



Aquidneck Island Recreation Workshop

Saturday, March 3, 2007, 9-1 p.m.

Gaudet Middle School, Middletown, RI

The “raw” notes collected at the workshop from ten (10) breakout topics are presented below:

Greene Lane Park

- Shoreline benches
- Kayak/canoe launch – to north of pier
- Bike racks
- “picnic” areas – barbeque grills and picnic tables
- Restroom stop for bike path
- Buoy markers for safety
- Parking
- Not active recreation
- Café – with large outdoor terraces with tables and windbreaks
- Drop-off for kayaks
- Playground
- Kites
- Wind surfing
- Trailer parking?
- Not have boats coming in
- Model – Boston Esplanade – Performance area (hatch shell), Sailing Pavillion boathouse for rowing
- Designated launches
- No jet skis

Blue Trails: kayaks, canoes, small sailboats

- As many hand-launch sites with parking as possible
- Launch sites: Greene Lane Park, McCorrie Point, others indicated on map
- Yes, water trails identified for skills levels
- Personal boating safety
- Courtesy of motor boats to non-motor

Island-wide trail connections

- Bike Trail along railroad right-of-way
- Trail maps
- Parking near trail heads
- Long-term focus to ensure all these components are realistically connected (ER vehicles and paths)

Bike Trails

- Along entire railroad right-of-way
- Restrooms/ATMs
- Parking at Anthony Road
- From northern tip of island, down Burma Road to the loop with Ocean Drive
- Parking at trailheads
- Entire west side path – paved (bikers) and unpaved (walkers/horses) – ideal
- Cross-island connections – north and east
- Connect destinations as a transportation option and boost for trail support
- “Waystation” concept (for “wheels” and “walkers”) – for bike path on west side – Cape Cod has a good example
- Economic issue – get private support (O’Neill?) for funding path assets
- BALANCE is critical, having a PLAN is critical
- Partnering economic development models – combining economic, environmental, & social resources
- Balance issues – bike paths make property values go up, but so do taxes

Walking Trails

- Around Melville Pond area
- Lawton Valley Grove – connect from West Side Bike Path
- Trails where dogs are allowed off-leash
- Sunset Hill, Newport
- Miantonomi Park
- Doggie poop bag dispensers
- Outdoor classroom
- Communication of local history and info on natural features (Blood Run in Portsmouth)
- West Side Park – issue: space that works
- Assets – Boston, Esplanade
- Pavilion/Sailing – Examples
- Make West Side park “A space that works”
- Keep connections between recreation resources – make them overt – make them priorities

Horse Trails

- Horse trail designation
- Education of public @ horse activities
- Wetland issue is a big concern – liability
- Horse trails along Island-wide path/greenway
- Manure issues at beach and trails
- Study and duplicate existing parks with horse/pedestrian trails /golf, etc
- Learn from other communities in U.S. with similar issues
- Horse trail along RR path
- Problem accessing horse trails
- Need better connection of horse trails
- Conflicts between horses and bicyclists – ATVs
- Rude behavior “spooks” horses
- Laws on books to help manage behaviors and rules with horse use
- Ideal – greenways for walkers, paved paths for bikes
- Tying in geography with signage – Goddard Park has good signage system
- Outdoor classroom concept
- Keep historical context in mind – communicate local history
- Rules and regulations need to apply to all user groups – ATVs, horses, bikes, pedestrians
- Manure issue difficult to resolve
- Liability issue with any path, including horse paths
- Signage must be clear
- Need a horse census

Fishing

- Mess from inconsiderate fishermen – everywhere along coast, not just at designated areas – how to educate?
- Workshops on fishing for non-fishers

Active recreation: fields, courts, programs

- Swimming – indoor/outdoor pool
- Pool needed – people here still drown
- Recreation Department in Portsmouth?
- Unscheduled activities
- Tennis, roller hockey – combo ice rink/roller rink
- Tennis courts – Wapping/Third Beach Road area – with bubble for indoor?
- New Navy recreation centers be open to public
- Fields need really good drainage!!! – and parks if possible
- Recreation center with afterschool, evening/weekend activities for our adolescents – tie prevention with recreational programs
- Composting restrooms where possible

Special Park Needs

- Dog park/Skate park in Portsmouth – Glen Park, Portsmouth Middle School?
- Inline roller hockey rink in Portsmouth – PHS? PMS?
- Many dog-friendly and off-leash sites
- RESTROOMS
- Island “recreation guide” and web page
- Learn from other US Communities on similar issues
- Inviting signage
- Accessible trails

Conflicting Activities

- Resources: open space/parks
- More open space
- Use conflicts between organized and not organized activities
- Designate non-organized areas
- Dog “off leash” users
- Natural occurring arsenic – soil/earth
- Need island recreation guide (web page) that shows the “rules” for use
- Horse/walkers
- Glen Park issues – organized activity vs. passive activity
- Development issues
- User issues
- Guiding use plan needed – increase management / overarching guidance – must be in place first to ensure consistency
- Everything must be collaborative – public purpose must be cooperative