



MEMORANDUM

PROJECT:	Purcell Park Masterplan		
MEMO:	PRAC Presentation Notes	LSG JOB NO.:	19028
PREPARED BY:	Kirsten Nichols	DATE PREPARED:	Aug 18, 2020

PRESENTATION TO PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION, AUGUST 17, 2020

Item	Comment	LSG Response
1	Consider adding smaller picnic areas with shade shelter and/or gazebos in close proximity to the new playground. Assume new playground will be popular destination for birthday parties.	LSG agrees with this suggestion and the masterplan will be updated to include additional picnic areas. Masterplan page 91-93
2	Will there be a barrier between the children's trike track and the play area? Concern about potential for collisions.	A fence barrier is not included at this conceptual level; however the track is separated from the play area by differences in grade and it does not pass directly through the playground. If barriers are desired that can be considered when the playground undergoes schematic design. We will include some language to cover this suggestion. Masterplan page 91
3	Would like to see additional fishing access points around the pond with shade.	Proposed rock outcrops along the ponds edge can serve as additional seating opportunities with ornamental trees providing shade as desired. We will include language in the description to clarify the intent and further review access points at the next design stage. Masterplan page 98-99
4	Clarify if restroom improvements are being proposed to allow year-round use.	Restrooms are intended to be upgraded for year-round usage and these improvements are included in 1 st phase of the project. Masterplan page 84. 91
5	Is there a recommendation to accommodate food trucks or vendors?	The accomodation of food trucks is dependant on permitting regulations through the City. The design team would be happy to see food trucks visit the park if desired by the community. We can perhaps designate few areas in the parking lot as potential food truck areas. Masterplan page 91

- 6 Concern raised about having children and dogs in close proximity. Suggest locating future dog park at another site.
- There was a strong desire for a dog run to be included in the masterplan. It was one of the top most requested facility by the residents and survey respondents. Also, according to the public engagement comments, currently the grassy area next to Kids Castle is frequently used for off-leash dog play.
- The team suggests including an enclosed off-leash dog park on the other side of Blacks Run, outside of the 100-year floodplain to avoid any perceived conflict with children's play area.
- If the dog park can be accommodated elsewhere in the City, then it need not be duplicated at Purcell Park.
- 7 Desire for regulatory and wayfinding signage to be included in phase one.
- There is a signage allowance in phase one, with exact content to be determined. Signage should be integral part of each phase. We will review the current language in the master plan and if needed we will add supplemental language to the report.
Masterplan page 91
- 8 Suggestion to turn the hillside into an arboretum with food events.
- JMU's Edith J. Carrier Arboretum is less than a mile from Purcell Park, so the design team has reservations about proposing such a duplication of services in the City. Arboretums require much more maintenance and trained horticultural staff than the City might be prepared to support at this time. We think food demonstrations or other culinary events would be very welcomed in Purcell Park. Perhaps if the City is interested in acquiring Funky's Skatepark then some sort of facility at that location can be developed which can support the demonstration kitchen and such other programming. We will include such language in the master plan.
Masterplan page 110
- 9 Suggestion to include sidewalks and bike paths along Monument Ave.
- Neither bike paths nor sidewalks are recommended along Monument Ave in the 2017 City of Harrisonburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. While the design team supports a strong pedestrian and bicycle network, these streetscape improvements will increase traffic on these residential streets. What Purcell Park needs is a stronger presence on South Main street and that is why the master plan proposes that the city work to expand the park in that direction.

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| 10 | Consider using solar energy for lighting and other power needs in the park. | A recommendation to study the feasibility of solar lighting can be included in the masterplan.
Masterplan page 74 |
| 11 | Question raised how the masterplan would be affected without the acquisition of new property. | The addition of a new parcel outside of the floodplain allows for additional amenities such as increased parking, new restrooms/park center building and a dog park. In addition, the acquisition would allow a front door entry off South Main Street and improved public transportation access. Without it such amenities would not be feasible, but other program elements of the masterplan could still be accommodated. |
| 12 | Can Phase I include some of the easy low-cost improvements in that are currently part of Phase II or III? | LSG will revise master plan text to include language that identifies such improvements for City's consideration.
Masterplan pages 86, 118-123 |