

GOLD STAR MOTHERS PARK – PRESENTATION HANDOUT – MAY 11, 2005 (SECOND PUBLIC MEETING)

GENERAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Aesthetics:** to create a sense of place, a sense of arrival, a series of outdoor meeting rooms, a place where people want to come, be seen, return to.
- **ADA:** to meet or exceed minimum ADA access guidelines.
- **Safety:** to meet state and federal playground safety guidelines, to implement an appropriate lighting plan, to provide emergency plan, to provide open landscaping scheme so as not to impede views into and throughout park.
- **Practicality/Durability:** to use equipment, furniture, plants, materials with a proven track record, and within the resource capabilities of City to maintain in long run.
- **Design Appropriateness:** to strike an appropriate balance between active and passive recreation use, between formal and informal spaces, between highly organized and less defined open spaces.
- **Promote Play:** to provide structured and unstructured opportunities for play, to select play equipment with play value, challenge and levels of difficulty, to also present natural materials like rocks, grasses and hills for children to play on or with.
- **Budget:** to accomplish the most possible within the available budget, without compromising the quality of the equipment, materials and design layout.

CONSIDERATIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS PROJECT:

- **Phasing/Coordination:** make sure that improvements will not preclude future coordinated enhancements such as the MDC facility and further mall parking lot or access road improvements.
- **Total Rehab vs. More Modest Improvements:** Goal is to improve existing park. Park is already successful, heavily used and enjoyed. Targeted, thoughtful improvements will make it a whole lot better.
- **Path Improvements and Re-alignment:** to keep the existing path (with some minor adjustments) layout while making stronger, safer connections between the neighborhood and mall.
- **Public Safety Issues:** to increase lighting, make the play structures and spaces more open and visible, to reduce potential “hang out” areas, install emergency phones; coordinate with the Traffic Dept. and Transportation Division on Gore St. traffic calming measures.

WALK THROUGH THE PARK DESIGN:

- **Entrances:** to clarify and beautify points of entry and departure from park with plantings, attractive columns, fencing and signs.
- **Playground:** keep separate spaces for older and younger children with appropriate equipment for each, with water play and easier supervision. Eliminate retaining walls, simplify the layout, fence in play areas, clean up Gore Street edge of park with steel picket fence and tree plantings. Use a variety of innovative equipment for all ages.
- **Hill Area/Slope next to Playground:** to treat this higher ground as an extension of the playground. Add lights, benches, and look at additional tree plantings.

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- **MDC side:** Develop a walk along this edge of park with additional evergreens to “soften” building, adjust fencing to provide a safer connection to mall activity, additional lighting and continue looking at exact placement of path (against bldg. on higher ground or lower closer to edge of field).
- **Baseball Backstop:** New bleachers for both teams (wheel chair accessible), player’s benches with shade structures, regulatory signs, drinking fountain and repair backstop as needed. Re position bleachers off the main path.
- **Mall Connections:** Adjust the main interior park path to connect with mall sidewalk recently constructed, and continue working to secure agreement on one additional sidewalk through parking lot.
- **Basketball Court:** Consider reducing the current two full court layout to one full court and two half courts, to encourage a broader range of players. Look at alternative hard surface play options such as “Tread the Needle”. Add drinking fountain.
- **Winter St. and Fifth St. Path to Mall:** Adjust slightly to create more of a buffer with abutting residential properties, a more attractive entrance, shade trees and benches along this gently curving path, and additional ornamental trees.
- **The Hill:** One possible use for the adjacent hill area is to develop an off leash area for pet owners to socialize, so as to better regulate and confine this activity. Another use is to leave it as is, undefined with some plantings with some tables, trees and game boards. Explore idea raised by ECPT of including a modest community garden in this area of raised plots.
- **Winter St. Access to Basketball Court:** Close this parcel off from the main park and develop it’s own separate character/identity; either a passive park or community garden of raised plots.
- **New Sidewalk to O’Brien Hwy:** To create both a safer connection to O’Brien Hwy. While generally cleaning up this unsightly/unresolved area of park.
- **Drainage/Water Improvements:** Install drywells where feasible to retain more storm water on site and look into using moisture loving plantings in these areas
- **Maintenance:** to allow for maintenance and emergency access but not at the same time make vehicular access too easy or prevalent.
- **Landscaping:** To undertake shade tree and ornamental tree additions to park with most shrub and perennial raised beds occurring at park entrances and other focal points. Important to have planting plan with reasonable maintenance requirements and not create new hiding places.
- **Park identity/Regulatory Signs:** Consistent with the citywide park sign program install new signs at all park entrances. New signs should be attractive, recognizable and therefore easier to enforce from a policing perspective.
- **Park Lights:** While the park currently has some flood lighting and lights on poles along the main pathway, more needs to be done. The re-design includes an extensive pedestrian lighting plan for all paths throughout park.

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MORE ABOUT THE PLAY EQUIPMENT (DETAILS):

3 Different types of equipment:

- Galaxy: Provides lots of continuing challenge and allows kids to explore and to engage in competitions with their friends. The equipment is more open to allow for kids to relate to and learn from each other.
- Goric: Lots of movement oriented activities, which encourage both motor development, and social activity.
- Elements: New, creative, fun and more uniquely geared to toddlers.
- Natural
Climber: Less artificial or programmed climbing with hand and foot holds, encourages team work, group activity, with levels of difficulty and flexible (can be altered).
- Vortex: The world leader in interactive water play equipment computer programmed systems. with a more child interactive system to replace the existing splash pad that works poorly, low pressure, and little play value. Splash pad not recommended by Public Works and Recreation Dept.

SCHEDULE:

- Work on contract bid documents over this coming spring/summer and put out to bid summer or fall 2005. Start construction late summer or fall 2005. Coordinate work on areas around ball field so as not to impede use.