



**A Sampling of Master Plan
Vision Statements & Principles
from Raleigh Parks and
Recreation Projects**

VISION STATEMENT EXAMPLES

1994 Chavis Park Master Plan Vision Statement

The [1994] Master Plan Committee recognizes that because of its special history, Chavis Park enjoys a unique and valuable position within the Raleigh Parks System.

The Master Plan should reflect the history, heritage and tradition of the Chavis Park Community. The Park should foster ownership, care and pride by its users through the quality of its program, the quality and safety of its atmosphere, and its high level of maintenance.

Chavis Park should offer a variety of activities with a goal being to provide opportunities for interaction between users of all ages from surrounding communities.

2008 Strickland Road Park Master Plan Vision Statement

A beautiful, people friendly, pet friendly place to enjoy nature and to play, exercise and gather in a woodland setting.

2009 Horseshoe Farm Park Master Plan Vision Statement

Horseshoe Farm Park is a jewel along the Neuse River, a place of great natural beauty, abundant wildlife and a rich heritage. It shall be treated as an aesthetic, environmental and historical treasure for this community, our city and region. The park's natural and archaeological resources shall be conserved, enhanced and protected from environmental or human abuse for current and future generations of users. The strategic planning element of Horseshoe Farm Park shall be to offer activities compatible with a nature preserve, such as wildlife viewing, arts/craft classes, picnicking, walking, canoeing, fishing, camping, and unstructured play opportunities in open fields - all taking advantage of the one and one-half mile oxbow bend in the Neuse River which forms the boundary for three sides of this 146 acre park.

Development within Horseshoe Farm Park shall be done carefully to ensure preservation of its naturally quiet and isolated character by providing facilities which convey the feeling to park users of being far away from a major city. This shall be achieved by using environmentally friendly building materials and technologies, pleasing, simple designs, and unobtrusive and strategically located outdoor lighting, all of which compliments the park's landscape and identity. The park shall have adequate, convenient access and parking for cars as well as access by walkers and bikers from the Neuse River Greenway Trail, and by boaters who travel along the Neuse River - all implemented with minimum impact and required buffers for the river and surrounding neighborhoods.

Dedicated space within Horseshoe Farm Park shall be reserved in a natural state for unscheduled public use of open, wooded, wetland and river front areas for the enjoyment of

nature, scenery, wildlife, stargazing, or family and community recreation. Park space shall also be reserved for areas of refuge for wildlife living in, or passing through, the park. The park shall provide a wide variety of programmed educational, passive recreational and cultural activities in a setting that encourages users to learn about, experience and appreciate nature. The park shall provide facilities for community organizations and groups to meet, socialize, play and learn together. The City of Raleigh shall incorporate public art and references to the history of the site, into the development of the park for the enjoyment and cultural enrichment of our citizens.

2009 Isabella Cannon Park Master Plan Vision Statement

The Isabella Cannon Park Master Plan will create a vision of the Park as the heart of a welcoming, energetic and diverse neighborhood. The Park's most valued and unique attributes - its open and natural spaces - will be preserved and enhanced through environmentally friendly practices. We will recognize the historic character of the Park by creating reminders of its past. We will also allow opportunities for new public art to enhance the experiences of its users, now and in years to come.

The Park shall embrace its ability to become a place of social being - where neighbors meet and new friendships are made; where the young, and young at heart, play and exercise; and where the neighborhood becomes one with its community and memories are made. Isabella Cannon Park will emerge as the centerpiece of the neighborhood - a walkable, safe, friendly space that will provide a green respite for all those who pass by on their journey elsewhere. The Park's connection to other green spaces and focal points will also be encouraged as we provide greater access to and through the Park, with a result of strengthening its position as a key link in Raleigh's park system and chain of public spaces. Isabella Cannon Park will continue to develop as a place of joyful expression and community for all its users.

2001 Pullen Park Master Plan Vision Statement

Pullen Park is open spaces, providing for leisure, contemplative refuge and joyful times shared together. It is open spaces of lawns and trees, for picnics and parties, playing and learning, walking and exploring. It is open spaces of wildlife, of birds and butterflies, squirrels and chipmunks. It is a place where Raleigh residents seek the shelter of its beauty to renew their spirits and broaden their experience in the outdoors. Pullen Park is also a place of history, of times past and lives touched. It is a place of boats and trains, of carousels, youthful magic and memories over a lifetime. It is a home for the arts, of joyful sights, sounds, and tales of the imagination. As the city has grown up around the Park, the Park has evolved to meet the needs of the growing population. Pullen Park's mission statement, which still stands today, is set out in Stanhope Pullen's 1887 deed to the City, "to be held in trust for the uses and purposes of a Public Park for the use, enjoyment and recreation of the inhabitants and visitors to The City of Raleigh."

Pullen Park provides amusement and picnic opportunities, arts programs, and open space for physical recreation. The Park embodies the ideals of the nineteenth century park movement and is the beneficiary of the many contributions from later periods that have been woven into the fabric of the Park. The City of Raleigh, through the Parks & Recreation Department, is committed "to actively encourage, provide, promote and protect quality

leisure, recreation, and cultural opportunities, facilities, and environments”.

The goal of the Master Plan is to provide a framework for development and programming decisions. The Plan supports the priorities of Pullen Park by serving the public needs while protecting the beauty and values of this extraordinary open space. Enhancement of facilities at Pullen Park shall embody these ideals of preserving open spaces for future generations.

PRINCIPLE EXAMPLES

2007 Leesville Master Plan Principles

- Protection of the natural environment
- Ensure accessibility
- Provide connections to surrounding neighborhoods and school
- Protection of adjacent residential properties
- Preserve the history of the site
- Allow for the extension of Hilburn Drive

2001 Pullen Park Master Plan Principles

Open space

Providing a green oasis for citizens and visitors was the central role in the founder’s vision. As the Park’s surroundings become increasingly urbanized, the importance of Pullen Park’s open space continues to grow with the increased density of the city. Improvements to park facilities should be continued without sacrificing any open space.

The History

Sharing the rich and important history of the Park, now the centerpiece park in Raleigh, should guide the plan. Integrating the Park’s history into the visitor’s experience using architecture, landscaping, and interpretive programs is an important planning principle. Inspiring a feeling of ownership and pride should be a consequence of the design.

The Importance of Administration, Maintenance and Management

The success of Pullen Park is integrally tied to the quality of care exhibited within its physical landscape and constructed facilities. Administrative policies have a profound impact on park operations, landscape character and wildlife habitat, and need to be carefully made in light of the preservation and development goals of the Park. Sound administration, staffing, maintenance, and management have been hallmarks of Pullen Park’s success and should continue to be given a high priority. The Master Plan must provide thoughtfully organized facilities and infrastructure to support these goals.

Inclusion of All People

Pullen Park is an important refuge and the Park should be welcoming to “all the citizens of and visitors to Raleigh”. Park programming and design must provide opportunities for the diverse users of the Park, with all facilities open and accessible to persons of all ages and abilities.

Natural Characteristics

From the beginning, Pullen Park was a landscape endowed with variety and a natural beauty of rolling land and meandering streams. Stanhope Pullen envisioned the pasture he saw as a

verdant shaded place for visitors and he spent years planning and planting trees to make this vision come into being.

Views Within the Park

Views were important in planning for the Park and they continue to be important today. Views orient the visitor by connecting the visitor to important destinations and providing glimpses of the larger Park landscape and the urban landscape beyond. Views to important structures and spaces are critical and should be maintained and expanded wherever possible.

The Park as a Sanctuary for Wildlife

As the Park's surroundings become increasingly urbanized, Pullen Park becomes a more valuable sanctuary for wildlife and for the observation and appreciation of wildlife. The significant open space must be protected and areas must be planted and maintained for the health of wildlife that is living in and migrating through the City of Raleigh.

Edges

The edges of Pullen Park are where the Park presents a glimpse to the passersby of the beauty and wonder contained in the Park. The edges reinforce the identity of the Park as separate from the surrounding uses.

Welcoming Identity

Architecture, landscaping and signage should clearly define the entrances to Pullen Park.

Access

The early Park was connected to the City by streetcar and from there accessed on foot. Planning for the future of Pullen Park will need to provide new ways of accessing the Park and limiting the dominance of the automobile. The Park must have good pedestrian and bicycle connections on all sides. As urban pressures increase, access to the Park should focus on public transportation and pedestrian access. Automobile access and parking will be limited by the desire to maintain open space. New facilities should include integral parking solutions.

Circulation

The circulation system is the framework within which visitors see and experience Pullen Park. The circulation pulls the visitor into the landscape and provides for a rambling, unhurried exploration of the Park, brisk walks, running, and bicycling as well as access to facilities. It is important that these contradictory uses be considered so that quiet contemplation, wildlife appreciation, outdoor parties and sports do not conflict with each other. Recommendations for alterations need to be motivated by and focused on improving access and accessibility without degrading the spaces being traversed.

The Amusement Center

Adored by generations of Raleigh's children and accompanying adults, Pullen Park is the fifth oldest operating amusement park in the United States and the sixteenth oldest in the world! The Amusement Center features the spectacular 1911 Dentzel Carousel with its 52 animals, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The C.P Huntington miniature train is a one-third size, near-replica of the famous locomotive of the same name. Restoring and maintaining the carousel and the miniature train in accordance with the highest standards will assure that future generations of children will enjoy these historic and unique amenities. As changes come to the overall park, any new elements should blend with and enhance these historic rides. The Amusement Center should continue to feature these special amusements as an anchor to exciting new playspaces. A new family recreation area must be

provided with play spaces to accommodate increasing numbers of users. It must continue to meet the needs of tomorrow's children with special new places to play outdoors, to explore the physical world, and to experience the natural world through the senses. This is a natural progression from the original goals of the Park.

Physical Recreation

Red Diamond and the PONY field have a long tradition as places to play sports. Preserving open space for active play is consistent with the early uses in the Park and should be continued and encouraged. Minor adjustments to the area should be considered to address the needs of under-served age groups. The Aquatics Center provides important Parks & Recreation programs as well as opportunities for youthful play within the City parks system.

The Arts

The arts came to Pullen Park as part of the City of Raleigh's mission to promote cultural opportunities. Integration of the arts throughout Park programming and design should be continued and encouraged. Today, visual arts and theatre serve as a focus for the northern portion of Pullen Park. The arts are important to the identity of the Park and should be enhanced and promoted.

Community Activities

Programming at Pullen Park provides important social activities for the citizens of Raleigh. Spaces and buildings for programmed events, such as The Plaza and The Community Center, are important parts of Pullen Park and should be enhanced and promoted.