

Dorothea Dix Park Master Plan Glossary

This glossary was created to help define terms and phrases that may be new to the reader. Two types of terms are included:

1. Standard terms related to planning best practices: Creating a new public park requires that Raleigh draw upon the best practices and expertise of a wide range of professional disciplines. These include landscape architecture, urban design, historic preservation, ecology, transportation engineering, and financial planning.

2. Place names unique to Dix Park: The Master Plan includes new ideas created especially for Dix Park. The city is building a vision for the park that, while it draws from regional and world-class models, is shaped by the interests of local communities and the specific features of the site. Dix Park will be place unlike anywhere else.

***Page numbers refer to locations in the Master Plan book where additional information on the term can be found.**

A Park for Everyone (Foreword, 162):

The central goal of the Master Plan, based on two core ideas: 1) that everyone in the community will be able to access and enjoy the park, and 2) that everyone in the community will be able to find something of interest in the park.

Activated Park (162-163):

Great 21st century public parks support a wide range of cultural, athletic, civic and social activities. Notable examples of other “activated” parks include Millennium Park in Chicago, IL and Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, TX.

Adaptive Reuse (106, 144, 148, 154, 242; National Trust for Historic Preservation):

A preservation strategy where existing buildings are reinvented with new uses while maintaining historic significance. An alternative to demolition. See also **Rehabilitation**.

<https://savingplaces.org/reurbanism#.XFRzeKdKiUk>

Adventure Play (114, 186):

Stimulating play environments that promote exploration and discovery for people of all ages.

Circulation (106, 110, 112-131):

The network of park spaces, paths and roads that determines how a park user will move to and through the park. A circulation network should be safe and easy to use and organize access for many different modes (public transit, cars, pedestrian, bicyclists, etc.).

Community Engagement (50-51):

The coordinated effort to include park users in the design and development of the park. Taking many forms, engagement strives to build meaningful relationships with the community to help to define a vision for the park in the early stages and shape the development of the program and character of the park throughout the design process.

Complete Street (88, 91, 128; Smart Growth America):

Inclusive road and public infrastructure planning that promotes safe interaction among all types of users and uses, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/publications/what-are-complete-streets/>

Contribute Positively (144, 247):

Any action, decision, or strategy that works to improve the park's ability to provide an excellent park experience aligning with the **Core Principles**.

Contributed Income (238-245):

Resources that are given to support the functioning of the park. Common sources include donations and grants, membership programs, and corporate sponsorship. One of four funding sources typically used by parks to support their operations, maintenance and activities.

Core Principles (16-23):

The foundational values that, when pursued together, will ensure that Dorothea Dix Park becomes a great civic gathering place for the city, the region, and the state. The principles are proposed to guide and shape every step of Dix Park's transformation and be used as the criteria for evaluating future decisions.

The Creek (66-68, 70-75, 178-183):

One of the six primary landscapes that will showcase the ecological diversity of the Piedmont's wetlands along the gentle meander of the Rocky Branch's restored course. It will be a natural-feeling area allowing visitors to be immersed and get up close to new experiences of water.

Cultural Landscape (56; National Park Service):

A geographic area that is recognized to include natural and cultural resources associated with important past events, activities, or people. Areas with this designation can have distinctive design, construction, or formal characteristics, or can have the potential to yield important historical and archeological information.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/cultural-landscapes-101.htm>

Cultural Link (46-47):

The series of spaces proposed in the Master Plan that includes the Ridge, Valley and Meadow landscapes united by a new pedestrian connection—an elevated trestle bridge—over the railroad corridor. By walking the Cultural Link, a route not possible today, visitors will be able to experience the range of spaces and activities at the future Dix Park.

Democratic, Civic, Community Gathering Spaces (44, 162):

Safe, healthy, relevant, and inclusive areas that are designed to host activities that foster shared experiences. Important spaces of **Activated Parks**.

Destination/World Class/Great Park (Foreword, 22-23):

Public spaces that are beloved by their local neighbors and visitors from afar alike, have a high standard for operations, maintenance and quality programming, and have evolved and changed over time in response to their contexts, while still retaining their core character. Central Park in New York, NY is one example.

Dix Hill (26, 44, 82, 94, 96):

A natural high point at the Dix Park site and the historic location of the original A.J. Davis hospital building. Offers sweeping views of Downtown Raleigh.

Earned Income (238-245):

Operating revenue gained through on-site activities and services that goes back to support the park. Common sources include events, concession sales, rentals and usage fees, and parking fees. One of four funding sources typically used by parks to support their operations, maintenance and activities.

Ecology/Ecological System (54, 60-61, 74-75, 80-81, 86-87, 166-167; EPA):

Biological community consisting of all the living organisms (including humans) in a particular area and the non-living components, such as air, water, and mineral soil, with which these organisms interact.

<https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/ecological-condition>

Financial Resiliency/Sustainability (144, 174, 238-242):

A long-term vision for how the park will financially support its physical spaces, its programs, and the management of all its resources without negatively affecting Raleigh's park system or the City's ability to provide other crucial city services and amenities.

Framework (Foreword, 50, 98, 104-157):

The organizing structure of the park experience that ensures a park is easy to access and understand for visitors. The framework should preserve opportunities for future change and needs, all while maintaining a park's core identity.

Future Planning/Study Area (148-149, 174):

Area whose purpose and use are not defined in the Master Plan, where future study is anticipated, and the opportunity for use of that area to remain flexible and adapt to future needs of the park is preserved.

Future Studies (234-235):

A list of studies and site data to help guide next steps in the implementation of the Dix Park Master Plan.

The Gateway (66-69, 88-93, 194-199):

One of the six primary landscapes that serves as a welcoming and active park edge. It is the location of several important new civic entries that guide users into the heart of the park as they arrive from downtown, other areas of Raleigh, and the larger region.

The Grove (66-69, 82-87, 190-193):

One of the six primary landscapes that includes the restored area of the historic grove and adds to the existing mature oak canopy with native understory plantings and several types of gardens.

Implementation (53, 220-252):

Concrete next steps and guiding strategies to ensure that the opportunities described in the Master Plan are realized.

Invasive Plants (176-177, 232-233; USDA Forest Service):

Species that are alien to an ecosystem and whose introduction causes economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/invasives/index.shtml>

Key Actions (18-23):

Specific ways in which the broad and all-encompassing Core Principles can be incorporated into spaces and activities at Dix Park.

Land Bridge (76-77, 126-127, 136-137, 180-183, 188-189):

A type of bridge that includes soil and planting to extend a park-like experience across a barrier and provide a safe and pleasant to use crossing for humans and animals. A land bridge is proposed from Dix Park to Governor Morehead School/Pullen Park, over Western Boulevard, to improve regional connections for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Landscape Heritage/History (26, 56-57, 168):

Patterns and events of natural and human history that have altered the land over time.

Landscapes (54-55, 60, 66-69, 162-163):

Major park areas that give essential characteristics and experiences of the land a specific location and name, so that they may be preserved, restored, and shared.

Legacy (Legacy Report):

Something received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.

Loop (98-99, 112-115, 204-205):

The 1.4 mile, flat, multi-use path that serves as a primary circulation route and social space of the park.

Master Plan (Foreword, 48-51):

A guiding document that identifies existing site patterns, proposes how they will be transformed into a future public park, and develops strategies for how that transformation will take place. This unifying document guides the city, park managers, and the public through the incremental steps of park making and compiles, organizes, and synthesizes the efforts, feedback, and direction of the community.

The Meadow (66-69, 76-81, 184-189):

One of the six primary landscapes that proposes the expansion of the Big Field to create a boundless-feeling and accessible common ground for Raleigh.

Multi-Modal Network (126-127, 130-131):

Complete system of transit and transportation options (including bus, pedestrian, bicycle, car, etc.) with the potential to yield greater connectivity and improved access for visitors arriving from many points.

National Register of Historic Places (56-57, 82, 144, 148; National Park Service):

Buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that meet federal standards for significance in American history and culture. Dorothea Dix Hospital was submitted and accepted for designation in 1990.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/what-is-the-national-register.htm>

Native Plants (60-61, 78-79, 232; North Carolina Native Plant Society):

Species that occur naturally in an area, having not been introduced by human action.

https://ncwildflower.org/native_plants/education

Nature Play Area (164-165):

Play area that includes natural materials, such as plants, wood, water and soil, and where the design is inspired by natural environments.

Operations and Maintenance (236-237, 242-245):

Comprehensive approach to managing the daily experience of the park. Includes programming, administration, and grounds maintenance.

Park Supportive (148):

Any action, decision, or strategy that works to improve the park's ability to provide an excellent park experience aligning with the Core Principles.

Partners/Partnership (148, 168, 220, 238, 246-249):

Mutually beneficial relationships between the park and other organizations, businesses, and institutions. The partner receives access to park spaces and services while the park benefits from expanded activity, help meeting basic needs, and/or financial support.

Pastoral/Passive Park (76, 162-163):

Designed areas inspired by a site's natural and agricultural past, where ecosystem functions are restored and visitors have the opportunity to experience natural elements, reconnect to the land, and are offered a retreat from the stressors of city life. The work of Frederick Law Olmsted exemplifies the pastoral park style.

Phasing (220-231, 234-235):

A general strategy that organizes the order and pace for park improvement projects. A good phasing strategy groups similar projects together and will recognize several practical factors including the availability of funding, permitting, and access to site spaces.

Program, Programming, Programmatic (158-163):

The collection of uses and activities that create the experience of the park. In other words- what you do when you get to Dix Park.

Program Themes (53, 158-159, 164-175):

Groupings of related uses and activities, developed to summarize community feedback about the program desired today as well as capture the range of potential uses that might be added.

Public Funding (238-245):

City, State, or Federal funding sources that could be utilized to support the park. Common sources include the funding through property taxes, general obligation bonds, and tax credits. One of four funding sources typically used by parks to support their operations, maintenance and activities.

Rehabilitation (144; National Park Service):

One of four standard treatments for historic properties (including National Historic Landmarks)

defined by the National Park Service that is most relevant to Dix Park and its buildings. When buildings are rehabilitated, a change in use (i.e., hospital to park visitor center) is planned for while historic features are preserved.

<https://www.nps.gov/Tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-rehabilitation.htm>

Revenue and Revenue Generating (238-245):

Any park activities, including events, programs and adaptive reuse of buildings, that financially support the operations, maintenance and programming of the park.

The Ridge (66-69, 94-99, 154-157, 200-211):

One of the primary six landscapes that encompasses Dix Hill and the historic center of the site, reimagined as the civic heart of the park.

Seep (82, 84-85, Delaware Wetlands Monitoring Program):

A naturally-occurring geologic feature of the Piedmont where groundwater ‘oozes’ out to the soil’s surface.

<https://wmap.blogs.delaware.gov/2017/12/12/groundwater-outcrops-wetlands-associated-with-springs-and-seeps/>

Selective Investment and Demolition (146):

Strategy that 1) provides a structure for building removals that open up the potential of the park and 2) defines the criteria for reinvesting in structures that support the life of the park.

Stormwater (70-73, 84-87; EPA):

Water from rain or snowmelt that, in natural conditions, would soak into the ground. In urban environments where stormwater encounters impervious surfaces, such as pavement and buildings, stormwater flow may cause damage to soil (erosion) and negatively impact the quality of downstream rivers and water bodies.

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>

Trestle (46-47, 102-103, 212-217):

A new pedestrian and bicycle bridge inspired in design by the railroad bridge that turns what used to be the site’s main division, the rail line, into a point of connection for park users.

Urban Park (42, 162-163):

A type of park that is purposefully designed to a gathering spot for a city, that is well-connected to city systems and located in close proximity to a downtown area.

The Valley (66-69, 100-103, 212-219):

One of the six Dix Park landscapes that builds from the existing bowl-like topography to create a gathering space with an amphitheater for concerts and other community events.

Value Capture (238-245):

Tax and lease income allocated to support a specific investment or geographic area. Common sources include ground lease revenue and tax increment financing realized on nearby new and existing development. One of four funding sources typically used by parks to support their operations, maintenance and activities.

Viewshed (140-143):

A geographic area visible from a given point in space. In planning, viewsheds from desirable vantage points, such as the downtown skyline from Dix Park’s Dix Hill, are defined to ensure they are preserved and not obstructed by future development.

Wayfinding (98, 112; U of Michigan Architecture):

Wayfinding is “knowing where you are in an environment, knowing where your desired location is, and knowing how to get there from your present location”. In successful parks, wayfinding is a planning consideration from early on where sight lines and topography are used to make a space easy to navigate; it is more than signage.

<http://www.umich.edu/~wayfind/supplements/moreinfomain.htm>

Wellness (Foreword, 24-25, 44, 158-159, 164-165; Legacy Report):

A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (The World Health Organization).

A conscious, self-directed and evolving process of achieving full potential (National Wellness Institute).