

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT**

**For Planning Commission Meeting of February 1, 2011**

**SUBJECT: 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan**

**PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION**

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby adopts the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan as a citywide element of the Ann Arbor City Master Plan.

**PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION**

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the City Council adopt the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan as a citywide element of the Ann Arbor City Master Plan.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that action on the draft 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan be **postponed** to allow staff and the Park Advisory Commission to review and respond to comments from the public hearing.

**STAFF REPORT**

The Parks and Recreation Services Unit updates the Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan every five years to reevaluate parks and recreation goals and needs, update the action plan, and retain funding eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The draft PROS plan (attached) also includes comprehensive information on the condition of the park, recreation and open space systems and provides guidance to future decision makers. This plan will replace the 2006-2011 PROS Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Services Unit and the Park Advisory Commission initiated the PROS Plan update approximately 18 months ago. The process was guided by a steering committee comprised of staff from Parks and Recreation Services as well as Planning Services, representatives from the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) and the Recreation Advisory Commission, a Planning Commissioner, and a member of City Council. Planning Commissioner Erica Briggs served on this committee and has been actively involved in the development of the draft plan.

In the summer of 2010, Parks and Recreation Services staff and the steering committee designed an on-line survey. Over 800 individuals participated and answered questions concerning their satisfaction levels with parks and recreation services. The survey provided substantial information about the condition of park and recreation facilities and services and provided staff with a better understanding of issues facing the system.

Additional input was solicited through interviews with parks personnel and focus group meetings with the Park Advisory Commission, Recreation Advisory Commission and the Planning Commission. In addition, the draft plan was distributed to adjoining jurisdictions and has been available for public review on the City's website.

At the January 11, 2011 working session, Planning Commission provided comments and suggestions for changes to the draft PROS Plan. On January 18, 2011, the Park Advisory Commission held a public hearing to gain additional comments. Comments on the draft plan have been summarized in the attached report, along with notations of where the draft has been changed in response.

At its January meeting, PAC postponed making a recommendation on the draft plan until the comment period is completed. PAC and staff are requesting that Planning Commission postpone action on the plan until after the comment period is complete.

Prepared by Jeff Kahan  
Reviewed by Wendy Rampson  
1/28/11

Attachments: Draft 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan – January 2011  
Comments and Edits to Draft PROS Plan – January 2011

C: Amy Kuras, Parks Planner