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Elgin announces Parks and Recreation Master Plan process



June 15 public meeting will kick off the Elgin Parks and Recreation Master Plan development process

Elgin, IL - The City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Department will kick off its master plan development process with a public meeting on Wednesday, June 15 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Heritage Ballroom in the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, located at 100 Symphony Way in Elgin. The meeting will be held in an open house format, so the public can show up anytime during the timeframe.

"All Elgin residents are encouraged to attend this public meeting," said Parks

and Recreation Director Maria Cumpata. "We are *your* parks department, so it's important we hear your priorities, your needs and your vision for the future and what the department should offer when it comes to programs, services and amenities."

The public meeting will address several planning themes including passive recreation, active recreation, gathering spaces, community/social experiences and connections. Within these themes, topics will cover things like park infrastructure and facilities, trails and bike paths, open greenspace and recreational opportunities. Additionally, residents will be able to give feedback on the current park system's inventory and any potential gaps in amenities and/or infrastructure.

All open house information will be available in English and Spanish, with a translator available on site.

The public meeting is one of many outreach efforts that will take place as part of the development of the Elgin Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Those unable to attend this meeting who wish to provide input and engage in the process will have the opportunity to participate in a bilingual online survey as well as a second public input meeting to be held this fall.

Elgin Parks and Recreation Master Plan Process

Over the next six months, the City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Department will focus on creating a strategic master plan that will help guide decisions over the next five to eight years. The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life for residents of every Elgin neighborhood by protecting the unique natural resources, enhancing the cultural treasures and protecting the historical identity of the City. In addition, the department works to provide access to an integrated community and regional system of parks and recreation facilities, services and programs with an eye on the future while preserving the past.

SmithGroup, Inc. was hired to assist the City staff and a steering committee with this master plan process. SmithGroup completed the most recent update to the Elgin Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan in 2011. They were chosen due to their experience creating parks and recreation master plans for other communities similar to Elgin in size and diversity.

The steering committee is an advisory committee that guides decisions and priorities outlined in the master plan and consists of the following members:

- Tom Armstrong – Resident/Chair, Elgin Sustainability Commission
- Andy Dogan – Resident/Member, Elgin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Krisilee Murphy – President & CEO, Explore Elgin Area
- R. Daniel Payne – ROPE Officer, Elgin Police Department
- Billy Rodriguez – Resident/Retiree, City of Elgin Land Management Division

- Jim Wiseman - Executive Director, Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA)
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For more information, please contact Communications Manager [Molly Gillespie](#) at 847-931-5613 (O) or 224-762-0516 (C) or visit www.cityofelgin.org/recreation.

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