



30 March 2010

Public Meeting Outline Gideon Park Site Plan

Overall Summary –

- Parks manages over 30 properties and trails totaling over 1500 acres / 26 miles respectively – and we are separate from the City.
- Parks is working to develop plans on many of its properties to guide development and enhance its management.
- Battle Point Park is undergoing a master plan update, a concept plan is being developed for Ted Olson Nature Preserve and other parks are being planned for the first time
- A master plan, concept plan, or site plan provides an opportunity to look comprehensively at a property and to provide a clear roadmap for management and future development
- These documents can be many things. It should be a wise and thoughtful review of the nature of a place – history, nature, and inherent character, its current and future users, and its surroundings, all with an eye toward optimal and appropriate change
- Parks' Comp Plan is silent about specific improvements at Gideon
- 2009 Capital Improvement Project meetings with the public and staff identified the potential improvements to Gideon Park including – community garden, re-landscaping for safety, new play structure, skateboard elements, protection from street, pathways in park, sculpture elements, bathroom, and irrigation
- The site plan for GP will be a simple document – a report summarizing the process and findings and a plan illustrating the recommended changes
- The process should be rewarding and the final site plan satisfying.
- Parks mission includes 'sustainable stewardship and creating innovative opportunities', which should be considered in the planning process
- Gideon Park is beautiful. It holds powerful memories and many expectations. This is a public facility for current residents and for future generations. Please think broadly as we go forward.

Park Summary

- Gideon is a well used 2.41 acre neighborhood park with an 80+ year old woodland, an approximately 1.5 acre open grass area with antiquated play equipment and a little used butterfly garden, and a 600 SF historic log cabin currently used as District staff housing. The open grass is actively used by young families, dog owners, high school students playing pickup sports, and others. A majority of the roadside perimeter has a 1 to 3 foot deep swale
- Parks convened a neighborhood group in 1988 to develop a vision for the park. Their comments included – a walking path around the perimeter, play equipment, interpretation of Gideon family and a Japanese memorial - no parking, no courts or formal field sports
- The neighborhood is organized and motivated to remove invasive plants and to be active in the park
- Removal of invasive plants – mostly ivy – began last fall. A majority of invasives should be removed by the end of 2010. Replanting of native species will begin in winter 2011
- The site plan is expected to solicit public comment on the addition / upgrades of play equipment and to determine a long term vision for improvements at the park
- Improvement opportunities include improved access to the park by adding culverts, removing trees that poorly performing or are safety hazards, upgrading the play equipment, improving trails, seating, and lawn, adding a small shelter, continuing the removal of non natives and replanting native understory, optimizing bird habitat, use, etc.

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