

F 51 Virtual Public Workshop #2

12/9/2020

Location: Next to Riego Creek Elementary School. Its an 11.8 acre site off Holt and Crawford.

Feedback:

-We had about 25 participants in the first workshop and had 62 responses to the survey following the meeting.

-Residents wanted a splash pad, volleyball court, play structure, long slide, basketball courts, dog run, tennis courts and a rock wall.

Concerns from residents were parking, traffic, noise, maintenance and after hours use.

-If there are issues with traffic, traffic engineering will be notified and will address any issues that arise.

-There is a noise ordinance that prohibits noise from 7pm-7am on weekdays and on weekends 8pm-8am.

-The maintenance will be funded through the community facilities district for service. The parks are closed one hour after dusk.

-The only lighting is for security purposes to police can see a clear view into the park.

What excites you about the park?

- The proximity to homes.

-Having outdoor activity.

-Having a place for kids and families to play.

-The ballfields.

Specific Plan:

-This sketch helps us to see what can fit into this 11.8 acre site. It also helps us to develop a budget so we know how to plan the funding for this park.

Purpose of this park:

-Provide a variety of needs for residents.

-Balance needs and address gaps

-Shared use with the school

-Compliment school plans

Park Sketch:

-Walking trail around the park

-Covered Picnic area

-Restrooms

- Access to the school
- Outdoor classroom area
- Open turf area around the ball fields.
- Playground area
- The parking lot is located next to the school side right now however it may have to change. We are working with engineers to align intersections.

Why not?

- Corn Hole: There are corn hole games at John L Sullivan which is right down the street. We try not to repeat amenities at parks nearby that way we are able to give residents more amenities at all of the parks.
- Dog parks: Dogs aren't allowed in parks. Residents either hate or love dogs and dogs in dog parks near homes and schools is not complimentary. There are plans for a dog park off Fiddymont and Corin Drive.
- Splash Pad: It will increase traffic to the park and is extremely expensive to build and maintain.
- Basketball Courts: The school has basketball so we try not to duplicate the feature to allow more of a variety of amenities.
- Sport lighting: We didn't recommend this within a school park site.
- Tennis Court instead of 2 baseball fields: Our job is to balance community needs as well as the results of overall resident feedback collected including the survey. Two baseball fields were fully supported by a majority of the respondents. As well, we need to look at efficiencies for use, for programming, in maintenance and in needed support amenities. Additionally, based in youth league needs, two ballfields located in the same location offers a much needed resource that is currently lacking in this area.

As for tennis, there hasn't been an overwhelming request to put some in this location nor was it contemplated in the original concept plan shared at the first meeting.

There are many tennis courts within 5 minutes (or less) of your location. These include: Mahany (4.9 miles), Mahan (3.8 miles) or Hughes (2.7 miles) parks.

Questions:

- Why two baseball fields? Can we have a tennis court it seems overkill to have two ballfields.
 - When we look at baseball fields, it's more efficient to have two. This serves for games and practices. It allows a lot more flexibility for little league, pony or girls softball. Ball fields in the West side of time is limited. Tennis courts serves a smaller amount of people and hinders the open space turf area.
- Can exercise pods be incorporated?
 - *Yes we can look into that.
- Timeline?

*Construction is target to begin in Spring 2022.

-Residents letting us know that we are going in the right direction for this park. One comment about wanting tennis courts.

-Other parking besides the parking lot?

*We will be sharing parking with the school so residents are able to park in the school lot as well.

-Have you considered a sand box?

*We are still seeking feedback. Sand boxes in public parks end up being cat litter boxes. So this begins to cause issues with maintenance. We also don't use sand in the play areas because it doesn't allow the play structure to be ADA compliant.

-Can the baseball fields be used for soccer? Why two Baseball fields?

*These ball fields are larger than typical fields. The outfields can be used for small soccer fields. Having two allows for more formal play.

-What is the base length? Pitching tunnel?

*90 foot base paths are planned to accommodate the smaller fields as well. This allows for more flexibility and gives us more uses for the fields. We can look into a pitching tunnel. We reach out to the user groups to see if that would be something that they would use.

-Can the play structure be made bigger?

* Its larger than it looks on the sketch but we can look into this.

-How many slides?

*We have not gotten into that level of detail yet. These will come once the master plan is approved.

Next Steps:

-Refinements and master plan. Then we will post this online and start a two week write in period. Residents will be notified when this begins so they can write in and let us know if they are supportive or have concerns. With the feedback we can determine if we need to re visit an aspect of the park or if we can move forward.

-Then it will go to Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council.

-Construction Documents will be made and then construction will begin in Spring of 2022.