

Health Kids, Healthy Communities – Parks Selection Process Overview

Park Selection Criteria

To choose focus parks, selection criteria were developed by HKHC partners at the June 29, 2010 HKHC partnership meeting. The criteria included:

Criterion	Explanation	Score
<i>Geography</i>	Ensure that parks are selected in different areas of the city.	N/A
<i>Existing amenities</i>	Parks must have at least 2 active amenities (e.g., ball fields, walking paths, or playgrounds).	1
<i>Presence of youth under 18</i>	Ensure that a significant number of youth live in neighborhoods adjacent to parks. Proportion of youth living within a ¼ mile of a park. (Top 5 scoring parks only.)	1
<i>Proximity to a school</i>	Parks are within a ¼ mile of a school, open or closed, that serves(d) youth 18 years of age or under.	1
<i>Active groups in the neighborhood adjacent to a park</i>	These could include block clubs, churches, non-profit organizations and/or other community-based groups. A community group/individual must be championing or interested in championing a park for that particular park to be selected. If there were no known active groups/individuals, a park was eliminated.	1
<i>Maintenance</i>	Originally part of the selection criteria, it was removed after learning that the city is mowing all parks in 2010 (Note: frequency and sections mowed may vary) and there is no known plan for maintenance in 2011 at this time.	N/A
<i>Safety</i>	Measured by a park's proximity (within 1/2 mile) to police mini-stations.	1
<i>Neighborhood Environment</i>	Measured by the Speak to Your Health Survey Results based on neighborhood quality and safety perception questions. (Top 5 scoring parks only.)	1
<i>Health Status</i>	Both physical and mental health status based on Speak to Your Health survey results (adults only). (Top 5 scoring parks only.)	1
<i>Community Engagement I (adults)</i>	Based on the results from the Neighborhood Action Planning Sessions and the HKHC adult survey. Parks that were mentioned (>1 time) as either being used currently or as having	1

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	potential to be used for physical activity.	
<i>Community Engagement II (youth)</i>	Based on results from youth focus groups. Parks that were mentioned (at least once) as either being used currently or as having potential to be used for physical activity.	1
	MAXIMUM TOTAL FOR A PARK	9

Phase I

- a) Starting with all 63 City of Flint Parks, the first step was to eliminate parks that were classified as “special use” parks (13 parks) based on the MDNRE defined park categories because they are generally only used for very specific uses. That reduced the number of parks under consideration to 50. The next step was to apply the “amenity,” “school proximity,” and “safety” criteria (maximum 3 points) to determine an initial score for each of the 50 remaining parks. Any park that scored a total of 0 or 1 point was eliminated from consideration; those that scored a total of 2 or 3 points remained under consideration (19 parks).
- b) The “community engagement I” criterion (maximum 1 point) was then applied to the remaining 19 parks. This left 14 parks still under consideration (with a total score for each park of 3 or 4 points). After talking with the City about the parks still under consideration, it was noted that Riverside West will be naturalized. Therefore, that park was eliminated from consideration. The 13 parks remaining included: Bassett, Brennan, Broome, Cook, Farnumwood, Flint Park Lake, Hasselbring, Iroquois, Longway, Mann Hall, Max Brandon, Mott, and Whaley.

Phase II

HKHC partners and other stakeholders provided valuable information about whether there are active groups either championing or interested in championing each of the 14 remaining parks. HKHC partners agreed that it was essential that there be an active or potentially active group near each selected park because having existing momentum will increase the likelihood of successful project implementation. Therefore, the “active community groups” criterion was applied in such a way that the parks with at least one known nearby active community group/individual remained under consideration (maximum 1 point); parks where there was no known active community group were eliminated. Based on this analysis, 11 parks remained under consideration. These included: Bassett, Brennan, Broome, Cook, Flint Park Lake, Hasselbring, Longway, Mann Hall, Max Brandon, Mott, and Whaley.

Phase III

- a) For the remaining 11 parks, the “community engagement II” criterion was applied (maximum 1 point).

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- b) Next, the “neighborhood environment,” “health status,” and “presence of youth,” criteria were applied, but only the top 5 scoring parks for each criterion category received a maximum of 1 point (maximum 3 points total). Final scores for the remaining 11 parks were calculated. (See “Parks Selection Scoring Sheet” for full description of point allocation.) The summary results follow:

PARK NAME	TOTAL POINTS
Bassett	7
Brennan	6
Broome	7
Cook	5
Flint Park Lake	7
Hasselbring	5
Longway	4
Mann Hall	4
Max Brandon	8
Mott	6
Whaley	7

- c) Based on the analysis, Max Brandon was the top scoring park (8). Bassett, Broome, Flint Park Lake, and Whaley were the second highest scoring parks (7). The next step was to review the geography of these parks to ensure that they were located in different areas of the city. Using a City of Flint parks map as a reference, HKHC partners ascertained that both Bassett and Flint Park Lake were located too close to Max Brandon in the Northwest quadrant of the city. Thus, they were eliminated from consideration. Because Broome and Whaley are similar in size and are used for similar types of activities, HKHC partners decided to only choose one of those parks. A vote was called for and there were 6 votes for Whaley and 5 for Broome. Brennan and Mott were the third highest scoring parks (6) and even though neither received a point for the “Presence of Youth” criterion, Brennan had a higher proportion of youth living within a ¼ mile of the park. Therefore, that Brennan was selected. Max Brandon is located in Northwest Flint, Whaley in Northeast Flint and Brennan located southeast Flint. HKHC partners came to a consensus that the location of the three parks was geographically different enough to consider these parks as viable finalists.