

Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been prepared to provide the City of Clayton with a valuable aid for continuing its efforts to meet and exceed the recreation needs and goals set forth by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Park Commission, the Clayton Recreation, Sports, and Wellness Commission, and the citizens of Clayton. The Master Plan addresses:

- *Data Collection*, an understanding of the community’s resources, facilities and existing conditions that influence the type, size and location of park land, facilities, and amenities.
 - *Plan Analysis*, the development of a program statement for the City’s future needs for park land and park facilities.
 - *Master Plan*, the synthesis of existing conditions and future opportunities with the identified recreation needs of the community, graphically illustrated to provide the City with general guidance to communicate and implement the Plan.
 - *Implementation Strategies*, a description of the existing opportunities that will aid in accomplishing the goals of the Master Plan including the generalized impacts of achieving these goals.



TAYLOR PARK gazebo dedication.

This Master Plan illustrates design concepts for various parks, open spaces, and greenway linkages throughout the community. These illustrations present the vision of the Plan and the quality of planning and design that will be required to meet the expectations of the community.

GOALS OF THE MASTER PLAN

The goals of the Master Plan are numerous and varied. Several key goals include:

- *Consensus* - the development of a plan that is supported by a broad-based section of the community.
- *Direction* - the development of a plan that provides recommendations that are based on the opportunities and dynamics of the community.
- *Flexibility* - the development of a plan that allows for choices and changes to be made over time while preserving the vision of the plan.

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Clayton Parks and Recreation Commission has been established by the City charter to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Aldermen in matters pertaining to parks and public recreation. Specifically, the Commission:

- assists in the planning and development of recreation facilities and programs designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of the youth and other citizens of the community;
- promotes and stimulates public interest therein; and
- solicits to the fullest extent possible, the cooperation of school authorities and public and private agencies.

The Commission consists of seven members. In addition, the Board of Education of the Clayton School District is requested to recommend two of its members as additional members of the Commission, and if recommended, these two members are appointed to the Commission. The Board of Aldermen appoints the Commission members who serve three-year terms. The Chair is appointed by the Board of Aldermen and is appointed for a one-year term. The Director of Parks & Recreation serves as staff liaison.

The Center of Clayton is a joint use athletic/recreational facility in the City of Clayton, for the benefit of and use by the City and the School District and their respective constituents. The Clayton Recreation, Sports, and Wellness Commission is charged with overseeing the operation of The Center.

PLANNING METHODOLOGY

The master planning process began in April 2006 with the selection of Planning Design Studio to prepare the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Clayton. The foundation of the planning process began with the formation of a Working Committee to help guide the development of the Master Plan. Eight individuals representing appointed officials, the Park Board, City staff, and the public were contacted and asked to serve on the Committee. All candidates responded enthusiastically to the invitation to serve on the Planning Committee. On May 18, 2006 this Committee conducted its first workshop with Planning Design Studio. The Committee adopted the purpose statement shown to the right to help guide the development of the master plan.

From the first meeting, over a eight month period, the Planning Committee, Parks Department members, appointed officials and interested citizens invested their time assisting in the development of a plan that, while ambitious in its recommendations, will become the standard expected by the citizens of Clayton.

WORK PLAN

As a part of the planning methodology, Planning Design Studio prepared a Work Plan for the preparation of the Master Plan. The Work Plan was intended to aid in the Working Committees' understanding of the planning process, and assist in the scheduling of events and activities

PURPOSE STATEMENT

“The purpose of The Working Committee is to offer the consultant planning team direction and guidance throughout the development of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Through a consensus building process, the Working Committee shall strive to develop a comprehensive plan that will be presented to the public, supported by the Park Commission, approved by the Board of Alderman and ultimately implemented, thus enriching the quality of life for the citizens of Clayton.”

2006 Clayton Parks and Recreation Master Plan Working Committee

throughout the planning period. The Work Plan was also utilized to illustrate the steps of the planning process to the public. The Work Plan is illustrated below in Figure 1-1.

FIGURE 1-1 – WORK PLAN

