

Lebanon Hills Regional Park 2014 Master Plan Citizen Panel Scope of Work

The County Board of Commissioners has established the Lebanon Hills Regional Park 2014 Master Plan Citizen Panel to review and comment on specific elements of the draft 2014 Master Plan. The Citizen Panel provides an additional opportunity for public involvement and comment, and will not supersede previous comments submitted. This document outlines the Board's direction, guidance, and expected work tasks and products. Throughout this process, the Citizen Panel should use the following vision and principles established by the County Board as guidelines to arrive at consensus when reviewing the elements of the draft plan:

Vision: Balance recreational use of the park with natural resource stewardship

Principles:

- *Be an urban retreat*
- *Be a great outdoor recreation experience*
- *Be a resilient natural place*
- *Be a greenway destination – per 2008 Parks System Plan and other approved greenway master plans*
- *Be a park with a strong sense of place and community*
- *Be a flagship for the County park system*
- *Be a four season recreation area*

Role of Regional Parks:

Regional parks are intended to provide for popular nature based recreation. According to the Metropolitan Council Park Policy Plan “The recreational quality of a regional park is measured by the presence or absence of outstanding resources and the ability to provide adequately for a wide range of natural resource-related recreational opportunities.” The Policy Plan further states that “Popular activities in regional parks and park reserves include picnicking, boating, swimming, fishing and camping as well as trail uses such as walking, biking and inline skating”.

TRAILS

Citizen Panel Review Guidelines:

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners directs the Citizen Panel to use the following guidance in review of the trail elements of the draft 2014 Master Plan. All consensus comments should reflect the following guidelines:

- A. *The Lebanon Hills Regional Park trail system should serve people of all ages, interests and abilities.*

- B. *The trails should serve popular uses (e.g. walking, hiking, bicycling, skiing) and provide high quality experiences.*
- C. *Trail systems should serve society as a whole, meeting the needs of Dakota County's increasingly diverse and aging population.*
- D. *Trails should provide good internal park connections and should also connect to surrounding neighborhoods and communities to provide safe access to and within the park using various modes of transportation (i.e. walking, biking, rollerblading, etc.).*
- E. *The location and design of trails should be easily accessible and should appeal to citizens that are not currently visiting Lebanon Hills Regional Park, resulting in increased use of the park.*
- F. *Consider the needs and desires of others not served by the current system of trails either because of accessibility or other concerns.*

The Citizen Panel is directed to review and comment on the following:

- A. *Consider soft surface trails – draft alignments and priorities*
 - 1. Discuss the needs and desires of existing users such as walkers, hikers, skiers, mountain bikers, trail runners, and equestrians, and compare to the proposed trail system.
 - 2. Suggest modifications to the proposed trail system that would refine the experience for existing or future trail users while limiting impacts to the natural environment.
 - 3. Suggest modifications to the proposed trail system that are equitable, serve existing users, and appeal to people not currently using Lebanon Hills Regional Park.
 - 4. Suggest priority locations and trail types for improvements.

- B. *Consider connector trail – draft alignments, surface type, width, priorities*
 - 1. Consideration of year-round ADA accessible connector trail that will meet the needs and expectations of the county's residents that would connect the following trailheads and use areas:
 - a. West Trailhead (mountain bike trailhead)
 - b. Campground
 - c. Camp Sacajawea
 - d. Jenson Lake Picnic Area
 - e. Holland Lake Picnic Area
 - f. Visitor Center
 - g. Southeast Trailhead
 - 2. The Citizen Panel should use the County Board's criteria (ADA accessibility, environmental sensitivity, connectivity, cost, user experience, and wilderness experience for existing users) and the 2001 Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan to evaluate the eight draft connector trail alignments, and a no build option, within Lebanon Hills Regional Park:
 - a. Middle Park Segment – 2001 Corridor with Campground Connection
 - b. Middle Park Segment – 2013 Corridor
 - c. Middle Park Segment – South Corridor
 - d. East Park Segment – 2001 Corridor
 - e. East Park Segment – Modified 2001 Corridor
 - f. East Park Segment – 2013 Corridor
 - g. East Park Segment – South Corridor
 - h. West Park Segment

3. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of trail surface options using the County Board’s criteria:
 - a. ADA accessibility
 - b. Environmental sensitivity
 - c. Connectivity
 - d. Cost
 - e. User experience
 - f. Wilderness experience for existing users
4. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of trail widths using the County Board’s criteria:
 - a. Safety
 - b. User experience
 - c. Cost
5. Suggest general priorities for connector trail segment/staging.
6. Consideration of a connector trail as part of the greenway system.

C. Lake Loops – draft alignments, new alignments, surface type, width, priorities

1. Consider proposed lake loop around McDonough lake using the County Board’s criteria:
 - a. ADA accessibility
 - b. Environmental sensitivity
 - c. Connectivity
 - d. Cost
 - e. User experience
 - f. Wilderness experience for existing users
2. Review and comment on Holland Lake trail feasibility study and proposed option, and consider whether to accommodate new and existing trail use around Holland Lake using the County Board’s criteria:
 - a. ADA accessibility
 - b. Environmental sensitivity
 - c. Connectivity
 - d. Cost
 - e. User experience
 - f. Wilderness experience for existing users
3. Discuss seasonal closure of trails, structures such as trail bridges, or other techniques to minimize potential trail conflicts. Evaluate which trail users will be best served by any trail loops (e.g. recreational bicyclists, walkers, ADA needs) at Holland and McDonough lakes and suggest trail designs accordingly.
4. Suggest general priorities for lake loop improvements.

RECREATIONAL USE AREAS

Citizen Panel Review Guidelines:

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners directs the Citizen Panel to use the following guidance in review of the recreational use areas elements of the draft 2014 Master Plan. All consensus comments should reflect the following guidelines:

- A. *Recreational use areas should appeal to society as a whole, meeting the needs of the County's increasingly diverse and aging population.*
- B. *Recreational use areas should be designed to consider diverse populations and use.*

The Citizen Panel is directed to review and comment on the following:

- A. *Facilities – location, size and service levels, priorities (review High=H, Medium=M, Low=L)*
 - 1. Discuss and comment on location and type of recreational facilities relative to existing and anticipated demand.
 - 2. Consider quality of experience and environmental impact of proposed changes.
 - 3. Suggest general priorities for recreational use area improvements.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Citizen Panel Review Guidelines:

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners directs the Citizen Panel to use the following guidance in review of the natural resources elements of the draft 2014 Master Plan. All consensus comments should reflect the following guidelines:

- A. *Volunteerism approaches should be appealing to citizens while limiting the County's liability and improving natural resources in a cost effective manner.*

The Citizen Panel is directed to review and comment on the following:

- A. *Natural Resource Restoration Areas and Volunteerism Opportunities*
 - 1. Review and comment on overall priorities related to Tiers I, II, III in the natural resources chapters.
 - 2. Consider the strategies and alternatives available to mobilize volunteers.
 - 3. Discuss the potential to enter into partnerships with non-profits and other agencies that work with volunteers.

FINAL WORK PRODUCT

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners requires the Citizen Panel to prepare and submit a final report, consisting of consensus comments on or before August 1, 2014. The Citizen Panel is charged with reporting on a consensus (general agreement, unanimity not required) basis. If no consensus can be reached with respect to an element of the charge, the Citizen Panel should report that fact and the reason(s) therefore, when possible.