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Two potential long-range plans for Charlie Vettiner Park unveiled

Written by

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Metro Parks recently rolled out two potential long-range plans for Charlie Vettiner Park.

Both options seek to improve traffic flow, parking and other facilities in the popular 98-acre park off Billtown Road between Mary Dell Lane and Easum Road.

The plans were presented at a public meeting last week, the third in a series designed to garner input from residents and park users as a new comprehensive plan is crafted.

One option would concentrate additional parking in the center of the park while the other would disperse parking around a new loop road that would circle the park. Both options would double the amount of parking to more than 300 spaces.

"The big difference is, do we want to try organizing parking in the middle or keep it around the perimeter of the park?" said Michael Smiley with Environs Landscape

Architecture, the firm designing the plan.

Smiley said the option with the parking in the middle would require relocating fewer facilities.

"This plan really works with what's in the park," Smiley said.

The loop option, on the other hand, calls for moving the dog run, tennis and basketball courts. He said people would need to decide whether the loop would have one-way or two-way traffic.

"This does provide a separation of people and cars," he said. "Everything inside would be car-free."

Paul Quinn, who has lived on Easum Road for 17 years, said the loop option might detract from the natural beauty of the park.

"There's a lot more open, unused space in the other option," he said.

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Jonathan Robertson, of Pine Valley Estates off Easum Road, said the loop option might provide better access to some of the underutilized areas of the park.

Metro Parks presented several other options in October but the Louisville Area Soaring Society, whose members fly model airplanes at the park, said those plans would have interfered with their designated air space.

Smiley said his team decided to step back and offer other options that give the flying field more room.

Ed Wilson, president of the society, said he appreciated both of the new plans, and liked the loop option in particular.

Both concepts also called for improving the sports facilities and adding new hiking trails and a spray park.

Other recommendations included improving pedestrian access to the entrance of the park with a pedestrian cross light at Billtown Road and Mary Dell Lane. There is now a flashing yellow light there, Smiley said. With a new pedestrian control, the light would turn red when a person who wished to cross the street pushed a button.

Smiley said there are no funds yet to implement the plans.

"This is to get ideas on paper so we can start shopping around for funding," he said.

Smiley said there will be one more public meeting where a final plan will be presented and discussed.

Reporter Niki King can be reached at (502) 582-4248.

More on the park

To see options and make suggestions for Charlie Vettiner Park, go to www.louisvilleky.gov/MetroParks/cityofparks/projects/vettinerparkplanning.htm.

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