

MEETING SUMMARY

To: Edison Park Improvements Project File
From: Shannon Clark Early
Date: 1.25.17
RE: 1.25.17 Scoping Meeting with Arlington Forest Civic Association

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, DPR met with members of the Arlington Forest Civic Association to discuss scoping the park improvements to Edison Park for the upcoming Spring or Fall funding rounds. Funding date TBD based on the amount/budgets of projects that get approved.

DPR Staff Attendees:

Kathy von Bredow, Landscape Architect
Bernadette Grullon, Landscape Architect Supervisor
Lyndell Core, Park Area Manager

Community Attendees:

See attendance sheet

1. Overview

The purpose of this meeting was to begin the scoping process for improvements to Edison Park. This is a Neighborhood Conservation Project initiated by the Arlington Forest Community. The NC process:

- 1) We hold 2 scoping meetings.
- 2) A preliminary concept plan, written scope and rough cost estimate are typically presented at the second scoping meeting for comment and review.
- 3) If necessary, there is a third meeting.
- 4) A final concept plan, scope and cost estimate are presented to the Civic Association for a vote.
- 5) Assuming the project is funded then it moves to the back of our project queue until we are ready to begin the design phase. This will either go to the Spring 2017 or Fall 2017 funding rounds depending on the number of projects from other neighborhoods that get approved.

2. Park History/Existing Conditions/Site Constraints

Edison Park is a small, quarter-acre, neighborhood park. The park currently features a playground with benches, picnic tables, a frontage fence and minimal paved circulation. Nothing is ADA compliant. The rear of the park has a small retaining wall, two swing sets one for each age group (2-5 and 5-12). Both swing sets are within the RPA. A storm water pipe and a sanitary sewer pipe (BG and KVB printed a GIS with all pipes, grades and brought to meeting) runs through the park and drains into Lubber Run via a culvert beyond the rear of the park. San/Sew extends beyond. There is also an access trail at the rear of the park to enter the Lubber Run Park trail system.

All of the park amenities have reached the end of their life span and should be replaced. This includes the frontage fence.

The runoff from the street cascades through the park and onto the trail. Within the last six months there was a Boy Scout Eagle project which installed water bars and spread recycled stone from the park edge over the trail down to the Lubber Run stream.

There is a second Eagle scout project in planning for Spring 2017 to install water bars and infill with crushed stone the area at the edge of the park.

This is one of several maintenance entrances to the natural side of Lubber Run Park and is crucial to weather emergency remediation – removing or addressing downed trees.

The park site is a former small stream filled in by the developer of Arlington Forest (1939-1946) and subsequently used as a trash dump/small parking area until a neighbor petitioned the County for a tot-lot circa 1984. Now the tot-lot is a welcome and well-used neighborhood asset.

Any disturbance over 2500 sf to the park will have to include stormwater management to address both runoff from the park itself and runoff from the road and surrounding Community. The rear of the park is prone to erosion and is within the RPA. All park improvements will be outside the RPA to reduce erosion and to protect Lubber Run. As a consequence, the footprint of the new amenities will not be large.

There is a planning project scheduled for the immediate future to redo the Lubber Run Community Center which includes the replacement of all of the existing outdoor facilities including tot and school aged playgrounds and may include a half or full-sized basketball court.

3. Community Comments & Discussion

- Who currently uses the park? – The existing playground mostly addresses the 2-5 age group but there are some features for the 5-12 age group. There is not space to have full sized play areas for both age groups.

Under discussion – to be addressed at next scoping meeting

- How is the park currently used? Just play? Do people picnic there? Is it mostly a cut-through for Lubber Run Park users?

Not just a cut through – in fact, community members access the park from the community center side through the stream/eroded path. They would like to see something done to address the erosion and large stones on the path.

Tables in Edison park are used for picnics, kids' birthday parties and for friends to hand out or play a board game. For picnics involving grills, people use the facilities in Lubber Run Park.

People really like the idea of this being a community park, want it upgraded but nothing to make it a destination park!

- What changes is the Community interested in seeing?
Priorities from meeting

- Community needs to decide between a play area for all ages or ages 2-5 only
- Swings
- Longer/fun slide (there used to be one)
- Adult site furnishings/tables
- Provide shade or locate amenities in the existing shade
- Bike racks
- Trash and recycle cans
- BBall – maybe ½ court, or even less than ½ court. The kids were researching permeable basketball courts and will get that info to Shannon. Kids there said they would be motivated to play basketball at Edison Park, not “that motivated” to walk to Lubber Run!
- Request for something for pre-teens. Maybe more open space for soccer, ball throwing, etc.
- Erosion control
- Making the improvements (play equipment) blend/be natural
- Landscaping – trees, “shrubby”
- Possible water feature?
- Kathy mentioned fencing – mixed reaction. Bernadette noted the potential need for a fence should the improvements such as a tot lot or similar were moved closer to street.
- Rope course or similar incorporated into the play equipment
- Storage shed for the community for equipment
- Request to be sensitive to adjoining neighbors (ie, one has a very native yard and many songbirds, worried about bball and ‘noise pollution’).
- A mix on tot or 5-12. Maybe smaller size 5-12 equipment?

- They DO NOT want:
 - Grills
 - Sand play

3. Next Steps & Follow Up

County staff will take the community input back to the office and develop a potential project scope and budget. We will schedule a follow-up scoping meeting to review.

- Provide a list of parks in Arlington that people can visit (ie Butler Holmes, Glencarlyn, etc) prior to next meeting so that folks can visit.
- Next meeting, bring photos of different types of equipment from parks, or ideas that you think might work
- Bring a scaled layout with cutouts so that people can understand spatial relationship of amenities and the site constraints for various features, including any setbacks/use zones, run more like a charrette. They want to understand a sense of the scale of different amenities before making a decision.

- Explained community needs to be prepared to make a final decision of amenities at next meeting.