

EAST and WEST FAIRMOUNT PARK COMMUNITY VISION Community Forum

Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. Sign-In and Refreshments
- 6:30 p.m. Welcome, Overview of the Project and of the Work Tonight
Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
Fairmount Park Conservancy
Harris Steinberg, PennPraxis
Harris Sokoloff, Penn Project for Civic Engagement
- 7:00 p.m. Breakout groups - Small Group Discussion
Moderators from the Penn Project for Civic Engagement:
Shakira Abdul-Ali
Jeffrey Branch
Ted Enoch
Germaine Ingram
Terrill Thompson
Josh Warner
- 8:20 p.m. Plenary Discussion
Key action ideas and guideline changes
Next steps
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn

Meeting results and project updates will be posted at the following websites:
<http://planphilly.com/eastandwestpark> and
<http://www.gse.upenn.edu/pcel/programs/ppce>. For more specific questions,
please call 215-898-1112 or praxis@design.upenn.edu.

Guidelines for Small Group Discussion

- Listen to each other ... it's as important as talking.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- Explore and build on each other's ideas.
- The talk is deliberative, not argumentative.
- If you disagree, don't try to solve it. See if you can understand why you disagree. And see if you can find some germ of agreement.
- Listen to each other ... it's as important as talking.

DRAFT Guidelines for East and West Fairmount Park For Public Comment

1. Start by improving how people enter and access the entire park.

Fairmount Park needs to better serve its closest neighbors. Without that, it cannot thrive. This means we must make sure the park is safe for all to use and has activities for all ages and walks of life. Find large and small ways to improve walking access into the park and through the park. This includes building on improvements made to the park over the course of its history, including stairs, trails along creeks, bridges over ravines, and cliff walks. Connect people to all the activities going on throughout the park.

2. Protect and enhance all that we already have in Fairmount Park, both natural and man-made.

Make it easier for citizens to enjoy nature in Fairmount Park. Do not build anything without considering what impact it has on nature and wildlife. Create ways for people to enjoy the water, but not overpower it. Preserve everything that helps make the park a better place for all Philadelphians today. Find a better way to teach people about the history of the park and attract people to its historic structures.

3. Allow people to better enjoy the water.

Build trails along old creeks that take people throughout the park. Create new water recreation activities in the Schuylkill River and throughout the park. Do a better job of showing how Fairmount Park makes our drinking water cleaner.

4. Help citizens better understand the park and all it has to offer.

What park are we talking about when we say “Fairmount Park?” Is it one big park, every park in the city, or numerous smaller parks? Don’t think about the park as an island. Think about the park as a series of “zones” that connect to specific neighborhoods. Improve how we provide citizens with the information they need about all the ways to enjoy themselves in the park. Create more welcoming entrances that encourage people to use the park.

5. Improve Fairmount Park for all residents, starting with near neighbors.

Continue to promote and encourage a wide range of uses and activities that appeal to a variety of audiences in nearby neighborhoods and across the region. Make park improvements with existing residents in mind. Place special emphasis on our youth and ways to provide education and employment opportunities to introduce them to the park. Make park improvements with existing residents in mind. Promote Fairmount Park's role as the hub of the regional trail network. Find ways to improve how large events are conducted so that they minimize disruptions of neighborhood uses of the park. Give each park "zone" a community identity that will create a sense of pride and encourage neighbors to enjoy all the park's offerings.

6. Make the park safer and more accessible for people walking and biking; reduce the emphasis on people driving.

Create safe crossings of the river drives and park roads for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the park. Reduce the number of roads where appropriate. "It's Fairmount Park, not Fairmount Parking" -- create a parking system in the park that doesn't burden neighbors.