

# Parks, Playgrounds, Pool, & Greenspace

## Why this issue? Description of Issue and Sub-issues

### **Municipal Interviews**

### **Community Leader Interviews**

### **Resident Survey**

### **Focus Group**

Parks, Playgrounds, the Dormont Pool, and public green space are primary ways in which residents interact with the Borough government. The upkeep and evolution of these spaces is key to residential quality of life within the Borough. One-third of residents (243) who completed the Resident Survey stated that they would like to see the Borough spend additional funds on upkeep and improvement of the Borough's parks, playgrounds, and greenspaces.

### **Parks Master Plan**

It is important that the Borough has a clear, communicated vision for the future of its Parks. To do this as effectively and efficiently as possible, the Borough should conduct the proper assessment and collect input to formulate a Parks Master Plan. Through gathering public feedback pertaining to Parks, Playgrounds, the Pool, and Borough green spaces in a more intentional, separate process, the Borough can create a big-picture plan that incorporates residents' desires at each step. Multiple participants in the Municipal Interviews and Resident Surveys expressed a desire for the Borough to develop such a plan.

### **Public Seating in Popular Meeting Places**

Every street in Dormont has sidewalks on each side, making walking from place-to-place easy. This notion is evident from the Municipal Interviews, Community Leader Interviews, Resident Surveys, and Focus Groups, as well as day-to-day conversations with Dormont residents. At the same time, however, many public spaces through which people walk are missing tables and benches to rest from such walking. Providing residents the opportunity to sit and enjoy Dormont's public spaces makes the Borough's public spaces more accessible to all. If all residents are able to spend time outside in Dormont's public spaces, especially in Dormont's parks, public health outcomes, mental health outcomes, and community vitality also improve.

## **Improve and expand greenery and green spaces**

Research has shown that providing green space in an urban environment can improve the mental wellness of residents who live near that green space. Dormont is fortunate to have the abundant green space it does for a municipality of its size. Because of this, it is imperative that the Borough thinks proactively about how it can capitalize on that green space, and potential new space, for residents' use.

## **New Resources**

The Municipal Interviews, Dormont Day feedback, and Resident Surveys communicated three clear frontrunners for new park amenities: a dog park, a dek hockey rink, or a pickleball court. The idea of a dog park, specifically, generated a vast amount of interest throughout the feedback-gathering process. Any and all of these resources would only increase the quality of life and health of Dormont's residents.

## **Playgrounds**

The children of Dormont two primary choices when it comes to playgrounds: the Castle playground near Dormont Park, and Beggs-Snyder Park. Municipal Interviews and Resident Surveys both conveyed a desire to evaluate the facilities at each of these parks and assess their usefulness for Dormont's future young residents and families.

# **Recommendations/Resources and Potential Partners**

## **Parks Master Plan**

- Evaluates state of all resources, structures, and facilities for which Parks is responsible
- Lays out changes, improvements, additions, or renovations over set amount of time (may or may not coincide with Strategic Plan timeline)
- Allows Borough to set priorities, collect public feedback on these priorities, and promote community involvement in and commitment to Dormont's parks
- Potential partnerships and resources:
  - City of Denver Framework, Park Uses and Experiences Documents (see flash drive)
  - City of Redmond, OR Citywide Parks Master Plan (2 halves and appendix, see flash drive)

## **Public Seating in Popular Meeting Places**

- Tables/benches in Business District
- More seating in Parks (Dormont, Beggs-Snyder)

- Evaluate traffic in public spaces and appropriate locations for public seating/seating style
- Potential partners and resources:
  - Jama Network, Effect of Greening Vacant Land...Adults (see flash drive)

### **Improve greenery and green spaces**

- Identify areas for new Borough-owned trees
- Encourage/incentivize sustainable private tree planting
- Engage residents in clean-up efforts and new plantings in public green spaces
- Potential partners and resources:
  - Jama Network, Effect of Greening Vacant Land...Adults (see flash drive)

### **New Resources**

Dormont Park Tennis Courts should be evaluated for potential refitting and re-tooling. The following have arisen from residential feedback as viable replacement options:

- Dog park - assess for health risk and liability, potential split for large and small dogs, water resource for dogs, fencing
- Dek hockey - assess for risk and liability to Borough for personal harm, ability to conform to dek hockey rink dimensions, utility and appeal amongst residents

### **Playgrounds**

#### **Castle Playground**

- Full assessment of viability of current materials, and potential safety risks to children
- Gauge resident use and opinions of playground structure
- Gather resident input regarding repair or replacement
- Evaluate accessibility of playground structure and setup

#### **Beggs-Snyder Park**

- Full assessment of viability of current materials, and potential safety risks to children
- Gauge resident use and opinions of playground structure and utility
- Gather resident input regarding repair or replacement
- Collect feedback about best uses for park space
- Potential partners and resources:
  - Accessibleplayground.net
  - NPR list of accessible playgrounds (see flash drive)

