



ARSENAL/ LESLIE PARK MASTER PLAN – THE FACTS

1. WHY PLAN?

- ⊗ 2012 - 2013 Quality of Life interviews, surveys, and community meetings revealed that revitalizing community parks was priority for residents.
- ⊗ The City completed a Comprehensive Open Space Master Plan in 2013 that examined the status of all parks and made recommendations for the future. The recommendation for Arsenal Park was clear: redevelop the park completely to create a site with a better balance of active and passive uses AND with references to the site's history. The City's first recommendation: complete a new master plan.
- ⊗ A master plan helps stakeholders prioritize and make decisions. It challenges the expectations of the public about what a park can be and educates stakeholders about park issues. A master plan can identify a common vision for the park's future even when there are many ideas and perspectives to consider at once.
- ⊗ The plan is a useful tool to hold community groups, elected officials, and developers accountable.
- ⊗ LU and FAP have continued to work with the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Public Works to address current maintenance issues. Regular clean ups have been held, the City is providing increased maintenance, and improvements have been made while the community has planned. LU and FAP advocated for the improved and renovated tennis courts that many enjoy. We do not have to decide between planning and maintaining; we can and should have a clean and safe park that also has a plan for future improvements.
- ⊗ As the plan moves towards implementation, the community will be kept up to date with regular updates via email, on an Arsenal/ Leslie webpage, in the Bloomfield-Garfield Bulletin, and at community spaces.

2. FUNDING THE PLAN

- ⊗ LU/ LC/ FAP worked with residents to complete an application to the Design Center for funding to complete a master plan for Arsenal Park in 2012- 2013. The Design Center elected NOT to fund the project until the City's Comprehensive Open Space Plan was complete.
- ⊗ Thereafter, then-City Councilman Patrick Dowd allocated \$70,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC). PPC served as project manager for the master plan and worked with a steering committee of community representatives to ensure the process was community driven. PPC was selected because of the number of park planning and implementation projects completed throughout the region
- ⊗ 3 of Lawrenceville's 4 census tracts are CDBG-eligible, including tract 603 that includes Arsenal Park. CDBG grants are used to address the needs of low-moderate income residents. Despite recent development, almost 3,000 Lawrenceville residents live near or below the federal poverty line. 90% of the students who attend Arsenal Elementary and Middle School qualify for free or reduced price lunch.
- ⊗ Many residents felt that it didn't make sense to plan for one park without considering the future of Leslie - just 6 blocks away. Senator Jim Ferlo advocated for Lawrenceville Corporation to receive \$75,000 in County Infrastructure and Tourism Funds (CITF) to create one comprehensive plan for both Arsenal and Leslie Parks and the connections between. The CITF program is administered by the Allegheny County Economic Development Department and provides grants and loans to facilitate economic development through eligible infrastructure-related projects.
- ⊗ Upon receipt, the LC provided all \$75,000 to PPC, which, together with a broad-based steering committee, hired MKSK to serve as the lead master-planning landscape design consultant through a competitive RFP process. As part of the initial budget, \$ 8 - 10,000 was set aside to cover printing, meeting and community engagement costs incurred by Lawrenceville United. More than 200 hours of LU and LC staff time were provided to the project; Friends of Arsenal Park received no money.

3. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLAN

- ☒ More than 400 residents participated in 10 separate community meetings, walk shops, and open houses as part of the planning process. (11/21/14, 5/29/14, 7/10/14, 9/25/14, 10/30/14, 12/11/14, 2/26/15, 2/28/15, 3/26/15.)
- ☒ 351 participant interactions through the online portal: Mind Mixer (arsenalleslieparksmp.mindmixer.com)
- ☒ A Steering Committee comprised of LU, LC, FAP, PPC, City Planning, City Council, Senator Ferlo's Office, Senator Fontana's Office, Lawrenceville Historical Society, Tree Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8, Allegheny County Health Department, Boys and Girls Club, and the Allegheny Cemetery met 8 times through the planning process to ensure that the process was open and inclusive.
- ☒ 15 focus group meetings were held with 9th Ward Youth Association, Lawrenceville Bike and Pedestrian Committee, PUMP, local artists and art managers, local businesses, preschool playgroups, Arsenal teachers and students, Senior AdvantAGE members, and city departments.
- ☒ 4 articles appeared in the Bloomfield-Garfield Bulletin to share updates and events on the planning process. Dozens of Facebook and Twitter posts were shared by LU, PPC, FAP, LC, Councilwoman Gross, Lawrenceville Bike/ Ped Committee and others. Nextdoor posts also notified residents of meetings. Flyers, postcards, and posters for all meetings were posted and distributed at the Library, Stephen Foster's, local businesses, Senior Center, Boys and Girls Club, and Churches.
- ☒ Over 2,000 post cards were printed and distributed throughout the community sharing information on the plan and opportunities to participate.

4. PLAN PRIORITIES

- ☒ Preserve, celebrate, and raise awareness of the history of the site.
- ☒ Foster connections between the park and neighborhood and within the park itself.
- ☒ Build sustainable landscapes that preserve and restore ecology and history.
- ☒ Emphasize park uses and recreation over vehicles.
- ☒ Restore the primacy of park maintenance.

5. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- ☒ Historic preservation and restoration remain a priority for all parties involved with the project.
- ☒ The plan calls for preserving and restoring the stone wall surrounding the park, with limited modifications only as required to provide accessible entrances (a major goal of the planning effort). Any stone removed will be reused within the park to repair walls or construct new features. Less than 9% of the linear feet of the wall will be removed.
- ☒ The plan calls for restoring the Powder Magazine structure to its 1862 form.
- ☒ The plan calls for restoring the Memorial dedicated in 1909 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Dolly Madison Chapter.
- ☒ The plan recommends providing for archaeological recovery as part of capital project protocols.
- ☒ Thanks to many resident requests, the plan recommends permanent interpretive installations to tell the history of the area and potentially display historical artifacts.
- ☒ There are public approval processes that will be followed for any proposed changes to the park – recommended changes would go before the Historic Review Commission, Art Commission, and other relevant and mandatory approval processes. The public will be kept up to date every step of the way.

For more information, contact Lawrenceville United at info@lunited.org or call 412-802-7220. Visit our website at www.lunited.org. The plan is still underway and we want you to be involved! Let us know your ideas, thoughts, and concerns! This is the community's plan!