

# Dorothea Dix Park

## Next Steps FAQ | March 2019

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Dorothea Dix Park Master Plan was adopted unanimously by Raleigh City Council. This was an important and exciting milestone. This FAQ provides information on the next steps in the park planning and development process.

### **What's next?**

Along with Master Plan adoption, City staff was directed by Council to develop an implementation plan for Phase 1. Recommendations on cost and funding options, governance structures and scope of work for Phase 1 projects will be brought back to Council for review and approval.

### **What projects are included in Phase 1?**

The Master Plan recommends five major projects in Phase 1:

1. Restoration and enhancement of the Rocky Branch Creek
2. Restoration and enhancement of the Historic Cemetery
3. Renovation and/or demolition of buildings in the early transfer from the State
4. Creation of the Gateway plaza entrance and play area along Lake Wheeler Road
5. Creation of a multi-use path along Lake Wheeler inside the park boundaries to connect the Walnut Creek Greenway to the Rocky Branch Greenway.

### **What is the timeline for developing the park?**

The Master Plan sets a long-term vision for the park which will be constructed in phases. It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be completed within 10 years, but each Phase 1 project will have its own timeline for completion. The start and completion of other phases will depend on a variety of factors including project feasibility, costs, funding and fundraising, and existing leases. Parks of this size and caliber often take decades for full build out.

### **When will we start to see changes at the park?**

Phase 1 projects are expected to break ground within 2-4 years, depending on funding, results of future planning studies, and Council direction. Park improvements to enhance the visitor experience will begin this year, which could include wayfinding signage, park amenities and trail maintenance – along with ongoing programs and events.

### **How will the park be paid for?**

The Master Plan outlines four funding opportunities that parks across the country use:

- Public Funding (City general fund, bonds, taxes)
- Contributed Income (fundraising by the Dix Park Conservancy, donations, grants)
- Earned Income (concessions, event fees, rentals)
- Value Capture (leases of park property, real estate value capture of neighboring property)

The Master Plan provides this toolbox of funding options, but it is up to the City and its partners to figure out which tools are most appropriate to use as the park develops over time. Park partnerships, like that with the Dix Park Conservancy, will be critical to successful funding of the park.

### **How can I be involved?**

As the park moves into this new phase, volunteer opportunities will continue to exist around park stewardship and events. Information about these opportunities will be shared through our social media channels. If you are interested in volunteering, you can also contact [info@dixpark.org](mailto:info@dixpark.org).