



Fairmount Park

Common Ground

Fairmount Park Strategic Plan Newsletter
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Citizens Share Their Visions

The City of Philadelphia is halfway through the preparation of a strategic plan for Fairmount Park with the overall objective of positioning it as a premier park system. This plan will incorporate significant community input. It will identify the vision and strategies for the future of the Fairmount Park system and reflects Mayor John Street's commitment to maximizing Fairmount Park as a resource for the people of Philadelphia.

To date, the consulting team has met with hundreds of community leaders, park users, constituency groups, and the general public to identify the community values and vision for parks and open space in Philadelphia. The team, in conjunction with the City and the Fairmount Park Commission, has collected information on key issues and values and has organized this data into a Community Values Model™ that will frame the strategic plan.

The team has received a tremendous amount of input from a diverse collection of Philadelphia citizens. "Many participants commented that they were honored to be invited and enthusiastic to be part of the project," states Leon Younger, Principal and Project Manager for Leon Younger and PROS, the lead firm on the consulting team. "We have an opportunity to develop a comprehensive vision for Fairmount Park, supported by the community values of Philadelphia citizens, that will shape the future of the park system," said Robert Nix III, President, Fairmount Park Commission.

Findings from the citizen survey indicate that Fairmount Park is the most frequently mentioned city asset (23%) that makes Philadelphia a good place to live. Satisfaction of Fairmount Park is high with 80% of the respondents satisfied with the Park overall. When asked what the most important park improvement should be in the next two years, maintenance was the top ranked response with 44% followed by more amenities at 26% and safety at 24%.

This fall, the team will complete its review of the park system and begin developing strategies for the plan with City leadership. This review includes an assessment of Fairmount Park including a financial management review, a review of the Department of Recreation to assess parallel activities between it and Fairmount Park, and the benchmarking of best practices from peer cities. The result will be a detailed action plan that will help address operational and organizational issues. In addition, financial resources, volunteers and partnerships, and Park governance will be evaluated.

The consultant team and Fairmount Park staff recently conducted a review of all Fairmount Park facilities to evaluate performance of its parks. Working with the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) group, the consultant team will determine gaps and overlaps in park service areas and amenities. This task will result in a Park Investment Decision Framework to guide the future investment in parks and open space.

In early 2004, the team will present the findings and strategies in a citywide community forum to gain feedback from Philadelphia citizens. The ultimate strategic plan will help guide decisions in a balanced and comprehensive manner, addressing the diverse park and open space needs of the citizens of Philadelphia and achieving the objective of positioning Fairmount Park as a premier park system.

For more information, questions or comments, please go to: <http://fairmountpark.c-b.com/> or e-mail to christopher.palmer@phila.gov.

Do You Know....?

...that Fairmount Park is the most frequently mentioned city asset (23%) that makes Philadelphia a good place to live....
...more than any other asset.



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