

**CITY OF DOWNEY
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2
SPORTS GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS
SUMMARY REPORT
January 21, 2015**

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the second of three (3) workshops conducted as a part of the public outreach effort to assist in the preparation of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The workshop was held Wednesday, January 21st from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, located at 7810 Quill Drive in Downey. The Consultant Team worked with City Staff to develop and coordinate the workshop. Forty-Three (43) residents attended the workshop. Arlene Salazar, Director of Parks and Recreation, welcomed participants and introduced the Project Team. Robert Mueeting, RJM Design Group, reviewed the overall process for the development and creation of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Bob also presented the workshop purpose and proceeded to facilitate the process.



WORKSHOP GOALS

The goals of the workshop were presented before the launch of the workshop. The goals were as follows:

1. Provide an overview of the process.
2. Identify and discuss the best and worst sport facilities in the City of Downey.
3. Identify sports facility needs.
4. Determine opportunities that may help to address the identified sport facility needs.
5. Begin to determine priorities for programs, services, and facilities.
6. Hear and listen to the community's voice.



WORKSHOP PROCESS

Participants were divided into five (5) working groups for the workshop process. Each member of the group sat at a table of no more than nine (9) 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, 5 topics were presented for individual consideration and group discussion. Below is a list of the topics discussed.

- ✚ Topic 1: What are the **best sports facilities** in the City of Downey? Why?
- ✚ Topic 2: What are the **worst sports facilities** in the City of Downey? Why?
- ✚ Topic 3: What are the top **sports facility needs** in the City of Downey?
- ✚ Topic 4: What **opportunities** can you think of for meeting current and future sport facility needs in the City of Downey?
- ✚ Topic 5: What are the most important **improvements** you would make in Downey to parks, recreation programs, trails, and/or open space?

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 responses 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 answers of all groups for each of the topics presented. They are listed below:

TOPIC 1

What are the **best sports facilities** in the City of Downey? Why?

- ❖ Furman Park – popular, walking trails, varied programming tennis, baseball
- ❖ Downey & Warren High Schools – best facilities, pool, sports fields, weight room, jogging trail
- ❖ Apollo – variety of sports programming

TOPIC 2

What are the **worst sports facilities** in the City of Downey? Why?

- ❖ Rio San Gabriel – uneven fields, maintenance/irrigation, lighting, parking, basketball
- ❖ Discovery – design, soccer field size/drainage, infrastructure, storage, no meeting rooms
- ❖ Golden – safety/security, maintenance, poor fields



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

TOPIC 3

What are the top ***sports facility needs*** in the City of Downey?

- ❖ Upgrade / Maintain Facilities
- ❖ Soccer
- ❖ Multi-Function Sports Complex
- ❖ Lighting
- ❖ “Club” Sports

TOPIC 4

What ***opportunities*** can you think of for meeting current and future sport facility needs in the City of Downey?

- ❖ Vacant – Riverbed, City-Owned Land, Rockwell, County, Florence, Studebaker, Lakewood, Gallatin, Old Rancho Amigos
- ❖ Repurposing / Reconfiguration of Land
- ❖ Joint Use Agreement

TOPIC 5

What are the most important ***improvements*** you would make in Downey to parks, recreation programs, trails, and/or open space?

- ❖ Lighting
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Walking Trails
- ❖ Staff
- ❖ Maintenance

CONCLUSION

Upon presentation of the top consensus items 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 third and final Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2015, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Golden Park, located at 8840 Golden Avenue. The workshop adjourned.



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.

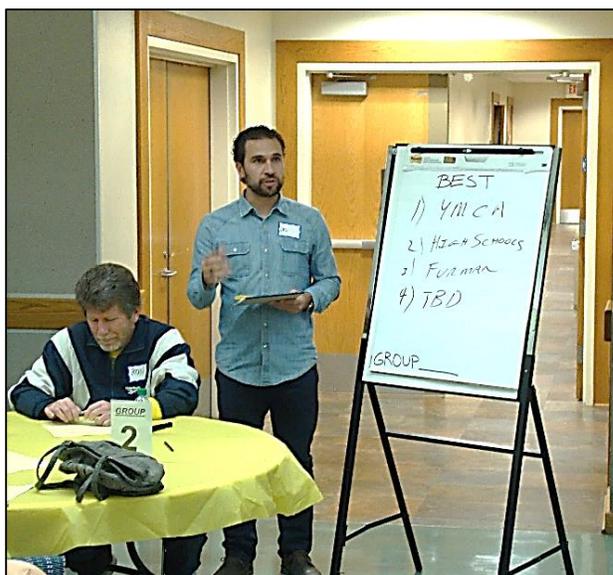
TOPIC #1 What are the **best sports facilities** in the City of Downey? Why?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
<u>Furman Park</u>	YMCA	<u>Downey & Warren</u>	<u>Furman</u> – Walking Trails	<u>Apollo</u>
<u>Downey H.S.</u>	<u>High Schools</u>	<u>Furman</u>	<u>Apollo</u> – Variety Sports / Facilities	Independence
Independence Park	<u>Furman</u>	YMCA	None – By Permit Only	Discovery
	TBD	Discovery Baseball		<u>Furman</u>

Best Sports Facilities
Furman Park
Downey & Warren High Schools
Apollo

Other Group Responses:

- YMCA
- Independence Park
- Discovery Baseball
- None – By Permit Only



TOPIC #2 What are the *worst sports facilities* in the City of Downey? Why?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
Dennis the Menace	<u>Rio San Gabriel</u>	<u>Rio San Gabriel</u>	<u>Discovery – Upkeep / Planning</u>	<u>Rio San Gabriel</u>
<u>Rio San</u>	<u>Golden</u>	<u>Discovery</u>	<u>Golden Park – Environment</u>	Independence
<u>Discovery</u>	Apollo	Apollo Park	<u>Rio San Gabriel – Upkeep / Dog Park</u>	Wilderness
Wilderness	General Irrigation – All Parks	Treasure Island	All of Them – Permit Use	

Worst Sports Facilities
Rio San Gabriel
Discovery
Golden

Other Group Responses:

- Dennis the Menace
- Independence
- Apollo Park
- Wilderness
- General Irrigation – All Parks
- Treasure Island
- All of Them – Permit Use



TOPIC #3

What are the top *sports facility needs* in the City of Downey?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
<u>Maintenance of Fields</u>	Synthetic Turf Soccer	<u>Club -</u>	Comprehensive Multi-Function Sports Complex	<u>Maint. of Existing Facilities</u> (Short Term)
		All Purpose	(w/Lights)	
Dedicated Soccer Complex – Year Round	Specialized Facilities (Maintenance Building)	<u>Improve Existing</u>	Indoor/Outdoor Soccer Facilities	<u>Upgrade Facilities</u> – i.e. Furman Trails, Etc. (Intermediate)
<u>Lighting</u>	Basketball Courts	Re-Purpose	Better Parks Programming	Indoor Facility / More Park Space (Long Term)
<u>Upgraded Facilities</u>	<u>Multi-Use Facility</u>		Outdoor Obstacle Course	
“Club” Sports	Basic Amenities – Irrigation		Dedicated Sport to Each Park	
	<u>Lighting</u> and Parking			
			<u>Lights!</u>	
			Parking	
			Variety of Surfaces	

Sports Facility Needs
Upgrade / Maintain Facilities
Soccer
Multi-Function Sports Complex
Lighting
“Club” Sports

Other Group Responses:

- Specialized Facilities (Maintenance Building)
- Basketball Courts
- Re-Purpose
- Better Parks Programming
- Indoor Facility / More Park Space (Long Term)
- Outdoor Obstacle Course
- Dedicated Sport to Each Park
- Parking
- Variety of Surfaces



TOPIC #4

What *opportunities* can you think of for meeting current and future sport facility needs in the City of Downey? (I.e. vacant land, joint use agreement, existing park renovation and/or reconfiguration)?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
<u>Repurposing Parks</u> - Large Areas	<u>Vacant Land – Riverbed, City-Owned Land, Rockwell, County</u>	<u>Old Rancho Amigos</u>	<u>Repurposing Old Land</u>	Better Community Awareness
<u>Vacant – All American, Rancho</u>	<u>Joint-Use SPPP (Schools, Private, Public Partnerships)</u>	<u>Re-Purposing Parks and Schools</u>	Seeking Partnerships (Nat. Assc., Soccer Clubs)	<u>Joint Use Agreement/Joint Powers</u> Cities/School Dist/ Public Agencies
<u>Flor/Studebaker, Lakewood / Gallatin</u>	<u>Reconfiguration of Existing Layouts</u>	<u>Florence & Studebaker (Sam’s Lot)</u>	<u>Joint Use Agreements (Schools / Pro-Teams)</u>	<u>Rancho Los Amigos</u> World of Décor/ Sams/Florence/ Studebaker
Tournaments - \$\$			Bonds	
			Think Smaller	

Opportunities
Vacant – Riverbed, City-Owned Land, Rockwell, County, Florence, Studebaker, Lakewood, Gallatin, Old Rancho Amigos
Repurposing / Reconfiguration of Land
Joint Use Agreement

Other Group Responses:

- Better Community Awareness
- Seeking Partnerships (Nat. Assc., Soccer Clubs)
- Tournaments - \$\$
- Bonds
- Think Smaller



TOPIC #5

Think about Downey’s parks, recreation, and open space network in total. What are the most important **improvements** you would make in Downey to parks, recreation programs, trails, and/or open space?

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
Parking – Multi-purpose pkg.	Better understanding of Community (Analytics, Demographics, Sampling Strategies)	Bike Lanes	Walking Trails at all Parks	Lighting / Fulltime Staff – Safety
Maintenance/ Safety – Bathrooms	Improvements (i.e. turf!) Irrigation, Maintenance, Lighting	Community Beautification Projects -Community Gardens -Color Projects	Outdoor / Multi-Purpose Ent. Area	Astro Turf / Drought Resist, Landscape
Mindset Change	Cooperation	Safety / Lighting	Educated, Focused, Passionate Staff	Walking Trails / Workout Stations @ all Parks
			Playgrounds w/ Rubberized Surface	

Improvements
Lighting
Safety
Walking Trails
Staff
Maintenance

Other Group Responses:

- Parking
- Better Understanding of Community
- Bike Lanes
- Improvements (i.e. turf, irrigation)
- Community Beautification Projects
- Outdoor Multi-Purpose Ent. Area
- Astro Turf
- Drought Resistant Landscape
- Mindset Change
- Cooperation
- Playgrounds w/ Rubberized Surface

