



Lincoln School Park Workshop 1 Report

November 7, 2017

On November 7, 2017, approximately 20 neighbors of Lincoln School Park attended a park planning workshop at the Unitarian Universalist Church to discuss park renovation issues.

A power point presentation was given to the neighbors which identified some of the criteria used for a neighborhood park renovation process and specifics about Lincoln School Park. We discussed the budget for the renovations of about \$ 500,000.00 and the funding sources for this money.

MAJOR DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Safety issues including illegal camping and drug dealing in the park.
- People sleeping in cars in front of park. Hope increased activity will reduce this.
- Outdated playground equipment and surfacing.
- Include activity options for all ages.
- Art in the park.

Community Gardens

- Whether to expand the Community Garden in order to both increase available plots and to help address an area where illegal and unsafe behaviors regularly occur.
 - There are already five or six people on a waiting list for plots. Linda Seymour is the current Community Garden president. She has implemented “co-gardening” to make the garden more inclusive through sharing of garden plots.
 - The garden area could be extended west about 50’ into the SW property corner which would block off that partially hidden corner where illegal camping, drug use, and other unsafe activities have been occurring.

Additional Potential Safety Upgrades

- Remove berm along western edge to increase visibility into the SW corner. This would serve to open up the line of site to back corner. Currently when people are laying down behind the berm, they cannot easily be seen from the rest of the park or the street.

Lincoln School Park Workshop 1 Report

- Add lighting to the park. This is an expensive item, but may be necessary. One drawback may be that additional lighting could cause basketball play to continue on later into the evening.

Art in the Park

- Whether or not to have art in the park. Staff mentioned the difficulty of repairing art that has been vandalized. People generally seemed supportive and interested in the idea of tiles – giving Monroe and Rosetta Parks as examples. A suggestion was made to put tiles in the walls of a sand play area if included.

Playground Improvements

- Update and revamp playground for safety and usability. We discussed the fact that the old equipment is outdated and no longer meets current playground safety standards. We will likely replace all of the playground components and try to include equipment for ages 2-12.
- Remove sand and add “Safe-Fall” engineered wood fiber chips under the playground surfaces to meet current safety and ADA requirements.
- Remove sand volleyball area? No attendees were interested in retaining the sand volleyball posts and none could recall anyone actually using them to hold a volleyball net.
- Sand play area with or without a water feature? This does allow for creative play but is an expensive item. Staff will provide cost estimates later in the public process. Some desired items not within available budget may be added through a public fund raising effort.

Access to the park

- Add an ADA accessible walk around the playground which would be wide enough to also service the new garden area for deliveries. We intend to add benches at the playground.
- East sidewalk is also a bike path connection to the Fairgrounds and the Monroe-Friendly bikeway. Efforts to better delineate it might increase safety.

Fencing Improvements

- A basketball and community garden issue could be resolved by raising the height of the fence at south end of court to prevent basketballs from going into the community garden. We will also evaluate the overall size and alignment of the court layout and condition of the basketball standards.
- To upgrade the fence along the community garden is an option with rails and a double gate.

Lincoln School Park Workshop 1 Report

- Park Operations staff has requested upgrade of the west side property boundary fence to a solid cedar fence in order to help with ivy control.

Park Vegetation

- Trees were discussed at the meeting. The mature big-leaf maple tree damaged in last winter's storm was inspected by Scott Altenhoff of the Urban Forestry staff. He suggested that the damage isn't so significant as to remove the tree. He suggested that we do an overall feather pruning of the tree branching. We are working on scheduling that for this winter.
- The cedar tree at the northwest corner of the community garden may need to be removed to facilitate overall grading of the park and berm removal. In the event of regrading, the contractor would remove the existing raised garden planters and replace them afterwards. We would like to keep a large portion of turf open for any casual sports play.
- We will do a tree survey of the entire park to locate and assess the health of all of the trees.

Miscellaneous Park Improvements

- Revamp the lawn with a viable sprinkler system. The Park Ops staff are advocating for this improvement in order to keep the turf in better condition. When the lawn goes dry in the summer, the weeds tend to take over. If they are able to keep the turf green, it is a nicer place to recreate. This suggestion got mixed reviews at the meeting.
- Resurface basketball court? We will be looking at the possibility of a least doing a slurry seal.
- Install Park Entry Sign, Park Watch and No Smoking signs. A new small park rules sign has been ordered with the Lincoln School Park name included. This will list the no smoking policies.
- Add adult exercise equipment? Add a concrete ping pong table?

Next Steps

Take the Web Survey! At the request of JWN, the initial web survey will remain open through the first week of December, closing at the end of Sunday, December 10. Results will be posted to the Lincoln School Park Renovation Project Page: www.eugene-or.gov/3744/Lincoln-School-Park-Renovation

Workshop #2 will include a design concept or two. We are shooting for an April or May date. Concept Design(s) will be posted to the project web page.

We will coordinate with JWN on scheduling and be sure to get the event in the JWN newsletter.