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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON 7/29/24

City of Defiance Launches Parks and Riverfront Master Plan with Community Engagement Opportunities

DEFIANCE, OH - The City of Defiance proudly announces the launch of the Parks and Riverfront Master Plan, a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents by developing vibrant, community-focused park and riverfront spaces. This project stems from the 2023 Comprehensive Community Action Plan, which highlighted the community's passion for improving public spaces and the environment.

The City of Defiance has partnered with Jones Petrie Rafinski (JPR) and Hometown Initiatives, LLC, both chosen for their expertise in park and riverfront development and implementation. As an architecture and engineering firm in Fort Wayne, IN, JPR is known for its innovative and cost-effective community solutions. Hometown Initiatives, LLC, from Auburn, Indiana, specializes in community engagement, planning, and development.

To ensure the Defiance Parks and Riverfront Master Plan is truly community-driven, the team is launching an online survey, attending a Family Fun Friday event, and hosting a community workshop. These engagement opportunities are designed to gather valuable input from residents and stakeholders, ensuring their voices are heard and incorporated into the planning process.

Online Community Survey: Residents are encouraged to participate in an online survey that will be available from August 1 through September 1, 2024. The survey seeks input on current park usage, desired amenities, and visions for the riverfront's future. The feedback gathered will play a crucial role in shaping the Master Plan. The survey can be found online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Defiance2024.

Family Fun Friday Event: Residents are encouraged to attend the Family Fun Friday event on August 2 and participate in the scavenger hunt. The project team will be stationed at one of the scavenger hunt locations, eager to gather community feedback on the current parks system and its future. They will also offer visitors more information about the Master Plan.

Community Workshop: A community workshop will be held September 23, from 6-8pm at the Stroede Center for the Arts, 319 Wayne Avenue, Defiance. This interactive session will provide a platform for residents to share their ideas, discuss concerns, and collaborate on the design of future park and riverfront enhancements.

A social media page, Defiance Parks & Rivers, has also been created to disperse information and updates regarding the Master Plan. It can be found and followed by searching @DefianceParks&Rivers within Facebook.

The project will unfold in three phases, with two already approved. Phase 1 focuses on community engagement and analysis. Phase 2 will develop preliminary plans and strategies for three riverfront parks. Phase 3, pending approval, will finalize the Master Plan Design, including a detailed report, funding assessments, and an Implementation Plan.

For more information, please see the contact list below.

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