

**Meeting Minutes: Central/Buchmiller/Sunnyside Parks
 Master Plans
 Study Committee Meeting #11**

Date: March 3, 2008
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Shuts Environmental Center - Central Park
By: Chuck Strodoski
Project No.: 06LAN-01

Persons Attending: James Hackett, Director, Lancaster County Parks and Recreation
 Ralph Goodno, Lancaster County Conservancy
 Dave Martin, West Lampeter Township
 Mike Domin, Lancaster County Planning Commission
 Tim Draude, Muhlenberg Botanical Society
 Nevin Greiner, Lancaster County Conservation District
 Courtney Barry, Resident
 Chuck Strodoski, YSM
 Ann Yost, YSM

Purpose of the Meeting: To receive input on the draft Master Plan Report for Central and Buchmiller Parks.

Of Record:

1. A. Yost opened the meeting and requested input on the draft report. The draft was submitted to the County in January for review. YSM previously met with Parks Division Heads and received input.
2. A. Yost facilitated input on the draft report. Input received is documented below:

Central Park

- The location Map shown on page 1-2 should be revised to designate West Lampeter Township, Lancaster Township, and Lancaster City boundaries.
- D. Martin noted that volunteerism is a key and should be heavily promoted throughout the plan.
- A legend, similar to that on the final maps should be included on all maps in the report.
- The park entrance is referred to as Strawberry Street entrance. This entrance is better known as Chesapeake Street entrance.

- The alternative designs may be confusing as readers may mistake them for the final recommendations. A suggestion was made to place them in the report appendix to alleviate confusion. The division heads made similar comment and suggestion.
- The Conestoga Greenway Trails should be included in all appropriate maps.
- A suggestion was made to cluster park use areas and maximize the natural areas. In particular, a suggestion was made to relocate the proposed destination playground to the area south of the skate park parking area on the existing youth baseball field (Field No. 4). This suggestion was also made by Division Head Staff. The need for a large scale destination playground was questioned. A suggestion was made to develop a smaller, themed playground that may be a point of departure for an interpretive trail that leads visitors to the high point.
- Division Head staff also suggested relocating the special events area to the skate park area, in the existing footprint of Field Nos. 3-5. This suggestion was favorably received by this committee, with the exception of T. Draude, who recommended maintaining the special events area on the landfill, as proposed. The uncertainty of the landfill is a concern. The existing ballfield areas are already disturbed and could be developed for a moderate size, special event area. Generally, the group believed that a smaller facility that does not compete with Long's Park, would meet the need.
- YSM prepared a handout discussing the pros and cons of the relocation of the playground and special events area suggested above. After additional discussion, YSM will explore a smaller playground in the area of Ball field No. 4 and reconfigure Field Nos. 3-5 for a special events area.
- Provisions for special events should be included in the park as it is a source of revenue. This must be balanced with the potential impact on the park.
- The landfill is not desirable for special events. A dog park, as previously recommended for the area, should be considered, as it could be an additional revenue source.
- The section shown on page 5-21 is a typical section illustrating a traffic calming island. A plan view should be developed to further illustrate the idea. A section line should be added to the plan view to identify the location.
- Restroom facilities and related infrastructure are a major concern throughout the parks. The septic system at the highpoint area is believed to be in disrepair.
- The plan recommends phasing Pavilion No. 11 out when it has outlived its usefulness to the park. This recommendation was made due to the lack of parking, restrooms, and seclusion from the other park areas. J. Hackett noted the pavilion is in need of structural repair. T. Draude disagrees and believes the pavilion should be maintained, as its location is used annually for the sugar maple festival.
- Additional pavilions should be developed near the skate park.
- T. Draude believes Lancaster County Solid Waste should be contacted to assist in remediation of the landfill.
- Interpretive, self directed environmental education should be encouraged.
- A variety of themed trails could be developed to explore the various park ecosystems.
- The proposed boat launch and associated vehicular turnaround depicted in the master plan are believed to be too large. A reduced boat launch with minimal impact is desired. The cul-de-sac turnaround is also considered impractical. A small parking

area, closer to the boat launch should be provided. The area is noted as a good area for birding.

- The picnic pavilions, shown in the floodplain along Rockford Road, were not well received, due to periodic flooding, and lack of restrooms. The pavilions were proposed to be small picnic structures for families and small groups along the river. The pavilions and associated parking area will be removed from the plan.
 - A map of parcels surrounding the park was requested to identify lands that could impact the park. Significant land holdings, could be lost to development, negatively impacting the park. Key surrounding lands should be identified and a buffer strategy should be explored.
 - The proposed warming hut at the Exhibit Farm was discussed. The warming hut is envisioned as a small picnic pavilion with a fireplace at one end. The fireplace would compliment winter use of the trails for cross county skiing. D. Martin supported the idea. T. Draude opposed the idea.
 - The Exhibit Farm House area should include a restroom and additional stabilized parking.
 - Apple Fest is held at the Exhibit Farm House.
 - Equestrian use was discussed. Designated equestrian trails are reduced in length. The master plan designates equestrian trails from the Williamson Meadow to the Exhibit Farm House area.
 - The Environmental Center Area was discussed. T. Draude believes the design should include: diverse habitats, cultural exhibits, arboretum, orchard of heritage trees, native food plantings, rain gardens, home demonstration exhibits, farm pond, plantings and high quality Native American Cultural features. Many of these features are provided on the plan and are encouraged in the design. YSM will work to clarify the intent of the area.
 - Riparian buffers are an important part of the plan. Demonstration areas are encouraged. Planning for second growth habitat or other desirable ecosystems should be considered.
 - A forestry management plan is required. Recommendations on forestry management are part of the master plan and will be included.
 - Clarification of the costs associated with the proposed plantings and streambank stabilization was requested. T. Draude noted that a minimum of 150 trees are required per acre to successfully reforest an area. Cost of a single tree planting with protection is believed to be \$10/tree. Assume \$2,500/ acre for reforestation.
 - The plan should be what the people want. A guiding goal of the park is to keep it natural. The master plan should reflect this goal.
5. A. Yost concluded the meeting by outlining the next steps in the planning process. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 31, 2008 at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be a continuation of the discussions regarding Central Park and discussions on Buchmiller Park.

Provide changes or corrections to these meeting minutes to C. Strodoski at YSM within one week of receipt.