



## **Public Meeting Notes**

**Project:** Pioneer Park Redevelopment & Natural Area Restoration  
**Location:** HMT Recreation Complex, Dryland Training Room  
**Date & Time:** March 31, 2011, 6:30-8:00 PM

**Staff Present:** Rene' Brucker, Park Planner  
Matt Kilmartin, Park Planner  
Steve Gulgren, Supt. of Planning & Development  
Julie Reilly, Natural Resources & Trails Specialist  
Mike Janin, Superintendent of Security Operations  
Steve Regner, Office Tech

**Consultants:** Michelle Mathis (Greenworks)  
Alexandra Perove (Greenworks)

### Introduction

Approximately twenty-five neighbors and interested park patrons attended this public meeting for Pioneer Park redevelopment project. Steve Gulgren opened the meeting and gave a brief overview of the 2008 Bond, and how the Pioneer Park fits with the overall Bond plan. Rene Brucker gave a brief overview of Pioneer Park, and where the District was in the planning process.

### Existing Conditions

Alexandra Perove from Greenworks provided a breakdown of the existing conditions at Pioneer Park. Major environmental components of the park include the forested area to the north, two perennial streams, one seasonal stream, significant areas of delineated wetlands, and significant areas of wetland and stream buffer mitigation. Major physical components of the park include the loop trail, substandard play equipment in the southern wooded area, two basketball courts with dilapidated ball wall.

### Natural Resources Overview

Julie Reilly gave a brief review of the plans for natural area restoration. The focus for Pioneer Park will be removing blackberry, holly, English ivy, laurel, and other invasive species in the wooded areas to the north and south of the site.

### Concept Designs Overview

Michelle Mathis reviewed the two preliminary design concepts.

- Concept 1
  - Featured 'nature play' playground in existing play area.
  - Removed both basketball courts and ball wall.
  - Planting lawn area with trees and shrubs south of seasonal stream for mitigation
  - Paved loop through wooded area to the north
  - Boardwalk on the Westside area to prevent path flooding
  - Bridge replaced in same location
- Concept 2
  - Traditional play structure moved to open area
  - One basketball court and ball wall removed
  - Picnic and plaza area between play structure and basketball court
  - Forested area to the north restored for mitigation purposes
  - Paved loop through wooded area to the north
  - Boardwalk on the Westside area to prevent path flooding
  - Trees planted along season stream
  - Bridge and path relocated to east.

### Responses regarding Concept 1

- Concerns with views into the park from Pioneer Rd with CWS planting
- Nature play would be a mess in the wooded area. Damp and muddy almost year-round.
- Basketball courts heavily used, should not be completely removed

### Responses regarding Concept 2

- Multiple attendees liked the mitigation easement placed on the forested area to the north
  - Several attendees felt that area was good habitat
- Attendees preferred the active park uses clustered together
- Multiple attendees liked moving the playground into the open area and away from Pioneer Rd.
- Mixed responses regarding ball wall removal. Many saw it as an ugly graffiti target, several used it for tennis or soccer practice.
  - Mike Janin described a solution used in other parks. 8'x8' angled board. Attendees liked this idea.
- Some attendees felt that one court should be sufficient
- Attendees preferred maintaining the open lawn areas.
- One attendee liked the idea of trees planted along the seasonal stream

- Multiple attendees wanted to keep open grass area to the north and south of seasonal stream.

#### General Comments

- Attendees grateful the wet/muddy path system is being addressed.
  - One attendee did not want gravel.
- Parking is a major issue. One attendee suggested “No Parking” signs along north side of Pioneer where sidewalk is not present. Road is narrow, presents safety issue. Another attendee suggested crosswalk striping for pedestrian safety.
- One attendee suggested adding a path from the sidewalk on Pioneer Road to the north-south path into the park.
- Several complaints were made concerning litter in the ditch along Pioneer Road.
- Off leash dogs are a big problem. Better signage was suggested.
  - Mike Janin emphasized calling Patrol.
  - One attendee suggested banning dogs was the only solution to the dog problem.
  - Multiple patrons stated that they walk their dogs at Pioneer, and would not use the park if dogs were not allowed.
- One attendee noted that the final lot of the subdivision to the northeast was just fill, maybe it could be a small community garden.
  - Concept generally supported by other attendees, staff will investigate.
- SE Corner of the park has been taken over by weeds, needs to be maintained more regularly.
- A third crossing of the seasonal stream in the center of the park could be helpful for kids playing ball or Frisbee.
- Swings are very popular, should be included in new play structure.
- Will the multiple chain link fences to the west remain?
  - Staff will investigate
- Sharp edges on culverts are dangerous to dogs and children.
  - Staff will investigate
- One attendee noted that the streams are manmade channels. These channels are undercut in some places, and are a possible safety issue. Attendee proposed using flood plain storage as a solution.
  - Staff will investigate

#### Concerns & Responses (written):

No written comments received at meeting.