

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** December 2, 2019

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Tasha Logan Ford, Assistant City Manager  
Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager,  
Aaron King, Director of Planning and Development Services

**Council Action Requested:**

Public Hearing on Parks and Open Space Plan Update

**Strategic Focus Area:** Livable Neighborhoods  
**Strategic Objective:** Expand Open Space and Rec Facilities  
**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No  
**Key Work Item:** No



**Summary of Information:**

Planning staff, in collaboration with the City Recreation and Parks Department and County Parks and Recreation Department, has drafted an update to the Parks and Open Space Plan adopted in 2006. The update continues the work initiated by the 2006 Plan and provides recommendations that will allow the City and County to provide parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the residents in accessible location.

Recommendations were developed through an analysis of the existing system and public input. Five public input sessions and an online survey were held in the fall of 2017 to allow residents to inform staff on current park use and desired future park locations and amenities. Two additional public input session were held in August 2019 to allow residents an opportunity to comment on the proposed recommendations.

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b> _____	<b>Action</b> _____
<b>For</b> _____	<b>Against</b> _____
<b>Remarks:</b> _____	

The four key points of the Update are:

1. The Update recommends that the main focus for the next several years be maintaining and enhancing existing facilities.
2. No new parks are recommended as part of the Update. The proposed parks shown on Map 4 in the plan were proposed either as part of the original Parks and Open Space Plan or through an adopted area plan.
3. The Update includes sections on accessibility and deferred maintenance not included in the 2006 Plan.

The recommendations listed in the Update shift from prescription recreational amenities (i.e. ball fields) toward more “at-will” recreational amenities (i.e. walking/hiking trails, playgrounds, dog parks, picnic shelters).

The Planning Board held a public hearing on this proposal in October 2019 and recommended approval. Staff gave a presentation on the Parks and Open Space Plan Update at the November 13th Community Development/ Housing/General Government Committee. Based on comments at the meeting, staff has revised the plan objectives to specifically refer to maintenance of park and recreation facilities. Information requested at the meeting related to Piedmont Land Conservancy sites in Winston-Salem, zip codes of survey respondents, and a list of Winston-Salem parks categorized by park type has been sent to Council Members. This item is scheduled for a Council public hearing and consideration on December 2nd.