



**SIMONE COLLINS**  
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
119 EAST LAFAYETTE STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401  
PHONE: 610.239.7601 FAX: 610.239.7606  
WWW.SIMONECOLLINS.COM

---

## MEETING NOTES

---

Project:	<b>DMP Community Park Master Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>22021.10</b>
Location:	<b>Middle Paxton Twp Building &amp; Virtual - Teams Meetings</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>September 26, 2022 7:00PM</b>
Re:	<b>Public Meeting #2: Initial Concepts</b>	Issue Date:	<b>October 12, 2022</b>

---

### ATTENDEES:

Simone Collins Team: Peter Simone (PS); Michelle Armour (MA); Jack Nichols (JN); Andy Parker (AP), AEG Engineers Group

See Attached meeting attendance sheet for in-person attendees and virtual attendees.

### NOTES:

#### A. Introductions

- PS greeted everyone and offered introductions to the Simone Collins (SC team, (including AEG Group---ecologists/ engineers), and the Steering Committee.

#### B. Review of Master Plan Process & Project Schedule

- PS presented an overview of the master planning process for the DMP Community Park. (See presentation and schedule). At the conclusion of the process, the project will move into securing additional funding, final engineering, and construction of improvements in phases.

#### C. Draft Mission Statement

- PS encouraged attendees to reach out with any suggestions regarding the draft mission statement, which reads:  
“The mission of the Master Plan for the Dauphin Middle Paxton Community Park:
  - Honor the history of the Community Park that has served residents for many years

- Provide cost-effective and beautiful improvements that will serve the residents of all ages and abilities for many years, and
- Preserve and enhance the natural resources that makes the Park a community oasis.”

D. Update on Public Opinion Survey Responses & Public Meeting #1

- MA gave a summary of public opinion survey results and public meeting feedback to date. (See presentation)

E. Pool Conditions Assessment & Feasibility Study

- Brent Boyer of Aquatic Facility Design presented a summary of the Study, including existing conditions of the pool, the proposed pool concept, and associated costs.

F. Site Analysis

- MA presented an analysis of the existing site, divided into 8 areas:  
1. Veterans Memorial, 2. Kennedy Field, 3. Courts behind pool, 4. Baseball complex, 5. Front parking/playground/basketball/volleyball, 6. Front woods, 7. Back woods, 8. Pool & parking lot

G. Ecological Findings

- Andy Parker of AEG Engineers Group virtually presented ecological findings to date, under the following categories: The ‘Good’, Trails and Features, The ‘Bad’, The ‘Ugly’, and Potential Opportunities and Recommendations.

H. Initial Concepts

- PS presented concept elements and three (3) initial concept plans.
- The meeting opened up to public questions and comments:
  1. *Attendee*: What experience do you have with trees – what kind would be planted around the park?
    - a. PS: Mostly deciduous. We would look at trees that do well in more southern climates because they will do well in the next 30-40 years, due to the warming climate. Mainly native trees. Tree species will not be chosen at the master plan level – this will be in the next stage.
    - b. *Attendee*: Maintenance? (Raking leaves, etc.)
    - c. PS: Maintenance is a balance – there is a tradeoff. Trees do require maintenance; but they provide many benefits, such as shade, aesthetic value, and water absorption.

2. *Attendee:* Do paths have to be paved to be ADA compliant?
- a. PS: They need to be surfaced with a material such as asphalt or stone screenings. Surfaces need to be pretty flat – most of the park will be well-suited for accessible grades, and our aim is to keep grades below a -5% slope. A benefit of stone dust is that it can be considered pervious, but it is not always well-suited to areas where there is a slope because of runoff and sediment. Stone dust may be appropriate in some area; asphalt more so in other areas.
3. *Attendee:* Has consideration been put into planting coniferous trees along Rte. 225 for screening and sound buffering? It can be noisy, constant traffic, visually disturbing with traffic. White pines or arborvitae?
- a. PS: That is a great suggestion. AEG has found American Holly on the site, so it may be a good species to plant there. They grow slowly, but they tolerate a lot of shade, which this area will have.
4. *Attendee:* In the 10-year plan for Dauphin-Middle Paxton Township; it includes a walking trail from the school into the town, and two walking/biking paths were proposed through the park. Currently, you cannot get in into town without going through private property once reaching Erie Street or High Street. If the Township is serious about this connection, it will need to be incorporated into this master plan.
- a. PS: Our charge is just within the park itself, but we will certainly look into that. There could be a path that runs along the front of the park (the alignments shown in these concepts is not final). It will be up to the Township and the Borough to follow through with that plan.
  - b. Nichole Staley O’Gorman (NSO): The plan is largely aspirational, and we had a small role in it. The concept of connecting the town with the Borough and connecting the park to the rest of the community could be an important factor in obtaining some grants. It will be important to look at the feasibility of such a path.
  - c. PS: It is a great idea, and the master plan can include a “zoomed out” plan that shows the proposed path from either end and how it connects to the park.

5. *Attendee*: Are there any plans to make connections from the walking paths in the park to streets in the area, such as Mountainview and Floral Lane? There are ADA ramps there, but they currently do not connect to anything.
  - a. PS: That is a good point. We heard today that cars speed along Claster Blvd and that the concessions stand at Kennedy Field has been hit several times. We may investigate traffic calming measures, such as speed tables, and show crosswalks.
6. *Attendee*: Has a building been considered for the area behind the pool to provide wintertime activities for all ages? The population here is slowly increasing, and there is nothing to do in the wintertime without having to drive to a facility. It would be great to provide activities for all ages (indoor swimming pool, water classes, indoor courts).
  - a. PS: The idea has not come up until now. We are trying to be realistic, as this is a small community, and community centers are expensive. We will talk with the committee – perhaps a placeholder can be placed in the master plan. Alternatively, some pools have a bubble over them that make them usable in wintertime.
  - b. *Attendee (Ron Hull)*: The old Borough school burned down – Borough talking about putting a community building there. The Lions Club has been asked to be involved. They have an architect and are applying for a grant.
7. *Attendee*: Concerns regarding Eagle Scouts and Girl Scouts projects – Will existing items remain? The kids have put time and effort into these projects.
  - a. PS: Project such as the book box can remain. It will take a number of years for park improvements to happen. Some of the Boy Scouts projects (in the woodlands, trails, benches, etc.) are dated and may age out, but we do not anticipate destroying them.
  - b. *Attendee*: I have two girl scouts who are hoping to do projects in this park. Should they find a new place to put these? (Ex. sensory board around the play area; wildlife, insect, and bird habitat)
  - c. NSO: This plan is not an overhaul, and anything is possible. This is more of a guiding plan. I envision that we will still have plenty of space for Girl Scouts projects.

- d. PS: Some projects could also probably be moved within the park, if necessary.
- 8. Veterans Memorial
  - a. PS: Are we okay with finding another, more prominent location for the Veterans Memorial (within the Park)?
    - a. Attendees generally were in favor of this.
    - b. Attendee: There is an armed forces memorial in town, paved with bricks that have the names of servicemen on them. Maybe this memorial could be moved there. To some Borough families this may be controversial – there are many families with a long history here, and this memorial means a lot to them – but it might be a better location.
- 9. *Attendee:* For the dog parks, are you looking to remove all the trees or is the plan to keep some of the existing trees?
  - a. PS: There is no reason not to have trees in a dog park – we intend to keep them there. A dog park would be a fenced-in area and is not a relatively large investment. Dog parks also provide a sense of community and use through a long period of the day, which increases security – the “eyes and ears” of the park. We know that there are some issues with vandalism in the park, and some elements, like a new storage building, may benefit from security cameras.
- 10. *Attendee:* The sign on Cluster Blvd. will need to be changed if the monument is moved. It reads, “In the graveyard to the south rests Timothy Green”
  - a. Attendee: The sign is inaccurate – does not refer to the monument but the cemetery to the east (not south).
- Attendees were given two stickers each to “vote” for their preferred concepts. Concept 2 received an overwhelming majority of stickers, followed by Concept 3; Concept 1 received none. Discussion regarding preferred concepts/elements followed:
  - 1. Concept 2 – likes:
    - a. The flow of people and activities through the space
    - b. Best use of existing features
    - c. Cost effective
    - d. Provides parking to the back of the park – more accessible parking to all features of the park

## I. Next Steps

- SC will take information provided and make general recommendations, as well as more specific recommendations; buildings, consolidating storage, concessions, etc.
- The Web Based Public Opinion Survey will be open until 11/14/22. Please share with your friends and neighbors. (see survey link on following page)
- Upcoming Meetings (see full schedule on following page):  
Public Meeting #3 | Draft Plan | 11/14/2022, 7:00-9:00 PM  
Public Meeting #4 | Final Plan | 2/13/23, 7:00-9:00 PM
- Participants are encouraged to reach out with any questions or comments (see contact information below).

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture:  
Phone: (610) 239-7601

Peter Simone, RLA, FASLA, Principal  
psimone@simonecollins.com

Anita Nardone, PE, Project Manager  
anardone@simonecollins.com

Michelle Armour, Staff LA  
marmour@simonecollins.com

### Public Opinion Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DMPCommunityParkMP>

Survey will be open from June 27<sup>th</sup> through November 14<sup>th</sup>

DAUPHIN-MIDDLE PAXTON COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN MEETINGS	Purpose	Date	Time
Rev. 08/24/2022			
Committee Meeting #1	Kick off meeting	Thursday, May 19, 2022	7:00 to 8:30 PM In-person
Web Based Survey		June 27 through November 14	
Public Meeting #1	Programming	Monday, June 27, 2022	7:00 to 9:00 PM In-person and virtual
Committee Meeting #2	Analysis and Initial Concepts	Monday, August 15, 2022	7:00 to 8:30 PM Virtual
Focus Group Meeting #1*	Plan Input: Active Recreation	Monday, September 19, 2022	7:00 to 8:30pm Virtual
Public Meeting #2	Initial concepts	Monday, September 26, 2022	7:00 to 9:00 PM In-person and virtual
Focus Group Meeting #2*	Plan Input: Passive Rec/ Senior/ Community Groups	Monday, October 24, 2022	6:00-7:30PM Virtual
Committee Meeting #3	Draft Plan Preview	Monday, October 17, 2022	7:00 to 8:30 PM Virtual
Public Meeting #3	Draft Presentation	Monday, November 14, 2022	7:00 to 9:00 PM In-person and virtual
Committee Meeting #4	Revisions to Draft Plan	Monday, January 30, 2023	7:00 to 8:30 PM Virtual
Public Meeting #4 - Final Plan to Authority	Final Plan	Monday, February 13, 2023	7:00 to 9:00 PM In-person and virtual

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,  
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Michelle Armour, ASLA  
Staff Landscape Architect