

# C *Appendix C*

## **Community Input Process**

## Community and Stakeholder Input Process

The preparation of the Needs Assessment was in part based on community and stakeholder input. Input was obtained through a variety of input and evaluation opportunities including a park system tour with City staff, City staff meetings, Citizen’s Park Task Force, Focus Group Sessions, Public Open Houses, and a Parks Survey, both on-line and distributed at the Community Open House. The Bloomington City Council formed a Citizens Park Task Force to provide input on: “park needs, financing of park improvements/acquisitions, needs for additional park facilities (e.g. Family Service Center, additional indoor ice sheet, golf course expansion, bike trails, etc.” The Citizens Task Force includes representatives from each of the following: City Council, Planning Commission, School District, citizens, business, arts, and youth athletics. The Focus Groups were identified and assembled by City Staff to gather specific stakeholder input and included the following: park and recreation partners, athletic associations, conservation, natural resource and arts, youth, families and seniors. Two Community Open House meetings were held to both inform the community about the Park System Plan Update and to gather general information regarding the following topics: Parks and Recreation Facilities, Trails and Pathways, Environment and Sustainability, Cultural Resources and Arts and Recreation Programs and Events. Community meetings were well attended with 75 residents in attendance at the first and 20 at the second meeting. At the first community open house and through the City’s web site, 414 residents completed the community parks survey. Overall, the public input provided a good snapshot of the communities needs, desires, goals and priorities.

Date	Event	Description
September 22 & 27, 2006	Park tour and evaluation with Bloomington Parks Staff.	City Park Staff led a tour of all City parks with the Parks Master Plan consultants, HKGi.
December 14, 2006	Focus Group Session with Bloomington City Staff.	Three-hour session was held with City staff to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats involving the Bloomington park system.
March 14, 2007	Focus Group Session: Park and Recreation Partners.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of park and recreation partners, consisting of representatives from area schools, community education, Three Rivers Parks District, neighboring cities, Bloomington Historical Society, Pond Dakota Mission and City staff.

Date	Event	Description
March 15, 2007	Focus Group Session: Athletic Associations.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of area Athletic Association with representatives of each group and City staff.
March 20, 2007	Focus Group Session: Bloomington Conservation, Natural Resource and Arts.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of conservation, natural resource and arts groups represented by, 9-Mile Creek Watershed District, Trust for Public Lands, Hennepin County DES, Izaak Walton League, Friends of the MN River Valley the Sierra Club and City staff.
March 22, 2007	Focus Group Session: Youth/Families/Seniors.	The consultants, HKGi, led a focus group session of Youth/Families/ and Seniors groups in the City with representatives for the disabled, BUY, Parent Teachers Association, AARP, Schools and Churches, Community Ed., Fine Arts Council, Little Flipsters, Cornerstone, VEAP, Parents of program participants and volunteer participants and City staff.
March 21, 2007	Community Open House.	To gather input on the following topics: Parks and Recreation Facilities, Trails and Pathways, Environment and Sustainability, Cultural Resources and Arts and Recreation Programs and Events.
April 2007	Park and Recreation Survey.	A on-line Survey Monkey, Parks and Recreation survey was available on the Parks and Recreation Division website and a paper version was available at the Community Open House.

Date	Event	Description
April 28, 2007	Park tour with Bloomington Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission and Citizen Task Force members.	A second parks tour was conducted to provide the Task Force greater familiarity of the Bloomington Parks system.
January -September, 2007	Citizen Task Force meetings.	6 Meetings of the Citizens Task Force.
September – October 24, 2007.	On-line review of the draft Master Plan.	The draft Parks Master Plan was made available on the Parks Division website for on-line review for most of September and October.
October 6, 2007	Bloomington Farmers Market Booth	Park Master Plan available for comment.
October 16, 2007	Community Open House #2.	A second Community Open House was held with a presentation of the Master Plan highlights and an opportunity for public comment.
October 24,2007	Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission Meeting.	The Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission reviewed the draft Parks Master Plan and made a recommendation to the City Council.