

# PHILADELPHIA **PARKS & RECREATION**

---

Thursday, September 23, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Land Protection Ordinance Proposed by Commission on Parks and Recreation**

*Commission seeks public input on ordinance before submitting to  
Mayor, City Council*

**PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (September 22, 2010)** - With a goal of no net loss of park and recreation land in Philadelphia, the Commission on Parks and Recreation (PaRC) has proposed draft legislation to Mayor Michael A. Nutter and City Council that creates standards and guidelines for the transference of park and recreation land.

PaRC Chairman Nancy Goldenberg says getting the legislation approved by City Council and signed by the Mayor is one of the top priorities for PaRC, "Up to now, there have been no formal, consistent guidelines to follow when there has been a desire to transfer park or recreation land to a new use. The proposed ordinance establishes a predictable and transparent process for everyone to follow." Requiring public input on a proposed conveyance is a key component of the legislation.

PaRC was formed in 2009 following voter approval of an amendment to the Home Rule Charter that created a consolidated Department of Parks and Recreation to manage all City parks and recreation facilities. PaRC is responsible for adopting standards and guidelines for City parks and recreation land and facilities, including the conveyance and acquisition of park or recreation land. PaRC must incorporate community input in all of its decisions and City officials are required to give substantial weight to the standards and guidelines adopted by PaRC.

The ordinance was developed by the Commission's Land Use Committee, chaired by Debra Wolf Goldstein, with extensive consultation and input from the City Law Department and City Council's legal staff. Goldstein says the ordinance incorporates standards established by state and federal laws and covers outdoor park and recreation land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation. "Our goal is to preserve park and recreation lands so there is no net loss of property."

In most cases, those seeking the transfer of park or recreation land will need to provide substitute land and prepare an "Alternatives Analysis" for the land to PaRC and City Council. PaRC Commissioners will then review the Alternatives Analysis, which must include detailed

explanations of why the original use of the land has ceased to serve the public interest and why the proposed transfer to new owners is in the public interest. PaRC will provide a recommendation on the proposed transfer to the Mayor and City Council, which is then required to hold public hearings on the bill authorizing the transfer. PaRC may also hold additional public hearings on the proposed transfer.

Copies of the proposed ordinance are available online on the website of the Department of Recreation at [www.phila.gov](http://www.phila.gov) and on the website for Fairmount Park at [www.fairmountpark.org](http://www.fairmountpark.org).

PaRC is inviting public testimony on the ordinance at its next meeting on October 27, 2010 at 6:00PM at the main branch of the Free Library.

Questions and comments can also be submitted by email at: [parksandreccommission@phila.gov](mailto:parksandreccommission@phila.gov) or on the Parks and Recreation blog: <http://parksandreccommission.blogspot.com/>

Approval of the final proposed ordinance by PaRC is scheduled to take place at its November 17, 2010 meeting at the Free Library. PaRC will then ask City Council to consider the measure for adoption.

### **About the Commission on Parks and Recreation**

The Parks and Recreation Commission was constituted in July 2009, following the passage of an amendment to the Home Rule Charter that transferred the powers and duties of the Fairmount Park Commission to a new Department of Parks and Recreation and reconstituted the Fairmount Park Commission as the Commission on Parks and Recreation (PaRC). PaRC consists of 15 members, nine of whom are appointed by the Mayor from nominations made by City Council and six of whom serve ex officio, including the President of City Council and the Executive Director of the City Planning Commission or their designees, the Water Commissioner, the Street Commissioner, the Public Property Commissioner and the Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Each highly qualified member, appointed at the beginning of each Mayoral term, has demonstrated skills and knowledge about park and recreation matters.

For further information, contact: Nancy Goldenberg, [ngoldenberg@centercityphila.org](mailto:ngoldenberg@centercityphila.org) or 215.813.5074.

###