

## CITY OF DOWNEY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1 SUMMARY REPORT December 13, 2014

### INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the first of three (3) workshops to be conducted as a part of the public outreach effort to assist in the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Downey. The workshop was held Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Apollo Park, located at 12544 Rives Avenue in Downey. The Consultant Team worked with City Staff to develop and coordinate the workshop. Nine (9) residents attended the workshop. Arlene Salazar, Director of Parks and Recreation, welcomed participants and introduced the Project Team which included staff and the consultants. Robert Mueting, RJM Principal, reviewed the overall process for the development and creation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Bob also presented the workshop objectives and proceeded to facilitate the process.



### WORKSHOP GOALS

The goals presented during the workshop were as follows:

Provide an overview of the process.

1. Identify the most important community characteristics that make the City of Downey a great place to live, work and play.
2. Identify issues or trends that may be negatively impacting those characteristics.
3. Determine how parks, recreation and community services can best address these issues and support the community characteristics.
4. Hear and listen to the community's voice.

## WORKSHOP PROCESS

Participants were divided into three (3) working groups for the workshop process. Each member of the group sat at a table of no more than three (3) participants with materials that included a flip chart, and markers to record their discussions. Groups were requested to select a recorder/presenter. During the course of the workshop, three topics were presented for individual consideration and group discussion. Below is a list of the topics discussed.

- ✚ Topic I: What are the most important ***community characteristics*** that make the City of Downey a great place to live, work, and play?
- ✚ Topic II: What current ***issues or trends*** may be negatively impacting those important community characteristics and should be considered in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan?
- ✚ Topic III: What role can ***parks and recreation*** play in addressing those issues and support the community characteristics that make the City of Downey a great place to live, work and play??

Initially, participants were asked to individually respond on forms that were distributed before the presentation of each topic. They were encouraged to list as many responses that came to mind.

A group discussion then began with individual members of each group sharing their responses with the entire group. Fifteen minutes was allotted for the groups to gain consensus on their top three answers on the particular topic. Following each topic discussion, the group's presenter reported their findings to all of the workshop participants.

## WORKSHOP SUMMARY

After the presentations were given, the consultant team identified the top three (3) answers of all groups for each of the topics presented. They are listed below:

### TOPIC 1

What are the most important ***community characteristics*** that make the City of Downey a great place to live, work, and play?

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Youth Sports / Programs
- ❖ Close-Knit Community / Small Town Feel

### TOPIC 2

What are the ***issues or trends*** that may be negatively impacting those important community characteristics and should be considered in the Park and Recreation Master Plan?

- ❖ Crime / Safety of Parks
- ❖ Lack of Green Space / Residential Density
- ❖ Facility Maintenance / Upgrades

### **TOPIC 3**

What *role* can *parks and recreation* play in addressing those issues and support the community characteristics that make the City of Downey a great place to live, work and play?

- ❖ New Programs / Increase Activities
- ❖ Improve / Maintain Facilities
- ❖ Value of Recreation / Master Plan

### **CONCLUSION**

Upon presentation of the top three responses for each topic and the collection of all individual topic response forms, the workshop participants were thanked for their involvement and invited to attend the next workshop scheduled for this project. The second Community Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2015 to be held at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, located at 7810 Quill Drive from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The workshop adjourned.



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The following charts represent the **exact wording** provided by each group on large format paper. They are aggregated here and color-coded to show the workshop consensus responses.

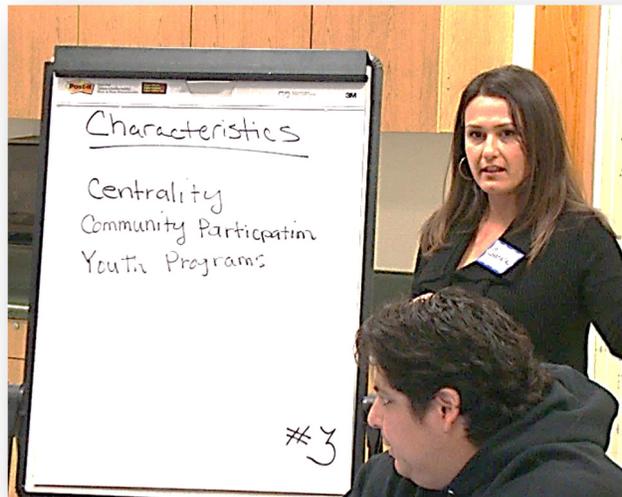
**TOPIC #1** What are the most important **community characteristics** that make the City of Downey a great place to live, work, and play?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<u>Safe</u> Place to Live	Strong traditions	Centrality
Extensive Recreational Programs / <u>Youth Sports</u>	<u>Safety</u>	Community Participation
<u>Close-Knit Community</u> / Sense of Community	Big Town - <u>Small Town Feel</u> / Architecture	<u>Youth Programs</u>

Community Characteristics
Safety
Youth Sports / Programs
Close-Knit Community / Small Town Feel

**Other Group Responses:**

- Strong traditions
- Centrality
- Community Participation



**TOPIC #2** What current **issues or trends** may be negatively impacting those important community characteristics and should be considered in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<u>Crime / Safety of Parks</u>	Newcomers - (not) identifying (with) local community pride / tradition (or) - Bringing with them <u>negative social</u> / cultural norms	<u>Facility Maintenance / Upgrades</u>
<u>Lack of Green Space</u>	<u>Residential / Community Density</u>	Loss of School Programs
	Jobs – High Paying	Social Media

Issues or Trends
Crime / Safety of Parks
Lack of Green Space / Residential Density
Facility Maintenance / Upgrades

**Other Group Responses:**

- Loss of School Programs
- Jobs – High Paying (needed)
- Social Media

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**TOPIC #3** What **role** can **parks and recreation** play in addressing those issues and support the community characteristics that make the City of Downey a great place to live, work and play?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
Create <u>new programs</u> / diverse programs	<u>Increase activities</u> / physical facilities i.e. Skateparks, cultural experiences, art/performance - contributes to culture awareness	<u>Improve facilities</u> / maintain
<u>Maintain facilities</u> and fields	Social PR campaign i.e. <u>Value of Recreation</u>	Maximize use of existing facilities
Keep parks safe	Accessibility – Sidewalks / Streets	Ongoing <u>master planned</u>

<b>Parks and Recreation Role</b>
<b>New Programs / Increase Activities</b>
<b>Improve / Maintain Facilities</b>
<b>Value of Recreation / Master Plan</b>

**Other Group Responses:**

- Maximize use of existing facilities
- Keep parks safe
- Accessibility – Sidewalks / Streets

