

Dorothea Dix Park

The Park and The Program Workgroup

Date: Thursday, August 2nd, 2018
Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Location: Walnut Creek Wetland Center

Meeting Summary

The meeting began with a short presentation by Kate Pearce on the latest with the master plan and programming. The Park and The Program Workgroup then worked in groups to answer the following questions. The remaining two questions will be answered in a follow up meeting or online.

Question #1

Based on your experience, what are some examples of outdoor activities missing or not easy to access during everyday life in Raleigh?

- A place of discovery... nature, self, science and art
- Contemplative space, see the horizon, your place in the world, grandma's farm, vista, honor the history of what this park was, honor Dorothea Dix and her legacy of healing and moral treatment of people
- Community learning- keep us learning
- Intersection of art/science—curiosity/creativity, opportunities to bring people together
- Dog park access and off-leash dog park access
- Senior and Youth Center- shuffle board, pool, frisbee
- Cooperative games
- Drop-in art studios
- Games tailored to different cultures
- Scavenger hunt app to learn about the park
- Community project—adventure playground (have the community make something)
- Community garden/farm

- Therapy animal/dogs or doggy daycare at the park where park-goers can help walk the dogs
- Rental spaces for groups
- Distraction free area (mediation garden)
- Special needs activity area (low anxiety areas)
- Sensory gardens
- Minimally programmed interactive space. Spaces that offer the opportunity for interaction but it's not required
- Accessibility to different types of spaces (rehearsal spaces)
- Accessible pads/ways to get to the park
- Water feature—place to cool off, splash pad like the one in Greenville, SC along the Riverwalk.
- Willy Wonka Style decorations
- Create spaces of whimsy
- Childcare—stuff for kids while adults do fun things too
- Venues that create interaction between cultures
- Teenagers
 - Where is the space for them?
 - Get kids active, off their screens?
 - What types of activities will attract teens
 - Organized vs. extreme sports?
- Activities that accommodate all ages and all physical abilities
- Active individual experiences (indoor/outdoor)
 - Not everything has to be with groups
- Highlight native wildlife (education & experience)
- BMX, skate park—street-style

Question #2

What are examples of outdoor activities that transcend race, class, or age for Raleigh area residents? What outdoor events do you find a great diversity of participants at today?

- Food, music, festivals
- Technology
 - Ex: Pokémon, digital scavenger hunt
- Meet Ups specifically geared to bring people to Dix Park
 - Specific time & place in the park

- Comicon or other hobby conventions
- Universal draw of nature—walking/running clubs
- Unique exhibits
 - Ex: The NCMA Bunnies Exhibit
- International Festival
 - Bring groups out to showcase their talents
- Incubator kitchens
- Public rocks that people paint and leave places around the city or park
- Rentable spaces—big shortage
 - All sizes
- Dedicated space for community forums (pavilion- cultivate discussion/debate/public speaking)
- Space for democratic growth
- Movies- outdoor and maybe indoor
- Farmers Market- multicultural foods, organic, small batch
- Community garden space for unique veggies—ex: Asian market foods
- Leverage diversity in public schools
- Kinship is universal—reunions
- **Whole family** recreation spaces (don't divide up based on age/gender)