



ATTENDEE COMMENTS

OLD WESTSIDE PROPERTY PUBLIC INPUT MEETING 8-12-2019

PARKS Operations Division Manager Michael Brantley and designer Andrew Kohr introduced the updated conceptual plan

- There is currently no funding identified for developing this park, but having the master plan completed and approved will save time when funding is available.
- The main park entrance will be off of Old Westside Road. A maintenance-only road will be off of Furr Road.
- We will demolish the existing houses. There is no feasible way to convert them for public use. The existing barn structure will remain for maintenance use.
- There are essentially two parks here, separated by the pond.
- The eastern side will be more active, with a playground, pavilion, and the parking lot.
- The western side will be more passive, with open flexible space, trails, and a small pavilion.
- There is no intention to duplicate the ballfields or active sports like at the nearby Clarkdale Park.
- Connectivity between the two park halves will be by a mixture of hard surface and natural surface trails and a boardwalk over a wet area.
- The playground will have a view of the pond.
- Small fishing docks will extend out into the lake for a short way
- We plan to dredge the lake and repair the dam
- We will keep as many of the existing trees as possible
- Several public art sculptures may be distributed around the park

Public Comments

- If there will be no development for some time, how will you maintain it in the meantime? There is trash and debris there now.
 - We will mow the grass regularly, and pick up trash and debris as often as possible.
- How much will it cost to build the park?



- We don't know yet. An engineer's estimate of cost will be delivered once the plan is approved.
- There are squatters in the main house, and asbestos tile siding on the smaller house.
 - The PARKS Rangers have been informed of the squatters and will have them move on. We will remediate the asbestos before demolishing the house.
- Will there be a perimeter fence or barrier?
 - No
- Will there be a sidewalk or trail along Austell-Powder Springs Road?
 - A Cobb DOT trail has been programmed there for the future.
- What can be done about the old service station and the other old properties up the street?
 - These are not on PARKS' property.
 - County Code enforcement would have to be involved.
- Will visitors need a pass to enter the park?
 - No
- Will one be able to reserve the pavilion?
 - Yes
- What kind of lighting will there be?
 - Park hours will be dawn to dusk
 - Lighting will be placed only around the parking lot, not in the interior of the park. Lights tend to attract people at night.
- How many parking spaces are shown? May need more if it's popular.
 - +/- 15-20 spaces. This can expand if needed.
- Is fishing allowed?
 - Yes, you can fish there now. We are working towards developing our lakes to be better for fishing in the future.
- Is there blue-green algae in the lake? Will you control it if there is?
 - We will manage the lake, which includes treatments for noxious weeds and algae.
- Someone sprayed herbicide on the dam.
 - If so, it was not sprayed by the County.
- Will dogs be allowed?
 - Yes, but they must be on a leash.
- Please keep the grass mowed.



- Could the County buy the adjacent land on Old Westside?
 - There is no funding for that right now.
- Will this property always be a park, or will you sell it for development sometime in the future?
 - The property was purchased with 8? Parks Bond funding. It would be illegal for the County to sell it.
- How deep is the pond?
 - No deeper than 4 feet at this time.
- How would you keep small children from falling in the lake?
 - There is no plan to fence the lake, but we can consider some design elements to keep small kids away.
- There is a trailer full of tires on the property. They are a source of mosquitos.
 - We will explore this.
- How long is the trail around the lake?
 - It is about 1/3 of a mile around the lake.
- What are the trail surfaces?
 - Concrete, slate scape (a kind of crushed stone that compacts well), and boardwalk across a wet area
 - The concrete sections may be good candidates for installing a rubberized surface, easy on the knees.
- When will development money be available?
 - We don't know, but perhaps with the next SPLOST (2022).
- What is the timeline for development
 - We don't know
- How many parks were purchased with the 2008 Bond?
 - A total of 9 properties were purchased. We are creating master plans for 6 of these now.
- There will be 2 more opportunities for public comments.
 - When we present the final draft to the Recreation Board – we will send out a notice of the schedule
 - When we present the plan to the Board of Commissioners for approval.