

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 19, 2023
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: Future of Doyne Park Community Engagement
File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

This report provides information on community engagement efforts to help decide the future of Doyne Park after the permanent closure of the golf course.

POLICY

None.

BACKGROUND

Related File No's:	22-1040
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

Since 1980, Doyne Park had been host to a par three, 9-hole golf course. Unfortunately, in 2022 due to ongoing budget shortfalls and staff shortages within Milwaukee County Parks, the golf course has been closed. In summer of 2022, the Parks Engagement team gathered public input to help decide possible future uses of Doyne Park.

Doyne Park currently has 2 half courts for basketball, a soccer field, a section of the Oak Leaf Trail, and a playground.

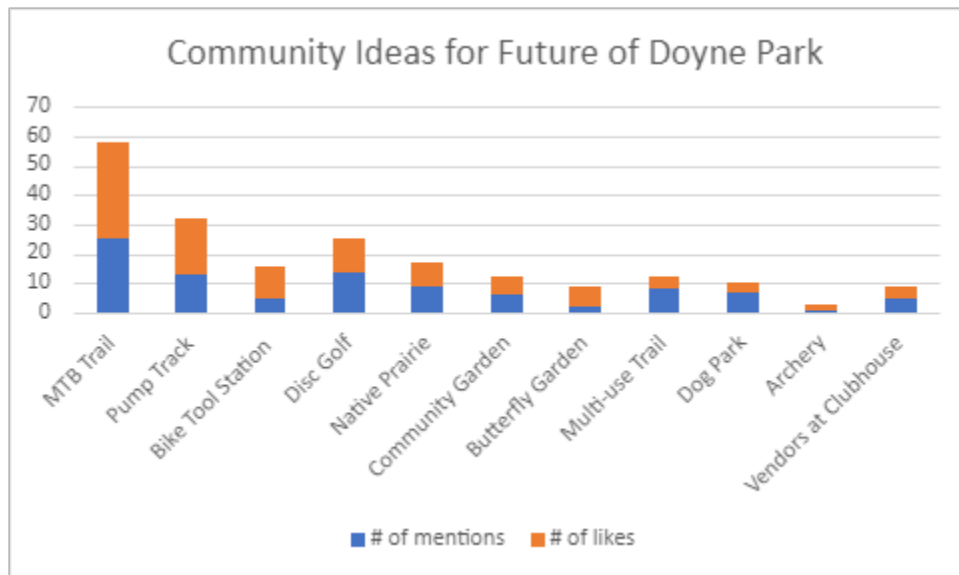
Due to the landfill underneath the entire park, future amenities would need to follow a process approved by DNR. Records regarding waste disposal at the site are vague but suggest that filling may have begun in the 1940's. WDNR records indicate that the site received wood, old appliances, and street sweepings before it closed in 1976. In response to concerns that landfill gas might migrate into nearby residences, a perimeter landfill gas control system was installed at Doyne Park in 1998.

After about 6 weeks of outreach, the Parks Engagement team gathered enough public input to assist Parks staff with decisions concerning the future of Doyne Park. Below is a summary of the outreach and results.

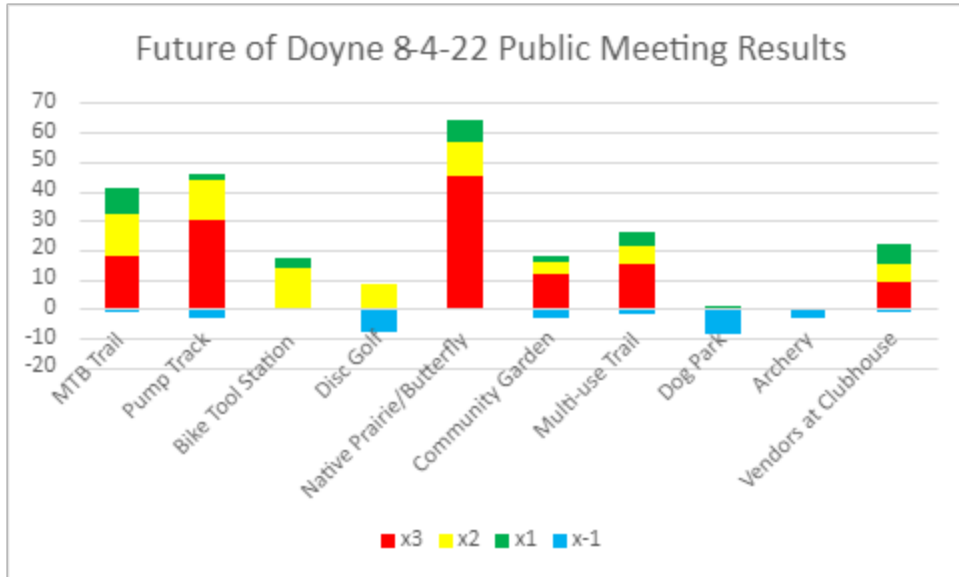
The general public, but especially neighbors were given an opportunity to share ideas for future uses on the project webpage, [Future of Doyne Park | Milwaukee County, WI \(mkecountyparks.org\)](https://www.mkecountyparks.org). The page was shared digitally with neighborhood organizations. Engagement staff had a physical presence at Doyne Park on 5 different occasions at 3-hour intervals and at different times of the day to capture the opinions of different audiences. Parks staff spoke with anyone willing to stop, which included dog walkers, cyclists, walkers, joggers, neighbors, and non-local visitors. To consolidate input, all data was recorded onto the webpage.

The Parks Engagement team scheduled a public meeting to help narrow down the results, with a targeted goal of hearing from neighbors near the park. The team invited people by going door-to-door to all households adjacent to the park and across Wells Street. As a bonus to the engagement efforts, a Friends of Doyne Park group has since formed and is actively organizing cleanups and fun events.

In preparation for the public meeting, the results from the “Ideas” section of the webpage were compiled. The graph below does not include uses that had less than 2 mentions or was determined to be more invasive to the landfill cap. Suggestions like splash pads, picnic shelters, and pickleball courts were not included. Bicycle related uses came out on top with disc golf not too far behind.



At the August 4th, 2022 public meeting, 45 people showed up. Roughly 80% of them lived within a half mile of the park. People had the opportunity to ask questions about the uses and then vote on their top choices using a ranked sticker system. Red stickers = 3 points, Yellow stickers = 2 points, Green stickers = 1 point, and Blue stickers = -1 point. The results in the chart below tell us that neighbors of Doyne Park would prefer to see a native prairie/butterfly garden and bicycle related uses like a mountain bike trail and pump track. There was strong opposition for a disc golf course or dog park.



Based on these results, the top 3 amenities that the Parks Department is considering pursuing are Native Prairie/Butterfly Garden, Pump Track, and Mountain Bike Trail. The Parks planning team prepared a conceptual map of how the desired amenities could be laid out. All of this information is available on the Future of Doyne Park page at mkecountyparks.org

A 2024 capital request has been prepared which seeks funding to design the entire park with the desired uses in mind along with cost estimates for construction of a mountain bike trail and pump track.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns with the following from the strategic plan:

- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

FISCAL EFFECT

The report is informational only and there is no fiscal impact.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

- Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
- Jeremy Lucas, Director of Administration & Planning, Milwaukee County Parks
- Tony Giron, Engagement Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

PREPARED BY:

Tony Giron, Engagement Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks *Guy Smith*

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PEEC Chair
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PEEC Vice Chair
Felesia Martin, Supervisor District 7, PEEC Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PEEC Member
Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PEEC Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
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