



Suite 403
City – County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
Office: (865) 215-2500
Fax: (865) 215-2068

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item # 12

To: Planning Commission
From: Mark Donaldson, Executive Director
Date: December 2, 2009
Subject: The Knoxville Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenway Plan and Amendments to the General Plan and Sector Plans - 10-A-09-SAP

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

Staff recommends that you adopt the [Knoxville Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenway Plan](#), which represents amendments to the General Plan and Sector Plans, and forward the plan to City Council and County Commission with recommendations for adoption. A resolution is included for that purpose.

BACKGROUND

The Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, in partnership with the city and county park and recreation departments, prepared this plan, which marks the first time that a seamless, county-wide Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan has been created. With adoption, it will be an element of the Knoxville Knox County General Plan, representing a set of proposals and policies to create the park system. The proposals are framed by the twelve sectors (see Chapters VI and VII), which provide the means to update the plan with the periodic adoption of the sector plans.

The plan was compiled through an extensive public workshop, survey and meeting processes. Workshops were held in the communities and with the recreation organization interests. Surveys were also conducted to assess general public and high school students' preferences for recreation activities and park system improvements. Review of an earlier draft was made possible through a public meeting at the Expo Center and MPC's website.

A foremost recommendation of the public is to make connections in the greenway system, joining trail segments together and providing links to parks and schools. The plan was developed and refined to propose such a connected system.

Other major proposals include: a greater number of close-to-home parks within walking distance of residents in urban and suburban neighborhoods, preservation and creation of natural areas in each quadrant of the county, development of a well distributed system of sports fields, court spaces and such facilities as dog parks and skate parks to meet growing interests in all types of recreation.

As a 30-year plan, the vision is long range. However, the key steps for short-term and mid-range improvements are outlined in the appendices. These include park acquisition, greenway connections and retrofitting existing facilities.

In addition to the park departments, MPC staff has considered the advice and mission statements of Legacy Parks, the City's Greenway Commission and the County's Advisory Park Board in preparing the plan.

**KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY PARK, RECREATION AND GREENWAYS PLAN
AND AMENDING THE KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY GENERAL PLAN AND THE SECTOR PLANS**

WHEREAS, the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, a regional planning commission established pursuant to state statute, has the duty to make and adopt plans for the physical development of Knoxville and Knox County; and

WHEREAS, City of Knoxville and Knox County park and recreation departments requested that the Metropolitan Planning Commission assist in creating a county-wide, comprehensive park system plan; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Commission staff prepared an inventory of the public parks and greenways and quasi-public park resources, and completed an analysis of park conditions as a foundation in developing the plan; and

WHEREAS, the staffs of the City of Knoxville, Knox County and Metropolitan Planning Commission have worked together to engage residents, recreation interests and students in identifying issues and opportunities for park and recreation facility improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Commission staff prepared the Knoxville/Knox County Parks, Recreation and Greenways Plan, which takes into account the comments of citizens and city and county park departments and presented the plan concepts and draft through a series of public meetings and MPC's website; and

WHEREAS, the policies and concepts of the plan should be a guide for long-term park system development and recognized as an element of the Knoxville Knox County General Plan; and

WHEREAS, chapters VI and VII of the plan contain proposals for each of the city and county sectors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION:

SECTION 1: The Commission hereby adopts the Knoxville/Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, dated December 2009, and amendments to the General Plan and Sector Plans.

SECTION 2: The Planning Commission further recommends (a) that the Knoxville City Council adopt the plan and corresponding General Plan and Sector Plan amendments through passage by ordinance and (b) that the Knox County Commission adopt the plan and corresponding General Plan and Sector Plan amendments by resolution..

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

Date

Chairman _____

Secretary _____