



*McGaw Park Master Plan
Visioning Session- March 24, 2011*

Summary of Issues & Opportunities Exercise

After an informational presentation given by staff, approximately 25 participants were assigned to 5 groups to discuss issues, opportunities, and a vision for McGaw Park for about 30 minutes. Then, each group shared their top 3-5 issues and opportunities with everyone. Staff recorded each issue and opportunity on large sheets of paper. Participants were given 8 stickers to vote on the issues and opportunities most important to them, 4 for issues and 4 for opportunities. Up to 2 stickers could be placed on any one issue or opportunity.

The following is a summary of the information gathered from the exercise:

- Safety is the most common concern about McGaw Park, with most meeting participants viewing it as a major issue.
- Other concerns that were discussed by multiple groups are about the park shelter, lack of diverse park uses, and lack of trails. Of these, the park shelter received the most votes by individuals as one of their top issues.
- The maintenance of natural areas (i.e. woods) and invasive species are also common concerns for those who attended the meeting. Invasive species is also related to trail maintenance, which is viewed as an issue by a number of citizens.
- Multi-use trail development is the park development opportunity that is most supported. Many citizens want to see more paved and unpaved paths, including a path along the access drive.
- Other opportunities that are well supported are updating the existing shelter and building satellite shelters, maintaining and restoring natural areas, and developing alternative recreation uses in the park (i.e. community gardens, splash park, tot lot, disc golf, croquet, and horseshoes).
- Suggested improvements for safety and the perception of safety, are lighting, speed bumps, and better park accessibility for pedestrians (i.e. walking path along access drive).
- Suggested park shelter improvements include lighting, bathrooms, and connection to City sewer.
- The park vision varied among groups, but there were a few commonalities, such as a park that has the recreational opportunities to attract visitors and leaving the natural areas intact.



ISSUES

What issues or concerns do you have about McGaw Park and/or its future development?

Think about what keeps you from using the park more often, what should be changed or looked at, and environmental issues.

Table 1. Issues Identified During Small Group Discussion

Issue/Concern	# of Groups
Safety- lack of lighting, speed of cars, underutilization of park, walking through wooded area alone, isolation in evening, parked cars in east parking lot, sexual activity, isolated tennis courts	5
Lack of diverse park uses- more than just softball, be a community park (environmental education, community gardens, bicycle path by garden, sculpture garden)	2
Lack of trails- bike, ski, walking	2
Park shelter- not maintained, needs repair, minimal lighting, septic system will not be adequate with increased park use	2
Maintenance of trails- invasive species (i.e. honeysuckle, garlic mustard)	1
Invasive species in wooded areas (i.e. honeysuckle)	1
Protection of trees and wooded areas	1
Maintenance of wooded areas (natural areas)	1
Parking lots not well lighted	1
Park patrons not cleaning up after themselves (wrappers, cans, bottles)	1
Mosquitoes	1
Accessibility to park	1
Wet trail areas	1
No upkeep of fitness trails	1
Play areas need to be expanded for young children	1

Table 2. Top 3-5 Issues Identified by Groups and Number of Individual who Voted on Issue

Issue/Concern	# of Votes
Safety	22
Maintenance of natural areas	14
Park shelter	14
Lack of diverse park uses	8
Parking lots not well lighted	8
Invasive species in wooded areas	6
Maintenance of trails	6
Lack of trails/connecting bike path	4
Park patrons not cleaning up after themselves	3

OPPORTUNITIES

What opportunities are there for developing the park? Think about the enhancement of existing areas or amenities, interesting site features, new activities, park design, and environmental protection.

Table 3. Opportunities Identified During Small Group Discussion

Opportunity	# of Groups
Play equipment/children's areas- more equipment, awning or shade	3
Trails- walking, ski, hiking, unpaved trails (park addition)	3
Accessibility to park- walking/bike trail along driveway, connecting trails to those outside park	2
Speed bumps	2
Pool- community pool, splash pool for children	2
Disc golf	2
Lawn games- bocce ball, croquet and horseshoe (park addition)	2
More passive park uses- nature/interpretive areas (i.e. northern prairie), hiking	2
Environmental education	1
Off-leash dog park	1
Amphitheater	1
Updated shelter with some smaller picnic areas	1
Shelter with restrooms and lighting (park addition)	1
Water fountains (park addition)	1
Trees (park addition)	1
Increase activities in park	1
Community gardens	1
Sculpture garden	1
Geo-treking	1
Sledding	1
Tennis courts- move, improve, increase number	1

Table 4. Top 3-5 Opportunities Identified by Groups and Number of Individual who Voted

Opportunity	# of Votes
Multi-use trail development	19
Update existing shelter and build satellite shelters in other areas	14
Maintain and restore natural areas	13
Alternative recreation activities- community gardens, splash park, tot lot, disc golf, croquet, horseshoes	10
Edible landscaping	7
Dog exercise area (fenced)	6
Environmental education (guided or self-guided)	4
Community pool	3
Plant trees in park addition areas	3
Expansion of children's areas	3
Expansion of tennis courts in park addition areas	1

VISION

In a few words or a sentence, what is your vision for McGaw Park? Think broadly about what you would like the park to achieve, such as “to have high quality recreational opportunities for all ages.”

“Keep the natural areas in the northern half intact and develop high quality recreational opportunities in the southern half.”

“Multi-use park that offers something for everyone to be attracted to the park and have something others don’t have.”

“Family friendly community park that supports education and community building.”

“Leave the original park as is (sporting areas and natural areas), add an unpaved walking trail, shelter (with amenities) and lawn games area in the addition.”