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Community Voice > Visioning UMCH - 2 > Green Space Preferences

Title Green Space Preferences

Description What type of amenities would you like to see in any green space on the site?

Tags Visioning UMCH, UMCH, green space, park

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Votes

1 0

Discussion

Idea Details



Chad Wulf 4 points

Dog friendly options...doesn't have to be a formal dog park....but things like pet waste bags and a dog water fountain/bowl would be great.

Jan 24, 2014 3:18 PM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply



smagill15 31 points

I agree with Chad. A designated dog park would be great but the additional items he listed would be nice, too.

Jan 24, 2014 3:37 PM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply



Jennifer Prescott 6 points

Yes a small dog park. That would be a real draw and a huge selling point. I frequent the dogpark on godown weekly and during the summer the parking is overflowing. Bicycle parking and a place to lockup your bike, benches and walking paths. Even a small playground like we have along the river. Access to a bus stop on high street. Street or garage parking that includes EV charging stations. We should also have biking directions to connect people to the trail system. People are going to ride through the neighborhood behind this area to get to the trail anyway, we should point them in the correct direction.

Jan 25, 2014 11:31 AM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply

Flag as Inappropriate



Dorothy David 28 points

Dog-accessible, yes. Definitely adult focused. Basic amenities like a water fountain, minimum signage, benches, walkways, a sculpture or gazebo which provide a "sense of place."

Jan 25, 2014 12:08 PM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply



Brian 4 points

Please make sure any green space is connected to the running and bike trail. It would be nice to have a splash park/sprayground for children and other amenities that promote being outdoors and staying active.

Jan 25, 2014 1:08 PM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply



SJ 8 points

Soccer fields with high street access only

Jan 26, 2014 5:13 PM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply



KeySterling 12 points

I agree with Dorothy. A water fountain, gazebo, or an outdoor amphitheater type space.

Jan 26, 2014 7:12 PM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply



AVPL 8 points

Nature preserve with educational component, wildflower and garden club focus, with walking trails. If water feature, keep subdued, more like fountain (not Disney looking or pool/playground type). For parking, use same space as already allocated for commercial and retail parking. No sports/game fields. Other green space should be occasionally mixed in with housing and commercial, but not game-sized.

Jan 27, 2014 3:14 PM | Flag as Inappropriate

Reply



Sarah Johnston 39 points



Dog-friendly options, water fountain, open green space with swings, slides, sand-boxes, splash park and other playground equipment and nice but rugged landscaping so parents want to sit and relax while their children (*and grandchildren*-if you want to keep us older people here, do something to make it easier for us to entertain our grandkids in healthy ways that are fun for us, too!)

Jan 27, 2014 5:49 PM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Anne Fouss 20 points

Walking/biking trail, benches, exploration path along Tucker Creek with educational component, community garden, a few picnic tables, fountain, sculpture, small low maintenance play area for kids, outdoor stage/amphitheater, small dog park would be a nice bonus

Jan 28, 2014 7:46 AM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Lisa Staggborg 6 points

I would like to see a conservation easement for Tucker Run. I'd love to see restaurant space overlooking green space with outdoor seating - ideally owned by the city so that it would remain a restaurant over time.

Jan 28, 2014 5:55 PM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Heather Monroe 6 points

Walking and biking trail, benches, a few picnic tables, a small play area for kids, an outdoor stage/amphitheater, shade, and open green space similar to OSU oval.

Jan 28, 2014 8:22 PM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Bev Rva 9 points

Lots of trees, walking and/or biking options, a central gathering area for community events (concerts, art shows, festivals, etc.). Include a fountain (like by Dublin Rec. Center), a Children's Garden or interactive outdoor learning environment for children (NOT a traditional playground!), focusing on exploring nature (such as at Michigan State U. or Denver Botanical Gardens), perhaps in partnership with Franklin Park Conservatory or OSU.

Jan 29, 2014 1:02 PM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



bcm 31 points

We need Class A green space that creates excitement and a destination for the residents to gather and play. The green space should draw people of all ages together with a unique feature not present on other parks in Worthington. Ideas include a slash pad that doubles as an ice rink in winter, natural playscapes, outdoor gathering/performance space, fishing pond, area at Tucker Creek for wading and exploration that could be used by schools, community gardens, and open fields for Frisbee/ball throwing or other athletics. Let's create something unique that will add character to Worthington! There is only one opportunity to develop this property and maintain the heritage of it. It is mostly green space now. A substantial acreage of the 41 acres should be preserved as green space.

Feb 2, 2014 11:35 AM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



WEResident 6 points

In keeping with my other comments, keep it single family residential with green space suitable in that type of neighborhood. There is a lovely area at the back of the property that should be left alone or perhaps with a walking path that connects to the neighborhood to the west which would connect it automatically to the bike path. Plant trees, lots of trees. I have lived in the Worthington Estates/Olentangy Hills area for 20+ years and love the feel of the neighborhood. We moved into a bigger home 7 years ago but were fortunate to be able to stay in the same neighborhood and the same school for our kids. I know many people in that same situation who would love to have a larger home and not have to change schools but those homes are few and far between. We need to retain young families so our schools remain competitive.

Feb 4, 2014 7:57 AM

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[Reply](#)



Bill 6 points

It would be great for the property to be wooded. The proximity of this property to existing bike paths, jogging trails, walking trails means there would have to be little invested in terms of amenities. Absolutely everything already exists and is in place!

Feb 5, 2014 1:58 PM

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[Reply](#)



Ward Planning 22 points

UMCH and Park Space

The City of Worthington and the planners for UMCH cite statistics that show, among cities of comparable size, Worthington has a more than average amount of park space. The City has also now posted on the VisioningUMCH website an overview of 20 Worthington parks that offer "a unique experience in athletics, passive recreation, natural vegetation and wildlife". The WARD Planning Group says amen to all that. We applaud the fact that Worthington residents have opportunities to use and enjoy a variety of park space in the city.

But there may also be the implication here that Worthington already has enough park space and that any substantial enhancement of it at UMCH really isn't needed. Let's examine that implication more closely. . . .

.. (Cont)

Feb 6, 2014 2:57 PM

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Ward Planning 22 points

What is lacking in the development scenarios presented so far is the vision to see and embrace UMCH in part as an active, centrally located destination place where the community can come together. Missing also is the recognition that UMCH can be a heritage place, which speaks to the character of our community and



which Worthington residents can be proud of many decades hence. A central place which is large enough for residents to gather to enjoy the out of doors and each other's company. A place with a shared "community feel". One example: community picnics are held on the park lands of Portland, OR. Why not here? Others: festivals, school functions, performance area, splash pad, fishing pond, ice/roller rink, natural playscape, walkways and benches amid topographical contours, etc. (Cont.)

Feb 6, 2014 2:58 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

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Ward Planning 22 points

Aside from Tucker Creek at the far southern edge of the property, all five scenarios only show smaller, passive parcels of decorative green space, available largely to the persons who will live on the property and not to the community. From the beginning the WARD Planning Group has affirmed the need for commercial and residential development on the property. But we also remind readers that once the land is built upon and paved over, that is permanent. Why can't enough of it be made into the community space we envision? (cont)

Feb 6, 2014 2:58 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

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Ward Planning 22 points

And what of the existing 20 parks that are posted on the VisioningUMCH website? They are definite assets for our city, but none of them fill the need that we have explained above. To begin with, 3 of them (Community Center, Evening Street School playground, Griswold Center) are not parks at all. Huntley Bowl was created as a catch basin for water runoff from the surrounding industrial area of Huntley Rd. The Village Green, its beauty and historical significance notwithstanding, is located at the busiest intersection of the city. The other 15 parks are either on the city's periphery or not close to UMCH. Nor do they abut a retail area. Simply put, the central core of Worthington is "park starved". A park at UMCH would be the only active city park adjacent to a retail area and within a short walking or biking distance of the largest fraction of Worthington residents. (cont)

Feb 6, 2014 2:59 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

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Ward Planning 22 points

We hope that the city leadership and the planners will take these observations in the constructive spirit with which they are intended. To date, however, we have heard nothing from them to indicate that there is support for an active, centrally located destination and heritage place. Our whole community should work together to make the outcome at UMCH the best that it can be. (End)

Feb 6, 2014 3:00 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Ward Planning 22 points

To see the full WARD document on UMCH and Park Space please go to the WARD website at: <http://www.wardworthington.org/news-comments/>

Feb 6, 2014 3:02 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Susan 2 points

I like the idea of other features that don't already exist in the downtown area, like splash pad, fishing pond, ice/roller rink, natural playscape, walkways and benches amid topographical contours, etc. However, I have concern about the idea of developing another performance area to serve the community. We already have that! I think we risk diminishing the Village Green as a "central place which is large enough for residents to gather to enjoy the out of doors and each other's company. A place with a shared "community feel". We already have that in the downtown area with many parking options already in place. Many of us came to Worthington, appreciating the history of the community. What more historical place than the Village Green that promotes a "community feel." I would hate to see us lose and/or diminish that. I would like to see the UMCH green space provide something we don't already have.

Feb 7, 2014 9:22 AM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Fred Yaeger 48 points

The Village Green is a unique venue for some type of performance activities. It has some distinct drawbacks for some other types of performance activities. The VG has significant noise pollution which a UMCH perf area would not have (assuming it's placed anywhere not on High St). The VG is also smaller than a UMCH perf area would be - each quadrant of the VG is less than an acre and that includes the sidewalk & areas between the sidewalks and Rt 161 and High St. More important, the VG is not very safe for kids because each smallish quadrant of the VG is bordered on two sides by very busy streets. Therefore, even a UMCH perf area as small as the size of a VG quadrant would be better for some types of performances. I envision 1) a UMCH perf area bigger than a VG quadrant - 2-3 acres, 2) adjacent to Tucker Ravine and 3) adjacent to other community destination areas like splash pad - ice rink combo (in Obetz). The combo of all 3 areas makes a great venue for a community festival!

Feb 7, 2014 11:49 AM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



ann kipp 4 points

An attractive and useful feature of the green space would be an area designed for photo opportunities. A small area that wouldn't add extra cost, it would be designed with its end use in mind. That end use would be to give families, individuals or small groups a lovely backdrop for photos to commemorate an event. The photo op area could be as simple as a bench or as elaborate as a stone bridge in the Tucker Creek area. Landscaping could include rocks at different levels with some flat stones that could be used for additional seating. Trees would be planted nearby with each selected for its beauty in a certain season. While we would like to think that all the green space would offer a photo opportunity, that is not always the case and it makes more sense to design at least one area with that purpose. Over the years, the green space (park and photo op area) will find its way into many family scrapbooks.

Feb 7, 2014 8:54 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)

0

Anne Help

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[Pamela Fair](#) 16 points

Park space that offers something making it unique and exciting to go to. While WOR may offer 20 some parks, the reality is that many of them are ho-hum, with the same 'ol playground equipment, inadequate space for gatherings of families, teams, friends offering facilities such as unlocked bathrooms & shelter space, and lacking any wow factor. Our family travels to Homestead Park in Hilliard or Ballantrae in Dublin because there is nothing even remotely similar in WOR. I'd like to see an outdoor ice rink that could double as a roller rink in warm weather; a fishing pond; natural playscapes where families can climb, hide, explore; horseshoe pits; open fields for badminton, croquet, team sports; bocce ball area; a small performance area that would not compete with the Village Green but offer different options, such as summer movies in the park that would be imposable with the traffic at 161 & High St.; and a shelter area with bathrooms. Also like the ideas above for photo op.

Feb 8, 2014 3:37 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



[Beth Jewell](#) 11 points

Many of the 20 so-called Worthington "parks" are in reality athletic fields adjacent to highways or to frequently-used RR tracks. Fine for soccer and baseball games, perhaps; not so for concerts, weddings, outdoor education, etc. Worthington needs a true community park, and UMCH property is ideal for a destination community park with concert space, wedding space, splash pad, outdoor education area, fully-equipped restroom facilities, etc. This space would be ideal for the outdoor concerts currently held at the Village Green, as vehicular & railroad traffic would not interfere. The City should collect the input provided on this site, take a look at what other area communities have done to create destination parks, and then create something that is uniquely Worthington. Take advantage of Tucker Creek and add to it an outdoor education area. Add an amphitheater and a community garden. Instead of motor vehicle access, connect to Wor Estates/Worthingway via walking/bike paths.

Feb 8, 2014 4:37 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



[christie thomas](#) 9 points

Gardens with peaceful (quiet) areas and sculpture (natural ones like at Innis Woods). Meditation and or nature study areas would be great. Schools could take field trips to study nature. A dog park would be HORRIBLE. I already hear people's dogs barking all the time, and they are just single dogs who don't want to be outside, echoing through the ravine behind North Street. Some people work at home and enjoy their windows open and don't need anymore extraneous noises. An area for community gardening is always a good option. People can grow food and flowers. There is a nice one in Granville, and there are a lot in Minneapolis. It is a great way for community to utilize green space in a positive way. Extra food can be donated to the food shelter. I really shudder at the thought of a dog park. Barking all the live long day. Please, please don't do that.

Feb 8, 2014 11:07 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



[MMR456](#) 21 points

Echoing what has been said by Fred, Pamela, and Beth Jewell above. We need green space that acts as a draw to WON. I love the idea of a combination splash pad/ice rink, with an adjacent community park/amphitheater that can be used for concerts, weddings, and outdoor education. While the Village Green has been the site for some of these activities, the Green is, as stated above, not so foot or traffic-friendly.

Feb 9, 2014 3:57 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



[Justin Fields](#) 6 points

Fountain for kids with small dining options nearby. No need additional "play" parks (jungle gym fixtures), already many nearby.

Preserve Tucker Ravine with added bench/overlook. Public restrooms available.

Feb 9, 2014 4:52 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



[cardinal](#) 11 points

The United Methodist Children's Park sounds like a fitting legacy. UMCH, the City and residents can work together so that a meaningful, significant portion of the land is dedicated to recreation and green space, funded by income-generating office space (medical, perhaps) along High Street. The land was purchased for a dollar, in the interest of serving the needs of children, a value that is at the heart of Worthington since the beginning. Any future sale should honor that spirit. It's time that the City, UMCH and the citizens look at how to work together to purchase significant acreage to provide what will truly benefit generations to come.

Feb 10, 2014 6:30 AM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



[Thomas Hamer](#) 6 points

The green space at UMCH could really be a jewel and something to be proud of if it was large enough to truly serve our community as a gathering place for events and activities such as picnics, walking in a relaxing setting, fishing or skating on a pond, attending a performance or lecture or a wedding away from the traffic and noise of High St., or tossing a frisbee. - things that would bring us together in a shared community experience. Include the "wow factor" in its design by utilizing attractive contours, trees, and esthetically pleasing landscaping. Try to include our WOR heritage in that design. Let's remember: once green space is gone it ain't ever coming back.

Feb 10, 2014 12:28 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



[Steve P](#) 6 points

The inclined area toward Tucker Creek is already used for sled riding. Please don't develop on that hillside! It could be used in the other three seasons for a sloped performance space that would be inexpensive to maintain due to its natural slope, so no need for benches and such. Having a simple staging area for outdoor weddings, Eagle Scout ceremonies, etc. would be a bonus. How about a fitness station area? Check into Lakeside, Ohio's stations. They are wheelchair accessible, and flexible enough to serve everyone from folks in wheelchairs to people in peak condition.

**sanibel1** 6 points

dog friendly, walking paths, green space for concerts, ample parking

Feb 11, 2014 11:16 AM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

Reply

**TSmith** 21 points

1. A dog park with fencing, trees and benches
2. Play area for kids separately like open grassy area - maybe a fountain or water feature
3. This could also be flex space for city sponsored events
4. Something inspired by Homestead Park in Hilliard which is a very nice park

Feb 11, 2014 10:01 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

Reply

**Joanne** 6 points

Even though we may have more "parkland" than average, we don't have a real park in Worthington. The UMCH property is perfect for a space that is close to the heart of Worthington and big enough to feel you can enjoy nature and to serve as a gathering place for our community - picnics, weddings, outdoor concerts. The space along High Street could be developed with restaurants and offices with apartments above that about a much widened sidewalk. The park space could be to the west with walking paths from Evening and Longfellow and along Tucker Run that pass through the new parkland. Higher density housing along Longfellow accessed by an alley behind and a community garden could be included. As others have mentioned we already have unoccupied office space. Property owners could be motivated to upgrade their offices if this appealing parkland served as a draw for people (and therefore businesses). How to purchase and pay for these changes to this land is, of course, the issue.

Feb 11, 2014 10:48 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

Reply

**Susie Kneedler** 15 points

1. Worthington has few useable, safe parks, so we need Gardens: Community-, Rain-, Botanical-, with native Trees and Flowers.

(Now we have too many empty buildings + too much pavement--unhelpful for people + environment.)

We need more Greenery, less cement--a place people can relax, exercise, picnic, and gather outside.

2. A Shaded Path around the perimeter for running + walking, with many trees for comfort during hot weather from Spring through Fall.

3. Benches, tables, a shaded area, drinking fountains, restrooms.

We already have a great Performance Hall at the Mac, a Dog Park at Godown, a Skate Park at Fishing Access, and a Bike Path on the Olentangy Trail--which either has speeding bikes, + sometimes accidents, or is deserted when many don't feel safe (I jog there alone, but some friends won't).

So I hope we can create at UMCH what we lack: we need a peaceful garden and park for walking, running, strolling, and meeting.

Feb 12, 2014 10:58 AM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

Reply

**Fred Yaeger** 48 points

Susie's point about having a great performance hall inside the MAC is a good point. However, that hall accommodates a max of 200 persons. I think most residents assume that a community performance space at UMCH would accommodate several hundred or maybe even a thousand, or even more.

WOR has no such performance space at present, inside or outside (except maybe inside TWHS and some city parks with open lawn space, all far from as centrally located as UMCH and are not near retail nor have much parking).

The Village Green's concrete pad immediately south of the Griswold Center only accommodates a few hundred, at most. Earlier comments pointed out that that VG perf space is not covered, is subject to noise and engine exhaust pollutions, and is unsafe for kids.

The Director of the MAC, Jon Cook, enthusiastically supports an outdoor perf space at UMCH, stating the MAC would probably utilize that space for some events that cannot be held at the MAC.

Feb 12, 2014 1:37 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

Reply

**Rob Schmidt** 6 points

I am much more concerned about ensuring the development and productive use of this property and would expect that amenities would be dictated by final use. I would not propose or demand any specific amenities in any plan for the site, as this is much more likely to prevent development than actual use of the site. Absent the City purchasing the site, which I do not support, the plan should not incorporate any specific amenities in order to facilitate attracting development.

Feb 13, 2014 12:37 PM | [Flag as Inappropriate](#)

Reply

**Kathryn Burris** 6 points



The green space should be the heart of the development, designed to attract users of all ages and including amenities not found in any other parks... splash/wading area; benches and tables for picnics and chess games; a creative children's play area. There are many great comments from previous writers....Please take enough time to be thoughtful and creative with the green area.

Feb 13, 2014 7:44 PM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



resident 3 points

No dedicated dog park or formal sports fields. Simple walking and nature observation areas and play grounds for younger children.

Feb 15, 2014 7:28 AM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



ann 12 points

integrated green space: connections to nearby walking/bike trail at olentangy river/high st.. For community, neighborhood, and residences at the site. Place to park bike. Access to public transportation, bike racks. Natural elements in design. Central feature (water element, art element and or shelter). Open spaces rather than blacktop. Not a dog park..... Create an example for redevelopment of other parks and spaces with intentional planning for walking, biking, gathering. The village green is visually appealing but really only accessible when the streets are blocked. Even the concerts are a challenge due to traffic and not a safe place to take a young child. Honor children,families. This quadrant and the city do not ave too much neighborhood park space. Most of the useable neighborhood space is school space- unlikely to be jointly or well developed and may be less accessible in the future. The river is lovely but a growing regional multiuse trail.

Feb 15, 2014 11:47 AM

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[Reply](#)



Gail Walter 6 points

Because of the nature of the site, the Tucker Creek area will be left as a natural area--the addition of a walking trail along this area would be a significant amenity. All of the proposed plans include significant levels of green space, including some open "courtyards" as focal points. It would be appropriate to have sidewalks or walking trails which would permit nearby residents and the nearby office workers an opportunity for walking. It is not reasonable, however, to expect a public "park" on this private property. . . . although a certain proportion of green space is reasonable.

Feb 17, 2014 9:15 AM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Fred Yaeger 48 points

A "public" park on private property could be done, but would probably require the city (aka, we residents) to concede denser development than some residents want. The developer would have to be comfortable that s/he could realize a net gain by, say, donating part of her/his private property for community space in exchange for allowing a higher return on developing the remaining land. One way to realize such a higher return would be to build more densely on the non-community space part - say 4 or 5-story (high end) residential flats. Think about the 5-story condos on the immediate west side of Kingdale. If such single-level condos were high quality and 1,500-1,700 sf, I would jump at that. In fact, I'd think the developer would be able to charge MORE for such units precisely because they are next to a wonderful natural park (Tucker Ravine) and an awesome community green space.

Feb 19, 2014 9:39 AM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)



Laura Ball 6 points

Preserve and enlarge Tucker Run. Passive park space with a 3 season shelter like Coffman Park or Scioto Mile. Coffman Park skating rink with naturalized seating surrounding for event/performance uses. Boulder field or natural playground. Not much more. Not a destination park. A community area, that will attract new, existing and corporate residents.

Feb 18, 2014 8:15 PM

[Flag as Inappropriate](#)

[Reply](#)



Fred Yaeger 48 points

I strongly encourage EVERY resident who has an opinion about the land use of UMCH to take the tour defined by the City in its recent (mid-Feb) posting on this site. The map provided on this site and the pics make it VERY easy to take a self-guided tour, especially with some of your Worthington neighbors.

Feb 19, 2014 9:41 AM

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[Reply](#)



Anne Brown 5 points

You have 1000 characters left.

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