Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Purpose

To develop and implement a 20 year plan to provide comprehensive community recreation services to the East Jefferson County Region.

Assumptions

- The plan leads to personal, collective, and policy level actions.
- The plan is for County parks, recreation programs, and open space.
- The plan is in 5 year phases.

Objectives

Define the setting – within which park, recreation, and open space programs and facilities should be provided including climate, environment, wildlife habitat, history, culture, community and current conditions.

Inventory – local public park, recreation programs, and open space facilities.

Determine what the community wants – for local public park, recreation programs and open space, using Study Circles, a survey, and GIS.

Assess the costs – of providing what the community wants.

Provide options to fund - local public park, recreation programs and open space, particularly the possible use of innovative financing tools or methods such as growth impact fees, establishing a parks and recreation metropolitan district, public private partnerships, tab fees, and general obligation bonds.

Develop a comprehensive plan – that connects the wants and the funds to a stable system of local public parks, recreation programs and open space.

Define an implementation program – outlining the steps to making the plan a reality. Break the implementation plan into 5 year blocks

Implement the plan – through personal, collective, and policy level actions that are widely supported by the community.

Methods

1. Process is conducted by a volunteer steering committee
2. Maps and lists of existing local parks, recreation programs and open spaces
3. GIS analysis graphically shows travel times to parks, recreation programs, and open spaces
4. Study Circles process as defined by the Center for Everyday Democracy
5. Written and online community survey

Process

The process has been approved by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners