

Property

Address: 2100 Sussex Street, Richmond, VA 23223

Historic District: N/A

Parcel ID: E0000911004, E0000911003

Applicant Information

Name: Nissa Dean

Company: City of Richmond, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

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Applicant Type: Owner

Project Information

Project Type: Location, Character and Extent – Conceptual Review

Project Narrative:

Purpose:

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities (PRCF) requests a conceptual location, character and extent review for the creation of a new park (Whitcomb Community Park) to include design elements for a new basketball court and other future recreational features. The Whitcomb Community Park project initially aims to add a new basketball court and provide access to recreational resources within the Whitcomb Court community.

Project Context:

The Whitcomb Community Park, formerly a home for an elementary school, is located on the northeast side of the City of Richmond, serving the residents of the Whitcomb neighborhood. This 7.25 acre site is a vast open field that boasts a quarter mile walking trail with rows of seasoned large trees and a football field defined by recently installed football uprights. The Whitcomb Court Community center is located immediately west of the park, hosting variety of community programs and activities. Although the current site is large and beautiful, it is not utilized to its full potential due to lack of amenities for all ages. The existing basketball court is located behind the Community center with no visibility for monitoring and its surface deteriorated from constant flood caused by lack of proper water management - it is now closed for further notice to mitigate any unwanted activities for the community. The Whitcomb Community Park is an effort to vision a green space with various amenities where families and friends of Whitcomb community can come together to play, to learn, and to gather.

The proposed Park will be a vibrant outdoor space in which residents of all ages can gather, play, and exercise. The north of the Park features sports fields for basketball and football for adolescent residents, while the south end of the park features a variety of lower intensity activities catered towards children.

Amenities such as a food truck plaza and community gardens allow residences of all ages to gather around food and nourishment. The playground and splash pad area have clear visibility from shaded seating and from the walking path, so parents can watch their children while

engaging in social activities of their own such as exercising on the track and playing chess with friends.

The seating area adjacent to sports fields provides a social hub for the players and audience. The walking path will be more activated with the proposed intermediate paths, extended towards the community with crossroads, pulling the community into the park in safe way.

The corners of Carmine and Sussex Street, as well as Sussex and Whitcomb Street will be embellished with native species. They will require relatively limited maintenance after their establishment. The landscaping of this site and community garden can take advantage of the best fertilizer produced on the existing compost site, located on the north of adjacent brown field.

The Park will serve both the Whitcomb Court community and its adjacent neighborhoods. Richmond has seen how amenities such as splash pads and basketball courts have brought together communities; building stronger relationships and more joyful experiences for the people.

Project Budget and Funding Sources:

The project up for conceptual review by the UDC is not fully funded but anticipated to be funded in the future through the PRCF CIP or possible local, state, and/or federal grant opportunities. The design and installation of a new basketball court is partially funded with a \$200,000 donation from CarMax. This project will be fully designed and will come before the UDC for final approval later.

Construction Timeline:

Full construction of the project is not known and tied to future funding opportunities. The early action project is to install the new basketball court with a tentative construction timeline for the Spring of 2023.

Attachments:

Attachment 3: Existing Site

Attachment 4: Propose Layout

Attachment 5: Design Options

VISION BOARD

PLAYGROUND



RAISED GARDEN BEDS



SHADED GATHERING



BASKETBALL COURT



VISION BOARD

PLAY MOUND



ART OPPORTUNITIES



FOOD TRUCK PLAZA



ENTRY



SPLASH PAD



CHESS TABLES



BARBECUE



NATIVE PLANTINGS



PLANT LIST

Below are some of the examples of plants that are either native to VA, or VA climate friendly species. As the plan moves forward, landscape designer to consider native plants for low maintenance as well as for educational purposes. The variety of native plants can celebrate the arrival experience and enrich the visitor's time at the park.

Large Shrubs:

- Aronia Melanocarpa 'Viking' (Black Chokeberry)
- Cotinus obovatus 'Grace' (Smokebush)
- Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena' (Witch Hazel)
- Hamamelis virginiana (Witch Hazel)
- Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight' (Panicle Hydrangea)
- Rhus typhina 'Bailtiger' (Staghorn Sumac)
- Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur' (Smooth Viburnum)
- Thuja occidentalis 'Hetz Midget' (Dwarf Thuja)



Witch Hazel

Medium to Low Shrubs

- Azalea x 'Delaware Valley White' (Delaware Valley White Azalea)
- Cornus sericea 'Cardinal' (Red Twig Dogwood)
- Distylium 'Coppertone' (Distylium)
- Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Lime' (Panicle Hydrangea)
- Hydrangea quercifolia 'Pee Wee' (Dwarf Oakleaf Hydrangea)
- Ilex crenata 'Steeds' (Steeds Holly)
- Ilex verticillata 'Jim Dandy' (Winterberry Holly)
- Ilex glabra 'Compacta' (Inkberry)
- Itea virginica 'Little Henry' (Virginia Sweetspire)
- Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luyken' (Otto Luyken Laurel)
- Viburnum dentatum 'Blue Muffin' (Arrowwood Viburnum)



Dwarf Fountain Grass

Grasses

- Muhlenbergia capillaris 'Regal Mist' (Muhly Grass)
- Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah' (Switchgrass)
- Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln' (Dwarf Fountain Grass)
- Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Little Bunny' (Miniature Fountain Grass)
- Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)
- Muhlenbergia capillaris (Pink Muhly Grass)
- Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue' (Blue Fescue)



Little Bunny

Perranials

- Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)
- Echinacea Purpurea (Coneflower)
- Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird' (Summersweet Clethra)
- Itea virginica 'Sprich' (Little Henry Sweetspire)



Cone Flower