Art Commission Application Form

You must submit the following along with this form as a single PDF.

- Individual or organizational statement (250 word max)
- Letter of intent that includes history of project and its impact on the community (500 word max)
- Visual materials (See Art Commission Guidelines for requirement)
- Budget describing cost of materials, artist fees, maintenance, installation, etc.
- Two letters of support from project partners or neighborhood organizations
- One letter of support from the Department of Public Works or Department of Mobility & Infrastructure

Notes:

- You may be required to hold a Development Activities Meeting with the applicable Registered Community Organization prior to Hearing. For more information, visit pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/rco.
- After receiving Art Commission approval, any necessary permits, certificates of occupancy, legal agreements, or other city approvals are still required. These must be applied for separately at the appropriate City departments and are the responsibility of the applicant.
- Application format is a digital copy of full application form, required documents, and the presentation to be projected at the Hearing as one single PDF. Send all documents to pacd@pittsburghpa.gov.

Project Information

Type of Project:  
- [x] Conceptual Review
- [ ] Conceptual/Final Review
- [ ] Final Review
- [ ] Courtesy Review

Has this project been come before Art Commission before?  
- [x] No  
- [ ] Yes, when: ________________

Duration of project: From ___/___/____ to ___/___/____

Permanent?  
- [ ] No  
- [ ] Yes  
- [x] N/A
Emerald View Park includes Grandview Park, Grandview Ave / hillside below, Olympia Park, Bigbee Field, Ream Rec Center, Eileen McCoy Playground, Mt. Washington Park, greenway and trails.

Neighborhood: Mt. Washington, Duquesne Heights, Allentown

Applicant Information

Name: Kara Smith

Mailing Address: 414 Grant Street

City: Pittsburgh State: PA Zip: 15219

Phone: 412-255-0721 Email: kara.smith@pittsburghpa.gov

Relationship or Role in Project: Project Manager

Co-Applicant (optional)

Name: ____________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Relationship or Role in Project: ____________________________

Presenter at Hearing if different than applicant: I will present and Nina Chase from Merritt Chase (our consultants) will probably also attend / maybe speak.
August 3rd, 2021
Department of City Planning
Public Art & Civic Design Division
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE: Emerald View Park Master Plan
Art Commission Application for COURTESY Review

Dear Commissioners:

The Department of City Planning (DCP), in conjunction with our consultant team led by Merritt Chase, is pleased to submit an application for Courtesy Review to the Art Commission and Public Art & Civic Design Division.

Organizational Statement

The Department of City Planning works to create and maintain an orderly, timely, environmentally-sustainable, and consistent approach to land use and development within the City. To achieve this end, Planning works with communities, civic organizations and public entities to develop long-term plans to sustain and revitalize a thriving city of neighborhoods for the people who live, work, learn and visit here.

Letter of Intent

Emerald View Park is a 257-acre regional park located in the Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights, and Allentown neighborhoods. It is the most recent addition to Pittsburgh’s regional park system, having been formed in 2005 and dedicated as a regional park in 2007. Emerald View Park includes a variety of public open spaces, greenways, trails, Grandview Avenue, and multiple neighborhood parks (Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, Bigbee Field, Eileen McCoy Playground, and Ream Park). While individual projects have been planned and implemented over the last century, Emerald View Park had never had a comprehensive Master Plan. Such a plan was needed given its status as the newest regional park, its vast scale, its unique shape, history, and identity as a collection of varied landscapes. City Planning received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and began the planning process in 2020, along with our consultants and staff from the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

The purpose of this Master Plan is to communicate the community’s vision for a cohesive regional park. The Master Plan has been developed through a planning process that has included community engagement, ecological review, and conceptual design of beautiful, functional spaces. This planning process builds upon the efforts of dedicated citizens and the work of multiple past plans for the park in order to coordinate a contemporary, comprehensive master plan to define the next generation of Emerald View Park. The Master Plan is a guide for Emerald View Park’s future physical development with conceptual design recommendations, phasing plans, and cost estimates. The Master Plan ensures that individual park improvements and day-to-day decisions fit within a larger vision, and that fundraising and implementation are properly sequenced and contribute to long-term goals.
Through an engaging and inclusive design process, the Master Plan built momentum toward the future physical improvement of Emerald View Park. The Master Planning process included a specially tailored outreach and engagement plan that met the goals and criteria of the City of Pittsburgh’s Public Engagement Guide. The result is a culturally significant, implementable road map for the future of the park; a plan that is thoughtful and expressive, and that connects and defines the community.

The Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan is driven by five goals and corresponding design and policy strategies. The goals build from the mission, vision, and strategy statements of past planning efforts, and the collective input from the Master Plan Advisory Committee, community stakeholders, and neighbors. The goals support a vision for an inclusive Emerald View Park that connects the park’s ecology, history, and culture, preserves the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities, and elevates its role as a regional destination. The goals are:

1. Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities
2. Elevate the park’s identity as a regional destination
3. Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system
4. Maximize the park’s ecological performance
5. Build momentum for the future of the park

In presenting the Emerald View Park Master Plan to Art Commission for Courtesy Review, we hope to promote it as a guiding community vision for all areas within and nearby the park, so that Commissioners can refer to the plan for future relevant projects. Moreover, we seek the Commissioners’ input and recommendations for future implementation. Individual implementation projects will return to Art Commission for Conceptual and Final Review once they are in the design stage.

We hope this Master Plan will help to guide the thoughtful development of Emerald View Park, and we appreciate the opportunity to present a high-level overview to Art Commission. Additional details and visuals are provided in the presentation and the Master Plan itself.

Letters of Support include:

- Department of Public Works – Acting Director Chris Hornstein
- Mount Washington Community Development Corporation
- Neighbors on the Mount

Thank you for your consideration and time spent reviewing this application package.

Respectfully,

Kara Smith, PLA

(Former) Principal Environmental Planner / (Current) Project Manager
This memo serves as a Letter of Support for the Emerald View Park Master Plan. Staff from the Department of Public Works have served on the project’s advisory committee and have been involved throughout the master planning process. We support the community’s vision for this unique regional park, as documented in the Emerald View Park Master Plan, which provides high-level concepts, recommendations, and phasing for the park. Individual implementation projects will return to Art Commission for Conceptual and Final Review during the design process. The Department of Public Works will be one of the main implementers of the plan and will continue to oversee maintenance and operation throughout Emerald View Park.
Art Commission
c/o The Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attn: Mr. Andrew Moss, Vice Chair/Secretary

Dear Mr. Moss,

On behalf of Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC), its members, board of directors, and staff; please consider our letter of support as your Commission reviews the Emerald View Park Master Plan. Founded more than 30 years ago, the mission of the MWCDC is to cultivate growth, development, and community investment within the MWCDC service area.

The Emerald View Park Master Plan is consistent with our organization’s goals to enhance the quality of life within our neighborhoods, and it specifically addresses our goals to promote environmental improvements and to participate in Master Planning and subsequent plan implementation for parks and green spaces within our service area.

The Emerald View Park Master Plan team facilitated an open, transparent process that included participation of an Advisory Committee and community members, a diverse group who represented the full range of stakeholder groups. Through effective outreach, the planning team reached members of our community by means of polls, surveys, meetings, information posted on the park grounds, and social media.

MWCDC fully supports the Emerald View Park Master Plan. We look forward to its formal approval so that we can begin implementation of the planned environmental and visual improvements described in this community-driven and professionally supported plan.

Thank-you.

Yours,

Therese Dillman Moss

Therese Dillman Moss
MWCDC Board of Directors
Emerald View Park and Sustainability Committee, Co-chair
July 14, 2021

City of Pittsburgh
Art Commission

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter from the “Neighbors on the Mount” organization in Mount Washington to voice our strong support for the Emerald View Park Master Plan. Our organization was founded 6 years ago, with the mission to enhance community life in Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights. Our focus is on Public Safety, Beautification and Community Building. Over these 6 years, membership on our Social Media site has grown to over 3,500 members.

As an Advisory Team Member for the Master Plan project, I witnessed the depth and breadth of the work that was done to create this comprehensive plan. Our “green space” is vital to the enjoyment of our neighborhood, and it is clearly in need of vast improvements. These improvements are described very well in the Master Plan Document. I was also impressed with the efforts by the team to gather input from many members of the community, so our group is comfortable that the Plan covers all the needed improvements as voiced by the community members themselves.

We are grateful for your anticipated support of the Master Plan, and we look forward to working with you to forge ahead with many of the key projects that are described herein.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Whiteside
Core Team Leader
Neighbors on the Mount
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN

City of Pittsburgh Art Commission - Courtesy Review Presentation
August 25, 2021
INTRODUCTIONS

Project Team

• City of Pittsburgh Dept. City Planning- Kara Smith

• Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy- Kathryn Hunninien, Susan Rademacher

Design Team

• Merritt Chase (Lead)
  Landscape Architecture

• Mon-Win Consulting
  Public Engagement

• Spackman Mossop Michaels
  Park + Stormwater Planning

• Civil & Environmental Consultants
  Ecology + Engineering

• Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
  Architecture
Advisory Committee

- Allentown CDC
- City Council Office
- Council District 2, Theresa Kail-Smith
- Council District 4, Anthony Coghill
- Department of Mobility and Infrastructure
- Department of Public Works
- Hilltop Alliance
- Mayor’s Office
- Mount Washington CDC
- Mount Washington Community Garden
- Neighbors on the Mount
- Office of Management & Budget
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Public Safety (Park Rangers)
- Ream Recreation Center
PITTSBURGH’S REGIONAL PARK CONTEXT

Emerald View Park
Frick Park
Schenley Park
Highland Park
Riverview Park
Why do we need a master plan?

- Communicate the community’s vision for a cohesive regional park
- Consolidate recommendations from past planning efforts
- Guide Emerald View Park’s future physical development with conceptual design recommendations, a phasing plan, and cost estimates
- Ensure that individual park improvements and day-to-day decisions fit within a larger vision
- Ensure that fundraising and implementation are properly sequenced and contribute to long-term goals
- Inspire local stewardship and build momentum for future project implementation
Public Workshop #1
Inventory + Analysis
Presented findings of initial analysis and historic review

Focused Group Workshops
Hosted smaller group work sessions focused on specific areas of the park

Public Workshop #2
Master Plan Ideas
Shared design ideas for park based on stakeholder input

Public Workshop #3
Draft Master Plan
Introduce draft plan

Advisory Committee Meeting
EngagePGH survey + feedback

June 2020
October 2020
November 2020
February 2021
May 2021
Summer 2021

Emerald View Park
Regional Park Master Plan
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SOCIALLY DISTANCED COMMUNICATION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

IN-PERSON + VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

ENGAGEPGH ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

PUBLIC FOCUS GROUP WORKSHOPS

Emerald View Regional Park Master Plan
Public Workshop #1

What comes to mind when you think of Emerald View Park?

What could be improved at Emerald View Park?

What is your big idea for the future of Emerald View Park?

Trails, all part of "string of pearls" didn't recognize the name before the master plan

Long linear, trail oriented not a lot of open area for big events

Backside over to west end and views

Views lack of signage, just goes into forest, what is there?

Great opportunity to highlight system with trail markings

Where do most people start?? key entry points you can see trails but not sure where they go, where they end

Trail map PDF, difficulty

O my gosh, what is this! A little forgotten how can it possibly be 230 acres???

Backside public side signage amazing system just below their feet!

Inclines better connection points for public transit and incline transit modes

Relationship to station square, better drop off at base of inclines better connectivity

So much great work in progress walking up and down PJ McArdle, part of the Connectivity, front to back concerts and music events central event place on south side of river, gathering point
"A city treasure kept secret from most Pittsburghers. Not like Frick or Schenley Parks in terms of immediate recognition, but no less wonderful."

"Wonderful trails and overlooks, an amazing local benefit, though not treated or kept up properly."

"I love that it feels like you are out in the forest away from everything, but then you turn a corner and you can see downtown."

What do you do when you visit Emerald View Park?

- Attend an event
- Bicycling
- Bird watching
- Commuting
- Eating/Picnic
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Organized sports
- Casual sports
- Playing
- Reading
- Relaxation/wellness
- Running/jogging
- Slacklining
- Swimming
- Visiting dog parks
- Visiting historic sites
- Visiting overlooks
- Walking
INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

- History
- Community
- Past & Ongoing Projects
- Demographics
- Land Use
- Destinations
- Programming
- Connectivity
- Wayfinding & Signage

- Recreation Needs
- Park & Facility Conditions
- Trail / Trailhead Conditions
- Accessibility
- Ecology
- Topography & Soils
- Mining Impacts
- Landslides & Erosion
- Stormwater

Map of neighborhoods and parks in the city.
GOALS & STRATEGIES

PARKS
Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood

Strategies
- Renovate existing park amenities
- Introduce new park amenities in keeping with historical character
- Define park entrances
- Simplify site geometries and materials
- Identify available flat land for large gathering spaces
- Improve park edges and connections to immediate neighbors
- Consider parks as trailheads
- Design contemplative spaces
- Prioritize pedestrian circulation
- Introduce additional signage

GRANDVIEW AVENUE
Elevate and enhance the park’s identity as a regional destination

Strategies
- Expand the Grandview Avenue visitor experience from East to West
- Improve the pedestrian experience of Grandview Avenue
- Promote connections to business districts
- Visualize park identity with regional park signage and unique Emerald View Park wayfinding
- Connect Grandview Avenue to the larger trail network

ECOLOGY
Maximize the park’s ecological performance

Strategies
- Identify locations for forest and habitat restoration
- Select native plantings to create a unique sense of place
- Balance conservation and viewed management
- Incorporate educational opportunities
- Manage invasive species
- Mitigate erosion and landslide issues
- Manage stormwater in parks
- Manage stormwater in streets

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION
Build momentum for the future of the park

Strategies
- Develop phasing plan
- Develop cost estimates
- Prioritize first phase projects
- Test design ideas with temporary projects
- Identify programming strategy and responsibilities
- Build capacity with local existing and new partnerships

TRAILS + CONNECTIONS
Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system

Strategies
- Connect missing links in trail networks
- Establish stronger park connections through neighborhoods
- Provide welcoming, regional connections to adjacent neighborhoods
- Design urban hiking loops to highlight history, public art
- Create stronger connections with neighborhood cultural institutions
- Design for accessibility
- Define trailheads and crossings
- Improve trail materials for a variety of uses
- Connect park to public transportation hubs
- Develop parking strategy
EMERALD VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Parks
2. Grandview Avenue
3. Trails + Connections
4. Ecology
5. Phasing + Implementation
PARKS:
Preserve the park’s significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities.

MT. WASHINGTON PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Multi-purpose field with bioswales and underground stormwater management (see Ecology strategies page 65)
- Renovated stone steps and entrance
- New trailhead
- Trail connections
- ADA accessible trail
- Recommended Circulation

MT. WASHINGTON PARK PROPOSED FIELD

- Picnic grove
- Restored concrete pathway
- Multi-purpose field
- Restored stone steps and wall
- Accessible boardwalk

Accessible boardwalk example
Multi-functional lawn example
Terraced lawn example
Accessible boardwalk example
Entraced lawn example
Terraced lawn
Restroom
Updated bandstand with open view
Framed view of Downtown with managed
Renovated seating and overlook
Meadow planting for stormwater management
Terraced lawn
Restored and expanded amphitheater landscape, includes restored stone stairs and walls, seating, and picnic areas
Restored amphitheater and bandstand
Restrooms
Framed view of
Restored primary circulation route with asphalt paving and Belgian block edging
GRANDVIEW PARK
Restored stone entrance and fountain
Entry wall and signage
Entry garden
Narrowed entrance
Widened sidewalk
Regional park signage
PROPOSED TRAILHEAD
Native planting and invasive species management (see Ecology strategies page 170)
New stone gateway and wooden
Wooden bollard to prevent vehicular access
PROPOSED TRAILHEAD
OLYMPIA PARK SHELTER PROPOSED LANDSCAPE
Renovated Olympia Park Shelter upper level plaza with seating, concrete unit pavers, vehicular loop and primary circulation route with asphalt paving and Belgian block edging
Native perennial planting
Restored stone entrance and fountain
Entry wall and signage
Entry garden
Narrowed entrance
Widened sidewalk
Regional park signage
OLYMPIA PARK SHELTER PROPOSED LANDSCAPE
Renovated Olympia Park Shelter upper level plaza with seating, concrete unit pavers, vehicular loop and primary circulation route with asphalt paving and Belgian block edging
Native perennial planting
Restored stone entrance and fountain
Entry wall and signage
Entry garden
Narrowed entrance
Widened sidewalk
Regional park signage
GRANDVIEW AVENUE:
Elevate and enhance the park’s identity as a regional destination

Community Input
Site specific, community input was performed during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

GRANDVIEW AVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS (WEST)
- Overlook example
- Trail material example
- Terraced overlook example

GRANDVIEW AVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS (EAST)
- Streetscape example
- Visual identity example

PROJECTS
1. Point of View statue overlook
2. Trailhead
3. Grandview Avenue West streetscape
4. Maintained views
5. Desire for streetscape improvements

PROJECTS
1. Grandview Avenue Central streetscape
2. P.J. McArdle Roadway gateway plaza
3. Grandview Avenue East streetscape
4. Maintained views
5. Desire for streetscape improvements
6. Desire to light the Monongahela Incline

Duquesne Incline
Monongahela Incline

Great views of South Side, desire for better pedestrian access

Maintain views of city skyline
Desire for streetscape improvements
Need connections to business district
Entrance to trail is unclear

Maintain views of city skyline
Desire for streetscape improvements
Need connections
Desire for multi-modal amenities (bike racks, connections to inclines)

P.J. McArdle Roadway

Intersection is difficult for pedestrians, desire for a gateway

MERRIMAC ST
BERTHA ST
MAPLE TER
SHILOH ST
WYOMING ST

BIGHAM ST
LABELL ST
OLYMPIA ST
ONEIDA ST
REPUBLIC ST

SHALER ST
GRANDVIEW AVE

Duquesne Incline
Monongahela Incline

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.
TRAILS + CONNECTIONS:
Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system

Recommended gateways + trailheads

- Emerald View Park trail network
- Proposed connection
- Proposed park gateway
- Improved existing trailhead
- Proposed trailhead/trail crossing
- Public transit

Proposed park gateway
Improved existing trailhead
Proposed trailhead/trail crossing
Public transit

Emerald View Park trail network
Proposed connection

Recommended urban hiking trail loops

- Emerald View Park loop 1
- Emerald View Park loop 2
- Emerald View Park loop 3
- Emerald View Park loop 4
- Emerald View Park loop 5

- Public transit
- Public art
- Historic sites

Typical trailhead
Native planting
Stone gateway + signage
Wooden bollard
Street
Trail

Typical trailhead with gathering space
Wood post + rope railing (as needed)
Stone retaining wall (as needed)
Stone seatwall
Seasonal planting
Parking

Typical trailhead with gathering space + parking

Advanced Trail (<20% slope)
Intermediate Trail (5-10%)
Easy Trail (0-5%)
Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management (see Ecology strategies page 168)

Trail material example
Stone gateway + signage
Wooden fence
Belgian block threshold
Stone seatwall
Seasonal planting
Parking

Street
Trail
Belgian block threshold
Parking

Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management
(see Ecology strategies page 168)

Wooden bollard
Native planting
Typical trailhead
Typical trailhead with gathering space
Typical trailhead with gathering space + parking

Stone seatwall
Seasonal planting
Parking
Belgian block threshold
Parking

Belgian block threshold
Parking

Street
Trail
Belgian block threshold
Parking

Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management
(see Ecology strategies page 168)

Wooden bollard
Native planting
Typical trailhead
Typical trailhead with gathering space
Typical trailhead with gathering space + parking

Stone seatwall
Seasonal planting
Parking
Belgian block threshold
Parking

Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management
(see Ecology strategies page 168)
ECOLOGY:
Maximize the park’s ecological performance

LEGEND
- Proposed ecological opportunity
- Proposed stormwater opportunity
- Views to maintain or enhance
- Emerald View Park trail network
- Emerald View Park
- Proposed gateways and entrances

Emerald View Park trail network
Proposed stormwater opportunity
Proposed ecological opportunity
Views to maintain or enhance
Emerald View Park
Proposed gateways and entrances
ECOLOGY:
Maximize the park’s ecological performance

Figure 1 Mature open forest

Figure 3 Forest dominated by invasive species

Figure 4 White tailed deer

Figure 13 ROW dominated by invasive Japanese knotweed

SLOPE ANALYSIS + AVAILABLE FLAT LAND

LANDSLIDES AND MINING

LEGEND

- Abandoned mine opening
- Constructed fill
- Pittsburgh coal seam crepline
- Susceptible slopes
- ACLP reported landslide
- Historic landslide per USGS mapping
- Rockfall areas
- LiDAR derived landslide
- Active landslide per USGS mapping
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION:
Build momentum for the future of the park

*For individual park phasing plans, see detail plans on following pages
PHASING EXAMPLE: IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES AT OLYMPIA PARK

PHASING
- Short-term projects (0-6 years)
- Medium-term projects (6-10 years)
- Long-term projects (10+ years)

PROJECTS
1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Avenue streetscape
3. Dog park
4. Playground and courts
5. Primary circulation loop
6. Hallock Street streetscape
7. Play area
8. Picnic shelter
9. Olympia Park Shelter + plazas
10. Secondary circulation
11. Hallock Street entrance
12. Hillside trails
13. Multi-purpose field and walking track
14. Stormwater management
15. Contemplative space
16. Hallock Street parking lot
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!