



## Public Meeting Q&A

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**I am curious about the process for selecting a location for the Little League Softball Complex. Are you able to share some insight as to what goes into that process (key dates, drivers, deterrents, etc.)**

The project team is currently developing a site analysis for the parks in the City. Part of this will be to understand what parks (if any) have opportunities to either modify existing fields or have space available to build new fields. Softball is a field many residents have said is lacking in the City.

**Have you worked with other departments that include youth services in their parks department? Will that connection point have an impact on the end result of the plan?**

The project team has! This connection point is what they will keep in mind as they develop the vision and the recommendations for this plan.

**When is the last time a master plan was developed for the city's parks?**

This is actually the first time the department has ever had a system wide master plan. We have had a number of site specific master plans but not a community driven department plan.

**As a senior citizen and an avid pickleball player (#1 growing sport in America is not the world!), I am interested in learning how this sport will be made available to all ages. As of now, there are no designated courts for pickleball. How will the city incorporate this into the master plan?**

Based on the project team's observations with trends nationwide, Pickleball has certainly been one of the fastest growing sports in the last 5 years nationwide. They will certainly be making recommendations to the City incorporating this trends data, the community input you all share, and also benchmarks from other agencies that have developed Pickleball courts in their communities.

**Can the BLVD be kept closed as it is now and developed into a park? It is being used in a wonderful way. It is serving a purpose that I feel the other parks don't offer.**

This has been something our department has considered in the past but the idea posed potential issues with traffic in and out of the city. Based on the findings of the master plan this may be considered and discussed with the Police Traffic Division and Parks Board.

**Has there been any discussion of summer programs?**

At this time Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services will be offering Summer Camp starting June 29, 2020 under the protocols and procedures outlined by the Office of Early Childhood. All other programs are being reviewed in consultation with state guidelines for re-opening.



**Has there been any discussion about continuing the teen program that was started in the fall?**

Our popular Teen Night Social will return as soon as it is safe to do so. Our team is already planning future activities for when the program is safely able to return.

**Is this basically a plan for the future or is there anything that will or can be accomplished right away? For example, we have a number of tennis courts in the city that are cracked and basically unusable. Can anything get done by the City of Bristol to fix these courts so we can use them to play Pickleball and not leave to use courts outside of the City?**

The project team will be identifying the conditions of each park and will be providing recommendations for renovations along with order of magnitude costs to perform these renovations. Pickleball is growing across the entire country and we will be looking to see what facilities could support pickleball as well. Additionally, staff is waiting to address the cracks as well as other needs for just a little while more to get the full community input and analysis from this Master Plan. This will help determine all the needs holistically and determine what will be converted to Pickleball, basketball etc. and they will be in implementation mode as soon as July 2021.

**Will you recommend developing the Roberts property?**

Roberts is being looked at to understand the opportunities and constraints, but the project team is not providing design for that property at this time.

**If we have specific ideas for the development of a particular park, what is the best way of communicating this to you?**

The best way to communicate with the project team is to visit [www.bristolparksplan2020.com](http://www.bristolparksplan2020.com) and send us a comment!

**Thoughts on making Memorial Boulevard Park road closure permanent?**

This has been something our department has considered in the past but the idea posed potential issues with traffic in and out of the city. Based on the findings of the master plan this may be considered and discussed with the Police Traffic Division and Parks Board.

**Will the handicap program happen?**

We are hoping to be able to offer the Special Needs Social program this summer. Again it hinges on guidance from the state as to whether or not it can be operated safely.

**How many children do you feel you will be able to accommodate for each age group for summer camp?**

As of 5/18/2020 we are following the OEC guidelines of 10 children per group with 2 staff members.



**Will you be able to expand more 4-season uses and programs (referring to winter programs and such)?**

We are always looking at expanding and modifying seasonal programs to meet the communities interest. If anyone has specific program ideas or would like to instruct a program they can complete an instructor application at [www.bristolrec.com](http://www.bristolrec.com).

**When you say accommodate delayed programs, does that mean current permit dates would be extended?**

As the state allows us to resume normal or modified levels of activity in the parks we will be reaching out to all user groups to see how we can best extend the seasons and allow kids to play.

**Will the master plan address adjacent park assets like neighborhoods, businesses etc. to augment park usage?**

Absolutely! As part of the overall Master Plan process, a level of service (LOS) analysis will be conducted. This analysis will take into account existing City of Bristol parks and recreation inventories along with similar providers such as neighborhoods (HOAs) and other prominent providers of parks and recreation facilities and park land.

**Will there be a waiver or accommodation for individuals with special needs who require one to one supervision during activities that may not be consistent with the strict requirements of social distancing?**

We are expecting more guidance on this out of the OEC office in the coming days. Our department remains committed to serving all Bristol residents and ensuring the program is as equitable and inclusive as possible.

**Is it possible to place signs throughout the parks that describe wildlife, flora, fauna and trees visible?**

This is a great idea and we will explore doing this in the future. We have put up similar signs near our new rain garden at Page Park.