

#### 4.0 Master Planning Process

1. Established a working core team
  1. Representatives from each functional area
    1. Katrina Arnold- Conservation and Nature Program Manager
    2. Beth Burke- Interpretive Coordinator
    3. Trish Butler- Director of Marketing and Community Engagement
    4. Megan Crosswell- Horticulturist
    5. Erik Dahlstrom- Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
    6. Sidney Gnann- Business Operations
    7. Trevor Hagedorn- Business Services Manager
    8. Karen Hesser- Chief of Operations
    9. Doug Horvath- Education Coordinator
    10. Betty Hoevel- Education Coordinator
    11. Mary Klunk- Conservation Manager
    12. Chris Romer- Executive Management Assistant
    13. Eric Sauer- Planning Manager
    14. Carrie Scarff- Chief of Planning and Projects
    15. Shane Sheldon- Park Manager
    16. Joshua York- Education Coordinator
2. Retained consultants
  1. Towers Golde
  2. Provided background documents and base map information
    1. GIS Data
    2. Property Data
    3. Conservation Files
    4. Park History
    5. Previous Master Plan
3. Public Relations
  1. Park Banners
    1. Placed at park entrances about 30 days before open houses
  2. Parkways
  3. Social Media
  4. FRMP Electronic Newsletters
  5. Direct emails
  6. Surveys
    1. In park intercept surveys
    2. Open House surveys
4. Two Day work session
  1. **Thursday October 27th, 2016 –**
    1. 8:00- 9:00 AM Kick Off Meeting- Meet with core team- Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
    2. 9:00-11:00 AM- Drive/ Walk initial tour of the park
    3. 11:00-11:30- Quick Lunch in Auditorium/ Set up open house
    4. 11:30 AM till 1:30 PM-Open House Location: Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium

5. 1:30-3:00 Meet with FRMP Operations Staff- Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
6. 3:00-4:30 Meet with interpretive staff- Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
7. 4:30-5:30- Dinner Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
8. 6:00 PM till 8:00 PM- Open House Location: Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium

**2. Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

1. 8:00-11:00 Walking and in depth tour of the park- Site analysis (includes public safety)
  2. 11:30-1:00 Meet with key volunteers (Lunch) Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
  3. 1:00-2:00 Meet with community stakeholders - Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
  4. 2:00-3:30 Meet with Program Staff- Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
  5. 3:30-5:00 Meet with core team for wrap up – Wegerzyn Horticultural Center Auditorium
5. Develop meeting notes
    1. Core team review and comments provided to the consultant
  6. Develop program
    1. Core team review and comment
  7. Developed concept alternatives
    1. Presentation to the Core Team
    2. Core Team and Staff Comments
  8. Develop Pre-final site plan
    1. Presentation to the Core Team
    2. Core Team and Staff Comments
  9. Public feedback
    1. Public Open House
      1. Notified participants by email
      2. Posted meeting on social media and website
    2. Post Pre-final plan online for public comment
  10. Final plan development
    1. Site Plan
    2. Capital Improvement Estimate
    3. Established 10 top priority projects
    4. Developed Projections
      1. Narratives and project cost estimates
        1. Parks and Conservation
        2. Programing and Interpretation
        3. Business Operations
        4. Public Safety
        5. Philanthropy

## WEGERZYN METROPARK

### Park Position Description

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroParks lies along the east side of the Stillwater River a few miles north of downtown Dayton. It is surrounded on three sides by neighborhoods, and the Stillwater River Bikeway travels from Wegerzyn through six other parks into downtown. To the north is less densely populated land. Despite the adjacency to populated areas, Wegerzyn feels quite isolated. The river and Riverside Drive are significant barriers to the west; the steep valley wall separates the park from homes on the east side; Siebenthaler Avenue lies along the south boundary; and Shoup Mill/Needmore Road, a divided roadway, lies along the north boundary. The park itself is an alternating patchwork of responsibility between Five Rivers MetroParks and the City of Dayton, with four distinct park areas.

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark is most well-known for its formal gardens and the Children's Discovery Garden. Trails lead from the garden area through the adjacent woods, and the bikeway traverses the park north to south. Fishing is popular at Jay Lake and the model airplane flying clubs are active at the flying fields, though these areas are operated by the City of Dayton. Beyond them is the community garden that is large and active. Further to the north is the former tree nursery, also operated by the City of Dayton. Paddlers who have come down river from Englewood MetroPark can take out at Wegerzyn.

Wegerzyn is considered an urban community park in MetroParks' typology based on the highly urban and human setting and a higher degree of human activity and amenities. Urban parks have the greatest focus on park services and the highest level of access and connectivity. At 88 acres, Wegerzyn is relatively large for an urban park, second only to Eastwood. Slightly over one quarter of Wegerzyn Gardens is developed, predominantly in gardens, both formal and community gardens, buildings, and parking lots. Open lawn use areas are minimal at Wegerzyn. Woods line the river, and a swamp wood thrives between the formal gardens and the valley wall. The open area between the river and entry drive grow in meadow. Wegerzyn tend to fall in the lower third of attendance among MetroParks.

Two core agency-wide interpretive themes apply to Wegerzyn: that each park within the FRMP system tells a story from the past and that parks make our lives healthier and happier. The theme particular to Wegerzyn focuses on the idea that gardens build a community connected to nature through horticulture. People have been growing food in the Miami Valley for centuries, and Wegerzyn has a long history of horticultural education in our community.

Wegerzyn Garden MetroPark's image and allure is centered on the stunning aesthetic of the formal community gardens. In recent years, Wegerzyn has also become well-known for the Children's Discovery Garden, which attracts flocks on young children in the summer months. These two destination-level amenities pose a dichotomous focus at Wegerzyn: serene, manicured beauty next to the rambunctious energy. Wegerzyn's formal gardens are unique in the system, and more than any other park, Wegerzyn offers formal horticulture at an intimate scale for visitors to enjoy and imagine for their own gardens.

**Typology:** Urban Community Park

**Brand Statement:** Inspire You Inner Gardener

**Interpretive Themes/Storylines:**

Core Themes:

- Each park within the FRMP system tells a story from the past.
- Parks make our lives healthier and happier

Theme for site:

- Gardens build a community connected to nature through horticulture.

Sub-themes:

- Wegerzyn long history of horticultural education in our community.
  - Dayton Garden Clubs
  - Largest community garden in 1975
  - Horticultural Art
- People have been growing food in the Miami Valley for centuries.
  - Fort Ancient culture – archeological sites on property
- Wegerzyn is an important part of the flood management system.
  - Levy along bike trail.
  - 1913 flood history and the unique engineering response.
  - Miami Conservation District history.

Storylines specific to site:

- Site here to provide horticultural education in community.
- Demonstration gardens inspire opportunities for home garden.
- You can grow your own food even in your front yard.
- No yard? No problem! Join our community garden.

Other opportunities to connect to agency-wide Themes:

- Partnerships create healthy and vibrant communities
- We can all take part in conservation

## Staff Survey

1 WEMP\* 5

Natural areas	3.6	Developed areas
High energy uses	3.3	Quiet uses
Facilitated education	2.7	Interpretive education
Typical uses	4.0	Unique uses
Nature-based recreation	3.7	Built recreation
Big groups / community atmosphere	3.4	Intimate groups / solitude
Serves broad interests	3.4	Serves niche interests
Draws regionally	3.4	Draws from close by
Facilitated use	3.5	Independent use
Many different users coming infrequently	3.3	Same users coming consistently
Similar to other parks	3.9	Distinctive, unlike other parks

\*Staff struggled with some answers to Wegerzyn because often the answers for the Children's Garden conflicted with answers for the rest of the park.

### Brand Image Personified: Jeni

Jeni loves Dayton. She was born and raised in the Miami Valley and is excited to raise her own children on the same block with her sister's and brother's families, just steps away from Grandma's. Jeni has learned a lot from her Mom, who was something of a hippie in the 60's and 70's when she met her African-American father while volunteering downtown.

Jeni strives to carry on her mother's principals for helping others and protecting the environment, and hopes her children will do the same. Although she can afford to shop elsewhere, she loves to take the kids thrift-store shopping just to show them how things can be recycled and how much further a dollar can go.

Jeni volunteers with the local "Project Read" group teaching adults to read. She is warm and her students look forward to spending time with her, including catching up on what funny things have come from the lips of her youngest daughter, Keisha. Her smile is contagious.

She also looks after a couple older bachelors who live on her block, making sure that they get to their check-ups at the doctor, and baking them cookies with Keisha from time to time.

Jeni and her husband look forward to raising their children to be confident, happy, and successful. She believes this starts with regular family dinners (made with items from her backyard garden), lots of opportunities to play outdoors with other kids and use their imagination, and going to church each Sunday.

**Brand Personality:** (ask the core team to rate these on a scale of 1 to 5; ask for any other words they think should apply to Eastwood as we want it to become.)

User-Chosen Words

- Local
- Natural
- **Cheerful**
- Pleasant
- Appealing
- Green
- Family oriented
- Inspiring
- Likable
- People oriented
- Community-based
- Welcoming
- Wholesome
- Down-to-Earth
- Genuine
- Charming
- Admirable
- Accessible
- Safe
- High-quality
- Friendly
- Fun
- Outdoorsy
- Sustainable
- Unique
- Good looking

High-scoring, Weighted Brand words

- Natural
- Green
- Family-oriented
- Wholesome
- Down-to-Earth
- Genuine
- High-quality
- Sustainable
- Good looking
- Delivers high quality products/services
- Successful
- Honest
- Real
- Intelligent
- Reliable

- Consistent
- Up-to-Date
- Sincerity
- Community leader
- Trustworthy
- Unpretentious
- Professional

High scoring differentiation:

- Imaginative
- Classy
- Innovative
- Cheerful
- Intelligent
- Good looking
- Hard working
- Community leader
- Admirable
- Young
- Charming
- Service-oriented
- Inspiring
- Playful
- Up-to-Date
- Cheerful
- Professional
- Visionary

Low scoring differentiation:

- Macho
- Condescending
- Rebellion
- Irreverent
- Pretentious
- Tough
- Rugged
- Introverted
- Athletic
- Old-fashioned
- Masculine
- Conforming



## Program Summary

Project: FRMP Wegerzyn Gardens

Date: January 12, 2017; Rev Jan. 26, 2017

### **“Wegerzyn Gardens Metropark on the Stillwater River Corridor”**

*An ‘Urban Community Park’ type, with high levels of public access, connectivity to systems, built amenities and park services. - FRMP Comprehensive Master Plan.*

**Theme: Preserve and enhance this garden-focused park, integrated into a beautiful natural setting, and utilize the expanded land opportunities from the City of Dayton to better fulfill the park’s programs and activities. These include:**

- Enjoyment of formal display gardens
- Woodland and riverside walks and hikes in protected natural habitats
- Children’s nature discovery and gardening
- Cycling, jogging and walking connections through the park and to other parks and neighborhoods
- Recreation and fitness opportunities
- Kayaking, canoeing and other waterside activities at river and lake
- Family and group activities and picnicking
- Community gardening opportunities
- Gardening education and nature education programs and events
- Garden volunteering and related educational opportunities
- Access to the Dayton Playhouse community theater programs
- Many seasonal special events.

A. These programs and activities are to be supported by the following **resources** and related **actions** (See also Summary of Major Improvements at end):

#### **1. New Main Building**

- Provide an inspiring, new or substantially renovated, ‘signature’ central building with a large flexible space (which can be subdivided), offices, many restrooms, kitchen(s), smaller meeting rooms and classrooms, storage, support spaces. (This document does not provide

a comprehensive list of all architectural requirements, but comments below reflect some of the repeated concerns.)

- Design an outdoor/indoor arrival plaza to accommodate groups, with interpretive displays
- Provide an enhanced large group flexible space for many uses
- Provide and expand number of smaller meeting rooms, break-out spaces, including some outside
- Add food service; café, or at least area of vending machines with microwave, sink. And/or food truck designated area.
- Provide staff and other offices, kitchens for catering and education (Note operations and horticultural staff offices to be in separate building potentially; see Item 11 below.)
- Communicate sustainability and natural systems with any new building design; consider building as secondary to garden/nature
- Consider relationship to Dayton playhouse program and shared resources
- Provide space dedicated for volunteers; lockers, changing room.
- Include security office, preferably with some visibility of site, close to their parking.
- Bathrooms with showers for staff clean-up and biker-commuter users.
- Consider overhanging roof to provide outdoor cover in poor weather, such as for a waiting school group.
- Consider building as naming opportunity/fundraiser?
- Include flood-safe envelope and utilities
- Note consideration of moving parks headquarters to Wegerzyn. If so, might it be part of a significantly larger new building? See below.

## 2. 'Formal' Display Gardens

- Preserve and enhance for display, passive recreation, therapeutic enjoyment
- Utilize for botanical, horticultural, design and historic/cultural education
- Expand by approximately 50% to include other types, particularly for other populations: ethnically diverse, health-challenged, other? (see



list of suggestions) This expansion could be phased, as per all recommended improvements.

- ~~• Provide greenhouse/conservatory for tropicals, specialty climate displays, especially appreciated in cold seasons (utilize part of existing City greenhouses?)~~
- Enhance connections to natural areas, physically and conceptually; maintain and add to signage
- Better manage garden use for wedding photography and similar. (Not host this type of event?)

### 3. Garden Education Areas

- Provide vegetable, herb, fruit gardens for education; a kitchen garden; food for cooking education; potentially demonstration orchard (espaliers?), vines, berry shrubs, nut trees
- Provide raised beds and table surfaces for classes: potting, horticulture, etc.; ensure accessibility for all, some with seating
- Locate above for optimal direct indoor/outdoor class opportunities
- Provide outdoor classroom; outdoor cooking
- Demonstration areas for residential-scale plantings, urban and suburban types
- Address connection to community gardens. If community gardens cannot be much closer to 'center', at least provide signage and information about them
- Provide greenhouse area for propagation, ~~tropical house plants display and education~~
- Provide restrooms for convenience and clean-up.

### 4. Community Gardens

- Provide/enhance/expand gardens; better access (improve drive or relocate?) "Moderate" expansion need is anticipated in next 10-20 years.
- Provide support resources: security, deer fencing (strong comments from gardeners about food loss to animals), a small building facility for tool & hose storage, restrooms, clean-up area, education (evenings?), water supply, lighting; signage
- Food storage and food sharing (refrigeration?)
- Provide compost facility as garden resource, recycling lesson

## 5. Children's Gardens & Play Areas

- Maintain, manage Discovery Garden facility; build on success
- Consider redesign and secondary adjacent spaces to help manage groups flows.
- Add more restrooms.
- Redefine (remove?) water play; expand and provide in separate place?
- Expand selected type spaces and additional separate age-appropriate spaces. See also 'Nature Play' area, below.
- Expand/enhance flexible group space(s) for education, eating (Skeeter's Garden)
- Consider river's edge and island opportunities for nature play and discovery, especially for youth intermediate age groups.

## 6. Recreational Sites and Trails

- Add a new 'Nature Play' area which would provide more opportunity particularly for older children, preferably in proximity to current children's garden. (See '[National Guidelines for Nature Play & Learning Places](#)', Moore and Cooper; 2014; NLI, NWF, US Forest Service, NC State Design.)
- Up-grade and expand trails for hiking, particularly northeastern part of park; note FRMP trail guidelines; provide alternate loops of different lengths and character; provide signage with maps, estimated times.
- Protect & enhance Stillwater River Bikeway for walkers, joggers, bikers; repave where necessary; add a 'bike stop' with facilities; add seating at intervals (such as with views of river).
- Consider new bike/walking trail towards northwest through former City tree nursery, for more direct route; would require small bridge over creek(?). Adjust drive and bikeway to keep them separate beside river near community gardens, for improved safety.
- Protect, utilize Stillwater River for kayaking, canoeing with an improved access/launch site with nearby parking
- Maintain some open lawn areas for occasional group recreation activities (not 'athletic fields')
- Provide specific area(s) for fitness activities, such as a fitness course with exercise stations. This could be designed and installed in a shaded area along a trail.

- Link bikeway trail and river to garden center as node for support (restrooms, food) and interaction with gardens; provide bike storage [alternate: provide separate bike node]
- Provide indoor meeting spaces for introductory and educational programs for recreational activities (current large room works well)
- Consider lake, river for fishing programs
- Support Wing Masters, other flying clubs at separate area

## **7. Natural Landscapes**

- Conserve the beautiful place; maintain woodlands, swamp, meadows, prairie, river's edge, lake, wetlands
- Enhance access with better/added trails, a wildlife observation deck at the river and interpretive signage (and/or Apps)
- Consider expansion of prairies, meadows and manage other habitats, for conservation, wildlife diversity and education, particularly in place of lawns; note opportunity at flying field
- Design enhanced areas of native plants, potentially as visually organizing features which tie other parts together
- Interpret and supplement tree/plant resources as an Arboretum
- Manage invasive plants, insects and pests such as beavers. Remove dying/diseased trees where they threaten improvements such as ash trees declining.

## **8. Group Gathering Spaces & Shelters**

- Replace existing shelter with more permanent structure and upgrade adjacent spaces south of Jay Lake
- Upgrade picnic area south of formal gardens (or alternate location) to include another permanent-roofed shelter; consider formal bosque of trees for shade as extension of gardens, 'anchor' to south end
- Consider expanded parking at group picnic area(s)
- Provide 'permanent' restroom buildings near shelters (2 locations)

## **9. Cultural Resources and Performing Arts**

- Preserve, protect and interpret cultural/historic/archeological resources, in cooperation with other organizations
- Consider relocation of plaques of memorial trees from Jay Lake

- Support theatrical and music programs, appropriately scaled to respective spaces
- Support/coordinate with community theater operation
- Consider sites for public art; temporary and/or permanent sculpture
- Consider utilization of park for photography/art, including blind(s) for wildlife photography

#### **10. Parking, Circulation and Arrival Place**

- Maintain and enhance gateway at Siebenthaler Avenue entrance drive.
- Develop and design a new arrival space at gardens, integrated with building redesign; up-grade signage; communicate multiple parts of place
- Design a new arrival place as a garden/landscape space, not just building entry; promote plants theme
- Consider special paving as means to express hierarchy and organization of pedestrian pathways (see Cox Arboretum example)
- Designate/manage parking for visitors, staff, event attendees, buses, bikers. Study the various existing lots as opportunities of expansion and consider reinforced turf for overflow parking for special events.
- Consider new parking for facilities in northern area, such as Community Gardens.

#### **11. Operations Facilities/Maintenance/Recycling/Composting**

- Provide secure storage for service vehicles, equipment and materials both inside and outside; cold storage building
- Utilize resources to demonstrate sustainable practices, educate
- Recycle on-site compostable resources, garden 'waste', leaves
- Locate hoop houses
- Plan areas for set-up of special events, including temporary trailer parking
- Provide support for Security: parking, signage, lighting, cameras (?)
- Provide (renovate?) building for operations and horticultural staff offices, meeting space, restrooms, small kitchen; close to gardens and maintenance operations.

## 12. Other General Site Amenities

- Review FRMP's standards for site furnishings: benches, bike racks, recycling/trash storage, signage
- Carefully consider added sites for benches placement, especially for elderly, along trails and walks
- Up-grade certain existing fencing such as posts and cable at Jay Lake drive edges
- Provide drinking fountains
- Consider overall site lighting for drives, parking, pathways in terms of FRMP's standards
- Design for food vendor trucks in designated area with shaded seating, particularly if a food venue is not provided in building. Manage vendors schedules coming to park.

## 13. Greenhouses

- Maintain and renovate a portion of existing (or replace) to support park and garden programs; assumes shared use with City.
- ~~Redesign/rebuild for visitor experiences and education: conservatory as 'arrival space'?~~

### B. Other comments not specific to areas above

- Marketing is needed to promote many opportunities in the park
- 'Brand identity' should be studied; don't dilute strengths (user comment)
- Promote opportunities for people to support Wegerzyn Foundation

### C. Issues needing further study; evaluate alternates in plan form:

- Relocating Community Gardens
- Details of FRMP 'taking over' most of City-managed land
- Wingmasters' model airfield relocation
- New Building versus renovate existing, and opportunities if it could be (slightly) relocated
- Parks Headquarters relocate to Wegerzyn? Impacts; separate building?
- Provide connections to other neighborhoods?
- Former Tree Nursery improvements or conservation?

#### D. Summary of Major Recommended Improvements

- New Main Building
- Display Gardens Expansion
- Children's Garden Expansion
  - New Nature Play Area
- Picnic Shelters and Restrooms
- Bike Trail Extension, add Bike Stop Amenities
- Hiking Trails Expansion and Fitness Course Addition
- Wildlife Observation Platform near River, improved Kayak Launch
- Community Gardens Upgrade/Expansion
- Parking and Drives Expansion/Reorganization
- Operational Consolidation (with City of Dayton service areas)

#### E. 'Powers of Ten'; 'What are the Ten (16!) Big Reasons for coming to Wegerzyn?'

1. 'Recharge' by Connecting to Natural Environments
2. Experience and Appreciate Thriving Plants, Gardens and Designed Landscapes
3. Engage and Stretch Children's Experiences with Plants, Gardens and Nature Play
4. Exercise for Recreation, Fitness and Health: Walking, Jogging, Biking, Kayaking, Hiking
5. Take Home Lessons in Plants, Gardening, Growing Food and Cooking
6. Grow Plants in Your Own Garden Plot and Exchange Skills (and Crops!) with Other Gardeners
7. Participate in Events: Gardens & Plants, Theater, 'Moderate' Recreational Events, Music
8. Engage in Diverse Activities as a Family
9. Enjoy Outdoor Group Gatherings in the Park Setting
10. Volunteer and Learn Through Caring for the Place, Plants and People
11. Be Enriched by the Energy and Beauty of Water at the River, Lake and Swamp/Wetlands

12. Discover Thriving/Sustainable Practices for Gardens' Ecology and Parks Conservation
13. Learn about Habitats for Wildlife, Pollinators and Ecological Diversity
14. Cycle for Transportation and Recreation Through a Safe, Beautiful Corridor
15. Pursue Outdoor Recreation for the Enjoyment of Leisure Time and Refreshment.
16. Contemplate and Experience Art in the Park Setting.

For further details, data and background, see documents provided and:

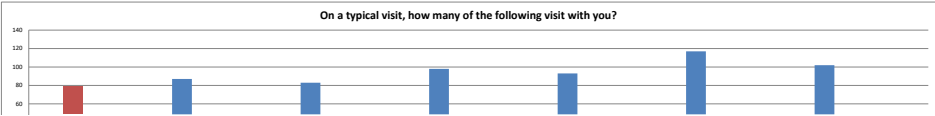
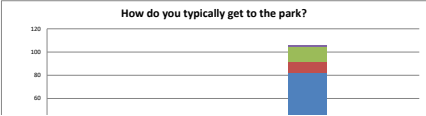
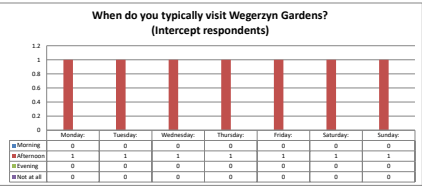
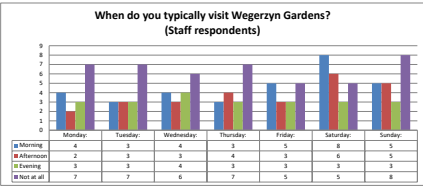
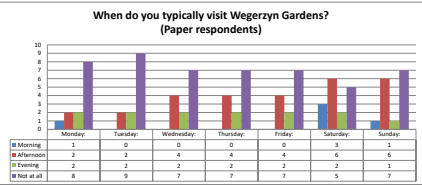
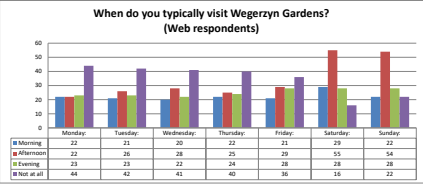
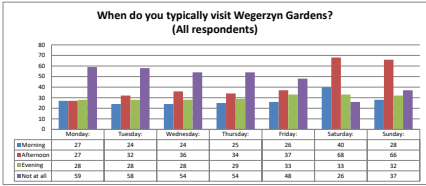
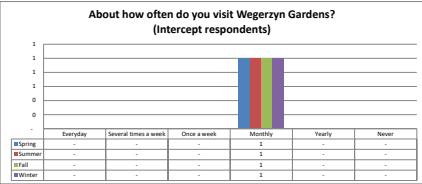
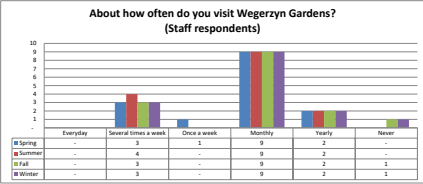
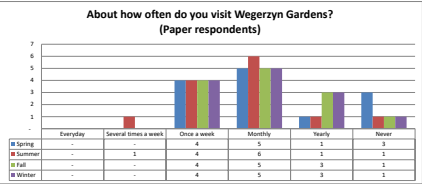
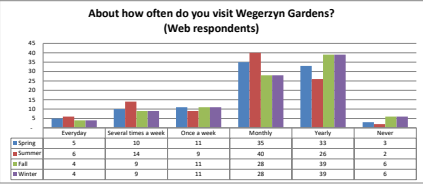
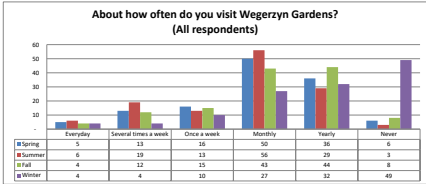
1. 2016-11-16 – Meeting notes of 10/26-10/28/16 and Draft program – meeting comments organized by categories
2. 2016-12-05 – Program notes organized under headings of FRMP Comprehensive Master Plan - six program categories
3. 2016-12-14 – Meeting Agenda with list of activities related to physical areas
4. 2016-12-30 – User Survey Results including recommended improvements and over 200 individual comments; charts and 'word cloud' diagrams.

[illegible]



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**10. Any other comments or ideas that you would like to share?**

Source	Comments
	Add a few more benches along the bike trail, if possible.□
Web	Outdoor restroom is long overdue rather than going inside the center or the children's garden.
Web	Another sculpture
Staff	Better fishing opportunities and access at the pond.
Web	connect the bike path to Englewood metropark
Web	Enlarging the Childrens garden would be nice and making the water area larger.
Web	expanding the gardens would be great. adding a wedding promenade like cox has with the crabapples would be great ( or maybe they are dogwoods now )
Web	Five Rivers MetroParks is no longer supporting the community of volunteers and the individual parks (specifically park foundations) that make all of the Five Rivers MetroParks areas together great.
	For the children's discovery area, I feel like big groups of day cares or schools should have to register their visits and the public should know how many groups and what time they are coming. The area gets crazy especially when the groups show up because they don't watch the children. It ruins the area for families.
Web	I don't want food or consessions at a park. I feel it takes away from the reason for our visit to experience the gardens
Web	I live above Wegergyin on Pilgrim and we get a lot of mosquitos coming up from Wegergyin□
Web	during the summer. I would like to see something done to keep that from happening during the summer. Please!!!
Web	I love having Wegerzyn so close to me! I love the nature and wild life, hence, I would prefer less mowing and more areas left for habitat for birds, etc.
Web	I love the place
Web	I think Wgerzyn is pretty much perfect the way it is.
Web	I wish the children area would open at 9am. It's a beautiful location for pictures but it gets too much sun by 10 a.m.
Web	I would like to see an additional restroom at the park.
Web	Increase and improve childrens garden to allow children to grow, eat, and maintain
	I've biked to Wegerzyn via the bike path, but was disappointed that there was nothing really north, once you've passed the airfield and community gardens. If there was a refueling station (water, rest area, etc) this would make a good stop before pushing through the nothing that is north on the way to another attraction.
Web	Keeping deer out of Garden area would be very welcomed !!!!
Web	more programs
Web	Often parking lot lights don't keep up with early darkness.
Web	On our weekend visits we usually stay long enough that we need to use the restroom, but only have access to the port-a-john.
	Paver work should be completed, should have been completed long ago.□
	□
	Investments are needed in driveway, parking lot, signage, boardwalks, Marie Aull trail, demolition of unused building, opening vistas to the Stillwater River. □
	□
	The formal gardens need professional attention, improved garden displays and better maintenance; it appears some very talented gardening staff are stretched too far to keep up with maintenance, let alone institute new garden displays. □
	□
	It is difficult to see where any of the substantial financial contributions to the Wegerzyn Foundation have resulted in any positive changes in recent years. □
	□
	Better coordination with the City of Dayton is needed to tie FRMP & city areas together at this site. The city's neglect of Jay Lake and the and the trees, field, and parking to the south is a waste of natural resources and a blight on the Wegerzyn Park site. □
	□
	Since water is available, water fountains should be available. □
	□
	Since this park is 5 miles from downtown, a bike stop facility is an obvious potential improvement. □
	□
	The canoe launch is a wonderful but underused improvement that could use promotion.□
	□
Web	Visitors remark that this park is a hidden gem; serious PR work is needed to make it much less hidden.
Web	The gardens are nice and I like the tables. Too bad they beds aren't as weed free as riverscape
Web	The park is beautiful and family friendly.
Staff	The park is beautiful. The building is ugly.
	The parks are very important to all of in many ways. I'd like to see the parks have all that everyone wants. For me as a care giver to a number of family member, who are unable to visit the parks, I think the years past when I took my children to the parks. The parks are more for the young to learn about nature.
Web	The Rangers do a great job at keeping the park safe and have a great visual presence.
Web	The Wegerzyn Foundation needs to spend the money that all of the donors have provided for many years. Holding close to \$1M is irresponsible and should be stopped. Being transparent with donors is good stewardship.□
	□
Web	There are many repairs, improvements that need to be accomplished.
Web	This is my favorite of the parks I have visited since moving to Dayton last December. I come here often with one year old. I think it's important not to have the concession stand because it will attract trash throughout the garden. The splash pad is perfect for toddlers.
	This is probably totally undoable, but I wish there were some sort of public calendar listing when wedding and prom photographers were going to be shooting at Wegerzyn. I live very close, so when the weather's nice, I try to ride my bike over to the gardens at least once a week, and just this past spring and summer all of a sudden the park has been so overrun by photographers a lot of the times I've been there that there's been nowhere to sit and relax. Every bench and shady spot was taken, the fountain was taken, literally every time I went around a corner I was ruining someone's shot. One afternoon, I spent fifteen minutes just waiting for a place to sit down, and as soon as I did, a photographer appeared and asked me if I could move so his client could pose there. Bummer. It's a beautiful spot, and I would totally have my special occasion pictures taken there, so I don't mean to suggest that people shouldn't take pictures there--but as a park visitor, I hate wasting an after-work bike ride on a nice day. Maybe additional picnic tables/benches would be an easier solution.
Web	
	Love the idea of a Stillwater MetroPark with Wegerzyn, DeWeese Parkway and Triangle Park as components of a Stillwater Park.□
Paper	Remove or thin the circle arborvitae near the parking lot. It is a potential safety risk.
Paper	Need more staff to teach and have more inside educational programs





	It is small, beautiful, and serene. It provides wonderful examples of prairies, woodlands, walking and biking paths, the river, formal gardens, community gardens, and children's garden and play areas. It is well located and easy to reach from most any part of the Dayton area. It is also the easiest to use park for those with mobility issues.
Staff	
Web	It is so well kept and plant life constantly changes
Web	It's a lovely oasis close to downtown.
Web	It's beautiful, well-maintained and quiet in the mornings.
Paper	its beauty and safety, well maintained and programmed
Web	It's gardens
Web	It's quiet
Web	Just a nice place to visit
Web	Landscaped gardens, water feature, unique features for children.
	Location - location - location□ □
Paper	The atmosphere
Web	Location, flowers in garden, wildflowers in Aull trail in spring, bike trail, hike
Web	love all of it. We visit each section and play when we come.
Staff	near by,
Paper	no comment
Web	One of the most beautiful parks in Dayton good for families and relaxing and taking pictures
	prairie/meadow□ gardens□
Web	trails
Web	Proximity to my home, the multi-user trail connection, the quietness of the park.
	quiet solitude and metro-gardens.□
Web	Excellent place to walk
Paper	Seeing children in the children's garden, enjoy seeing flowers
Web	That is it family friendly and has something for my child to do, as well as something that my husband and I enjoy as well. We all enjoy the water feature and we reserved the picnic area for my child's 6th birthday this year. They all had a lot of fun running around both the park and the kids area.
Web	The beautiful landscaping was enticing enough to convince me to get married there. I love how it changes throughout the year. I also enjoy the children's park. I like the activities that allow my kids to play in the water and explore nature safely in a contained park.
Web	The beauty!! This park has more captivating beauty than the others.
Web	The beauty, the variety of plants, the landscape ideas
	The benches under the flowering trees are a relaxing place to visit after work and clear my head. The garden is beautifully maintained and the walkways are always clean and clear. All of the MetroParks staff persons I've met are really friendly and welcoming. Keep up your awesome work! We're so lucky to have Five Rivers MetroParks here. I've lived in other cities where the cost of enjoying nature was prohibitive and access was limited. Daytonians don't know how good they have it!
Web	The children's eas and water features, the arbor vitae room
Web	The childrens area and the trail
Web	The Children's Discovery garden! I also love to have pictures taken at Wegerzyn. The scenery is beautiful.
Web	The children's garden
Web	The children's garden and play area.
Web	the childrens garden and the walk through the woods
Paper	The Children's Garden area.
Web	The Children's Garden is amazing. The other gardens make a great picnic destination. The hiking trail is nice too.
Web	The children's garden is what my family most enjoys when we visit. We love all the gardens but the children's is interactive and fun for the kids to explore.
Web	The children's garden.
	The complex design with both open spaces by the river to walk and ride bikes, fields to play ball, and ornate gardens to spark the imagination. My husband and I love to walk along the path for exercise and companionship while we meander through the woods and end up in the gardens. The Garden plants are in our garden from purchases each spring. Our grandkids enjoy the water feature and explore the musical instruments, plants, and design while we take pictures and watch them laugh and act silly.□ □
	We've seen so much life beyond our own experience. A beautiful family with a new baby shines in the light of the sun while a professional photographer snaps the moment. Going to the Stivers High School prom in a self-designed dress looking stunning like a model, this young lady stepped out of the garden walking past the playhouse looking radiant on the arm of a young man smiling. An older couple walking slowly along the path hand in hand smile in love. □ □
	There is so much peace and love for those visiting the gardens because of the love put into the gardens. Each volunteer adds their special mixture of plant knowledge, human understanding, and hope for tomorrow. Wegerzyn Gardens is quite the gift to our area. □ □
Web	Thank you.
Web	The dedicated staff, volunteers, and Wegerzyn Foundation members.
	The discovery garden. My kids love what they call the "tunnel". I usually get them walking out in the gardens and the boardwalk too, but their focus is on the children's garden and all it has to offer.
Staff	
Web	The flowers
Web	the garden
Paper	The garden-like aspects.
Web	The gardens
Paper	the gardens and bike trail
Web	The gardens and the children's garden
Web	The gardens are beautiful to photograph people in. I really love the statues and other elements that make this garden unique
Web	the gardens are lovely
Staff	The gardens themselves. It's so different to the other places I visit and I can really appreciate the work that goes into making the grounds look so great.
Paper	The intentionally arranged gardens provide a nice contrast to the other "wild" MetroParks
Intercept	The outdoor education
Web	The paths and the gardens and when I bring my grandchildren the kids areas



Web	The plants and flowers. There are so many variety of plants that I have learned about because of Wegerzyn. The grounds are so well kept. Always clean. There is something always to do at this park. Garden, fish, walk, sit, run etc.
Web	The playhouse theater.
Staff	the river, the wet woods, the tables near the rose garden
Web	The royal gardens and paths in the trees.
Web	The sensory garden and activities for children.
Web	The surprise of wild life, the different environments: riparian forest, lake, River, meadow. Experiencing the slow sunrise. The wonder of the variety of plants, trees as the seasons change. Speaking with fellow nature lovers on the trail. Every thing!
Staff	The variety of gardens as well as the opportunity to take a walk on a trail or fish in the river or the pond.
Paper	The variety of gardens, the Children's garden
Staff	The variety of habitats visible in a short walk; pond, rivers, mature woods, gardens and open fields. Now that our granddaughter is getting mobile we have been frequenting the children's garden. She seems mentally stimulated by the interactive opportunities..
Web	The walkway out in the woods
Staff	trails, recreation trails, botanical garden, river acess
Web	Walking the paths and it's absolutely beautiful, as well as peaceful.
	Well-maintained bike/waling paths. Formal gardens. Children's garden. Boardwalks. Marie Aull trail. Picnic areas. Fountains & restrooms. River views.
Web	Birding & wildlife. Visible security patrols.





SITE PLAN  
2017-11-14

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK  
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS  
DAYTON, OH