

Council Approves Draft Park Plans

At the October 27, 2011 Council meeting Blue Ash City Council approved a motion to accept a [draft park plan](#). The park, which is to be built on land currently occupied by the Blue Ash Airport, will feature large community gathering spaces, walking/running trails, multipurpose pavilion, seasonal ice rink, and several dining options. Construction is expected to begin late next year.

The park planning efforts centered on an extensive public input process which included dozens of stakeholder meetings (involving residents, corporate citizens, and special interest groups), open houses, and community display booths, as well as over 1,500 surveys completed. Other planning efforts included a site inventory and analysis which incorporated a review of access to the park, existing physical conditions, current infrastructure, sight lines & view corridors, and a park comparison matrix. Also performed was a regional market/need assessment which utilized citizen input and survey data as well as a review of regional park facilities to determine the need for and success of proposed amenities. The resulting document details schematic designs, development phasing, and operational and financial modeling.

The first phase of developing the park will consist of installing walking/running trails, infrastructure improvements (such as water, sewer, utilities, and roadways) and site work to prepare for additional park development. When complete, the park will have about 4.5 miles of trails. The trails will be the first amenity that the public will be able to access. It is expected that the first phase will be started in late 2012 and will take 12-18 months.

The second phase of development is slated to begin sometime in the year 2014. During that time, a multipurpose pavilion, entryways, gardens, playgrounds, observation tower and a sledding hill will be built. Restaurants and bistros also will be developed during this phase but exact timing, number and selections have not yet been finalized.

Future phases of construction and amenities will occur likely in 2016 and beyond depending on funding, future demand and other research. Future ideas include a Performing Arts Center, a family-friendly golf training facility, a dog park, and Extreme Sports areas that could feature a zipline course and an Action Adventure area.

Park Amenity Overview:

- 4.5 mi. walking/running trails
- Entryway features
- Roundabout with park identity sculpture
- Park Commons
 - Event pavilion
 - Multipurpose facility
 - Seasonal ice skating rink
 - Farmer's market
 - Contemporary play area
 - Picnic area
 - Terraced Lawn
 - Restaurants and bistros
 - Lawn games

- Community health/fitness programming
- Great lawn
- Observation tower
 - Plaza/stage
 - Restrooms
 - Seasonal sledding hill
- Shelter
- Pond/stream enhancements
- Community gardens
- Access drives and parking