

City of Homestead
Parks and Recreation System Master Plan

Interview 1

- Working w/ City P & R Dept is easiest, most efficient thing I do; Kirk is wonderful, takes care of needs; would like to expand Parks and Recreation Department's role in programming, using professional staff
- Need more golf courses; this is a golf and fishing community (fishing needs are being met)
- Need a large, enclosed banquet/ performing arts facility; same size as the Barn Pavilion, but enclosed
- Need a dog park; currently use Keysgate parcel (behind Sales Center)
- Need to investigate use of Keysgate amphitheater; sitting dormant, has fire code violations from Hurricane Andrew (1992)
- Have enough ball fields
- Need BMX track
- Need a couple of practice football fields
- Need jogging trails
- Need to fix up Bayfront Park (County)
- Need ice hockey rink (private); old one destroyed in Hurricane Andrew
- Need roller hockey rink
- May need a therapeutic center
- City needs to expand staff, assume responsibility for running leagues (as opposed to outside agencies); emphasis is placed too heavily on "winning", rather than "participation"
- Moderate need for indoor volleyball courts
- Need shade trees
- Need sidewalks in newer areas, e.g. Keysgate; "old Homestead" OK
- Need interactive water park
- Need schools, other "infrastructure" to keep up with growth – roads, health facilities, etc
- Need racquetball courts
- Talk with Dave Payton at First National; Don Clark at YMCA; Willy Carpenter at Community Bank (245.2211) re: Vision Council

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Put in budget for Parks and Recreation programming*
2. *Develop banquet/ performing arts facility*
3. *Kids facilities such as BMX track*

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Interview 2

- Need bike trails
- Need public soccer fields, youth sports facilities to meet needs not being met by Sports World
- Need to upgrade track (rubberized) at Blakely Park
- Need Olympic size pool for swim meets; closest facilities are Kendall, Ft. Lauderdale
- Have some rally good programs available; need facilities
- Need to evaluate existing programs, prioritize needs
- Need to plan for future growth/ infrastructure
- Need to attract new businesses
- Need nice public golf course

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Expand existing facilities to meet existing programming needs*
2. *Expand track*
3. *Bike paths*

Interview 3

- YMCA, Parks and Recreation Dept have done a great job
- Need more adult facilities, e.g. gymnasium for basketball
- Need adult leagues besides softball, e.g. flag football
- Need BMX track
- Need public golf course
- Need racquetball courts
- Need skateboard park (extreme sports)
- Need rock climbing wall
- Need more softball fields in Homestead, as opposed to at Sportsworld
- Need indoor/outdoor volleyball courts
- Need public swimming pool without being member (potential partnership w/ YMCA?)
- Amphitheater

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Softball fields in Homestead*
2. *Extreme sports facility w/ rock wall, skateboard, BMX track, etc*
3. *Adult basketball gymnasium*

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Interview 4

- Parks are used by a lot of people who live outside of City, therefore are over capacity. For example, AYSO soccer taking priority over City leagues; many participants are not City residents
- Needs assessment is important; need to know residents' needs (vs. non-City residents)
- Concerned about over building w/ no green space
- Residents need more access to multi-purpose green space for playing catch, kicking a soccer ball, etc
- Villages of Homestead Audubon Park is a good example of a neighborhood park
- Should look at partnerships
- Good neighborhood examples along Old Cutler, in the Villages; dog walking, rollerblading, etc
- Need to identify school board – owned land
- Have great opportunities

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Develop Humpty Dumpty site to meet needs of eastern residents; multiple- use open space, etc*
2. *Spruce up existing neighborhood parks to the west*
3. *Make sure that we're taking needs assessment into account*

Interview 5

- Need football fields for high school(s)
- Need golf course
- Need picnic areas, perhaps in conjunction w/ swimming lake
- Need playgrounds/ tot lots
- Need interactive water park
- YMCA is interested in managing City Recreation Centers, provide programs in east, west
- Harris Field is valuable property – will it remain as a park?
- YMCA is getting involved in charter schools; Lake Nona (Orlando) is good example of YMCA/ School/ City/ Developer partnership
- YMCA's role has always been to “fill in the gaps”
- Six or eight high schools use Harris Field for football
- Rodeo Arena is empty much of the year – need to re-evaluate location, long term lease

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Interview 6

- Biggest need/ concerns – replacing one (1) regulation high school size baseball field w/ grass infield (1) from Sports Complex, preferably nearby
- Need to upgrade Harris Field visiting-side bleachers
- Need more soccer fields; soccer is growing
- Need to replace softball fields from Sports Complex
- YMCA pool was good enough when High School had swim team
- Need jogging paths – 3 mile, natural surface (for cross-country team)

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Baseball field within walking distance*
2. *Upgrade Harris Field football*
3. *Soccer fields*

Interview 7

- #1 need is soccer, baseball, football fields for joint-use w/ schools
- Need more canopy trees, open space, traditional parks
- District includes “Old Homestead”
- Musselwhite Park’s front yard shuffleboard courts do not represent image of City
- Need to re-establish canopy throughout City, e.g. Deland
- Need passive, semi-open space, canopied neighborhood parks
- Recently adopted vintage acorn-style street light
- Have developed signature image through lighting (Union Metal – Ron Martino), street trees, signage (Guidance Pathway Systems – Richard Goldber)– need to incorporate into sketches, images; sample acorn light is in purchasing dept
- Need to upgrade park by hospital (James Archer Smith); widening paths, fencing around tot lot, lighting, etc
- Funding alternatives include CIP, Impact Fees (3 years), Grants; currently working w/ County on meeting non-resident needs through \$1 billion County GO Bond
- Estimated \$12,000,000 (\$1.00 x 1500sf x 8,000) collected from 2004 – 2007 in Park Impact Fees
- Need major downtown civic square around new City Hall
- Council Chamber in new City Hall can double as public auditorium
- Need adult athletic programs
- Need summer camp programs
- Need jogging trails
- Need playgrounds, tot lots
- Need racquetball courts
- Need special event areas

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Upgrade Musselwhite*
2. *Upgrade James Archer Smith*
3. *Upgrade/ expand youth athletic fields*

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Needs Assessment – Interviews April 20-22, 2004

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Interview 8

- Need a Performing Arts Center/ Auditorium if South Dade High School is knocked down
- Need wide, multi-use jogging/walking/bicycle/skating paths in every park
- Need soccer fields – only sport that doesn't have a "home"
- Would prefer that pools, water-sports be responsibility of County, private agencies
- Need tennis courts (in addition to J.D. Redd, South Dade Parks)
- Need basketball courts, skateboard facilities in existing parks
- Need City-wide teen/recreation center – indoor games, fields, bike paths, etc; could be managed by private agency
- Need shade trees in every park
- Need handball courts (?)
- Need places for in-line skating
- Baseball, football, softball are traditional sports – soccer is booming
- Parks should be "sports-minded" – some type of facility, plus multi-use open space w/ shade trees, etc
- Lakes would be great (e.g. Leisure Lake Park)

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Build soccer fields*
2. *Teen center/ park*
3. *Build jogging/walking paths in parks*

Interview 9

- Need bicycle/walking paths
- Need additional soccer fields even if Sportsworld is successful, e.g. Humpty Dumpty site
- Need to upgrade Blakey Park track for track and field events
- CIP generates +/- 2.7 million/ year
- Some parks just "sitting there", need to be more attractive for people to use, e.g. neighborhood park off of NW 6th Ave
- Need tennis courts, e.g. in neighborhood parks
- Need racquetball courts
- Need volleyball courts
- Need to bring people back to large community parks (Harris Field, J.D. Redd)
- Need nature/ bird watching trails
- Need shuffleboard courts at Senior Center – shift to back or side
- Need skateboard park
- Need more playgrounds, tot lots
- Need more picnic areas
- Need more swimming pools – especially on far east side
- Could use row boats, etc in PUDs (lakes)

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- Need to discern who users are; County, City residents
- Need to make participant identification part of new user agreements w/ Athletic Leagues; may want to require ID cards, non-resident user fees

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Improve Blakey Park track*
2. *Soccer fields*
3. *Bicycle paths/ nature trails*

Interview 10

- Need 3 baseball fields – one @ 310', two at 225'
- Nowhere to practice; fields are maxed out
- Currently have 600+ participants; estimate that 70% are residents
- Need more large, multi-purpose Community Parks
- Need extreme sports – in-line skating, BMX, skateboard park, etc
- Need another swimming pool/ water park (didn't know that YMCA would allow daily rate), e.g. Denn John Park in Kissimmee
- Need opportunities for after school, chess, etc
- Need to resurrect baseball field, adult baseball program at Roby George
- Need barbeque pits at Roby George
- Need to look at comparable parks; Broward County, Wellington Community Park
- Need to acquire land to expand Roby George
- Need a handicapped accessible baseball/soccer field
- Need after school programs
- Need martial arts programs
- Need to upgrade Phicol Williams Community Center
- Need to keep kids busy; less expensive to “recreate” than to “incarcerate”; programs are key

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Bring back, expand Roby George; Upgrade/ expand (acquire site) JD Redd*
2. *Light Harris Field fields; don't need any fields that aren't lighted – we are not a day-time community*

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Interview 11

- Creating Mayors Youth Council for things for teenagers to do
- Have a lot of sports programs; also need passive, family-oriented parks and recreation facilities
- Need picnic areas
- Needs walking trails
- Need dog parks
- PUDs will take care of many neighborhood park needs on east side of town
- Need big parks on east
- Sportsworld deal includes deeding 38 acres of softball, soccer, baseball fields to City
- Purchasing property west of Losner Park; would like to redesign, expand, make it more user-friendly as part of downtown
- Could use a teen center
- Need more landscaping

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Expand Losner Park*
2. *Establish teen programs*
3. *Additional passive parks – picnic areas, open space, etc*
4. *Upgrade existing parks*

Interview 12

- Villages is a controlled environment
- Bike paths, streets, common areas maintained by HOA; most needs met internally
- Need improvements in Audubon Park: playground, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc (in process: James Archer Smith park is first in line for improvements, to be followed by Audubon Park)
- Retirees account for only +/- 10% of residents

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Pave bike paths in the Villages*

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Interview 13

- Need to present to the LPA; “we are the people at the very spear-point of fighting w/ developers re: open space, etc”. City staff is focused on Old Homestead.
- City seems to want money rather than set asides; concerned about maintenance
- City doesn’t have a comprehensive vision that combines lands use, transportation, parks, open space, etc
- Need to met w/ developers
- Have urban design standards
- Urban Designer – Alfredo Sanchez; Henry Eiler is developing codes
- Need to get a copy of the Southwest Plan
- Need a Downtown Plan; US 1 Corridor Plan; Technology Area Plan; Eastern Neighborhoods Plan
- Need an assessment of PUD/ DRI park, lake, trail, road locations
- Keysgate Park could be used as Community Park
- City should consider partnering w/ M&H to restore amphitheater, provide maintenance, programming; John to get copy of homeowners’ survey
- Two major developers: Landstar – Tim Williams, Steve Shiver (Waterstone, Renaissance, Malibu Bay), M&H – Michael Lattner, Paige Lattner (Villages of Homestead)

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Purchase neighborhood green spaces*
2. *Transportation for seniors, disabled to senior/ community centers*
3. *Big central park w/ lake, dog park, arts and crafts festival, ducks, sailboats, fountains, recreation/ cultural facilities (e.g. Balboa Park in San Diego)*

Interview 14

- Redoing CRA Plan; working w/ Don Delaney, consultant
- Homestead Economic Rebuilding Organization (Council sits as HERO Board)
- Rick Stauts is CRA Director
- Sofya has PowerPoint images of history, etc
- Need areas w/ picnic pavilions, tables etc for lunch
- Have enough baseball fields
- Need more culture centers, museums
- Need more hiking, jogging, nature trails
- Don’t need Performing Arts Facility because we have Seminole Theater (opening 2005), ArtSouth
- Need more shade trees on paths
- Need more sidewalks, especially in west, south; CRA is working on new sidewalks
- Bus stop at Washington and Park Place; used to be Urban Transit Village, now being designed as Park & Ride
- Losner Park needs a large pavilion, needs to be redesigned

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Interview 15

- Wednesday nights – culture nights
- Community prefers to maintain culture, neighborhood character
- A lot of families in the neighborhood; very stable
- Need sidewalks, storm sewers
- Need to clean up vacant lots, dumping grounds
- Need to repair, tear down vacant apartments
- Need street lights
- Need bikeways
- 4th Street is a good example
- Need to connect Roby-George Park, Phicol Williams; John to contact CSX re: potential pedestrian crossing
- Need to upgrade ball field
- Need to refurbish outside, covered basketball courts; accommodate multiple uses
- Need \$ for programs for computers, staff, etc
- Going to have summer program
- Writing grant applications for programs, using volunteers
- Comparable centers: Clearwater, Tamarac

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Buy all the supplies, computers, games, toys, etc necessary for programs*
2. *Set aside scholarship fund*
3. *Hire more programming staff*
4. *Transportation to community center (van, insurance, etc)*
5. *Provide FCAT training, health, education, etc*

Interview 16

- Open space is as critical to a City as any other infrastructure
- Benefits include beauty, coolness, health, exercise, etc
- Even more important than ever before; transitioning from rural/ agriculture community to City
- Not only are we dealing w/ growth, but dealing w/ very rapid growth
- Need to come up w/ immediate “stop gap” measures
- City isn’t keeping up w/ open space through new development
- Collecting fees for open space isn’t adequate if space isn’t available
- Need to do something ASAP if we want to become the City that we would like to be
- City will be faced w/ tough question; what is economic base?
- If you have high quality of life, people will come
- Useable Park concept: acquire land now, make it useable for the public; determine most appropriate uses, development later
- P & Z Board has difficulty assessing parks and open space needs on a project-by-project basis; need criteria
- Demographics changing rapidly from Anglo to Hispanic; African American community remaining stable; last 4 or 5 restaurants to open have been Hispanic.

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Manifested in needs for more soccer fields, central gathering place(s). Different cultures - Mexican, Venezuelan, Colombian, etc

- May want to consider a bond issue for open space and parks
- Maintenance will be a major issue

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Acquire land*
2. *Adjust code to require that future developments conform to good open space standards*
3. *Creatively make land useable, maintain flexibility*

Interview 17

- Lot of potential to do things right, connect communities, etc before it's too late
- Krome Avenue/ historic corridor is a neat public space
- Would be good to connect to small neighborhood parks, etc
- Nice parks, golf course, etc in Keysgate
- Need open space to create sense of activity, good urban quality
- NPS may be able to meet some of community's recreation needs
- NPS is interested in public transportation from Homestead to ENP; Homestead to be Gateway City to the Everglades?
- Possible NPS Everglades Center at Palm/ US1?

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Make physical connections between places – sidewalks, bike paths, signage, etc, connecting old w/ new, connecting to Krome Ave/ downtown*
2. *Provide more youth facilities, programs*
3. *Environmental education/recreation programs*

Interview 18

- Have eight teams; not sure how many are City residents
- Using Harris Field and Sports Complex for practice; using Sports Complex for games
- Anticipate potential conflict w/ SportsWorld; access to fields, costs, etc
- Need a new athletic complex w/ soccer fields
- Current fields include: (2) Harris Field, (2) Benito Juarez, (1) Modello Park, (2) at Carribean School, (1) Homestead Jr. High, (1) Goulds Park
- Need approximately 16 lighted fields to accommodate eighty (80) teams w/ 2 hr practice slots on weekdays (6pm – 10pm), games on weekends; City may have to take over scheduling
- Need more skate facilities
- Need interactive water park
- Need soccer fields
- Need swimming lake
- Need in-line skating, rollerblading
- Need skateboard parks

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Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Acquire land/ build fields*
2. *Light existing fields*
3. *Renovate existing fields at Harris Field*

Interview 19

- Have always played on back side of baseball, football fields; nothing for soccer
- By end of next year, AYSO will have 100+ teams; estimated total of 150 teams in Homestead area
- Ideally practice 2 nights/ work @ 1 hour each = 19 fields (practice M-T), play on Fri night, Saturday
- Currently use Sports Complex; negotiating w/ SportsWorld, but may need to find new home
- Currently seeking new locations
- Ideally AYSO complex would have concession building, 8 – 20 lighted field complex; would be capable of hosting state games, national tournaments, etc
- Could charge participant fees instead of a maintenance contract
- AYSO could get volunteers, grants, etc to build complex
- Need place for kids – open space, swings, rec center
- Need arts and crafts center, ceramics, games, etc
- Need swimming pool
- Need better tennis courts; need to renovate JD Redd, have on-site supervisor to provide for user safety
- Need central park – something to bring everyone together, centered on old Homestead

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Acquire land/ build fields*
2. *Build buildings*

Interview 20

- City is serving a lot of kids outside of City boundaries; Florida City, Naranja, Miami-Dade County, Leisure City; how does City propose to pay?
- Could charge non-resident fees, but may exclude lower income kids
- Need park w/ lake for family outings, picnicking, barbeque, fishing, pavilion, etc, e.g. Tropical Park in Miami; needs to be close (5 – 10 miles)
- League has 400 kids, play at Harris Field; big “give and take” w/ High Schools. Need two playing fields, one practice field (lighted)
- SportsWorld to be modeled after Disney Wide World of Sports; baseball, football, soccer, etc
- Fresh water beach, access to fishing would be nice
- Could use a dog park
- Need playgrounds, tot lots, neighborhood parks like Audubon Park
- Need a swimming pool/ water park

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- City needs to pressure County for funding

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Buy land for new parks*
2. *Fix up existing parks, make them desirable, generate revenues*

Interview 21

- Need to upgrade existing facilities; need to build regulation-size diamond at Harris Field, upgrade scoreboards, add picnic areas
- Concerned that playing at SportsWorld will become expensive
- Need to upgrade soccer fields at Harris Field
- Need a meeting room at Harris – possibly add a second floor
- Need batting cages
- Need playgrounds, activities for small kids
- Need a wall for “wall ball” at Harris
- Most of Keysgate facilities being built by developer
- Need sports fields on east side of City
- Need playgrounds on east side of City
- Designated lands on east side are too small, and/or tied up in mitigation; e.g. 10 acre contaminated County site, Homestead 50 (north side of Keysgate), other Need recreation center w/ pool , basketball courts on north side; people can’t afford the YMCA
- Need walking trails
- Need public Community Center on east side; currently only have clubhouses (have Senior Center, Phicol Williams on west side)
- Harris is center of the City; does City upgrade Harris, or build new complex somewhere else?
- Need to be able to accommodate all family members, ages in one place; if build new complex, need 6 fields (4 small, 2 large)

Priorities for Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant (\$950,000):

1. *Upgrade Harris; larger lighted field, playground, scoreboards, etc (Steve)*
1. *Build athletic fields, pool complex on east side (Chuck)*
2. *Walking trails*
3. *Picnic areas, passive open space*

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General Notes, Thoughts, Ideas

- City of Homestead will be 100 years old in 2013 (*The City of Homestead – 100 Years New! – the Next Generation – Vision for the Next One Hundred Years...*)
- Need to clarify resident vs. non-resident use, issues
- Need to develop a major central City Park w/ lake, trees, pavilions, family outings, picnicking, barbeque, fishing, volleyball courts, basketball, multi-purpose fields, etc
- Add Chris Leinberger quote in PowerPoint
- GJ to write “white paper” re: code language based on criteria

Tasks for City:

- Southwest Plan
- CRA Plan
- Busway Plan
- Dick Jones memorandum (already have)
- Air Reserve Park Master Plan
- Miami-Dade County Greenways Plan
- Investigate use of Keysgate amphitheater
- Contact CSX re: Phicol Williams crossing
- Find out why Urban Transit Village concept failed
- Vision Council Plans, Vision
- Get copy of rodeo grounds agreement
- Talk with Dave Payton at First National; Don Clark at YMCA; Willy Carpenter at Community Bank (245.2211) re: Vision Council
- Clarify terms of SportsWorld agreement, i.e. what happens if Sportsworld succeeds, fails
- Set up visioning meeting w/ Charles (once we have a concept) to identify potential park sites
- Feasibility of GO Bond, other major funding sources
- Feasibility of YMCA, SportsWorld subsidies?