

Shoal Creek Park, Planning Session June 27, 2019

Guiding Principles

- Listen to the Land: Range of important geophysical, natural and cultural features. SCP is not a blank sheet!
- Advised to set up a structure to permit/authorize volunteer and recreational activity. Well-meaning friends can damage. Need clarity on Management/point of contact.
- Identify/determine if and how money making activities and enterprises will collaborate with Park. Proceeds need to benefit the Park and Montevallo.
- Monitor the use of the park in order to understand locations that are used and activities that are popular in order to guide planning and implementation of ideas.
- Do the projects being discussed/planned showcase the natural beauty of SCP? Do zoning regulations need to be reviewed to keep land natural?
- Do projects being discussed compliment others in the community, regardless of whether institutional or non-profit? Need to consider assets/resources already in the area and regionally. (Continue partnering with the University of Montevallo and Shelby County—example ball fields)
- Be strategic and plan in line with City's and key partner's fiscal years
- Are ideas/projects sustainable over time?
- How can we partner to insure sustainability and success?
- Should have a plan to pay for new assets without depleting reserves. Consider building reserves.
- Including Shelby County supports mechanism of resourcing projects.

Preserving Natural Surroundings

- Emphasize play meadows, rather than lit, developed athletic fields.

- Consider designating one area for more activities and preserve remaining area.
- Create criteria for commercial use, such as canoe rentals.
- Use the Betty Mahler Loop as a planned arboretum, so that people can enjoy and learn from SCP's natural features without harming them.

Project Ideas

- House could be used as Welcome Center, Chamber Headquarters, Caretaker Cottage
- Arboretum
- Arts Village (would be unique in all of Alabama)
- Demonstration Farm in partnership with ALFA and others
- Picnic spots throughout the Park
- Develop acreage south of 119 as student-centric, sustainable housing (such as tiny homes). Look at the Valhalla Project in Montreal.
- Distinctive signage: entrances, interpretive, larger scale map
- Plant a tree initiative: Memorials for family members
- Work on connectivity to City, National Cemetery and American Village
- Continue to partner with UM and Shelby County
- Develop one or two signature events each year to bring people to Montevallo and for fundraising purposes. Utilize own and partner assistance and resources

Potential Challenges/Attention to Cost

- Staffing for maintenance and events
- Police/Security
- Scrutinize pro forma of each project. Profitability is difficult
- Have a Maintenance and Replacement Plan

Legal Considerations

- Make a recommendation from Foundation to City Council to pass ordinance(s) to protect natural state of SCP
- Explore other avenues to protect the natural state of Park into the future.

(Alabama Forever Wild has benefits but may hamper use of land for commercial/revenue producing activities.

Conservation easements may prove too restrictive and transfer ownership from City).