Marcy Park Proposed Concept Plan - Site Improvements



MPRB Board of Commissioners March 2021

1



Tonight: Seeking Board approval for the Proposed Concept Plan and Site Improvements for Marcy Park

Marcy Park Master Plan

Concept is based on the East of the River Park Plan for Marcy Park approved by the Board on March 27th, 2019 after one and a half years of intensive engagement. The approved master plan includes:

- a picnic area,
- naturalized areas or bee lawn,
- a scamper boulder wall,
- a basketball court,
- a hammock area,
- a dog park,
- improved walking trails, and
- multi-generational nature play
- Young adult and university student age focus to park design



Community Engagement Process

- Project webpage
- .gov email announcements
- Neighborhood website and newsletter
- Park signs
- Emails to community stakeholders including preschool, etc.
- Several online surveys
 - 1st survey with multiple design concepts: 120 respondents
 - 2nd survey of final design: 18 respondents
- Mailed communications
- Neighborhood organization annual meeting engagement (presentation)
- Park Dedication Fee Task Force with Marcy-Holmes engagement
- MPRB staff Project Advisory Committee
- Efforts to engage students: MPRB staff solicited comments from U of M students through student organization representatives via our survey or email.

Proposed Concept Plan Design Considerations

- Master plan, community feedback, and staff input guided master plan development.
- Total funding available is \$536,495 2020-21 Capital Improvement Program.
- Site has debris from former school mixed with ash scattered throughout the park.
- Concept to minimize excavation and removing soils due to cost of disposal.
- Need for updated pathways throughout the park since the existing park paths were professionally assessed as in very poor condition.
- The electrical service was identified by staff as in urgent need of updating, during our scoping phase.
- The pavilion and unusable drinking fountain also need to be removed per staff recommendation.
- Improvements focus on new accessible internal trails, a new half basketball court, a new dog park with a stormwater infiltration area, and a new electrical service. Several alternates are included.
- Alternates include picnic tables, benches, a new drinking fountain, re-feeding all pedestrian lights in the park, hammock stands, a full basketball court, and restoring disturbed turf with bee lawn.
- The existing 5-12 play area will remain during this phase of improvements.
- Future phases may include boulder scamper wall, nature play, and items not able to be added that are listed as alternates.

*

Concept Priorities

- Fenced in Dog Park with Stormwater Treatment
- Half Basketball Court (Full is an Alternate)
- Replacement Trees
- New Paths Providing Accessible Routes to Park Amenities
- New Electrical
 Service

Alternates in this Phase

- Benches
- Picnic Tables (one ADA) with Grill
- Drinking Fountain with Area for Trash
- Hammock Stands
- Bee Lawn where Turf is Disturbed
- Re-feeding all Internal Pedestrian Lighting.

A D

Full Court Basketball (Non-Regulation)

Future Phase

- Bouldering Wall
- Nature Play
- Items Not Updated in Phase 1

Note: Final elements are subject to approval of regulatory authorities, bids fitting into project budget, and a successful⁶bid award. Design is conceptual. Final elements may vary slightly.

LEGEND

ONCRETE P

What did we hear during Community Engagement?

Community Engagement Scoping and Priorities Phase – Spring- Summer 2020

- Community members expressed interest in a variety of improvements and preserving green space.
- Neighborhood Park Dedication Fee Task Force expressed interest in developing park amenities which better fit the needs of university students, including support for basketball and a dog park.

Community Engagement Concept Feedback – Fall- Winter 2020-21

- Feedback was varied no dominant themes
- Interest in nature play area implementation (planned for future phase and not a strong theme in first survey with many respondents; was primarily from outside neighborhood zip code)
- Several requests for pollinator areas or native plants (will work to incorporate in plantings if there are opportunities in this project and in future projects as funding permits)
- Two commenters were very excited about dog park; one against
- Two community requests for full court basketball if funding becomes available (court oriented for expansion)
- A few requests for hammock posts
- A comment to focus on things other than park improvements
- A request for swings
- One request for a community garden
- Support for increased accessibility from new paths



Questions?