City of Pittsburgh

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THE HILL DISTRICT
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
THE UPPER HILL

15219, 15213
RECREATION BUILDING
Est. 1963
ROBERT E. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL PARK
Est. 1984
Robert E. Williams (1907-1964)

- Nicknamed “Pappy” because of his maturity and caring spirit.
- Lived by one philosophy: “You are your brother’s keeper.”
- In 1931, appointed to his first political position as deputy constable of Pittsburgh’s 5th Ward.
- In 1934, he was appointed to constable and would later open his own private detective agency.
- He became the first African-American detective in Pittsburgh (1945), the first African-American appointed as a magistrate in Pittsburgh (1946) and the first African-American in the state to be elected as a Democratic ward chairman (1947).
- Additionally, he was credited with helping to appoint the first African-American police lieutenant, patrol car officer and fire captain.
- In 2007, he was recognized at the Spirit of King Award Ceremony, for his lifetime achievements in the pursuit of human rights and equality in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Massaro Facility Evaluation (2016)

• Masonry infill walls in the Multi-Purpose Room are cracked at the steel column locations.
• Exterior Doors are in fair to poor condition.
• Exterior Stair & Balcony poses a safety hazard.
• Mechanical Room Piping Insulation contains asbestos.
• Facility requires asbestos survey and removal.
• Soffit is deteriorated due to age and years of weather exposure and needs to be repaired.
• Existing Boiler is not working. Building is being heated with electric unit heaters in the Boiler Room & Restrooms. Multi-Purpose Room is heated with gas fire furnace. Upper Level is not being heated.
• Hot Water Tank Unit is leaking from the bottom of the tank and needs to be replaced immediately.
• Upper Level Apartment is in a state of severe neglect and disrepair.
• Exterior Paving has extensive cracking and the Basketball Court is severely cracked.
• Therefore, the Facility should be demolished.
COMMUNITY SURVEY

REVIEW RESPONSES
& GATHER
ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK
What is your gender?
17 responses

- Female: 52.9%
- Male: 47.1%
- Prefer not to say: 0%
What is your age?
17 responses

- 18 years old or younger: 29.4%
- 18 – 25 years old: 17.6%
- 26 – 34 years old: 11.8%
- 35 – 44 years old: 35.3%
- 45 – 54 years old: 11.1%
- 55 – 64 years old: 0%
- 65 years or older: 0%
Do you have children?
17 responses

- Yes, most are under the age of 18: 58.8%
- Yes, most are over the age of 18: 23.5%
- No: 17.6%
What neighborhood do you live in?
17 responses

- Upper Hill: 70.6%
- Middle Hill
- Bedford Dwellings
- Terrace Village
- Crawford-Roberts
- North Oakland
- West Oakland
- Polish Hill
- Uptown (Bluff)
- Manchester
- Wilkinsburg
- Westwood
How do you typically get to the park?

17 responses

- Walk: 64.7%
- Car: 29.4%
- Bus: 2.9%
- Bike: 2.9%
How often do you typically visit the park?
17 responses

- Daily: 29.4%
- Weekly: 11.8%
- Bi-Monthly: 11.8%
- Monthly: 11.8%
- Seasonally: 11.8%
- Annually: 23.5%
Who typically uses the park?

17 responses

- Children: Ages 5 and younger: 29.4%
- Children: Ages 6 to 9: 23.5%
- Children: Ages 10 to 12: 17.6%
- Children: Ages 13 and older: 17.6%
- Young Adults: Ages 18 to 25: 17.6%
- Adults: 17.6%
- Seniors: Ages 65 and older: 17.6%
Additional Comments

- “I feel it should be remodeled so the seniors can have a place to go to for different programs and it would not be to far for them to travel. Meeting place for meeting and events. To be used for after school programs throughout the year, etc.”
- “The Park has been the stepchild of City Parks. I recommend community stewardship model be adopted for the Park. There needs to be a new park strategy for new resources, a new plan and additional city and state resources as was done for Highland and Schenley and Riverview Parks.”
- “Noise Control is the biggest problem.”
- “Add outside grills or one big grill, close to the building, thank you.”
- “All future improvements should take into consideration the new population moving into the neighborhood.”
- “Please either remodel the existing building and if you do have plans to rebuild get the communities input and be transparent during the entire process.”
ACTIVITY 1

20-SECOND REVIEW
ACTIVITY 2

DESIGN

WORKSHOP
Activity Overview

1. In Small Groups, describe ideas or specific features you want incorporated into the park or building.

2. Use Post-It Notes or the Google Site Map to record your thoughts.

CONCLUSION

SUMMARIZE EXPERIENCE & OUTLINE NEXT STEPS
Review Community Ideas on:

1. Architectural Preferences (Form & Style).
2. Architectural Proficiency (Function).
4. Organization.
5. Unmet Needs.