Sacramento Field Renovation
November 9, 2016
Presentation of Design Concept

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 9th 2016
7:00PM to 8:30PM
Sacramento Field Renovation Process Overview
  · Community Process Overview and Insights
Design Concept for Sacramento Field
  · Responses to Issues
Q&A and Public Discussion
City Context

- Green Ribbon Open Space Study
- Agassiz Neighborhood Study
- Healthy Parks and Playgrounds

Neighborhood Context:
- Demographic information, e.g. age
- Population density
- Public open spaces
- Community institutions, e.g. schools, day cares, community centers
- Inventory of recreation activities (tot lots, youth sports, waterplay, off-leash areas, etc.)
Community Process Timeline

Dec. 7, 2015
First Community Meeting

Mar. 30, 2016
Community meeting with Sacramento Community Gardeners

May 4, 2016
Identifying Ideas for Park Improvement & Addressing Early Issues

June 22nd & 28th, 2016
Community meeting to review initial design concept

July 13th, 2016
Revisions to Initial Design Concept & Presentation of Revised Design

Sept. 29th, 2016
Addressing Additional Issues & Revising Certain Elements of the Design Concept

Nov 9th, 2016
Community meeting to review design concept plan

Ideas for Future Improvement: Input from our 1st Community Meeting

- New grass planting, irrigation and maintenance to field
- Keeping the field open for multiple activities
- Consideration of both passive and active areas for all ages
- Creating a dedicated “track” around the field
- Create more interesting edges with plantings, pollinators, grasses
- Adding benches and seating
- Need for cooling areas and shade trees
- Better access and signage and the potential for school use
- We heard much support for off leash opportunities for dogs, and some opposition
- Don’t overdesign the park, it already supports creative and spontaneous uses
Plan Revisions and Continued Discussion of the Design Concept

After the City held two community open houses in June to view the first revised concept plan, additional questions were raised related to the following design elements:

- Loop path and material
- Lighting concept
- An enclosed play area for younger children and gates at the park entrances
- Field size for youth soccer

Between June and September, staff have continued to work with community members to address these issues.

Revised Concept Design (November 9)
Changes to the Design Concept

Path Design & Landscaping Changes:
- Simplified the layout of the loop path around the field and the perimeter elements of interest around the field.
- Reduced size & impact of paved area at the Sacramento Place easement corner
- Commitment to using all native species plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.)
- Commitment of the colors of the park furniture, swings, and fencing to be muted colors
- Installation of a historical marker with content about history of site and images with input from the Cambridge Historical Commission
Garden Path entrance

Changes to the Design Concept

Improvements to the Sacramento Community Garden:
- Made adjustments to the garden path entrance to minimize impact on the garden
- Added raised beds along the back edge of the garden
- Added other garden elements including new fencing, a message board, and water spigot
- Changed the orientation of the double service gates to the garden along Sacramento Street
- Removed the back gate at the far corner of the garden (north corner)
Enclosed Play Area

CDD staff have worked with a local day care provider and supporters to add gates upon entry to the field at both entrances to provide a degree of control over where and how younger children are able to play throughout the park. The new design play has an enclosed, flat play area to accommodate younger children that includes a toddler climb, slide deck, mirrored panel, steering wheel, and covered sand play area.

Raised Concerns:
- Providing an enclosed space for younger children
- Desire for gates at both entrances
Addition of Enclosed Area for Younger Children

Toddler climb structure and slide deck
Covered Sand Play

Multi-use Hard Surface Ball Court
Changes to the Design Concept

Nature-based Play Area:
- Increased efforts to have the nature-based play area in the north corner look and feel more natural by reducing the square footage of artificial surfacing
- Made adjustments to the play area to accommodate winter sledding
- Moved the small-scale wooden play hut element away from the outside fencing and closer to the loop path to enhance the access and visibility
Youth Soccer

CDD staff consulted on multiple occasions with the Cambridge Youth Soccer (CYS) leadership to understand their space needs for both games and informal soccer practice and make adjustments to the design to accommodate. The current design concept will be able to meet youth soccer field space needs as confirmed by CYS leadership.

Raised Concerns:
- Size of field
Loop Path

The loop path is a key feature in the overall design concept and a component in which a broader range of people in the neighborhood could enjoy. In any park redesign, the City strives to uphold Universal Design principles to support recreational opportunities for all users regardless of age, ability, size, etc.

Raised Concerns:
- Accessibility
- Health/Safety
- Permeability

Incorporating Universal Design

- The loop path provides an important opportunity to achieve Universal Design by way of:
  - Formalizing an existing desire line;
  - Creating a recreational element in its own right that provides an enjoyable circulation pattern around the park
  - Representing a “path of travel” providing essential connections to other park features.
Loop Path - Material

In order to make the loop path accessible, an asphalt path was chosen to provide an accessible surface that holds up over time, requires little maintenance and may be used throughout the year. In order to address concerns about safety, the city proposed a 1" rubber surface over the pathway.

Raised Concerns:
- Accessibility
- Health/Safety
- Permeability
Lighting Concept

The City generally installs park lighting along all pathways, at a level necessary for basic public safety and visibility, without encouraging off-hours activity. We propose limiting lighting use to 7 p.m., with lighting for the areas of the path that connect the garden entrance with the natural play area. For the remainder of the path, we would install wiring and bases, allowing future installation if needed, with little impact on the park.

Raised Concerns:

- Addition/Location of lighting

Lighting Commitments

- We have committed to a process for the lighting that will have the lights begin at very low levels to start, followed by a meeting with our electrical department and residents on site right after installation to verify that there aren’t any major problems with trespass onto adjacent properties.

- We have committed to install lighting fixtures with shields to further restrict the light distribution pattern.

- Designated park hours for Sacramento Field will continue to be from dawn to dusk.
Public Discussion/Questions

THANKYOU

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PROJECT WEBPAGE:
WWW.CAMBRIDGEMA.GOV/SACRAMENTOFIELD