



Lincoln School Park Workshop 2 Report

April 25, 2018

On April 24, 2018, approximately 20 neighbors of Lincoln School Park attended a park planning workshop at the McNail-Riley House, 601 West 13th Avenue, Eugene.

A power point presentation was given to the neighbors which identified results from Workshop 1 and Survey 1 for the renovation project. We briefly reviewed 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. The main purpose of the workshop was to review the two conceptual drawings for Lincoln School Park.

SURVEY 1 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Most important issue was safety. (Add lighting, increase visibility).
- Most important features – community gardens, place to enjoy nature, playground, basketball.
- Need to upgrade green space – trees and turf maintenance improvements.
- Basketball court improvements, walkways and benches.
- Park sign and public art component?
- Some interest in small sand and water play, adult exercise equipment, concrete ping pong table, cell phone charging station.

WORKSHOP # 2 GENERAL COMMENTS:

There were favorable comments about original fences that used to be all along the front of the park. No overnight parking signs were posted by residents along the fencing and it was thought to be successful. We agreed to review but it was acknowledged that the homeless population has greatly increased.

Safety issues related to no fence at 12th Avenue. The basketball rolling into 12th Avenue was a concern for residents. The former fence prevented that from happening. We will review and address in final plan.

Discussion about the existing slide being hot at times and dangerous. We discussed that the playground does not meet current playground safety standards and we intend to upgrade to new equipment and placement to remedy this.

Residents want to retain the basketball court even if it is not a regulation size. We pointed out the fact that we are unable to replace the surface, only reseal without drawing a setback review. Residents voiced concerns about the in-process replacement of the south basketball hoop. We stated that the replacement was being handled by Park Operations staff and did not have a time frame for the replacement.

Residents agreed that an art component in the park is a great idea. Philip stated that he was not sure if any funding would be available and described scenarios for recent park fundraising. Pam suggested the new protection panel above the south basketball hoop which would prevent the basketball from bouncing into the community garden could be an opportunity for an artist to create an interesting, lightweight metal panel which would be visible from the street with LINCOLN SCHOOL PARK lettering and a design.

Residents represented at Workshop #2 were not interested in cell phone charging stations. There seemed to be a consensus that this may attract a negative use of the park. Earlier, Park Operations staff had also voiced concerns to Pam about potential vandalism of a cell phone charging station in the park.

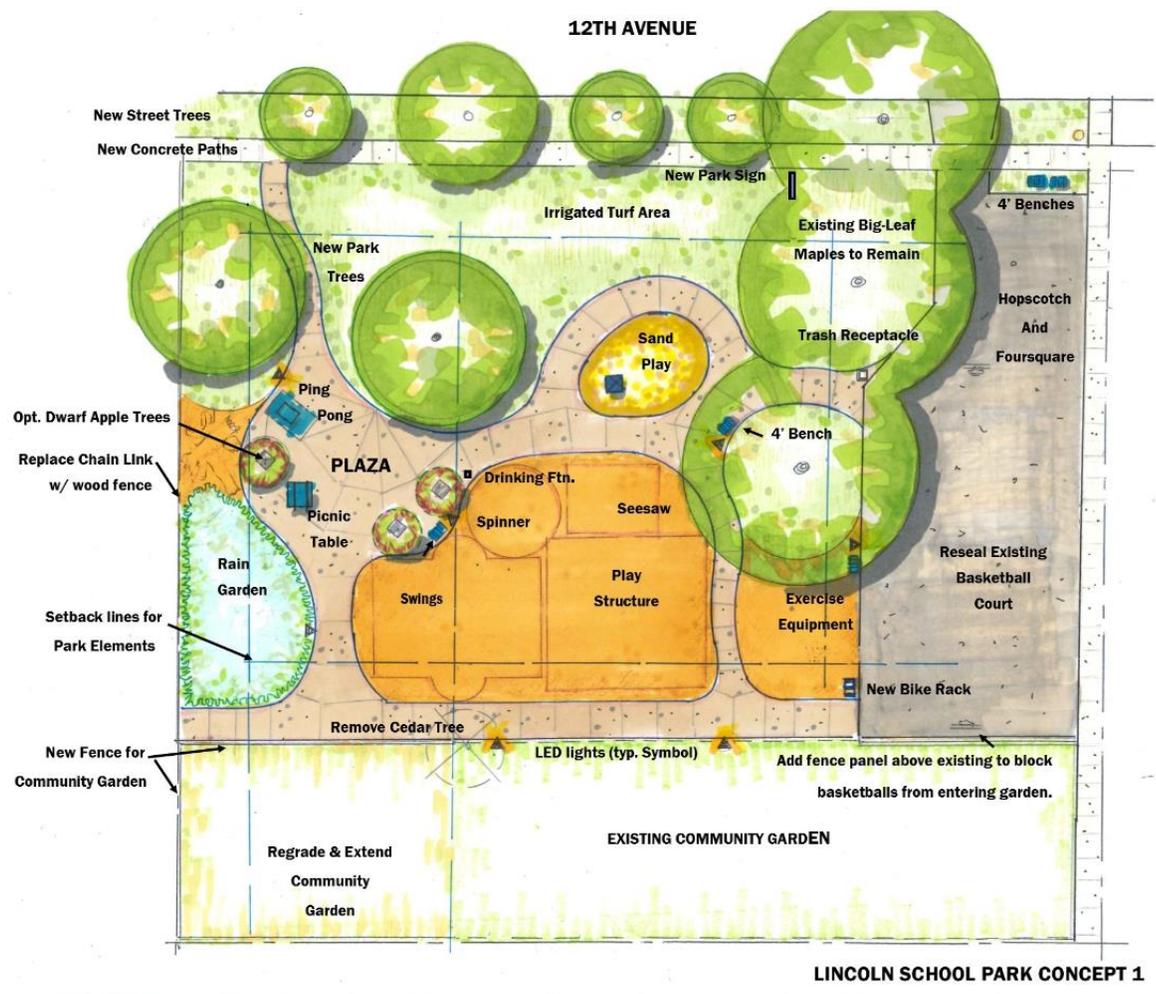
Recycling was brought up as a concern by residents. Currently there is only one trash receptacle in the park. Philip explained that the trash was picked up by the Park Operations staff and they didn't have the ability to separate out and process recyclable materials currently but in other parks neighbors had taken an active role.

The proposed bench at the NE corner of the site, along the street is a concern for potential negative use. Residents thought concentrated benches near the playground would better serve the park users. Park Operations staff would prefer to pave this small turf area and locate park sign here.

Residents were for new park signage and a prominent location of signs. Previous issues have occurred resulting in confusion about the park location with emergency responders.

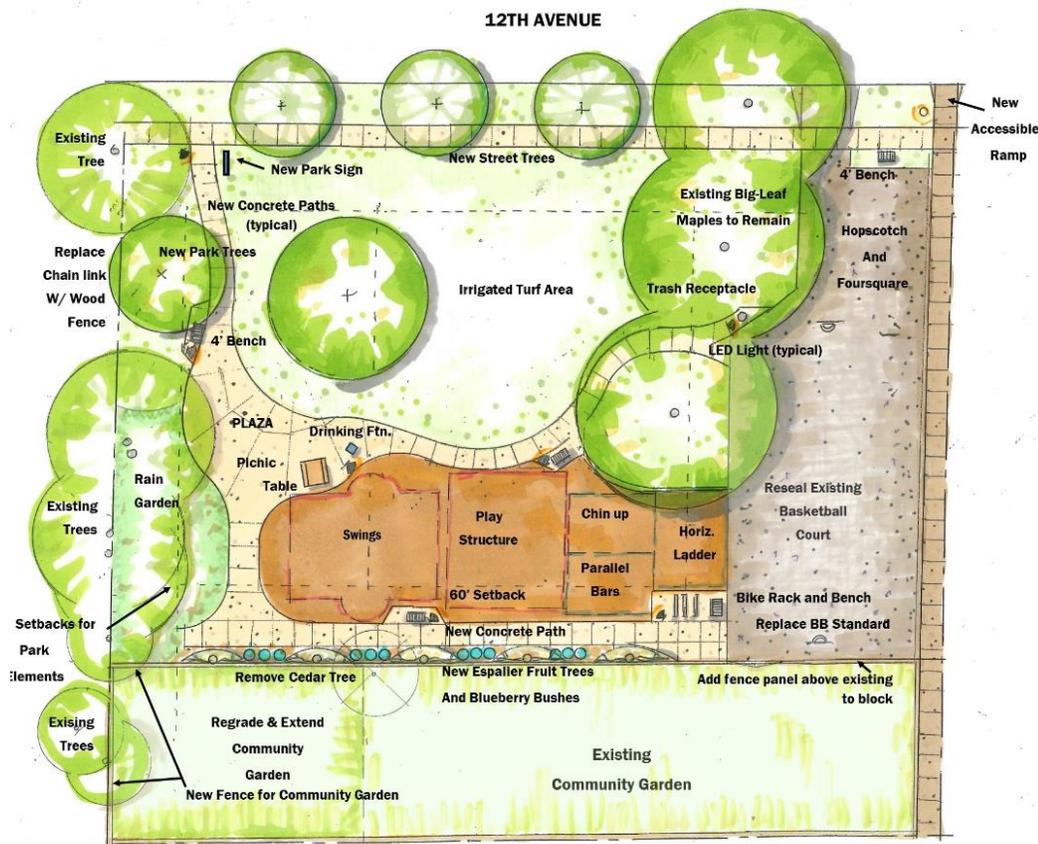
Irrigation lawn was proposed and well received as a maintenance benefit that would keep the turf healthy and green in the summer months.

CONCEPT PLAN REVIEW



CONCEPT 1 - Features

- LED downlights for safety with less impact to residential neighbors.
- Remove berms along west and north sides of the park property to increase visibility.
- ADA accessible walkways through the site with a loop and a walk encompassing the sand play.
- Site furniture – (5) new 4' benches and one picnic table. **Optional concrete ping pong table.**
- Drinking fountain and trash receptacle.
- Dwarf apple trees to bring edible landscape into the park.
- Unprogrammed turf area at the front of the park where visibility is greater.
- Play area with a play structure, swings, and small components like a seesaw and a tilted spinner.
- **Optional sand and water play feature with a play house, play table and optional water pump. Funding and space may be too limited for this option.**
- Expanded community gardens to the southwest park property corner to eliminate this hidden corner of the park from illicit activity.
- Reseal basketball court and add new basketball standard and extended fence panel at gardens.



LINCOLN SCHOOL PARK CONCEPT 2

CONCEPT 2 - Features

- LED downlights for safety with less impact to residential neighbors.
- Remove berms along the west and north sides of the property to increase visibility.
- ADA accessible walkways through the site.
- Site furniture – (5) new 4’ benches and one optional picnic table or possibly chess tables.
- Drinking fountain and trash receptacle.
- Larger amount of unprogrammed turf area at the front of the park for greater visibility.
- Play area with small play structure including a slide and tower, and swings.
- Adult exercise equipment.
- Expanded community gardens to the southwest park property corner to eliminate this hidden corner of the park from illicit activity.
- Reseal basketball court and add new basketball standard and extended fence panel to protect gardens that may have an artistic sign component to it and higher up to discourage vandalism.
- Add accessible ramp at north end of existing walk along eastern boundary to connect to 12th Ave.
- New park sign.

COMMENTS REGARDING CONCEPTS:

Residents do like having sand in the park even if the volleyball court is not used. They questioned why chips were safer as they cause splinters. Height safety standards are issued by the Consumer Protection Safety Council. Tests indicate that sand has a safe 'fall height' of 4 feet, while engineered wood fiber chips have a safe 'fall height' of ten feet. Chips are also a more accessible surface to wheelchairs than sand.

Extending the community garden was well received and Workshop attendees were in agreement to do so. Concerns were raised regarding the sidewalk paving along the fence near the back NW corner in Concept one. Pam stated that additional lighting and berm removal would improve the visibility of the site.

It was pointed out that 12th Avenue is heavily used by runners. Maintaining a drinking fountain in a key area would be beneficial. Both concept plans include the addition of a drinking fountain. Most drinking fountains in the City of Eugene parks are tied into the irrigation system and only charged up mid spring through fall, but that still allows for a three season use.

Picnic tables in the center of the park was not well received by all. Residents were concerned that they might attract negative activity. Residents stated that they typically bring tables if additional space is needed for an event. Philip thought that that having a plaza and gathering space is important and that residents should consider keeping the proposed tables.

We suggested the idea of bringing some edible plants into the landscape of the park since the community garden is such a predominant feature. The idea of espalier fruit trees along the north fence of the community garden was well received. Residents were in agreement that the local gardeners could possibly be an asset to performing maintenance and annual pruning of the trees. The idea of blueberry bushes in planter beds was also appealing to Workshop attendees. Another proposed tree to include in the park is a Bay Laurel tree. This tree produces aromatic bay leaves for cooking.

Pam had discussions with a City of Eugene Urban Forestry arborist regarding the existing street trees along 12th Avenue. He stated that the Ash tree with the curved trunk was in a weakened state with the unbalanced weight weakening the roots. Emerald ash borer is an upcoming threat to all ash trees in our area as well. The big leaf maple trees did not seem to be doing too well. One factor was likely the compacted soil in the median strip. One Urban Forestry goal for the City of Eugene is to plant more evergreen trees. A good candidate for this location is the Blue Atlas Cedar. It could be limbed up for visibility and has a pyramidal, open tree canopy. The large, mature tree at the Lincoln School Condominiums is the same variety.

Comments about adding an accessible ramp at the north end of the east walk which is a bike corridor will likely be included in the final plan and is shown in Concept 2. There seemed to be a general consensus on these survey results. We discussed the fact that several of these components are grandparent friendly like the walkways, benches and adult exercise equipment.

NEXT STEPS:

Take the Web Survey #2 to evaluate concept components! The point is not to choose one or the other, but to choose the components that you would like to see in the park. The final concept will likely include components from each concept. This web survey will remain open through Sunday, May 27th. Results will be posted to the Lincoln School Park Renovation Project Page: www.eugene-or.gov/3744/Lincoln-School-Park-Renovation

Based on these survey results and input from workshops and City of Eugene staff, a potential final Concept Design will be posted to the project web page along with a new survey to evaluate this concept. If an additional workshop is needed to discuss this concept and neighbors are open to attending in the summer, we will send out invitations with a date and location. The goal is to have a final concept design by fall to turn into the engineering department to create construction documents for bidding next spring and optimally to commence construction of the renovation work in the summer of 2019.