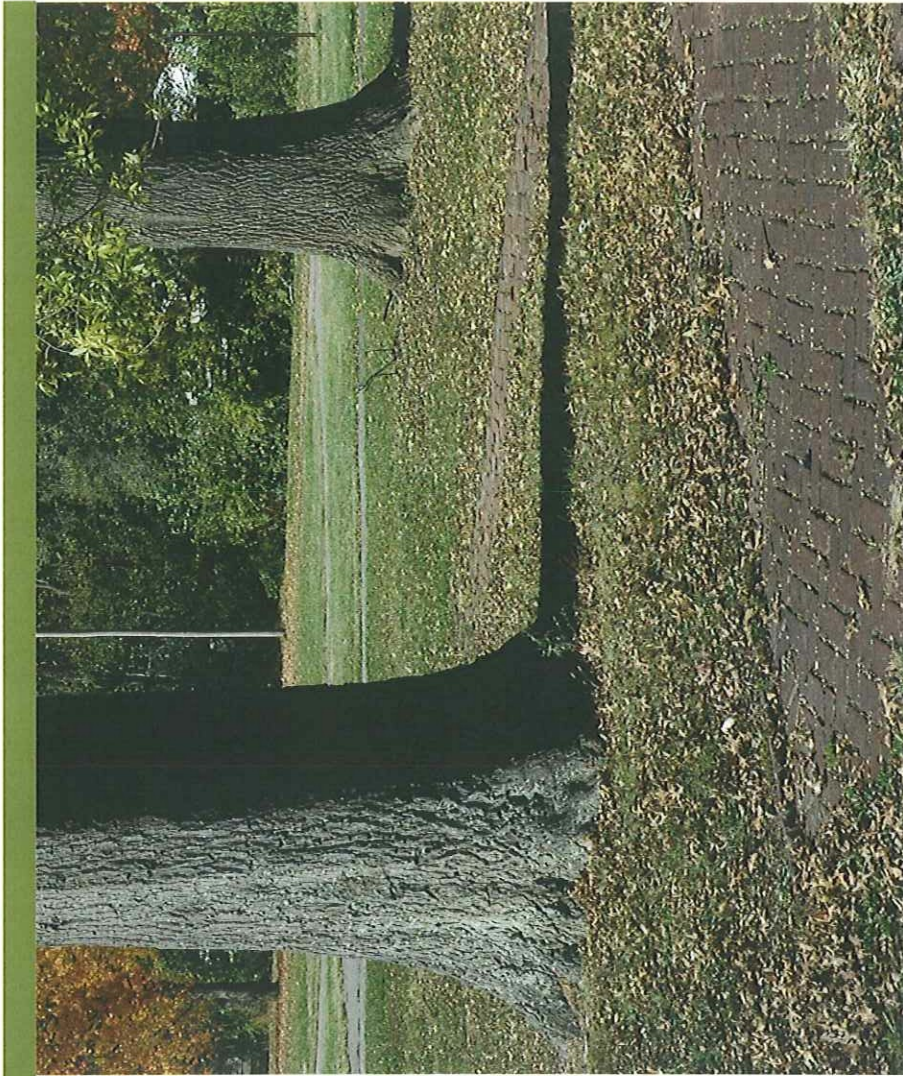


Algonquin Park

Master Plan



Metro
Parks

Public Meeting Participants

Loreda Carter
William Donaldson, Sr.
Janice Edmondson
Barbara Link
Jerry Marshall, Sr.
Verlene O'Bannon
John O'Bannon

Manfred Reid, Sr.
Ann Blackshear
Ron Blakley
Durby Martin
Theodore Scott
Sean Walker
Richard Wolford

Metro Parks

<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/MetroParks/>

Michael J. Heitz, AIA – Director
Martha Berner – Project Manager
Sarah Moser – Project Manager

Acknowledgements

Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Susan Rademacher, President

Mary C. Woolridge – *Metro Council, District 3*
Sharron Brown – *Assistant to Ms. Woolridge*

Prepared by



Center For Neighborhoods

VISION. KNOWLEDGE. ACTION.

Adopted: 00.00.2006

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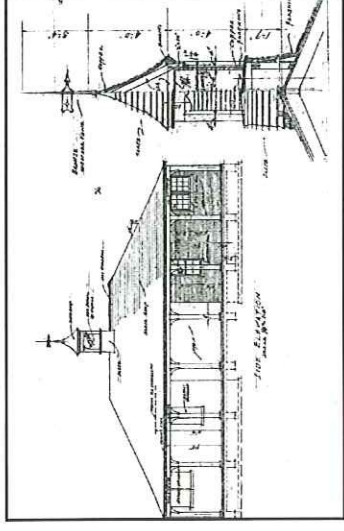


History



Algonquin Park is part of Louisville's historic Olmsted Parks and Parkways System. Designed by The Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects in 1929, Algonquin Park is one of the last of the 18 parks in Louisville designed by Olmsted and his sons over a 50-year period.

Algonquin Park is 16 square acres in size. In 1928, the park site was a rural property on the edge of the City of Louisville. Algonquin Parkway was under construction at the time. The Olmsted Brothers produced the first master plan in 1929. The City of Louisville designed the concession and restroom facilities in 1935. Finally, in 1937, Algonquin Park was under construction. By 1963, the pool and bath house had been built and the concession building has been torn down.

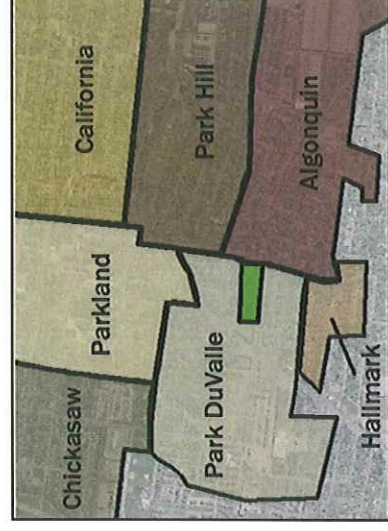


*Detail of proposed Algonquin Park structure, 1935.
City of Louisville Department of Public Welfare.*

Service Area

Algonquin Park has a large service area. The following neighborhoods are within a two mile radius of the park:

- Algonquin Neighborhood
- Hallmark Neighborhood
- Park DuValle Neighborhood
- Park Hill Neighborhood
- Parkland Neighborhood
- California Neighborhood
- Chickasaw Neighborhood



Algonquin Park location map & adjoining neighborhoods.

Algonquin Park Historic Materials and Patterns



One to the goals of the plan for the revival of Algonquin Park is to respect valued historic aspects of its development. The history of the design and construction of Algonquin Park has not been previously documented in any coordinated and thorough way. For the purposes of the conceptual master plan, an exhaustive history was not considered necessary, although there is the potential for oral history of the park to be documented, along with more in-depth documentary research. These may be considered by others in the future. The collection and preservation of oral histories and other historic documents would be wonderful opportunities for community participation and the establishment of materials for possible use as exhibits and historic signage within the park. Research supporting this plan focused on documentation of historic material extant at the park, and visual records of the construction of the park over time.

Materials used in this research included the following:

- Aerial photographs of Louisville beginning in 1928
- The 1929 Olmsted Brothers Plan for Algonquin Park
- The 1935 plans for a concession building and playground facilities
- Olmsted cost estimates and correspondence
- Photographs taken in the fall of 2005

No historic ground level photographs of the site were located in a search of the Metro Louisville and University of Louisville archives.

In this 1928 aerial survey of Louisville, the site of Algonquin Park has been highlighted in red. The park site is at the edge of residential development on Louisville's southwest side. The land south of the residential development appears to be small farms with a patchwork of small crop fields. At least one house is present within the area that would become the park. Algonquin Parkway is visible south of the park site where it appears that preliminary grading was in progress to extend the parkway to the west.



The Olmsted Plan of 1929 was never substantially implemented, though it did set the organizational pattern for later park development on the site. Major elements of this organization are highlighted in the color-coded version of the plan. The park plan was organized along a central east-west axis. The different park elements were placed symmetrically along this axis in a series of layers receding away from Cypress Street. A tree shaded promenade with benches was planned for the edge of the park that fronted on Cypress Street. Behind this were separate girls and boys play areas and a wading pool centered on the axis. Another tree-lined walk separated the play areas from the third layer of the plan. The third layer was to include a centered recreation building flanked by tennis courts. Behind this and occupying about two-thirds of the park were four baseball fields. These fields were enclosed by a walkway and a double row of shade trees. In the large field area there were also to be a basketball court, handball courts, and a horseshoe pitch. A street was to be built along the south edge of the park all the way from Cypress to the west edge of the park, the current location of Beech Street.

The Works Division of the Department of Public Welfare of the City of Louisville designed a building and playground facilities for the Algonquin Park in 1935. The building design was well detailed and had a style that was rural Colonial Revival in appearance. The building was designed to have a slate roof and brick walls.

Another aerial survey was made of Louisville in 1937. The initial construction of facilities was partially or mostly complete at this time. The 1929 Olmsted plan was not implemented as designed, but some of the basic design strategy was carried forward in construction. Park elements were aligned along a central axis. A wading or splash pool was constructed near the location shown in the plan, and the park building was built behind the pool.

The compacted soil-surfaced basketball courts occupied the southeastern corner with a brick floored pavilion between them and the wading pool. Other court or play areas appear to be under construction at the time that the aerial photograph was taken: two flanking the central walk between the pool and the building, and one behind the building. A walk curves from the building to the south edge of the park and then extends west to Beech Street. The building has a hipped roof and the same dimensions as the 1935 building design, but no ground-level photographs have confirmed that the building was constructed as drawn.



The neighborhood around Algonquin Park did not change significantly between the 1928 and 1937 aerial surveys, probably because of the slow pace of construction during the Great Depression. Algonquin Parkway is shown extending through an agricultural area and is a testimony to the foresight necessary to complete the parkway before development reached the area.

Twenty-six years later, when photographs were taken for the 1963 aerial survey of Louisville, the pool and pool house had been built and the concession and restroom building from the 1930s had already been demolished. The central axis that organized the park layout remained, as did the position of the basketball courts, the wading pool, and some of the walks. The parking lot that exists presently on the south side of the park occupied the location originally designated to become a through street.

Survey of the current site indicates that several parts of the 1930s park construction remain. Photographs that document these features and the plan view that overlays current park facilities onto the 1937 aerial photograph indicates the walks and other features that remain from that period. These include the following:

- The brick central walk leading from Cypress Street toward the former concession & restroom building location
- The brick walkway outlining a rectangular grass area where the former park building was located
- The brick floor, steps and walk under the shelter adjacent to the tennis courts
- The brick wall around the spray pool



These four historic remnants are recommended to be retained and incorporated into the future rehabilitation of the park. More importantly, the plan for the park and the future work that results from that plan should respect the Olmsted plan's sense of organization of space on the site and the limited implementation of that organization that took place in the 1930s. Major elements of that organization include the following:

- Use of a central axis to locate facilities
- Layering of activity beginning at Cypress Street and progressing to the west with more intensive uses near Cypress and open fields in the western part of the park
- The development of the park street, that was to link Cypress and Beech Street, to open greater access to all parts of the park

An aspect of the park that was not conceived in the Olmsted Plan or in the later construction of Algonquin Park was that it appropriately address two street fronts: Cypress and Beech Street. The plan for the park's rehabilitation recommends that Beech Street be addressed with a level of significance that is similar to Cypress Street.

Project Overview



Initiated in the fall of 2005, the Algonquin Park master plan project was co-funded by Louisville Metro Parks and the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. The Center For Neighborhoods was contracted by the Metro Parks planning department to facilitate preparation of the master plan. Metro Parks selected Center For Neighborhoods to spearhead the project because of its community ties, longstanding history of working with urban neighborhoods in Louisville, and experience in landscape architecture.

Project Goals

The Algonquin Park master plan project goals were to:

- Analyze its history as an Olmsted Park
- Evaluate its existing conditions
- Assess the current programs and services offered at the park
- Collect input from the neighborhoods regarding residents' current use
- Determine park users desired changes and amenities
- Produce a final conceptual master plan that would simultaneously integrate the wishes expressed by park users within the physical limits of the park while paying honor to its broader historical context

Mission Statement

The Algonquin Park master plan project seeks to create an urban park that reflects the original design intent of the Olmsted Brothers 1929 master plan. The new master plan for Algonquin Park will immediately address the needs and desires of the community today, and will accommodate the needs of the community in the future.

Master Plan Process



In response to the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Department of Parks and Recreation's Request for Proposal for an Algonquin Park Master Plan, the Center For Neighborhoods, in partnership with Ned Crankshaw, ASLA, initiated the work of gathering the project's background information in September, 2005.

Site Reconnaissance

Base Map Preparation

Public Participation

Summary of Public Participation

Conceptual Design Phase

Reviews

Revisions

Planning Process

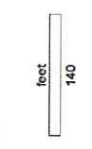
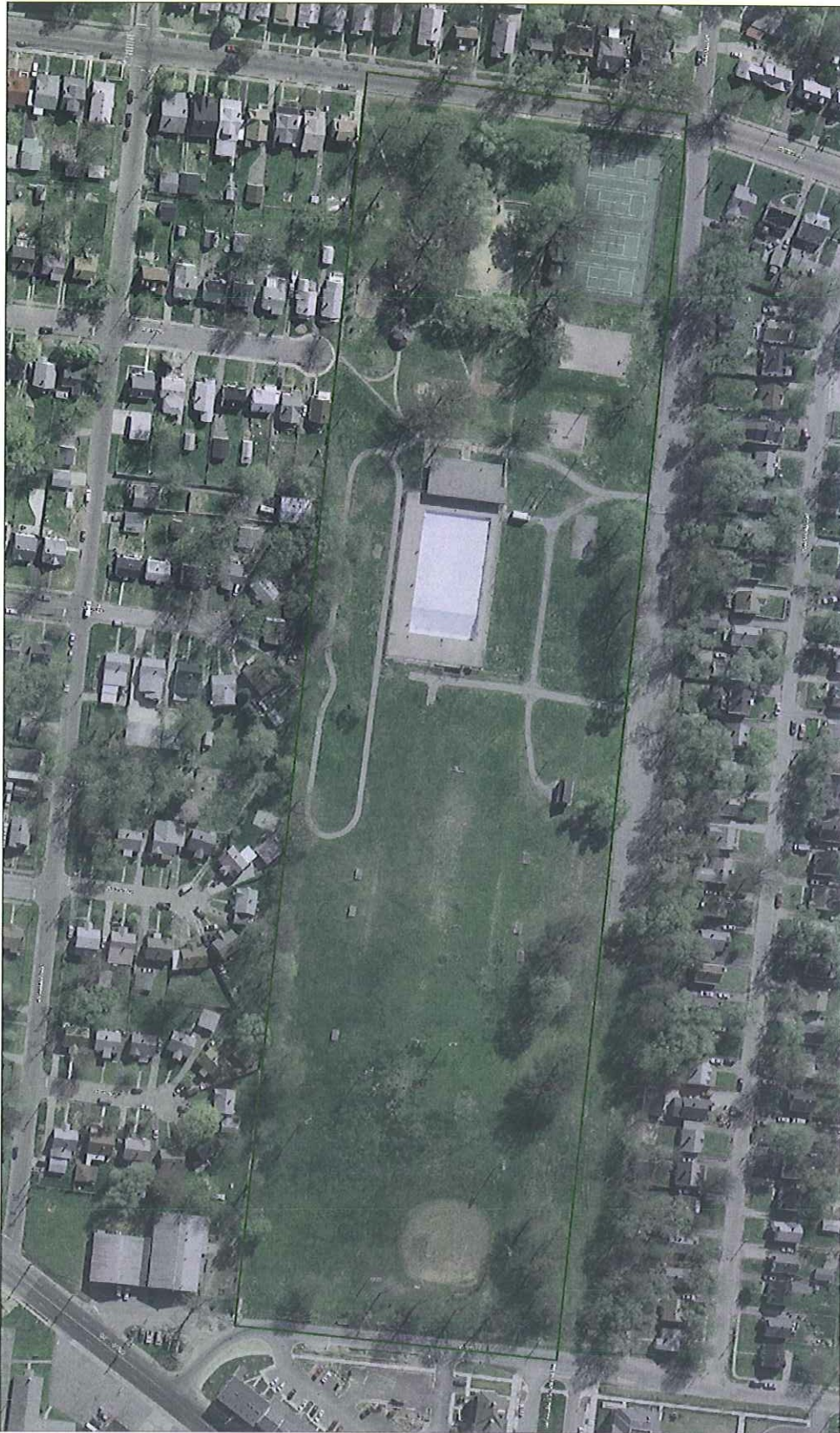


Algonquin Park is immediately centered between the Park DuValle and Algonquin neighborhoods, whose residents are the park's primary users. To ensure that the park's new Master Plan best reflects the residents desired uses and amenities, Councilwoman Mary Woolridge, Metro Parks, the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, and the Center For Neighborhoods invited resident stakeholders to fill out surveys and attend neighborhood workshops.

Park Surveys

The purpose of the park survey was to help the planners develop a more accurate impression of how the park is used and what changes or additions the residents would like to see implemented. The survey asked questions such as how often residents use the park, what features they like best, and what programming might encourage them to visit the park more often. **See XX in the appendix for a copy of the survey.**

Neighborhood leaders took responsibility for distributing and collecting hard copies of the park survey. Surveys were also made available in the Park DuValle Clubhouse, and the DuValle Education Center at Carter Traditional Elementary School, and the fifth grade class at Carter Elementary participated. Additionally, the survey was available online through Survey Monkey. The Courier Journal newspaper published an article in the Neighborhoods section providing the web address for residents who wanted to participate online. A total of 167 surveys were completed. **Final report is on file at Metro Parks.**





feet
140
Map Created: 09/09/05





Remnants of historic brick walk and walls to be restored. Spray pool area to be renovated.



Looking from within Algonquin Park toward the west at Park Drive alle. Proposed new park road connection to Dr. William G. Weathers Drive.



Existing picnic shelter and play structure to be renovated.



Existing parking area looking east toward the Cypress Street entrance.



Existing basketball courts to be replaced with two new courts.



*Existing pool to be renovated.
Pedestrian path to be redesigned and replaced.*



Existing shade structure and two tennis courts to remain.

Question 1.

The majority of survey respondents reported that they lived in zip codes 40210 and 40211, which are immediately adjacent to Algonquin Park.

What is Your Zip Code	
39	40210
26	40211
4	40212
3	40216
2	40208; 40203; 40214
1	40217; 40215; 40206; 40258; 40272

Question 2.

Thirty people reported that they visit Algonquin Park a few times a year. Seventeen of the respondents said that they never visit the park. Of the heavier park users, 13 reported visiting daily and 13 reported visiting 2-3 times per week. Twelve respondents visit weekly and 11 visit the park once a month.

2. How often do you visit Algonquin Park?		
	Response Percent	Response Total
Every day	13.5%	13
2-3 times a week	13.5%	13
About once a week	12.5%	12
Once a month	11.5%	11
A few times a year	31.3%	30
Never	17.7%	17
Total Respondents		96
		(skipped this question)
		0

Question 3.

Most respondents (46) travel to Algonquin Park by personal automobile. There were 34 respondents who reported walking from home. Eight respondents said that they ride a bicycle to the park and only three said they take the bus.

3. How do you travel to Algonquin Park?		
	Response Percent	Response Total
Walk from home	40.5%	34
Ride a bike	9.5%	8
Drive or ride in a car	54.8%	46
Take a TARC bus	3.6%	3
Other (please specify)	0%	0
Total Respondents		84
<i>(skipped this question)</i>		
		12

Question 4.

The majority of the respondents (52) reported that they bring their children to the playground when they visit the park. Thirty-seven said that they picnic, 36 reported coming to the park to relax, and 30 are drawn to the park to attend community festivals.

4. Please check all the things you do while visiting Algonquin Park:		
	Response Percent	Response Total
Picnic with family	43%	37
Bring kids to the playground	60.5%	52
Walk or jog on the path	32.6%	28
Read or study	12.8%	11
Sit and relax	41.9%	36
Attend weddings or parties	3.5%	3
Play tennis	15.1%	13
Play basketball	30.2%	26
Walk your dog	15.1%	13
Have a family reunion	26.7%	23
Attend concerts	10.5%	9
Swim in the pool	32.6%	28
Attend community festivals	34.9%	30
Other (please specify)	20.9%	18
Total Respondents		86
<i>(skipped this question)</i>		
		10

Question 5.

According to sixty-eight respondents, they desire to see the restrooms improved most. Fifty-three respondents would like to see improvements in places to sit, 49 said they would like to see the playground improved, and 46 want lighting improvements.

5. Please check up to a MAXIMUM OF FIVE things you would like to see improved at Algonquin Park:		Response Percent	Response Total
Condition of walks		35.2%	32
Stormwater drainage		9.9%	9
Restrooms		74.7%	68
Playground		53.8%	49
Lighting		50.5%	46
Parking		34.1%	31
Visitor safety		35.2%	32
Places to sit		58.2%	53
Places to picnic		40.7%	37
Swimming pool		48.4%	44
Places for sculpture or artwork		16.5%	15
Condition of grass areas		37.4%	34
Condition or number of trees		17.6%	16
General maintenance		48.4%	44
<input type="button" value="View"/> Other (please specify)		14.3%	13
Total Respondents		91	91
(skipped this question)			5

Question 6.

Music concerts would encourage 59 respondents to visit the park more often.

6. What activities would encourage you to visit Algonquin Park more often?		
	Response Percent	Response Total
Outdoor workshops and classes	36.4%	32
Farmer's market	36.4%	32
Heritage festival	39.8%	35
Music concerts	67%	59
Cultural festivals	40.9%	36
Horseshoes	15.9%	14
Volleyball	22.7%	20
Softball league	30.7%	27
Basketball league	45.5%	40
Kids' football league	53.4%	47
Holiday special events	42%	37
Other (please specify)	5.7%	5
Total Respondents		88
(skipped this question)		

Question 7.

What do you like best about Algonquin Park?

This question was open-ended. The table above summarized the responses. Thirty-six respondents like the location best about Algonquin Park. Six people said they like the pool, and six people reported liking the open space.

Location	36
Pool	6
Open space	6
Playground	4
Activities	4
Picnic area	3
Basketball	2
Parking lot	2
Childhood Memories	2
Size	1
Trees	1

Question 8.

What do you not like about Algonquin Park?

Question 8 was also open-ended. The majority of respondents reported that the maintenance was poor, and that the park tended to be unclean and generally run down. Ten respondents asserted that there was not enough lighting and that the park had no light at night. Nine respondents said that they did not feel safe, noting that there was no security and not enough of a police presence.

Maintenance, unclean, run down	18
Not enough lighting, no night lighting	10
Unsafe, no security, no police	9
Grass not cut frequently enough	6
Needs more seating and bleachers	4
Not up to the standard of other Metro Parks, facilities outdated	4
Playground lacking	3
Not enough activities and programming	3
Unsupervised children, bad behavior	3
Area and surrounding neighborhoods	3
Bathrooms	2
Track and walking paths lacking	2
Pool	1
Not enough water fountains	1

Question 9.

More benches were noted by 63 respondents as being an addition or improvement that would encourage them to visit Algonquin Park more often. Adding a large group picnic shelter would encourage 49 respondents to visit more often. The addition of a quarter-mile walking and jogging path would encourage 42 of the respondents to visit Algonquin Park more often.

9. What improvements or additions would encourage you to visit Algonquin Park more often?	Response Percent	Response Total
Perimeter walking path	43%	40
1/4 mile walking / jogging path	45.2%	42
More water fountains	38.7%	36
More benches	67.7%	63
More basketball courts	24.7%	23
A stage or performance space	26.9%	25
Large group picnic shelter	52.7%	49
Flower gardens	39.8%	37
Vegetable gardens	10.8%	10
Outdoor art or sculptures	22.6%	21
View Other (please specify)	7.5%	7
Total Respondents		93
(skipped this question)		3

Question 10.

The majority of the respondents said that they feel safe during daylight hours seven days a week. Likewise, they reported feeling unsafe after 5:00 PM and in the dark each day of the week.

10. How safe do you feel when you're in or near Algonquin Park at the following times and days?	Safe	Mostly safe	A little unsafe	Unsafe	Response Total
9-5; Mon.-Fri.	34% (28)	43% (35)	13% (11)	10% (8)	82
5-Dark; Mon.-Fri.	15% (12)	20% (16)	30% (24)	34% (27)	79
9-5; Sat.-Sun.	31% (24)	39% (30)	18% (14)	12% (9)	77
5-Dark; Sat.-Sun.	11% (8)	20% (15)	29% (22)	40% (30)	75
Total Respondents					87
(skipped this question)					9

Neighborhood Workshops



Stakeholders were invited to attend one of two public neighborhood workshops that were held at the C.E. Kirby Center of Excellence and Carter Traditional Elementary School. Meeting times and locations were published in the Courier Journal article, and flyers were distributed to residents by neighborhood leaders.

The neighborhood workshops were facilitated by Center For Neighborhoods. During the workshops, residents were guided through a series of group exercises to determine ways that Algonquin Park could be improved. Their ideas were written on index cards and placed on the wall, and all participants voted for the improvements they felt were most important.

ALTON PARK DISTRICT
METRO Parks

Algonquin Park Master Plan
Neighborhood Workshops

Algonquin Park has been a neighborhood since its first use for recreation over 75 years since its original plan was designed in 1928. Now Metro Parks is working with the Center For Neighborhoods to determine ways that Algonquin Park can be improved. Your ideas will help guide the park's development in the future.

... and we need your help!

We're hoping you'll attend one of the following public workshops and tell us how you'd like to see Algonquin Park improved. Your input will be an important part of the design process!

Please come join us at:
C.E. Kirby Center for Excellence
22508 Algonquin Parkway
Thursday, November 3, 7-9 pm.
or
Carter Elementary School Cafeteria
3600 Bahae Avenue
Thursday, November 17, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Algonquin Park Plan by Metro Parks, Inc. © The Trustees of Metro Parks



Public Meeting No. 1



Date

November 3rd, 2005

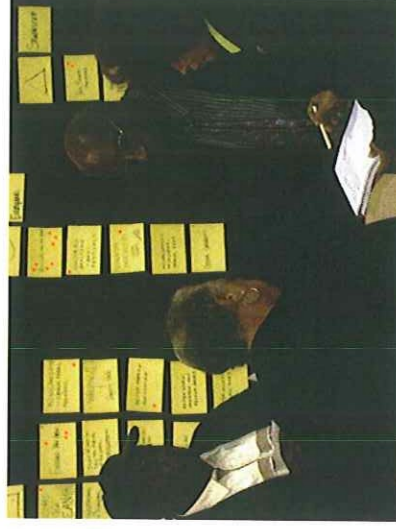


Place

C.E. Kirby Center of Excellence

Attendees

- Loreda Carter
- William Donaldson, Sr.
- Janice Edmondson
- Barbara Link
- Jerry Marshall, Sr.
- Verlene O'Bannon
- John O'Bannon
- Manfred Reid, Sr.



Public Meeting No. 1



Top Priorities

Category 1: Reclaim, Restore, Revitalize!

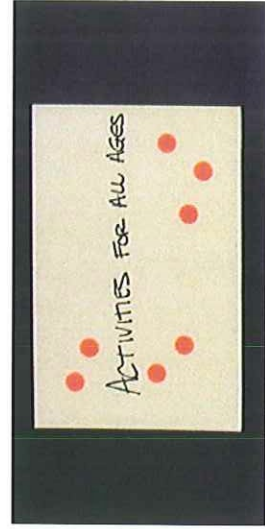
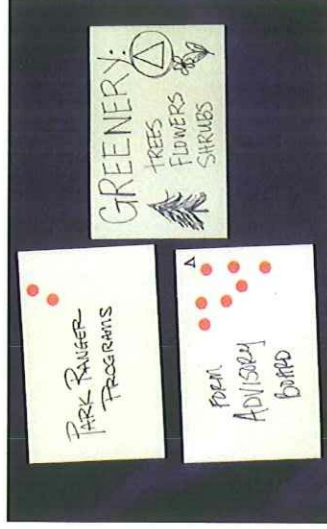
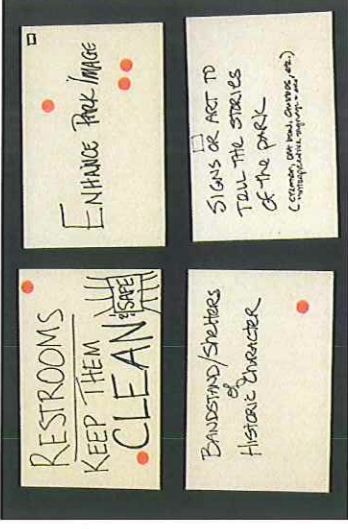
1. Enhance Park / Image (3 dots)
2. Restrooms: Keep them clean! (2 dots)
3. More Benches; Picnic Areas; Shelters (2 dots)
4. Perimeter walking path and Parking improvements with historic lighting, benches, and amenities (1 dot)
5. Pool improvements, including zero-depth, locker rooms, community room, and facelift with historic character (1 dot)
6. Better parking and lighting (1 dot)
7. Bandstand / shelters of historic character (1 dot)
8. Picnic facilities for church and family reunions (1 dot)

Category 2: Stewardship

1. Form advisory board (7 dots)
2. Park ranger program (2 dots)

Category 3: Activities for Everyone!

1. Activities for all ages (7 dots)
2. Cultural, heritage, and music festivals (1 dot)
3. Recreation Opportunities (1 dot)



Public Meeting No. 2



Date

November 22nd, 2005

Place

Carter Traditional Elementary School



Attendees

- Ann Blackshear
- Ron Blakley
- Durby Martin
- Theodore Scott
- Sean Walker
- Richard Wolford



Public Meeting No. 2



Top Priorities

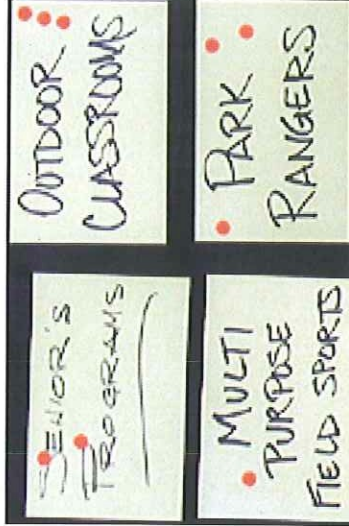
Category 1: Physical Improvements

1. Park Lodge (6 dots)
2. Perimeter walking path (1 dot)
3. Improved vehicular access (1 dot)
4. Improved pedestrian access (1 dot)
5. More site amenities (1 dot)
6. Performance venue (1 dot)



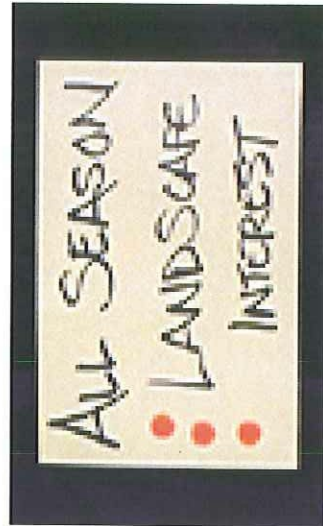
Category 2: Programming and Services

1. Park rangers (3 dots)
2. Outdoor classrooms (3 dots)
3. Improved maintenance (2 dots)
4. Improve safety (2 dots)
5. Senior program (2 dots)
6. Multi-purpose field sports (1 dot)



Category 3: Visual

1. All-season landscape interest (3 dots)



Algonquin Park plan in works

Louisville seeks residents' input

By **Sheryl Edelen**
sedelen@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Anyone who asks Park DuValle resident Steve Herring how to improve nearby Algonquin Park should pull up a chair and plan to stay awhile.

He's got a laundry list of ideas: more benches and picnic tables, better maintenance and improved restrooms.

Herring said he often calls the city and shares his ideas for the 16-acre park off Wilson Avenue at Burwell Avenue and Cypress Street.

"The people at CityCall know me," he said.

Like Herring, other Algonquin Park users are getting a chance to share their wish lists for the park. Metro Parks is circulating a questionnaire around the community and on the Internet with questions that include:

- ▶ How often do you visit Algonquin Park?
- ▶ What do you like best about Algonquin Park?
- ▶ What do you not like about Algonquin Park?

The questionnaire also offers multiple-choice questions about visitors' favorite activities in the park and how safe they feel at different times of the day.

The results will be used to help develop a master plan for the park. It will be a months-long process, during which landscape designers, historians, city officials and park users will decide on possible improvements —



By Sheryl Edelen, The Courier-Journal

Theo Kenemore said he'd like to see new playground equipment for his son, Kamari, 4, at Algonquin Park. The 16-acre Louisville park is off Wilson Avenue at Burwell Avenue and Cypress Street.

ranging from sidewalk and bench replacement to construction of amphitheaters, playgrounds or tennis courts.

Three public meetings about the park are expected to be held in November.

Metro Parks spokesman Jason Cissell said development of Algonquin's master plan is part of an effort to update Louisville's Olmsted parks. It was also spurred by development of the Villages of Park DuValle, a 1,100-unit, mixed-income development along Algonquin Parkway. It replaced two dilapidated public housing complexes along the park's northern edge.

"Things changed so much on that end of the park," Cissell said. "We spent \$1 million on the Southwick Community Center and figured that now's the time to take a look at the park." The community center also is adjusting

cent to Park DuValle.

Louisville Metro Councilwoman Mary Woolridge has circulated the surveys to at least three community groups in her area in the past few weeks.

"I'm glad to see that it's going to be happening in the near future," she said. "It's long overdue."

Improvements can't come soon enough for Algonquin Park users such as Deanna Scott, Cecilia Kelly and Stephanie Mack. The women bring their sons to the park several times a week for youth league football practice.

"There needs to be better lighting. When it starts to get dark at around 8, we can't see anything," Kelly said.

"And there need to be more benches and picnic tables," Mack said.

Scott echoed Herring's concerns about the restrooms.



By Steve Durbin, The Courier-Journal

ALGONQUIN PARK SURVEY

▶ Algonquin Park users are being asked to complete a 10-question survey about the park.

▶ Surveys are available at C. E. Kirby Multipurpose Center of Excellence, 2312 Algonquin Parkway; Park DuValle Clubhouse, Russell Lee Drive and Bohne Avenue; and DuValle Education Center at Carter Traditional Elementary School, 3600 Bohne Ave.

▶ Fill out surveys online at www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=901851358301

▶ More information: Michael McCoy, 589-0343.

"They need to do something with them. You can't even really wash your hands in there."

Theo Kenemore, a longtime park user, said he'd like to see better playground equipment for his 4-year-old son, Kamari.

Until that and other improvements are made, he said, the park won't reach its potential.

"It won't get as much of a crowd as it could have," he said.

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation



Priorities

Recommendations

Plan Implementation



Table of Recommendations, Including Sections:

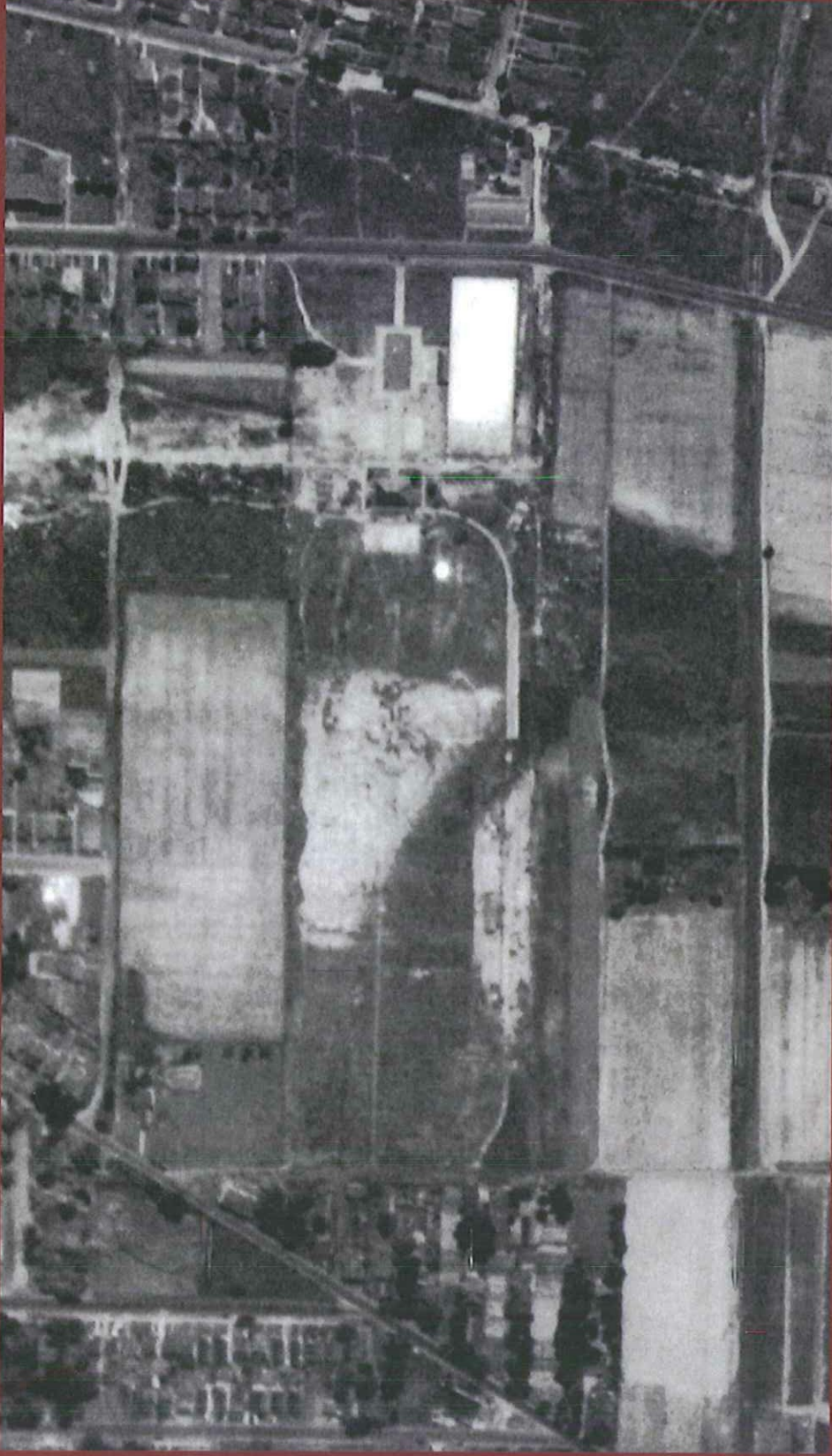
Policy and Programs

Infrastructure (Capital Projects)



Algonquin Park

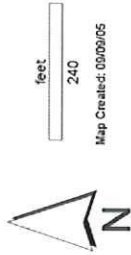
2006



Historic Research
1936 aerial photograph

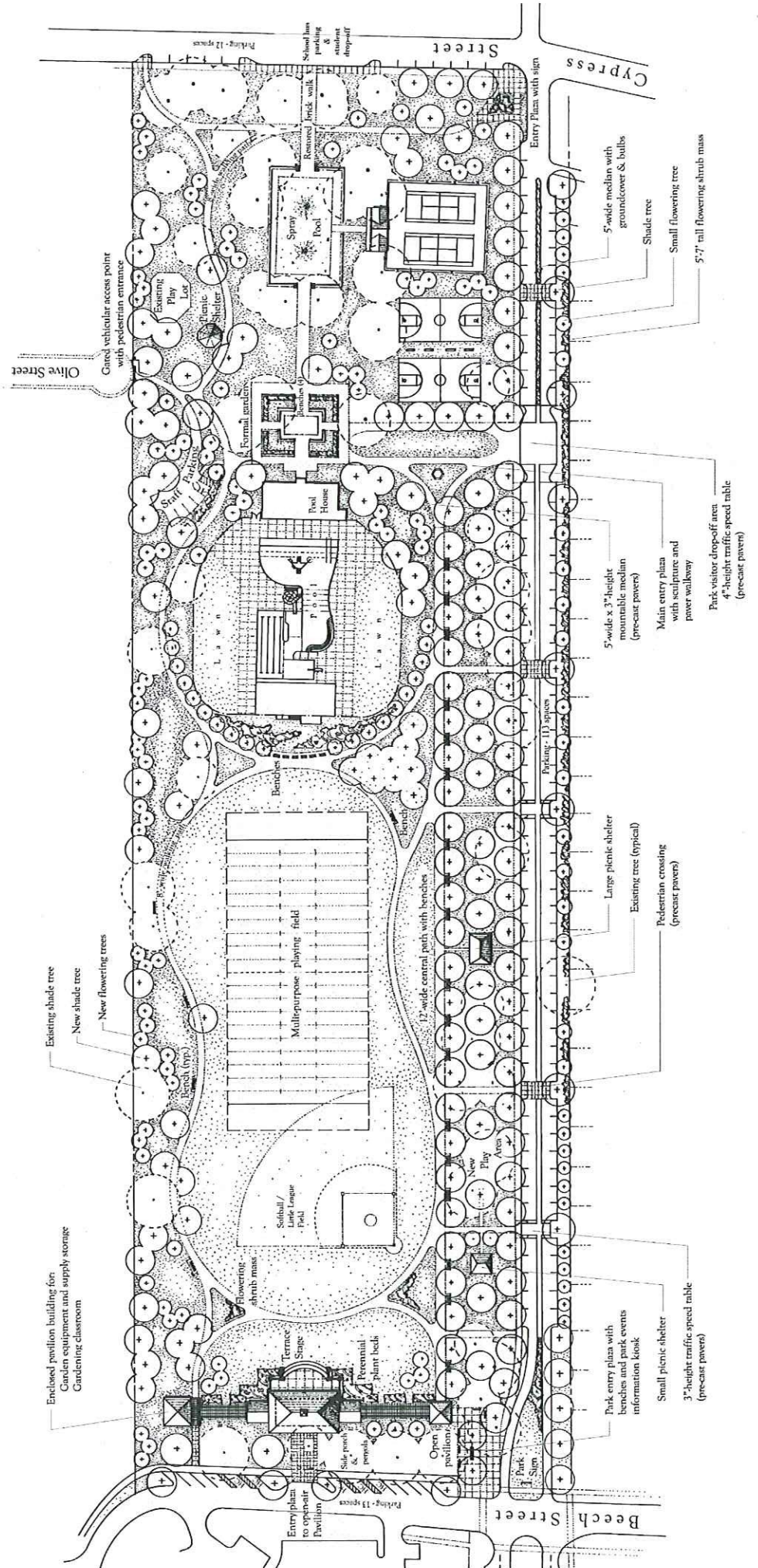


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Conceptual
Master Plan

Algonquin Park

Louisville, Kentucky

Prepared by

 Center For Neighborhoods
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