

## **Zone Recreation Center Master Plan**

*A response to the call for revitalization of the community recreation center, the Master Plan for Cleveland's Michael Zone Recreation Center exhibits eco-friendly, sustainable design in a way that is both accessible and educational to the community and fully integrated with traditional recreation uses. The Master Plan is a direct composite of community input and professional counsel, coupled with the support and endorsement of local government and agencies of public space. For this reason, The Zone Recreation Master Plan represents a best practice model for process, design and collaboration.*

In partnership with The Cleveland EcoVillage, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, City of Cleveland Department of Parks, Recreation, and Properties Department and ParkWorks, the Michael Zone Recreation Center Sustainable Greenspace Master Plan was created in response to a call for a revitalization of the community recreation center. A highly trafficked City of Cleveland Recreation Center, with thousands of visitors each year, the center is located across the street from the EcoVillage Rapid station and has nine schools within close proximity. The site currently includes heavily utilized traditional recreation fields for baseball and soccer as well as 22 acres of greenspace. At nine public meetings, numerous neighborhood residents gave their input on what specific improvements they would like to see.

Utilizing community input, ParkWorks coordinated a Request for Proposals and selection process for a consultant team to develop a Master Plan for the site. The design criteria sent to potential consultants included the following:

- A national model for ecological urban greenspace design
- Incorporation of the results of the community planning process
- Strategies for on-site treatment of stormwater, including run-off from the recreation center building and parking lot, and feasibility of daylighting stormwater sewers on the site
- Consideration of principles of permaculture, including the use of low maintenance native vegetation
- Areas of natural habitat restoration and feasibility of created wetlands
- Complimentary trail layout and access to Regional Transit Authority's rapid station
- Sound ecological design and recreational amenities

After careful review, a selection committee comprised of representatives from EcoCity Cleveland, The Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, ParkWorks, The City of Cleveland Department of Parks, Recreation and Properties, Cleveland Public Art and Cleveland City Council, elected Cleveland-based landscape architect McKnight & Associates, Davey Resource Group and Manka Design Studio as the consultant team that would develop the Master Plan for this project. In collaboration with the following partners, the neighborhood consultant team completed a design that incorporated the results of numerous community meetings, involving the input of hundreds of local residents.

**Advisory Committee:**

City of Cleveland Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Properties  
 Division of Park Maintenance  
 Division of Property Management  
 Division of Recreation  
 Div. of Research, Planning & Development  
 Division of Water Pollution Control

H. Barbara Booker Montessori  
 Stockyards Redevelopment  
 Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
 El Barrio/WSEM  
 St. Colman's

Green Building Coalition  
Urban Community School  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District  
Ohio City Near West Development Corporation  
Cleveland EcoVillage  
Zone Recreation Center  
Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Cleveland Public Art  
Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization  
Cleveland City Councilman, Ward 17

The resulting design and planning objectives focused on integrating unique environmental and educational opportunities alongside traditional recreation usage for the 22-acre site. For its level of excellence, the design received the prestigious American Society of Landscape Architects 2006 Ohio Chapter Honor Award. Fundraising is currently underway for this exciting project and sterling example of the master planning process.