City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: December 26, 2014

TO: Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager

FROM: Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: Future Park Opportunities and Donor Program

By way of background, the following serves to briefly highlight some of the park improvement projects which were funded by Parks and Recreation Bond dollars during the past twelve years.

In November 2001, City voters authorized $25 million in park bonds. The City Commission approved the issuance of $15.7 million in park bonds, which were sold in December 2002 and $4 million sold in June 2008. Park bonds issued total $19.7 million. The proceeds from the bond sales were used to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The current Master Plan outlines the City's long-range goals for the acquisition and/or enhancement of parkland and recreational facilities. All of the park bond proceeds have been spent. Funding for park improvements has also been provided by the General Fund totaling $3.3 million. Expenditures for park improvements through June 30, 2014 total $23,026,417 with additional estimated expenditures for fiscal year 2014-2015 totaling $1,113,443.

Some of the more significant expenditures of the bond proceeds were for Quarton Lake Park, Booth Park development, Barnum Park property acquisition and development, Skate Park construction, Historical Museum & Park site improvements, Dewey and Roeper property acquisitions and the Shain Park development project. These by no means are a complete list of all of the park improvement projects.

In addition to the above completed projects, some recently concluded projects have been Kenning Park parking lot reconstruction project, ball field improvements at Pembroke Park, Poppleton Park and Kenning Park. Also, underway has been the installation of the new park signage program, some other supplemental signs will be installed over the next year or two.

Some areas emphasized as potential upcoming priority projects to improve our recreational assets include the following as the result of City Commission and Parks and Recreation Board discussions from the joint meeting of September 15, 2014. Another outcome broached during this joint meeting was to better position the City for future park improvements by creating a Citywide Donor Recognition Program. This will serve as a marketing tool to encourage and foster planned park improvements in the future.

Adams Park

Coordination has begun with the neighborhood groups and Roeper School regarding park plan ideas and will continue during 2015. Most improvements involve landscape upgrades including field enhancements to improve playability. Next steps will involve group meetings with all stakeholders followed by the preparation of a concept plan for the property.

Poppleton Park

Evaluate additional parking options and alternate entrance to relieve neighborhood impacts and accommodate potential baseball/soccer users. Traffic study to be performed for vehicle counts along Madison and Lawndale. Park site plan necessary to layout all options and alternatives for additional parking, alternate entrance and programming needs. Included with this would be the assessment of right placing a universal accessible playground at this park site.

Kenning Park

Explore viable potential donor partners for next phase of park improvements which may include field improvements, two ball fields and ideally a walking pathway throughout park.

Trail Improvements

Review Rouge River Trail Corridor Master Plan to create priority project lists for overall trail improvements. Review opportunities for trail material improvements to repair various wet areas along the corridor. Hire a consultant to begin bridge design/plans for access bridges in various relevant locations along the trail system.

Linden Park/Linn Smith Park

This is a possible first location for pedestrian bridge/pathway connection between both of these park properties. Perform boundary survey, topographical survey, soil borings and tree survey of the bridge project area. Next step is to hire a consultant to prepare site plan/concept plan of the project site including holding public forums.

Manor Park

Explore alternate entrance location to relieve neighborhood impacts and increase overall park usage. As part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update during 2016 the park use and classification can be reviewed as to whether it remains a Neighborhood Park or should it be classified as a Community Park.

Other Miscellaneous Items and Park Improvements

Explore viable locations and funding options for universally accessible playgrounds in community. Set up a long-term comprehensive donor recognition program listing planned funding ideas, park locations and probable costs for future development. Also, to review whether to include naming rights as part of program options. Pursue and continue to work with possible donor community partners for continuing enhancements to the overall park system.

Ongoing campaign for working with donors and community partners:

- Booth Park - Consideration of Phase 3 corner plaza development.
- Barnum Park – Consideration of remaining plan elements.
- Kenning Park – Consideration of next phase review including walking path addition.

Sample donor recognition programs have been researched by staff. This will continue as this is a work in progress. The latest version of a "draft" policy created with the Parks and Recreation Board during 2005 is included for review at this time. A sample Park Donor Recognition Program brochure is also enclosed.

The two draft policies provide a starting point for which to begin the process of establishing a citywide donor program which will include an over-arching gift policy as well as the availability of naming rights. Next steps should we get consensus to continue would be to finalize the donor policy and marketing piece in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board and return to the City Commission after such time with a proposed final draft.

City of Birmingham park improvement, gift acceptance and donor recognition policy

1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Birmingham welcomes and encourages support from private individuals and entities that support the programs and services the City and its assigned advisory boards, commissions, councils and groups provide to the public.

2. PURPOSE

To establish a policy, criteria, guidelines and procedures for receiving and considering proposals to initiate funded, partially funded or unfunded capital projects, including gift and donor recognition projects, or undertake changes to a park property that will in the judgment of the City of Birmingham, modify the property's use, appearance or overall aesthetics.

3. POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Birmingham:

3.1 To facilitate publicly and privately funded park improvement proposals and encourage public and private gifts, bequests, and such contributions that enhance, beautify, improve, supplement, support, or otherwise benefit the park and recreation system.

3.2 To accept only those gifts, park improvements and donor recognition objects that are consistent with the mission, policies, park property restrictions, Recreation Master Plan and of the City of Birmingham.

3.3 To accept only those gifts, park improvements and donor recognition objects given with the full understanding that they become the property of the City of Birmingham and are subject to the laws, ordinances, policies and procedures that govern the City and its assigned advisory boards, committees, councils and groups.

3.4 To encourage the development and enhancement of major park, open space, trail and recreation areas. And to update such plans as needed to incorporate significant changes in trends, use patterns, amenities and features, operations and maintenance and/or incorporate adjacent or connecting properties.

3.5 To solicit and encourage public comment and involvement in the development of the Recreation Master Plan for the City of Birmingham.

3.6 To accept gifts of land, from private individuals, for-profit corporations, not-for-profit organizations and public entities when City of Birmingham ownership will further the objectives of the City as identified in the Recreation Master Plan.

3.7 To accept gift and park improvement proposals, other than land, from private individuals, for-profit corporations, not-for-profit organizations and public entities which:

3.7.1 Are given with no contingencies other than that they be used for a specific program, activity or area of programming.

3.7.2 The City of Birmingham is not obligated to replace if the gift or park improvement is stolen, vandalized, worn out, irreparably damaged or destroyed.

3.8 To strongly discourage gift and park improvement proposals that, in the judgment of the City of Birmingham, are incompatible with the park location, other park uses or users.

3.9 To strongly discourage gift, park improvement and donor recognition object proposals that are memorial in nature, to emphasize that the park system exists to meet the varied recreational, social, wellness, and educational needs of park users.

3.9.1 City of Birmingham Recognition Program – Donations for Memorials and other Honors (benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, etc.) shall continue to exist as a stand alone program.

3.10 To protect designated open space and green space areas as fundamental aspects of the quality of life within the City of Birmingham, and to limit gifts and park improvements in those areas to benches, trees or other plant materials. Benches should be placed only where placement is determined by guidelines developed in the City of Birmingham Recognition Program as it currently exists, or as may be amended from time to time, and is monitored and evaluated by the City of Birmingham.

3.11 To prohibit donor recognition objects on gifts in designated open space and green space areas.

3.12 To limit, as much as possible, plaques and visible recognition objects to areas of a park recognized as “built” environments, i.e., benches, picnic tables, water fountains, buildings, play areas, ball fields, tennis courts, etc.

3.13 To limit, as much as possible, all gifts and park improvements in "built" environments to items that complement those environments, e.g., turf/fall surfacing/sand/benches/tables/play equipment for play areas; turf/backstops/bleachers/scoreboards/fences for ball fields; nets/posts for tennis courts; backboards/nets/scoreboards for basketball courts.

3.14 To limit, as much as possible, the number of donor recognition projects that involve decorative tiles, pavers, artwork that requires mounting on walls, concrete, or any other surface that detracts from the natural characteristics of our parks. Such projects may require a verifiable demonstration of community support.

3.15 To limit, as much as possible, the number of park improvements that involve surfaces that detract from the natural characteristics of our parks. Such projects may require a verifiable demonstration of community support.

3.16 To ensure that all donor recognition objects are consistent with design guidelines approved by the City of Birmingham City Commission.

3.17 The City of Birmingham and its associated boards, commissions and departments reserve the right to decline any gift at its discretion.

DRAFT

4.0 DEFINITIONS

4.1 Assigned advisory boards, committees, councils or groups are any working or advisory board or committee created by City Commission.

4.2. Gifts are all gifts, bequests, or donations to include but not be limited to endowments, real property, structures or portions of structures; money or negotiable securities; materials; equipment, flora, or fauna; improvements to facilities or land; statues, monuments, sculptures, murals and other works of art; plaques, graphics and/or signs; or recreation and cultural arts program instruction, equipment and supplies.

4.3. Donor Recognition Object is a physical object placed in a park to acknowledge a gift donor.

4.4. Donor is a private individual, for-profit company, non-profit organization, or public agency wishing to donate funds or objects to the City.

4.5. Donor Recognition Project is a proposal and plan for placing a donor recognition object at a park or park facility.

4.6. Gift Needs Inventory is a list of identified Department operational and capital needs which would make appropriate gifts.

4.7. Memorial Art is any statue, monument, sculpture, mural, memorial, or other structure or landscape feature designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of a person, group, event or other significant element of history.

4.8. Park Improvement Proposal may include a funded, partially funded or unfunded capital project(s) request consisting of real property, structures, or portions of structures; materials; equipment; flora or fauna; improvements to facilities or land and other non-art items.

4.9. Park Improvement Proposer is a private individual, for-profit company, non-profit organization, or public agency wishing to initiate a funded, partially, funded or unfunded capital project(s) consisting of real property, structures, or portions of structures; materials; equipment; flora or fauna; improvements to facilities or land and other non-art items.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

5.1. The City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board, in cooperation with the City of Birmingham, is responsible for:

5.1.1. Receiving all gift, park improvement and donor recognition proposals, including memorial and non-memorial art, and related donor recognition objects and making an initial decision to recommend, accept or reject.

5.1.2. Determining the appropriateness and compatibility of all details of the proposed gift, park improvement and/or donor recognition object, including but not limited to the location, impact on other park uses or users, the size, scale, color, design, materials, contractor, and construction schedule.

DRAFT

5.1.2.1 Specific details regarding donor recognition for proposed gifts and the appropriateness and compatibility of the donor recognition object shall be reviewed individually for each major park, open space, trail and recreation area.

5.1.3. Advancing approved gift and park improvement proposals to assigned and applicable advisory boards, commissions, councils or groups for design review and refinement.

5.1.4. Making the final decision on acceptance of all gifts, park improvement and donor recognition object proposals, unless determining it appropriate for consideration by the City of Birmingham City Commission.

5.1.5. Declining proposed gift, park improvement or donor recognition object proposals that are limited by special restrictions, conditions or covenants, which pose extreme budgetary obligations on the City of Birmingham, or which, in the opinion of the City, may not be in the best interest of the park system and/or citizens of City of Birmingham.

5.1.6. Making the final decision on the park, recreation area, trail and open space location for the placement of specific gifts, park improvements and donor recognition objects in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board, the Recreation Master Plan and the City of Birmingham City Commission.

5.1.7. Determining the life expectancy of gifts and park improvements; their appropriateness, usefulness and continued value to the park system and to the City of Birmingham; and their retention, relocation, modification, improvement, return to donor, transfer, sale, donation to other agency, or other disposition in conjunction with the Public Arts Board policies for art deaccessioning.

5.1.8. Determining anticipated costs associated with ongoing maintenance of gifts, park improvements and donor recognition objects, including statues, monuments, sculptures, murals and other works of memorial and non-memorial art and related donor recognition objects, in conjunction with other advisory boards, commissions, councils or groups as appropriate.

5.1.9. Generating a “Gift Needs Inventory” and reviewing it once a year.

5.2. The Donor or Park Improvement Proposer is responsible for:

5.2.1. A portion or all of the financial costs of gifts, park improvements and donor recognition objects, and their installation if determined appropriate by the City in agreement with the Donor or Park Improvement Proposer. *(The City of Birmingham is under no obligation to replace stolen, vandalized, irreparably damaged or destroyed recognition objects).*

5.2.2. A portion or all of the financial costs associated with ongoing maintenance of gifts, park improvements and donor recognition objects, including statues, monuments, sculptures, murals and other works of art and related donor recognition objects, if determined appropriate by the City, in consultation with applicable advisory councils, commissions, boards or groups as appropriate.

5.2.3. Appearing before the applicable advisory council, commission, board or group to present their gift, park improvement and/or donor recognition object proposal.

5.2.4 Providing an appraisal of memorial and non-memorial statues, monuments, sculptures, murals and other works with the initial proposal to the City of Birmingham and updating appraisal information as needed consistent with established Public Arts Board policies and procedures and City insurance requirements.

5.3. The Parks and Recreation Board is responsible for:

5.3.1. Receiving and considering a gift proposal advanced from the City Administration, or designee~~,~~ that is in the form of a memorial or non-memorial statue, monument, sculpture, mural, and other work of art and associated donor recognition object.

5.3.2. Advancing the gift proposal for memorial or non-memorial art and associated donor recognition object to the Public Arts Board and Architectural Review Ad Hoc Committee for design review and approval considering applicable Public Arts Board criteria which may include: artistic merit, aesthetic quality, credentials of the artist, installation methods, maintenance requirements, proposed location, the functional or design contribution to the setting, relationship to circulation and use patterns, quality, scale and character of the art proposal, and installation methods and refining the proposal as needed.

5.3.3. Receiving the refined gift proposal for memorial or non-memorial art from the Public Arts Board for further refinement as needed and advancing the recommended proposal to the City of Birmingham, or designee, for final approval.

5.3.4. Insuring that public comment and feedback is solicited and considered for all art and associated donor recognition objects by providing for a public comment period which may include homeowner's association mailings, and public meetings, to collect citizen input.

5.3.5. Providing the City of Birmingham the name(s) of recommended park, recreation area, trail and open space locations for the placement of statues, monuments, sculptures, murals and other works of art and associated donor recognition objects.

5.3.6. Determining anticipated costs associated with ongoing maintenance of memorial and non-memorial statues, monuments, sculptures, murals and the City of Birmingham and/or other advisory councils, commissions, boards or groups as appropriate.

5.4. The City of Birmingham Commission is responsible for:

5.4.1. Reviewing proposals for gifts, park improvements and donor recognition objects referred to it by the City of Birmingham, Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board, Public Arts Board, and for making a final acceptance or rejection decision.

DRAFT

GIFT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Birmingham has the authority, pursuant to the Birmingham City Charter, Chapter II, Section 2(1) to receive gifts.

2. PURPOSE

To establish a policy by which the City of Birmingham welcomes and encourages support from private individuals and entities that support the programs and the services of the City.

3. POLICY

To encourage gifts, bequests and such contributions that supports the programs and services of the City.

The City Commission does hereby direct the City Manager and his designees to accept such gifts on behalf of the City, as the Manager deems appropriate. In the event a gift is proffered to the City and the City Manager, in his discretion, deems such gift to be inappropriate he shall report the facts and circumstances and his reasons for rejection of the proffered gift to the City Commission.

The Birmingham City Commission may, from time to time, establish such gift giving programs as it deems appropriate including, but not limited to recognizing the donors in a manner in which the City Commission in its sole discretion deems appropriate. The City Commission, in furtherance of this policy, may refer such programs to the established Boards of the City or to appoint such Ad Hoc Committees as may be appropriate under the circumstances to further the policy of encouraging gifts to the City and recognizing the donors thereof.

DRAFT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Park Donor Recognition Program

Great parks are a result of inspiration and action from a committed community.

Be a part of the City of Birmingham Parks for the enjoyment of you, your family and friends.

DRAFT

The City of Birmingham believes a clean, safe and active park is essential to a healthy, thriving community, and the City of Birmingham needs your support.

In November 2001, City voters authorized $25 million in park bonds. The City Commission had approved issuance of $15.7 million in park bonds, which were sold in December 2002 and $4 million sold in June 2008. Park bonds issued total $19.7 million. All of the park bond proceeds have been spent. Funding for park improvements has also been provided by the General Fund totaling $3.3 million.

To continue the momentum on maintaining the twenty-six parks with over 230 acres the City of Birmingham offers the opportunity to participate and contribute to a wide range of donation opportunities listed in this catalog. It could be donating a picnic bench to donating a bridge as part of the Rouge River Trail Corridor.

DRAFT

Barnum Park
Master Plan

DRAFT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Donation Opportunities For Barnum Park

Barnum Park Playground Improvements

This expanded sand play area should be a hit with neighborhood children, and the increased shade should be appreciated by parents. Boulders will line the eastern edge of the pit as it is tucked into the existing berm. The native tall grass zone surrounding the sand play area should be supplemented with additional shrubs and flowering perennials, to enhance its appearance and create a beautiful backdrop.

Price: $30,000

Prairie Garden

The existing "no mow' areas, which occupy several berms and ridges in the park are visually not very pleasing due to weed populations and shortage of showy wildflowers. These areas can be converted to tiered native prairie gardens that showcase distinct bands of native perennial wildflowers and grasses. Interpretive signs can help educate park visitors about the ecological benefits of growing native plants. Barnum Park can become a pioneer for sustainable landscape strategies for the City of Birmingham.

Price Starting: $10,000

Drinking Fountain

Made with heavy-duty iron painted "Birmingham Green". Includes polished brass bowl, bubbler and mouth guard. Recognition on the Donor Plaque that will be installed on the Barnum Arch.

Price Starting: $6,500 (w/pet bowl)
$5,000 (without/bowl)

Bench

Barnum Park is nine acres and with so much ground to cover, the city believes you can never have too many places to rest your legs. Your donation comes with a 4 x 6 inch plaque mounted to bench.

Price Starting: $1,500

DRAFT

TREE

Thanks to generous sponsors, trees have been planted in city parks. The tree type will vary depending on the needs of Barnum Park. The City of Birmingham makes the final decision on the location and type of tree. Depending on the species, a tree may start at at $750. In return for your donation, you receive:

- A tree planted at Barnum Park
- Maintenance of your tree for one year, including watering. (Note: after the first year, the tree takes care of itself
- Recognition on the Donor Plaque that will be installed on the Barnum Arch.

PRICE: $750 PER SPECIES

ADDITIONAL BARNUM DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

There's no better way to honor a loved one than with a donation to the City of Birmingham. Beneficiaries donations will receive a special letter acknowledging the donor's gift in their honor or memory. While these donations contribute to the daily operations of the parks, additional tribute and memorial opportunities exist in the form of sponsoring trees and benches. Below are a list of additions, future improvements and donation opportunities with estimated costs for Barnum Park.

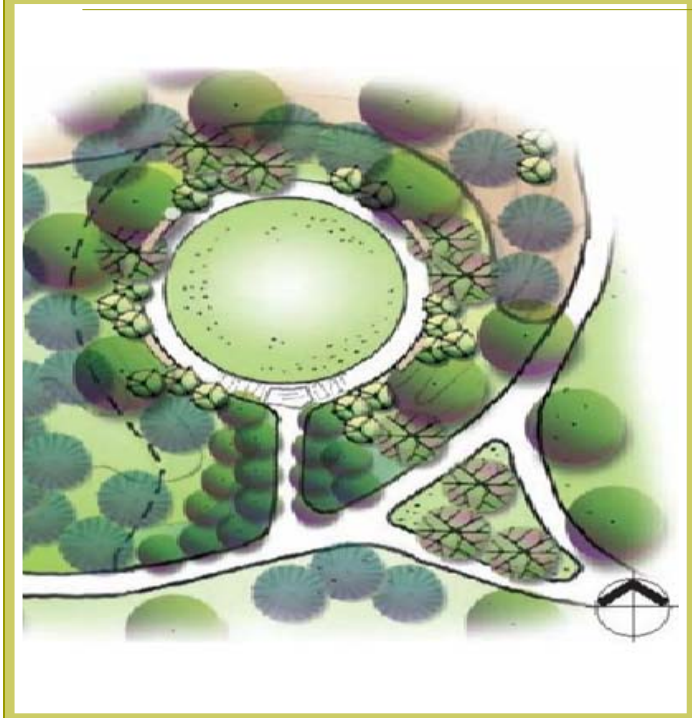
Conservatory/Green house/Restroom Building	$400,000.00
Formal garden area	$235,000.00
Landscape planting/floral beds	$ 17,980.00
Picnic Pavilion	$ 50,000.00
Low walls with salvaged brick	$ 46,200.00
Park entry features/arbors	$ 20,000.00
Picnic tables	$ 8,500.00
Turf-block pavers with concrete edge	$ 65,673.00
Sculpture & art budget	$120,000.00
Arches at special areas	$4,000-$12,000
Focal point rocks/boulders	$1,200-$2,000
Unique benches and seating	$1,500
Labyrinth stone paving	$10,000-$15,000
Pergola garden pavilion	$35,000-$45,000

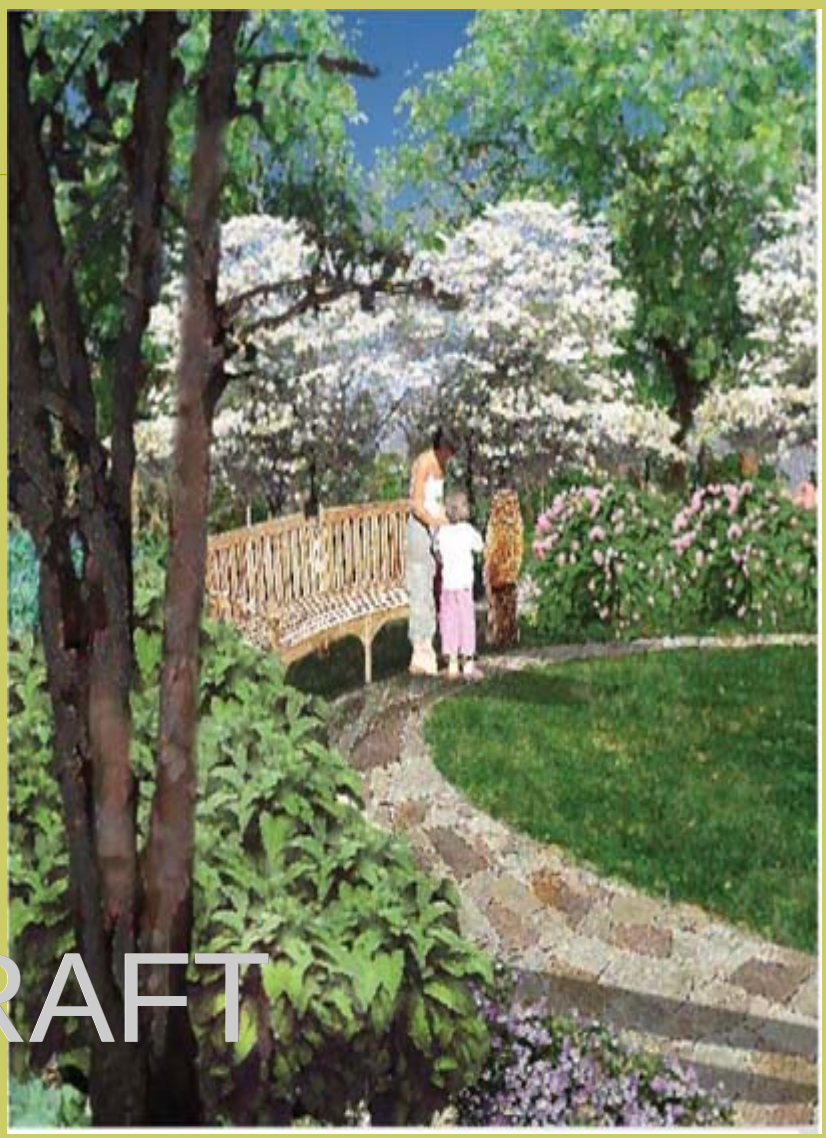
DRAFT

Barnum Park Sanctuary Garden

The Sanctuary may take on the theme of "nature in literature" or the poet's garden". Features such as four composite or wooden benches inscribed with poetry; an owl sculpture that functions as a container for books; an inscribed entrance stone, etc. will help this theme. Replace "no-mow" (and weeds) with native groundcover. A flagstone path will welcome slow saunters around this peaceful, secluded garden.

Price: $57,000-$78,000





DRAFT

Booth Park
Phase III

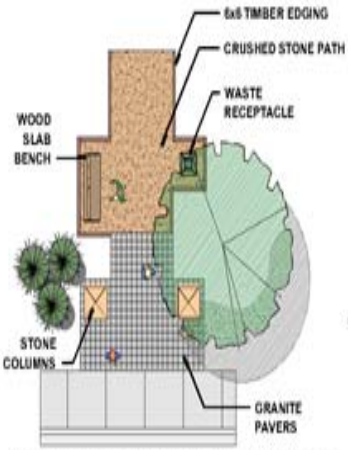
DRAFT

Price:
$450,000

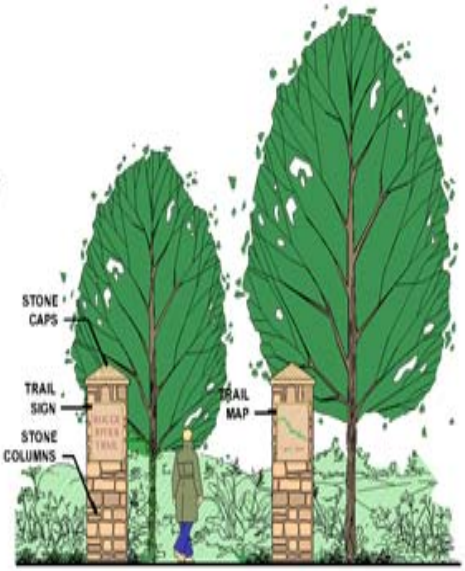
Kenning Park
Master Plan

DRAFT

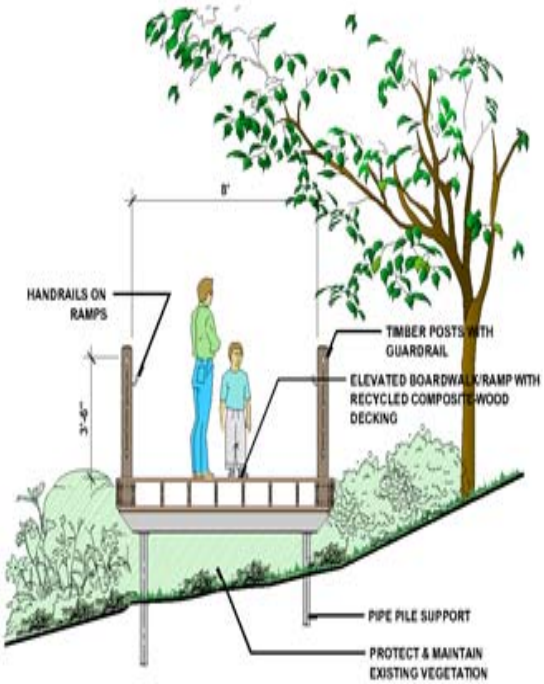
Rouge River Trail Corridor Amenities



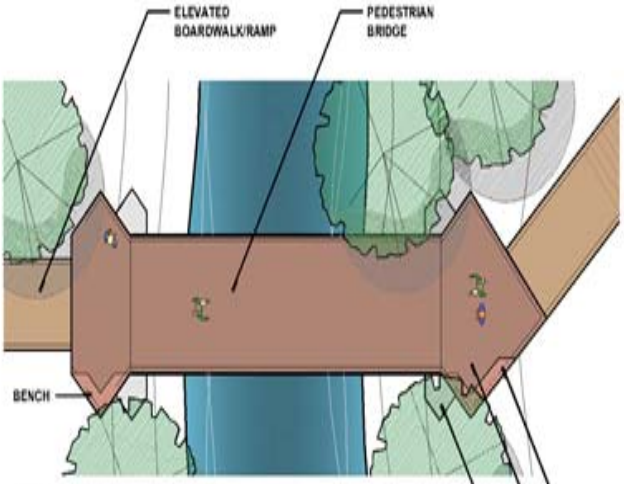
TRAIL ENTRY AND IDENTIFIER - PLAN VIEW
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



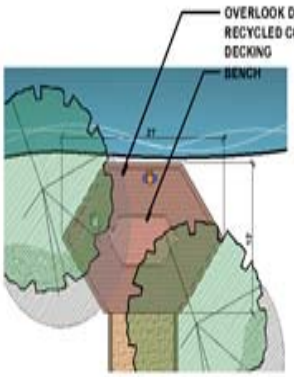
TRAIL ENTRY AND IDENTIFIER - SECTION VIEW
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



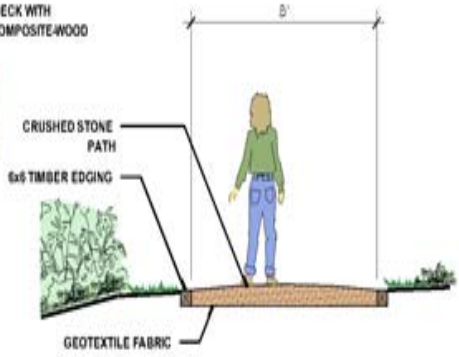
ELEVATED BOARDWALKS AND RAMPS - SECTION VIEW
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



TYPICAL BRIDGE - PLAN VIEW
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



OVERLOOK DECK - PLAN VIEW
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



CRUSHED STONE PATH - SECTION VIEW
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

BRIDGE ABUTMENT
BRIDGE/BOARDWALK LANDING
BENCH

DRAFT

Bridge Donation/Naming a Bridge

Bridge Donation

A bridge can be sponsored for $200,000. Payments may extend over a term of up to five years. The City of Birmingham will install an appropriate sized plaque on the bridge to acknowledge the donor's sponsorship.

Donor funds will be placed in the City of Birmingham's donation fund. The term of the sponsorship is the life of the asset

Naming a Bridge

A bridge can be named for $400,000. Payment may extend over a term of up to five years. The City of Birmingham will install an appropriate sized plaque on the bridge listing the name of the bridge. Other information may be included on the plaque if the donor desires.

Naming funds will be placed in the City of Birmingham's donation fund. The naming rights last for the life of the asset.

Price: $200,000-$400,000 (estimated)

DRAFT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
General Park Donation Opportunities

Playground Equipment

Donors may contribute to playground equipment, to be located in accordance with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Donations of any amount will be accepted by the City of Birmingham. A plaque identifying names of all donors will be placed in the vicinity of the playground equipment.

Price: $30,000 (estimated)

Shain Park Tables/Chairs

Folding chairs and tables popular among the lemonade sellers at the end of the 19th century. Lacquered curved slats in galvanized steel. Available in a variety of colors. Your donation comes with a certificate which will mailed to the sponsor of the tables/chairs.

Price Starting: $500 (per set)

Drinking Fountain

Made with heavy-duty iron painted "Birmingham Green". Includes polished brass bowl, bubbler and mouth guard. Your donation comes with a 4 x 6 inch plaque mounted in the concrete near the base of the drinking fountain.

Price Starting: $6,500 (w/pet bowl)
$5,000 (without/bowl)

Bench

The City of Birmingham believes you can never have too many places to rest your legs. Bench placement is determined by City Administration but locations are available in City of Birmingham Parks and available in the downtown area. Your donation comes with a 4 x 6 inch plaque mounted to bench.

Price Starting: $1,500

DRAFT

Tree

The City of Birmingham has 26 parks covering over 238 acres of land. You can help support our parks by purchasing a tree with a recognition plaque. Your donation can make a difference and provide a lasting benefit for future generations.

The City of Birmingham makes the final decision on the location and type of tree.

Although you can donate a tree at any time of the year, trees may not be planted immediately. Planting is determined by the time of the year.

Depending on the species, a tree may start at at $750. In return for your donation, you receive:

- Maintenance of your tree for one year, including watering. (Note: after the first year, the tree takes care of itself
- Recognition on a 4 in x 6 in plaque set into a rock, that will be installed beneath the tree.
-

"One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade."

Price: $750 per species

Future Projects

Each year, projects are identified to complete phases of approved City plans for streets and parks. With each project, new items become available for purchase through the Recognition Program.

Possible future needs may include bicycle racks, gazebos and picnic shelters for the parks. As the parks and streets throughout the City are upgraded, new features may be added or replaced. Special requests will be reviewed by City Staff and directed to the appropriate City Board for their consideration.

DRAFT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM PARK

Park Donor Recognition Interest Form

Interested Item/Description	Location	Park

Name

Address

Phone

Email

The City of Birmingham will contact you to discuss the donation that you have inquired about, based on your interest level.

DRAFT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Park Donor Recognition Program

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

City of Birmingham
151 Martin
Birmingham, MI 48009

Phone: 248.530.1700
E-mail:
CityParkDonations@bhamgov.org

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The Birmingham Parks & Recreation Board is dedicated to enriching the quality of life in our community by preserving and enhancing natural areas, urban forests, open spaces and waters within our park system; by partnering with community organizations to facilitate access to recreation programs; by renewing and developing our public parkland and play areas through the application of safe design principles; and by providing an atmosphere of inclusion by offering universal access for the enjoyment by all ages and abilities of our parks and recreational facilities.