

Citizen Input

McCandless Public Meeting for Comprehensive Plan

Jan. 30, 2018

What I like about McCandless...

Parks and Recreation

- We like the playgrounds at North Park.
- Plenty of green space.
- North Park pool.
- Trying to improve green spaces.
- North Park.
- North Park.
- North Park access and other good community parks.
- North Park is very nice.
- North Park.
- Awesome playground.
- Natural beauty.
- Basketball courts.
- Access to public recreation.

Community Services

- Great library.
- Great schools.
- Roads are well maintained.
- With a library and North Park, do not see the need for a community center.
- We have so many wonderful facilities that already provide what a community center would give.
- Nice sidewalks, good library.
- Top tier school district.
- Great library that is accessible even by walking or riding a bike.
- A great residential community with great schools and churches.
- Limited commercial businesses.
- Very good school district.
- The number of community schools.
- Ingomar Elementary school – it's a good school and they have movie night.
- Top notch school system.
- School district.
- Schools, hospital, services.
- Good mass transit.

Township Government

- Wonderful police – very helpful.
- No debt.
- The police, great public works, feel safe in a growing township.
- Good services – fire, police, etc.
- Fully funded pensions.
- Friendly, helpful, courteous town employees.
- McCandless Day
- Police that truly help residents and are not on an ego/power trip.
- Debt free.

Family Life

- Great mix of commercial and residential.
- Great schools, great neighbors – a place you enjoy living in.
- Nice quiet and safe place to live.
- Easy access to stores, recreation, healthcare – everything commonly needed for everyday life.
- Good neighborhoods.
- Affordability of housing.
- Love the heritage center!
- Residential character and proximity to downtown.
- Great place to raise a family – environment continues to improve.
- Great community for walking or biking.
- Friendly neighbors (for the most part).
- A wealth of talented residents in all areas of expertise.
- Proximity to major interstates.
- It doesn't get much better than this!
- Access to downtown.
- It has always been my home!
- Having LA Fitness in our community.
- Having Target in our town.
- One website once called McCandless a “park-like” community. So, we moved here! What happened?

Things to improve about McCandless...

Parks, Recreation, Open Space

- Nerf gun battle place where you can build forts.
- Place to see and do magic
- Soft indoor playground.
- More green space.
- Place to play Splatoon paint battles (paintball safe for the very young).
- Ninja Turtle Nerf gun play area.
- Cartoon world with mascots and rides.
- Lego building contest for all.
- Historic sites in North Park (e.g.: water tower).
- Bike storage facility in North Park so people don't need to drive their bikes to the park (as it is dangerous to ride bikes from McCandless to North Park).
- Bike and walking trails along the creek from McKnight down to the lake – beautify the trail.
- Spray for emerald ash borer – it's killing our trees.
- Upgrade/repair North Park facilities: pool and pool house.
- Make Ingomar Road through North Park a "parkway" and ban commercial traffic.
- Connect ballfield/pool with lake area.
- Deer – too many! Need to talk to Mt. Lebanon.
- Indoor bathrooms at playground by North Park pool.
- Activities for teenagers: a skate park (where Rave Cinemas were – it doesn't matter if it floods).
- Improve skating rink in North Park – it's the same as it has been for 30 years.
- Park or green space were Trader Horn is.
- The Lodge at North Park needs some TLC. Beautiful building – just needs some updates.
- Deer – let's consider a cull.
- Sidewalks to connect houses in North Park.
- Hiking and biking extensions: 1) get bikers off major two lane roads (Ingomar Rd) and 2) use Harmony Short Line (if available) to connect Pittsburgh to Pine Township through McCandless Township.
- More bike paths and sidewalks.
- More parks!
- More places to go skiing.
- Prepare a list that tells residents what indoor recreation space is available. (Schools, perhaps?)
- Need more park space – North Park is not in McCandless.
- Green space developed into a park where the old Trader Horn is located – tear those buildings down.

Transportation, Traffic, Safety

- Repair problem at Wittner and Highland.
- Intersection signal hell – please synchronize lights and get sensors working for low-traffic times.
- Red light installed at the bottom of Sloop and Highland.
- Turn Brazier Drive into a model “town center” – a social gathering place via public/private partnership.
- Bring the left turn arrow at North Park intersection by cannon and lake.
- Left turn arrow by Luciano’s Pizza off of Peebles – both directions.
- Connectivity and safety need to work hand-in-hand.
- Private, electric car chargers.
- Sidewalk on Ingomar Road around the Kuhns area.
- Need a roundabout or 4-way stop at intersection of Ingomar-Highland-Ingomar Heights Roads.
- 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Highland, Ingomar and Brandt School roads.
- Roundabout or stoplights at the intersection of Highland, Ingomar and Brandt School roads.
- The open creek on Olive St should be filled in or repaired – big water problem during big storms.
- Help Ross and PennDot synchronize McKnight signals – current “optimized” system is worse than before.
- Connectivity and class of roads – speed/safety.
- Grubb Road safety and connectivity.
- Development of Blazier Drive – commercial and/or wetlands.
- Connectivity of some of the old roads that have no room for sidewalks or bike lanes as it is hard to get from place to place outside of a car.
- Better transportation.
- Mass transit access to the City.
- Bus service for the half-day kindergarten.
- Public transportation dedicated to go from McCandless to downtown areas like the Casino, museums, sports stadiums, etc.
- Police staffed to monitor speed limits.

Government and Community Services

- Spell out the steps required to do the plan – expectations.
- Anything that would enhance the residents’ quality of life.
- More firework nights in McCandless.
- Could be a more diverse population.
- Base decisions on facts, not emotions.
- This questionnaire is not worth a damn: 1) no way to validate, 2) raw data should be available, 3) not statistically accurate and 4) can lead to the wrong conclusion
- Disaster preparedness – organizing various community resources (library, schools, NHCO, etc.) ahead of the need.

- Encourage a more diverse population.
- Improve sense of identity: signage and community activities.
- How do you benchmark the township's performance against other townships?
- Improve communications, especially on strategic projects that have long-term effects on the town.
- With the wealth of talent available, limit a person to one committee.
- Improve taxes!
- Prepare multi-year financial history vs. year over year.
- Council must give citizens legitimate opportunities to participate.
- Staffing increase for police.
- Republicans must stop the dirty politics.
- Create review process for progress on plan after 5 years.

Redevelopment, Zoning and Code Enforcement

- Zoning D-2? Start a plan to rezone "Walmart" issue.
- Concern that some people are on multiple commission bodies.
- Overdevelopment of commercial properties – policies for tax abatement or commercial development.
- Keep it green.
- Flood ways should be preserved as wetlands at the old Rave Cinema.
- Zoning changes that better deal with development of difficult-to-develop sites and redeveloped/repurposed sites.
- Parking ordinance redo/update to prevent another McCandless Crossing.
- Development comes at the price of the environment (e.g.: trees cut down for McCandless Crossing).
- Zoning laws should be reviewed and brought up to date like other townships.
- Balance opportunities for development driven by zoning.
- Better zoning – that Crossing was *never* in our last 10-year plan.
- Zoning/planning to anticipate the expansion of alternative energy sources (wind and solar).
- Control rundown homes and buildings.
- Ken Dougherty is not the only good developer.
- Green spaces in balance with buildings. Use them rather than just have them there.
- Improve neighborhood feel – tighten zoning restriction on development.
- Enforce trash laws.
- Enforce ordinances strictly.

Community Center / Rec Center Idea

- More public gathering places.
- Better utilization of the grass mall at McCandless Crossing – have each restaurant sponsor a weekend.
- Don't build a new public facility that competes with existing private ones.
- Community center.
- Community center with pool.
- Don't think recreation building is a good idea – costs and competing available facilities already exist.
- Community center modeled after Ross and Hampton.
- Ask the county to "give" us a piece of property for our community center within our border.
- Plan needs to support the township's mission.
- How does the town council measure if the plan's components are being implemented?
- Community center.
- Build a "virtual community center" cataloging all the recreational and social opportunities both private and public that exist in the town.

Business and Economic Development

- A close, safe place for women to give birth.
- A candy shop – where you can get candy.
- Disappointed in McCandless Crossing – just a big box clone – what happened to the Town Center concept?
- Keep it park-like and residential – go to the city for your entertainment.
- Too much chain development – need to encourage local businesses.
- More family friendly recreational businesses.
- A comedy club.
- Encourage independent businesses.
- Need walk-able, small business retail centers (Ingomar, Perry Hwy, Wexford Flats) with walking connections to adjoining neighborhoods.
- A plush shop (sells stuffed animals).