

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMMING

Metro parks and recreation currently operates 12 community centers across the city. Now years later, many centers are in need of substantial capital repairs and are obsolete for providing today's recreational services, which have significantly changed over the last 20 years. The condition of the recreation centers, their staffing levels, current programming and future funding needs to be reviewed by the assistant director, along with a community formed task force. The following will be recommendations to be considered

OBJECTIVES

- Develop a broad vision for a recreation center network that reflects the current needs of the community;
- Establish criteria for a "model" recreation center based on current national best practices, including size, staffing levels and programming capabilities.
- Develop a "report card" for the Department to review existing community centers as compared to model recreation center criteria;
- Determine short-term (immediate) and long-term (two-year) goals to be implemented with direction from the task force.

VISION

To be a network of high-quality community centers that enhances the quality of life in our communities by offering diverse and accessible programs and services for personal growth, health, learning, and fun.

MODEL RECREATION CENTER CRITERIA

Existing community centers transition into a variety of uses for a broader audience while continuing to focus primarily on the youth while each center must reflect the unique needs of the community it serves, community centers should provide flexible programming space, be A.D.A certified and serve a wide constituency. Emphasize quality over quantity in developing a network of community centers.

REPORT CARD

Develop a "report card" for the Department to use in assessing all existing community centers. The report card should have a menu of criteria to be graded on the following:

Building (interior and exterior and age of the building)

Building Function (interior space how and when it is utilized outdoor space, storage, and multi-purpose rooms)

Operations (staffing, program flexibility, neighborhood needs, walk ability, and transit options)

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SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS

Short-Term Goal: Develop a community center task force. Over the next two years, stabilize recreation facilities and move them towards more encompassing community centers with expanded services available through partnerships based upon financial realities.

Long-Term Goal: Develop a comprehensive revenue plan that could be supported by a network of business and community assistance.

COMMUNITY CENTER ACTION PLAN

PLAN FOR NEW COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMMING

The Assistant Director of Recreation and the Community Center Task Force would develop a comprehensive plan to achieve the goals and objectives aimed at creating a network of high quality community centers and programs. Under this plan, all affected communities will continue to have recreational program.

QUICK FACTS

- Under this plan, all community centers would remain open with modified operating hours through Summer/Fall 2013. No community centers would plan to close before the submission of a review of the task force 2014-2015.
- Under this plan, there will be no layoffs of existing recreation center staff; staffing and hours will be modified to allow adjustments to the community.
- Under this plan, the Department will appropriate funding for a grant/funding/staff development position within six months of initiation of this plan to boost funding and morale of the staff.
- Under this plan, recreation will have a long term sustainable financial plan for operating quality community centers by making connections that can be used to leverage outside resources and partnerships.
- Under this plan, new relationships with intergovernmental agencies and the Jefferson County Public Schools.

The plan's implementation will begin in late 2013 and not before extensive community input and dialogue.

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

- New and upgraded programming/activities
- Community Centers and staff to receive the support needed.
- Transform Existing Recreation Centers into new Community Centers
- Upgrade Existing Recreation Centers
- Implement enhanced, collaboration and Partnership Programs
- Selection of two or three Signature Community Centers