

Imagine Nashua – Open Space and Natural Resources Focus Discussion  
 6/7/21 – 6 pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Staff & Consultants	Steering Committee Members	Public
Sarah Marchant Julie Chizmas Matt Sullivan Deb Chisholm Scott McPhie	Amber Logue-Morgan Gene Porter* Peter Schaefer Mary Ann Melizzi Golja	Kath Nelson, NRWA Susan Slane Andrew Smeltz, NRPC Carol Sarno Jay Minkarah, NRPC Margaret Loret Sherry Dutzy
Elizabeth Van der Els Taskina Tareen	*mistakenly put on public list in notes from previous meeting	

Comments:

Parks & Natural Areas

- MAMG: Consider heat when improving access and parks. Roby Park – donated funds for canopy. Need to think about how accessible are they? Motivation for that project was parents – couldn’t go after 10 am due to heat. Trees can take care of some need but not always the option.
- Elizabeth – transportation talks about heat islands. Can look at that under this topic too. Cool down options, splash pads.
- Sarah – bathroom issue with splash pads

Outreach

- MAMG: Look at less developed parks and open land and use for educational programming around natural resources and understanding the environment. Many kids don’t have opportunity to have supervised outside experiences. Roby/Bicentennial did GPS mapping of trails. Partnerships with PAL and Boys & Girls Club to use outdoor areas, develop appreciation for natural areas.
- Sherry: Need to build synergy – don’t duplicate efforts. Build on programs. Need a coordinator to connect people together.
- MAMG: Had childcare coordinator in Health Dept who did similar thing. Brought resources to the table to build together. Lots of people doing this all on their own.
- Kath: Add fishing as a recreational opportunity. Healthy way to get youth and adults outside. State used to have a fishing coordinator who would come and teach people to fish - “Let’s Go Fishing”. We have great spots in Nashua. Program was free and brought rods, etc.
- Pete: City should have an arborist – worth the cost to make sure right trees are planted appropriately.
- MAMG: re: Kath’s comments – NH Wild Annual Event is a great resources at state level. There are resources in the state that we can take advantage of to help identify priorities.
- Sarah – goes back to the coordinator role.

Mitigation of Climate Change

- Jay: Wants to put in a plug for integrating storm water management with green infrastructure. Look for opportunities to make stormwater management a focus area. Daylight streams that have been paved over/culverted.

- Susan: Library's Nashua Reads program is great community building. Host a similar thing a couple times a year to educate people about native plants, invasive plants, and pollinators. Bring people together and educate, share information.
- Sherry: There's a ton of info available on that. They can sign up for Pollinator Pathways. Also a NH Invasives Academy. Conservation commission has a lot of information. Need help to get message out. Maybe work with Library to have ConComm lead discussion and bring in experts. Do in March timeframe. Invasives can be talked about all the time. Send email to ConComm and they will come out and speak.
- Kath: Incorporate drought management into parks and open spaces. Transition water dependent lawns to xeriscape that's less demanding. Use signage to educate about transition and water dependent vs water efficient landscaping.
- Amber: Include explicit recommendation for low water usage/low maintenance landscaping.
- Andrew: Big on urban trees for their cooling benefits. Shade shelters are good but are an impervious surface. An action item could be to increase the amount and distribution of tree canopy.
- Elizabeth: Increasing urban trees is under urban design but will add to this section too

#### Riverfront

- *Note: Name of Broad St Pkwy has changed. Now Veterans Memorial Parkway.*
- Kath: All good points. Label storm drains that are connected to waterways. Need outreach and education because people aren't always aware that the drains are still connected to the River. Lots of poop bags end up in the river. Multi-language stencils around drains –that say "only rain down the drain". Could work with scouts to do stenciling.
- Amber: ADPAC hears a lot about dog waste bags and that's a goal of theirs. We haven't been able to get the scouts together to do that project and would partner with Kath to make it happen. Also, can we dredge the canal to clean up all the trash?
- Sarah: Dredging isn't really what we want to do. There was a project a decade ago that brought in a barge to clean up the trash and that was great. We should do that again.
- Deb: Re: Stenciling – she talked to DPW and paving projects with drains connected to the River get a special grate to educate about no dumping. They ordered about 500 of them. The old stencils got torn up and ended up in the drains.
- Peter: What can we do with the levy? It's under control of the ACOE and the City met with them and they have no problem with us doing something there to provide access to the River.
- Sarah: Well, yes as long as we meet all their requirements, including ADA access.
- Kath: It should be a City goal to promote and encourage kayak rentals as an option to get people on River at good price.
- Susan: There is already a guy.
- MAMG: Re: Planting more trees. There are old trees in some neighborhood that have to come down. We should talk to people in older neighborhoods to see what should be planted in new neighborhoods. How do you plan for trees that have to come down?
- Susan: Who do we talk to about maps of trails and connections?
- Julie: City has Bike/Ped study with a map and also the NRPC's online trails storymap. (links shared)
- Peter: Does City have a Tree Farm?
- Sarah: That's not really something cities do.