

**APPENDIX A:
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT**

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Workshop Summary

On November 30, 2010, the City of Franklin conducted a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Public Workshop at City Hall. The objective of the meeting was to obtain the public's comments, thoughts, ideas, suggestions and concerns pertaining to parks, open space and outdoor recreation prior to completing a draft update of the CORP.

13 persons, including Aldermen and staff, attended the Public Workshop. At the meeting, Planning Department staff described the status of the CORP update and the purpose of the workshop. In addition, staff noted that two additional public input opportunities will be provided – an Open House in January and a Public Hearing in March.

The following is a summary of the discussion, comments, thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns that the participants raised at the workshop:

- Discussion of the differences between specific versus general future park locations.
- Suggestion that the City update its impact fee structure as it relates to parks.
- Discussion of the Conservation Fund land purchases in the City.
- Comments about the popularity of the Oak Leaf Trail parking lots.
- Questions about riding bicycles on public sidewalks in Franklin.
- Questions about the future of the Milwaukee County Park System, and whether any County owned parks will be turned over to the City of Franklin.
- Discussion of future parkland acquisition timing.
- Comments about the significance of school district input.
- Suggestion that the CORP update include the Parks Commission recommendations made one year ago.
- Suggestion that public school amenities (e.g. playing fields) and private parks (e.g., Croatian and Polonia Parks) be included in the CORP.
- Suggestion that nationally recognized park and trail standards be included in the CORP update.
- Discussion of how the CORP will address costs.
- Concern that there's a lot of traffic on County Road H (Ryan Road) and that it is not safe for bicyclists.

- Discussion of the new federal law pertaining to bike lanes/trails and award money.
- Suggestion to add trail/pathway/pedestrian access to the library from nearby areas.
- Suggestion that the CORP recommend connection of the City's parks, trails, recreation areas, and natural resource areas and that those connections be shown on a map in the CORP update (e.g. Christine Rathke Park is difficult to access). Connections should also take into account access to features that are located outside of the City's corporate limits.
- Suggestion to add sidewalks to collector and arterial streets to improve connectivity.
- Suggestion to provide a pedestrian access plan in the CORP, or at least address the need for one.
- Suggestion to emphasize educational programs on the importance of natural areas and farming/gardening/vermiculture, followed by a discussion on how the City should think outside the box when it comes to park maintenance (e.g., utilize sheep within some of the City's parks to help clear grass in place of lawnmowers, have volunteers clear brush, etc.).
- Suggestion to separate bike lanes from the street to improve safety (e.g. bike lanes/wide shoulders on Oakwood Road do not feel safe).
- Suggestion to add more natural spaces and less tot lots.
- Suggestion that the future development of Franklin Park should warrant careful planning since it is a state designated natural area.
- Suggestion to add the library to CORP maps.
- Suggestion to add a map to the CORP survey and relocate the electronic "submit" button on the City's website.
- Suggestion to identify the purpose and philosophy of each existing and planned park.
- Suggestion to avoid amenity duplication, as this will help reduce costs.
- Suggestion to provide an opportunity for public input of proposed trail locations.
- Suggestion to provide adequate and advance notice of the Open House meeting and to hold a follow-up meeting.
- Suggestion to advertise future public participation opportunities pertaining to the CORP in the next City newsletter.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Survey Summary

On November 23, 2010, the City of Franklin placed a short park and recreation survey on the City website, and forwarded copies to organizations such as the Franklin Historical Society and the Friends of Franklin Parks. The objective of the survey was to obtain preliminary indications of the public's use of the park, open space, and outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the City of Franklin. As of January 10, 2011, 163 surveys had been returned.

The following is a summary of the public's responses to some of the key survey questions.

- The most often visited park, open space, or outdoor recreation site within the City of Franklin was the Oak Leaf Trail. Only slightly less often visited were Whitnall Park and the Root River Parkway. Other frequently visited sites were Lions Legend Park and the Milwaukee County Sports Complex.
- The majority of respondents (64 percent) indicated that they were very satisfied within the parks, open space, and outdoor recreation sites in the City. About 25 percent of the respondents indicated that they were somewhat satisfied.
- The most commonly expressed concerns about the existing park system in the City regarded: the need to fix old, damaged or unsafe facilities; the need to more frequently clean up litter, clean out garbage cans, and/or pick up dog waste; and the need to mow and/or otherwise address tall grass, weeds, and invasive plants.
- The most frequently undertaken recreational activity was walking/hiking. Other frequent activities included biking, bird/nature watching, and playing at playgrounds.
- The most frequently requested additional recreational facilities included: paths or trails for hiking, biking, walking, and/or skiing; a pool, waterpark, and/or other type of swimming opportunity; and restrooms.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Open House Summary

On January 24, 2011, the City of Franklin held a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Open House at City Hall, the third opportunity made available to the general public to participate in the CORP update (the public recently had the opportunity to participate in a CORP survey, and on November 30, 2010, the City of Franklin conducted a CORP Public Workshop at City Hall). The objective of the Open House was to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments about the draft CORP update prepared by planning staff.

Approximately thirty (30) persons, including Aldermen and staff, attended the Open House. At the meeting, planning staff described the purpose of the Open House, summarized the CORP update survey results, and described the status of the CORP update. In addition, staff noted that additional public participation opportunities will be provided – a Parks Commission meeting later that night, a second Parks Commission meeting in early February, a Plan Commission meeting in mid-February and a public hearing at a Common Council meeting on March 1.

The following is a summary of the topics raised by participants during the open question and answer session:

- Discussion of the Plan's cost and how it will be funded.
- Discussion of whether Park maintenance costs are included in the Plan.
- Discussion of potential grant funding opportunities.
- Discussion of whether the Plan's recommendations are consistent with the City's current conditions and projected growth.
- Discussion of whether an entirely new Plan should have been written rather than a Plan update.
- Discussion of whether the Plan includes up-to-date information on the agreement between the City and the landfill and the adjacent conservancy lands.
- Suggestion that more public participation opportunities (e.g., neighborhood meetings and more surveys) be provided.
- Discussion of the proposed Central Park's location and its potential impacts on the adjacent natural areas.

Following the open question and answer session, the public was invited to view a PowerPoint slideshow describing the CORP update and seven large-scale maps depicting existing parks, park accessibility/service areas, known natural areas and proposed parks and trails. Planning staff answered additional questions from the public during this time.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Public Hearing Summary

On March 1, 2011, the City of Franklin held a Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) before the Common Council. This hearing, which was noticed in the local newspaper and was posted on the City's website 30 days prior to the meeting, was the fourth opportunity made available to the general public to participate in the CORP update. The objective of the Public Hearing was to allow the public to formally comment on the final draft of the CORP update prior to Common Council consideration of the plan.

Only one individual spoke at the public hearing, who noted that the City currently has an adequate supply of parks. In addition, a petition was submitted by the Citizens for Community Development for inclusion into the public record of the public hearing. The petition, which was signed by over 400 individuals, indicated support of a sports complex proposal at Froemming Park (see the Froemming Park discussion in Chapter 7 of this CORP update for additional information.)

It can also be noted that prior to the Public Hearing, during the Citizen Comment Period of the Common Council agenda, one person spoke in support of the CORP Update.

