

Community Involvement

Seeking input from our citizens is extremely important to the viability of New Bern Parks and Recreation. When we start a large project or need public input to determine the best path to move forward, we engage the public through a variety of methods. Some of those methods include the following:

- Public Input Meeting
- Online Survey
- One on one meetings
- Special interest group meetings
- Comments through social media
- Focus Group meetings

Examples of some of these methods include the following:

Drive-In Theatre program – We posted to social media asking the public for comments on what movies they would like to see for the 2020 season. The post reached 77,771 people, with 9,937 engagements, 684 likes, 274 comments, and 978 shares.

Dog Park Engagement – The City of New Bern has one dog park that charges an annual membership. In January of 2019, We reached out to the dog park members to seek their comments on a variety of topics such as fees, cleanliness, future planning, and more. The information received was used to make adjustments in the operation of the dog park.

Martin Marietta Park – In the spring of 2018, the City of New Bern started the public engagement process for our newest and largest park. Online surveys, public engagement meetings, presentations to civic clubs, follow up meetings and a presentation to the board of Aldermen were held. Media interviews were also given to inform the public of every step of the process we were taking.

Pleasant Hill Community Center – In November of 2019, the City of New Bern offered a Community Input meeting to gather input for a community center in a minority, low income area of the City. Information was distributed to local churches and the media about the meeting. Over 75 attended the meeting and provided feedback to enable the department to receive funding to build the community center.



2.9 – Community Involvement

Kidsville 2.0 – In the spring of 2019, the City of New Bern offered a workshop requesting public input from children to help design our newest and largest playground. Several one hour sessions were offered. A brief presentation was provided to talk about the history of the playground and how we intended to move forward. This was followed by giving the children an opportunity to tell the playground designer what elements they would like to see in the playground. This was followed up by kids actually drawing their vision. The designer took this information and created a site plan for the playground and presented this to the children during a follow up public meeting.

Monk Mallard Park – The City of New Bern is currently seeking input from citizens living near Monk Mallard Park. An online survey is being conducted to determine how they would like to see this park develop in the future. The Director of Parks and Recreation will also be speaking with representatives of the Neighborhood Association to gain input. A follow up meeting will be held to unveil a master plan for the park, with implementation occurring within the next budget cycle.

Stanley White Recreation Center – In 2018, the City of New Bern lost a Recreation due to the effects of Hurricane Florence. This center was located in a minority community. The FEMA process for reimbursement has taken two years to complete and we were most recently awarded funds to rebuild the facility. In July of 2020, the City contracted with Architectural firm to gather public input through group meetings, virtual meetings, surveys, focus groups and presentations. We anticipate this process taking approximately 4 months to complete.