-states the design considerations presented in the Area Exhibit and illustrates the major proposed facilities for this area of Mason Mill Park.
- Day Use Area Enlargement – This plan illustrates the final concept for this area of Mason Mill Park. Major proposed facilities include reorganization of vehicular circulation, renovation of the existing recreation building to provide a restroom with exterior access, a large playground area, a water quality pond, a relocated community garden, two open play areas and a new tennis center building.
- Historic Decatur Waterworks Area Enlargement – This plan illustrates the final concept for this area of Mason Mill Park. Major proposed facilities include an alignment for Phase 2 of the South Peachtree Creek (Path), a pedestrian bridge across the CSX Railroad, a network of garden-scale paths throughout the waterworks area, a series of interpretive exhibit locations, the restoration of historic features (stone fountain, stone benches) and the dissipation and control of stormwater flow through the Waterworks area.

Approximately 75 citizens attended the meeting. The following items were discussed at this meeting for the Mason Mill Park Master Plan:

- Consider the impact of the proposed Commuter Rail from Atlanta to Athens which will utilize the existing railroad corridor.
- Comments about the Mission Statement can be made after the public meeting via the County website.
- What are the materials of the trails? Propose “soft” trails, not hard concrete.
- Need to keep gravel parking across McConnell Dr. from the Life Enrichment Center.
- Need to provide restroom facilities in proximity to the playgrounds and the proposed Waterworks Park area.
- Need to consider access to Senior Center/Recreation Center – is the walking distance from the proposed parking area to the building close enough?

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- There is a CBDG-funded grant to study the need for a Senior-oriented Recreation Center in the Toco Hills area. Potential locations for senior-oriented recreation services are also being studied under this grant.
- What if any are the lease restrictions for changes to existing building? Mac Love may have placed restrictions on the building. [DeKalb County will research this. *Note: Some funding sources may limit joint use of senior-oriented facilities*].
- What is the County's budget for this project? [The County has approximately \$2,000,000 for capital improvements to the park. This will occur after the Master Plan process is complete and priorities for the park are established.]
- How were the names for the Areas determined? Consider that the name 'South Fork Nature Preserve' may already be used by another park.
- Consider relocating the playground area nearer to the water quality pond.
- Need to consider the impact of the proposed plan to the existing open play area.
- Consider having a fourth public meeting to present final recommendations of master plan design.
- What would the new tennis center building look like? Need to consider the views of this from areas outside the park.
- Consider the impact of the future light rail corridor from when planning the pedestrian bridge and park areas adjacent to the railroad.
- Please provide connectivity through the park from the Day Use Area to North Druid Hills.
- What are the pedestrian bridge dimensions? [+100' span, $\pm 23'$ above the railroad]
- Proposed Off-leash Area might be attractive to teens at night and could be public nuisance.