



Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C.

DRAFT

Please provide corrections and comments by COB April 14, 2017

Memorandum:

To: Van Dyck Park Master Plan - Project Folder
From: Cara Smith
Date: 4/7/17
Subject: Community Meeting #1 04/06/17- DRAFT Meeting Notes Transcription

Presentation Q/A

- Q: What are the park demographics?
- A: Brooke (City planner)/Mr. Ross - document online; Link for book on the CD&P to Van Dyck to page to see the demographics of City and Park areas

- Q: Surveys *in* the park?
- A: Cathy - yes, staff will be in the park with ipads asking people to take the survey - way to capture views of people who are not online

- Q: Do you have any idea of cost/budget?
- A: Cathy - 50-year-old park; components at end of life span; master plan will tell you what to replace (skate park; playgrounds); high level cost estimate; phasing (when to replace)

- Q: Do we need to consider the stream areas and natural areas?
- A: EL - yes

- Q: Why encouraging more development; need to preserve and protect open space, not add more concrete
- A: EL - Strategic Plan suggests protecting 40% as open space

After Meeting Discussion

- Importance of basketball; consider adding a half court facility; current location is good as it is lighted at night and away from neighbors who might be disturbed by light or noise; there are few public basketball courts in the City (uses Paul the VI courts)
- Consider putting RPA and floodplain in zone that is NOT counted as undeveloped open space in the context of the 40% targeted goal
- Allow stream to become celebrated activity area in the park - look at Hidden Oaks, Huntley Meadows, Arlington County parks natural resource programs and stream-based activities and facilities
- Skate Park - Kevin Kruczek; *followed up with email on 4/7/17*

- Herndon Park (maybe 8 years old) and Van Dyck Park (one of the smallest)
- New Fairfax Park - huge, massive
- Not many BMX using Van Dyck; although Van Dyck is better for BMX use; BMX-ers come during evenings
- Some scooters and roller blading, most people put down scooters as they get older
- Pop up skate park/bowl at Kennedy Center appealing (Arlington)
- Arlington and Wakefield (wood and concrete) - have lights—lights would be good
- Keep location by/visible to the police station
- Hedge wall of shrubs and under the ramps = not safe
- Lake Fairfax Park - probably best built in the area; bowl in Lake Fairfax is good for bikes
- Front Royal is better for bikes
- Concrete is more durable
- Arlington skate park is old, but still in great shape (concrete)
- There are different types of coping for pools; pool tile/coping is more exciting for skaters than the steel; quality/type of pool tile is key
- Always 8-10 cars using the Christian Science parking - safety issue with families crossing Old Lee Hwy

Notes from Table Discussions

Group 1 Notes:

Favorite Thing

- Lots of things to do/fun atmosphere
- The “bowl”/there’s a little bit of everything
- Learned how to skate board at the park/friend group/GMU/church; met a lot of people/pick up soccer in the bowl/a lot of community building/diversity/making connections
- Porousness/walk to the park/playground/connection at Cornwall Road
- Nightmare to park when an evening Sherwood event - difficult to access park
- Strategy 1.2.8 @ Willard - what is access at Layton?
- Bridge connection feels private, how to deal with entrances?
- @ St. Leo’s parking - cut through and people park in spaces needed for older parishioners/better access needed

Who is missing from the park?

- Athletic organizations (good thing)

What is the most pressing need?

- Updating
- Skate park (updating) - when the skate park is painted, it’s actually less appealing and less safe to skaters
- Don’t like having 2 entrances
- Children run into the skate park
- Location is key - if next to playground, fence is needed
- Restrooms - put near playground and centrally located
- Issue of playground near basketball (issue of balls flying out and language)

- Skate park sometimes has broken glass under ramps/not safe
- If skate park is not visible, can be issues with vandalism/at grade parks are better integrated with connections/not going to have anything bad going on
- Kids will be kids
- Staff monitoring? No staff.
- 1 kid was arrested for drunk in public (only time witnessed in 10 years)/ was looking for trouble
- Language is the biggest issue
- “skate plaza” - the term for concrete skate park style
- Metal skate parks are loud

Rearrange the Park

- Consider the character of the park now - stream, road, trees
- Picnic area - escalate emptying picnic supplies at lower pavilion
- How do you access pavilions?
- Have unrentable pavilions that everyone can use
- If skate park is at the road - boards would fly out
- Play near parking/bathrooms
- Quality of skate park is most important
- Like where tennis is currently located
- Basketball court move to green space? (currently nothing there)
- Has there been a parking study?
- Weekends it is nearly impossible to find parking
- Bring a route from Layton Hall?
- Issue of connections/synergy with neighbors
- Can park at the Willard Center
- Main spine/ped plaza (see on plan orange line)
- Separate playground and skate park
- No clash between skatepark and volleyball (good neighbors)
- No matter what - need boundary to keep balls in and kids out (edge/boundary at St. Leo's)
- Tennis by St. Leo's - parking issues
- Could expand parking where it currently is located
- Pavilion could overlook the bowl

Summary

- Preserve open space
- Skate park
- Parking

Group 1 Plan:



Group 2 Notes:Question #1

- Sledding
- Merry go round
- Watching skate park kids
- Taking generations to park
- Connecting to park experience
- Cultural

Question #2 What missing

- Restrooms year round
- Dog park
- Mini golf, frisbee golf
- Adult fitness playground
- Farmers market - weekend and during week
- Music in the park (live music)
- Sculpture garden

Question #3

- Open space
- Tennis courts flip with skate park
- Access to parking (off university) & more parking spaces
- Parts of park can't be used (paths)
- Signage of path, pavilions, two parking lots

Final Question

- Provide more biking space & access to bike riding, rack
- Safety in crossing the streets
- Creek play/water feature
- Bathroom by kids' area
- Use of bathrooms in Sherwood/Police - do we need extras?
- More playgrounds / equipment / 3 or 4 areas / 8 yr - 12 yr playground equipment
- Leave bowl undeveloped
- Pavilions (more, smaller, pop up)
- Skate park/next to Police Station

Summary

- Importance of undeveloped open space
- Adult fitness

Group 2 Plan:



Group 3 Notes:What is park used for

- Walking with pets on trails
- Walking/exercising paths
- Walking/running w/kids
- Kids activities - sledding playground, skate park, courts, sledding
- Commute to work (nearby office)
- Uses park for child care home business on nice days
- Cut through from CC Hills

Where do they live

- Walking distance
- University Drive
- Wood Road
- Behind park on other side of creek
- By Methodist Church
- Block away

Additional Discussion

- Walking with pet/more paths
- More paths connect to other trails
- More animals/turtles/birds
- Dog walking
- Biking, too many hills
- Health of trees
- No lighting by walking path down by stream
- Running/walk with kids
- Kids use skate park
- Commute to work with kids
- Country Club Hills access to park by path
- Home child care goes to park
- Children/grandchildren use park
- "suicide hill" preserved - lower hill
- Walks in park
- Safety of sledding
- Parking not too far from tennis
- Maybe one coming in through Sherwood and small for the tennis parking
- Grouping parking to compliment Sherwood large events
- Connect to Daniels Run Trail
- Walking Trail to loop down into area by creek near the Country Club Hills
- Grouping areas with "older" away from "younger"
- Don't necessarily move a lot, just update
- Keep tennis court in place
- More 'small pavilion' closer to main area
- Permanent restrooms
- Walking paths to access anything from parking lot
- Move bball court to open area above the tennis courts
- Map in park with listed trails for walking

- Better posting of rules/hours
- Keeping high amounts of open undeveloped space
- More grass along the paths that is unmown to attract wild life (turtles)
- Entering in multiple ways like through neighborhood
- Better lighting on paths for evening, commuters, cutting through park
- Updating already existing parts of the park like the skate park/playgrounds
- More events in park - pumpkin carving, Halloween walk, tour of park with paper lanterns and flags

Index cards

- Events
- Pumpkin carving - place the lighted pumpkins along the path for Halloween Walk
- Tour of park with paper lanterns or flags
- Entrance
- Maps
- Listing trails
- Restrooms
- Hours - rules

Summary

- Importance of undeveloped open space
- Exposure to natural resources
- Trails through woods
- Turtle Group - group cares about animals and turtles

Group 3 Plan:



Group 4 Notes:Favorite Memory

- Sledding down the hill
- Airplane
- Walking, playground, movie at night
- Grandchildren to playground, pickup soccer, rugby - ad hoc events/sports
- Open space - passive recreation - short cut
- Sledding, airplane (1970s)
- Never used park - lived here since 1963, now retired and hopes to use park - park didn't have items of interest for older families

Who is missing

- Multigenerational use
- Exercise for adults/fun - adult playground
- More obvious exercise stations
- Make stream area more welcoming
- Park doesn't have to be everything to everybody - open space is premium
- Leave natural area/wooded area

What is most pressing need

- Restrooms
- Restrooms - changing driveway
- Coordinating w/neighbors
- Maintenance - no need for restrooms
- Crossing University to park at bottom of hill - safety
- Haven't used it - parking
- Access to park/pavilion

Summary

- Importance of undeveloped open space
- Multigenerational
- Adult "playground"/fitness
- Sledding
- Public art
- Gardens for children

Group 4 Plan:



Dot Survey Results

Additions to the Park (number of dots totaled from Workshop on April 6, 2017)

- Fitness Playground for Adults/Adult fitness equipment - 6
- Dog Park - 2
- Shade Structures - 4
- Amphitheater - 4
- Public Art - 5
- Water Feature - 3
- Permanent Restrooms - 11
- Formal boundary between St. Leo's and park (fence, plantings) - 3
- Formal boundary between Old Lee Highway and park - 0
- Enclosed slides for adults and kid use - 0
- Food trucks - 1
- Farmers Market - 5
- Nature Center - 1
- More playgrounds - 1
- Practice backboard at tennis courts - 1
- Turf field with lights - 1
- Native plant garden - 3
- Outdoor courts (pickle ball) - 1
- Community garden – 7
- Gathering plaza- 1
- New tree plantings - 3
- Archery range - 0
- Restored stream that children can play in - 2
- More parking - 6
- More tables with grills - 1
- Better connection to the Sherwood Center - 5
- Another entrance to the park that is NOT on Old Lee Highway - 1
- Permanent soccer fields for small-sided games (fewer than 11) - 1
- More seating and smaller picnic areas outside the pavilions - 2
- Labyrinth - 3
- Disc Golf Course - 0
- Covered bike parking - 1
- Mini golf - 2
- Portable ice rink in the winter - 3
- Live music venue for small concerts - 5
- Bicycle pump track - 0
- Outdoor chess - 3
- Combine entrances to park into single entrance (Sherwood) - 1
- Other additions, please list:
 - Extend Park to Daniel's Run Park and Trails – 1
 - Bridges and parking along University Drive – 1
 - Ceremonial pedestrian entrance to Old Lee – 1

Current Features to be removed from the Park

- 4 lighted tennis courts - 0
- 3 volleyball courts - 0
- 1 basketball court - 0
- 2 playgrounds - 0
- 1.23 miles of trail - 0
- 1 Large rental pavilion - 0
- 1 small rental pavilion - 0
- 1 small pavilion/gazebo - 0
- 18 picnic tables - 0
- 3 grills - 0
- 5+ benches - 0
- 2 drinking fountains - 0
- 5 trash receptacles - 0
- 1 skate park - 2
- 83 parking spaces – MORE needed
- 4 ADA parking spaces 0
- Fitness stations along the trail - bowl and lawn - 2
- Others: (please list)
 - Hilly trail areas – 1
 - Sherwood Center, except for the accessible restrooms – doesn't have to be all at once, just let it decay naturally - 1