

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Citywide Park Improvement Plans

Draft Park Plans



May 1, 2013

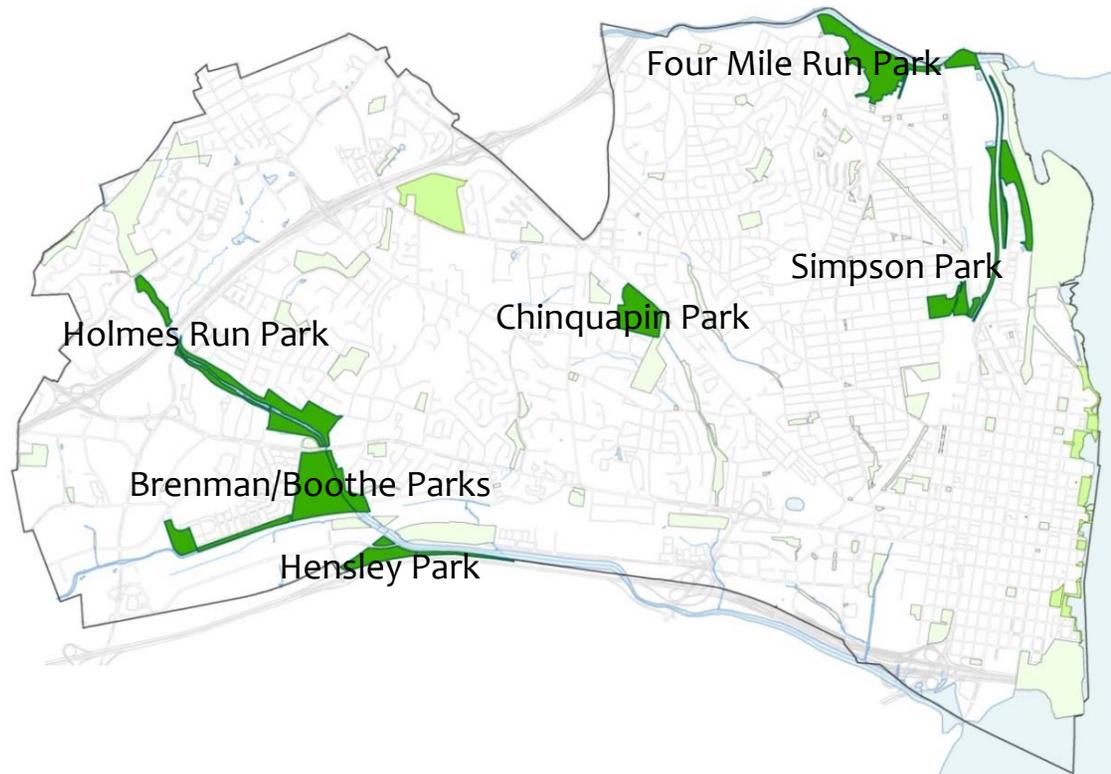
Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities
Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Division

Citywide Park Planning Goals & Criteria



Goal

Create plans that identify the priorities for future park enhancements and uses in Alexandria's large, multi-use, municipally-owned parks, balancing the City's recreational, cultural, environmental, and passive use needs.

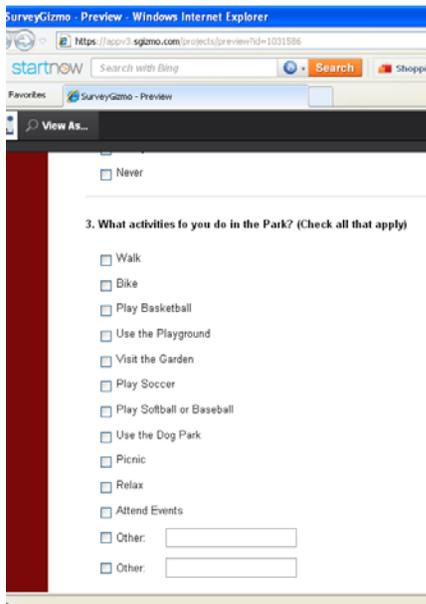


Citywide Park Planning Framework Timeline



	Spring 2012	Summer 2012	Fall/Winter 2012	Spring 2013	Summer 2013
Conduct Site Inventory	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Review Existing Plans & Documents	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Collect Qualitative Data from City Staff	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Conduct Site Observations	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue
Review National Benchmarks & Standards	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Dark Gray
Obtain Feedback from Community	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Dark Gray
Hold Public Workshops	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Light Blue
Develop Recommendations & Report	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray

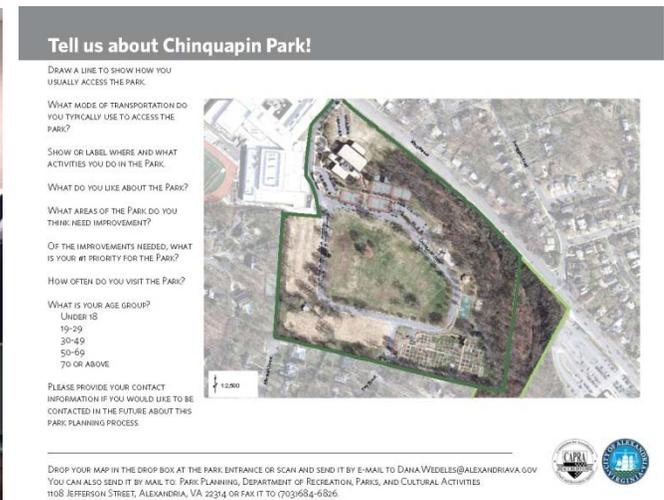
Park Planning Community Feedback Process



Online Survey



Workshops



Written surveys

**Over 585 Alexandria residents provided feedback
from September through November 2012**

Four Mile Run Park Feedback Summary

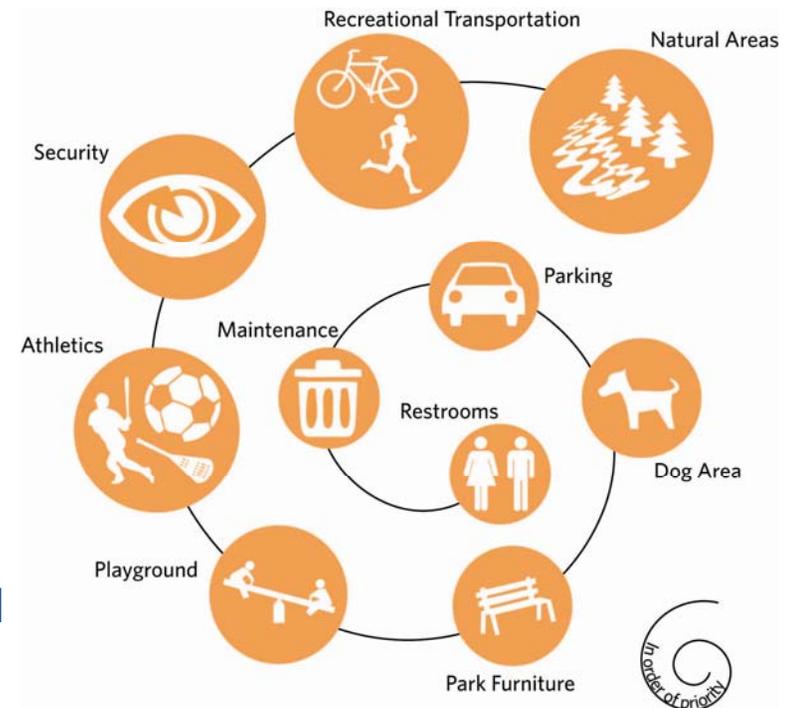


Athletics

- Develop better pick-up game areas
- Install covered dugouts and fix the backstops
- Renovate the courts
- Re-orient field #3 for better shade and enhance seating area
- Install netting along Frank Mann field
- Improve parking for athletic fields

Natural Resources

- Preserve and enhance the Park's natural areas, including the wetlands
- Remove invasive species
- Plant trees along the alleyways



Priority of improvements

Four Mile Run Park Feedback Summary



Access

- Improve the connections between the trail, pathways and Park uses
- Build a bridge over the channel to connect areas of the Park near Cora Kelly
- Re-pave the asphalt trail through the Park and connect it to Cora Kelly Recreation Center and School

Design and Fixtures

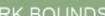
- Increase Park security through CPTED
- Cluster activities at entrances
- Formalize the overlook at the entrance to the wetlands
- Install area for fitness equipment behind Cora Kelly Recreation Center
- Add more park furniture
- Remove unfenced dog area and provide a fenced dog area
- Install a community garden
- Install mile markers
- Locate the playground in a more visible location
- Provide natural play spaces such as boulders and climbing features





- 1. RENOVATE & RESTRIPE PARKING LOTS
 - 2. COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY BUILDING & PARK EXPANSION
 - 3. RELOCATE & FENCE DOG AREA
 - 4. RELOCATE & CLUSTER PLAYGROUND & COURTS
 - 5. ADD WAYFINDING & MILE MARKERS ALONG EXISTING PATH
 - 6. ADD NEW HARD & SOFT TRAILS
 - 7. IMPROVE PERIMETER TREES TO CREATE "GREEN ALLEYS"
 - 8. INSTALL NEW BRIDGES
 - 9. ESTABLISH NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN
 - 10. IMPROVE FIELD CONDITIONS
 - 11. MOVE TURNABOUT & REESTABLISH GREEN SPACE
 - 12. CONSTRUCT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ELEMENT WITH EDUCATIONAL FEATURES
 - 13. INSTALL BIKE SHARE STATION
- Per FMR Restoration Plan**
- 1. CONSTRUCT NEW OVERLOOK
 - 2. REMOVE LAND FILL & RESTORE WETLAND
 - 3. INSTALL NEW BRIDGE

**FOUR MILE RUN PARK:
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

	HARD TRAILS		PARK BOUNDS
	SOFT TRAILS/ BOARDWALK		
	ENTRANCE PLAZAS		ATHLETIC FIELDS
	STREAMBANK RESTORATION		TIDAL WETLANDS

Chinquapin Park Feedback Summary



Access

- Improve mobility for pedestrians and vehicles
- Create a car-free shared-use path around the loop during non-school hours
- Improve wayfinding
- Connect the Forest Park trail to the loop
- Improve parking lots to have thru-ways

Athletics

- Designate an area dedicated for sports use/turf
- Cluster the tennis and basketball courts for shared lighting
- Replace the tennis court lighting and rotate the courts to regulation alignment



Chinquapin Park Feedback Summary



Passive and Open Space

- Preserve the pastoral green space, while accommodating multi-use sports
- Renovate the picnic area
- Re-grade the center of the loop, install drainage and re-seed
- Connect the playground/picnic area/rec center with a walking path
- Remove invasive species along the Forest Park Trail
- Fix or remove the WWII-era stairs around the Park and make stronger connection to historic uses

Park Activities

- Remove the unfenced dog area and incorporate a fenced area in the park
- Install event support facilities near pavilion (electrical, water, etc.)
- Designate an area for potential future farmers market
- Expand access to gardening
- Renovate playground equipment and include shade
- Install equipment for outdoor fitness equipment



CHINQUAPIN PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

 HARD TRAILS	 PARK BOUNDS
 SOFT TRAILS	
 ENTRANCE PLAZAS	 COMMUNITY GARDEN
	 ATHLETIC FIELDS

CHINQUAPIN PARK: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

	HARD TRAILS		PARK BOUNDS
	SOFT TRAILS		
	MULTI-USE TRAIL		
	ENTRANCE PLAZAS		COMMUNITY GARDEN
	PUBLIC ORCHARD		ATHLETIC TURF

1. EXPAND OR RENOVATE CHINQUAPIN POOL ACCORDING TO CITY AQUATICS PLAN
2. CONSOLIDATE & EXPAND POOL PARKING
3. CONSTRUCT NEW PARK SHELTERS
4. MOVE PLAYGROUND
5. MOVE AND CLUSTER ATHLETIC COURTS & DOG PARK
6. PLANT PUBLIC GROVE REFLECTIVE OF HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD GRID
7. ESTABLISH MULTI-USE TRAIL ON INTERIOR OF CHINQUAPIN DRIVE
8. CONSTRUCT 1/4 MILE MARKED WALKING LOOP TO RING PASSIVE OPEN SPACE
9. CONVERT ATHLETIC FIELD TO ARTIFICIAL TURF (non-regulation size)
10. IMPROVE TURNAROUND & REVERSE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC
11. ESTABLISH ADA PARKING & ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE TO POOL
12. STUDY POSSIBLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE



Simpson Stadium Park Feedback Summary

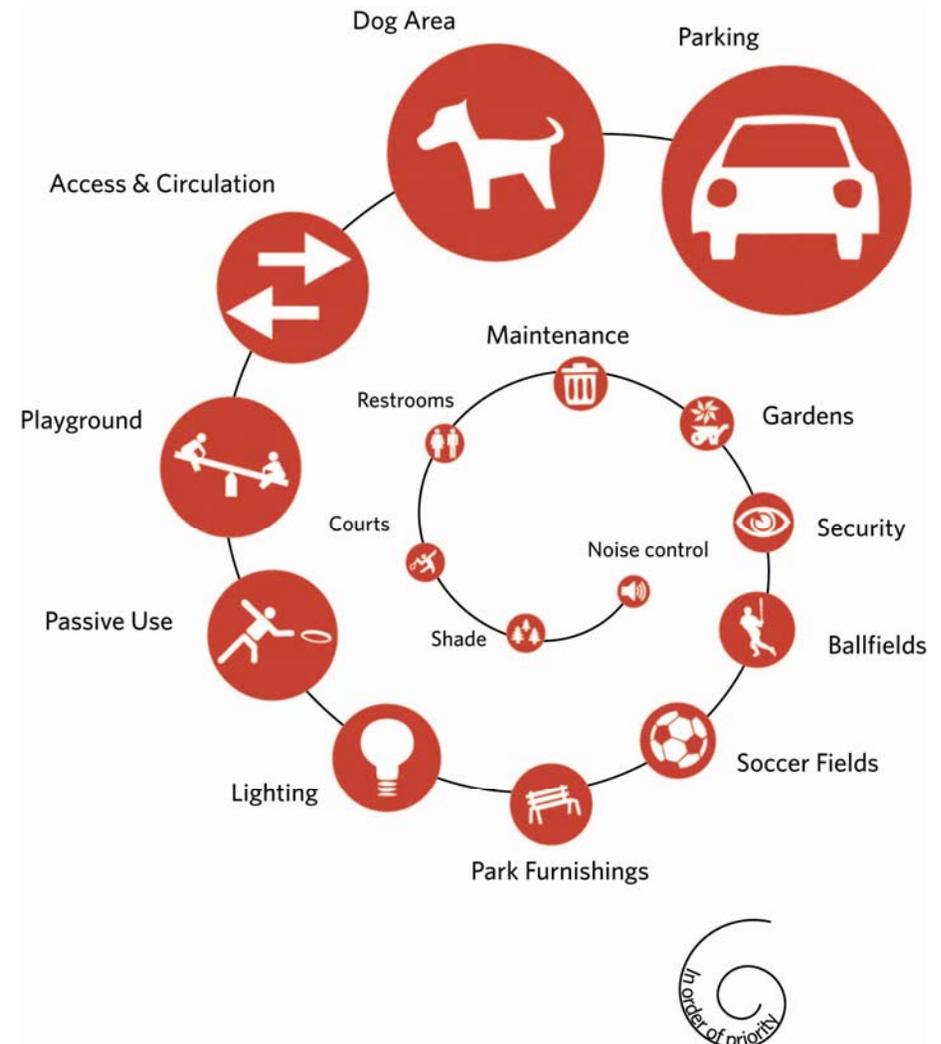


Access

- Provide easier parking access for the fields
- Create better connections between facilities and pathways
- Install steps from Monroe Ave to the Park
- Create bike connection from Del Ray to Potomac Yard Park

Passive Space

- Provide passive open space (benches and place for frisbee, etc.)
- Identify a tree receiving location
- Create succession plan for garden



Simpson Stadium Park Feedback Summary



Dog Area

- Provide shade, lighting, tress, seating and new surfacing in the Dog Park

Athletics

- Replace bleachers at Big Simpson
- Provide better drainage on Big Simpson
- Provide facilities for concessions
- Provide netting for foul ball protection
- Replace blue building with equipment storage
- Replace press box at Little Simpson field

Playground

- Renovate playground to include equipment for multiple ages and rubber surfacing
- Provide shade in the playground

SIMPSON PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

HARD TRAILS	PARK BOUNDS
BIKE ROUTE	ATHLETIC FIELDS



1. WIDEN PATH TO 8 FEET TO ENABLE NORTH-SOUTH BIKE ROUTE
2. ADJUST PLAYGROUND BORDERS, IMPROVE ENTRANCES, ADD NATURAL PLAY
3. IMPROVE PLANTINGS AND FIXTURES IN PASSIVE USE AREAS
4. CONNECT PATHWAY TO E. DUNCAN AVE
5. USE BOLLARDS TO LIMIT PATHWAY DRIVING ACCESS TO MAINTENANCE VEHICLES
6. PLANT PERIMETER TREES TO CREATE "GREEN ALLEY"
7. BUILD NEW HARD TRAILS IN EAST HALF OF PARK
8. BUILD NEW FIELD ENTRANCE AND RAMP
9. IMPROVE MAINTENANCE ROUTE TO SOCCER FIELDS
10. BUILD NEW BLEACHERS WITH EQUIPMENT STORAGE UNDERNEATH
11. BUILD NEW BLEACHERS WITH CONCESSIONS BOOTHS UNDERNEATH
12. CREATE PICNIC AREA NEAR CONCESSIONS
13. ADD TURNAROUND TO PARKING LOT
14. DESIGNATE FORTY FIVE TOTAL ON-STREET PARKING SPACES ALONG E MONROE AVE AND MAIN LINE BLVD FOR SOCCER FIELD USE
15. IMPROVE DOG PARK TO INCLUDE LIGHTING, TERRACED HILL, TREES, AND PLAY FEATURES

SIMPSON PARK: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
|  HARD TRAILS |  PARK BOUNDS |
|  BIKE ROUTE |  |
|  ENTRANCE PLAZAS |  ATHLETIC FIELDS |



Holmes Run Park Feedback Summary



Safety

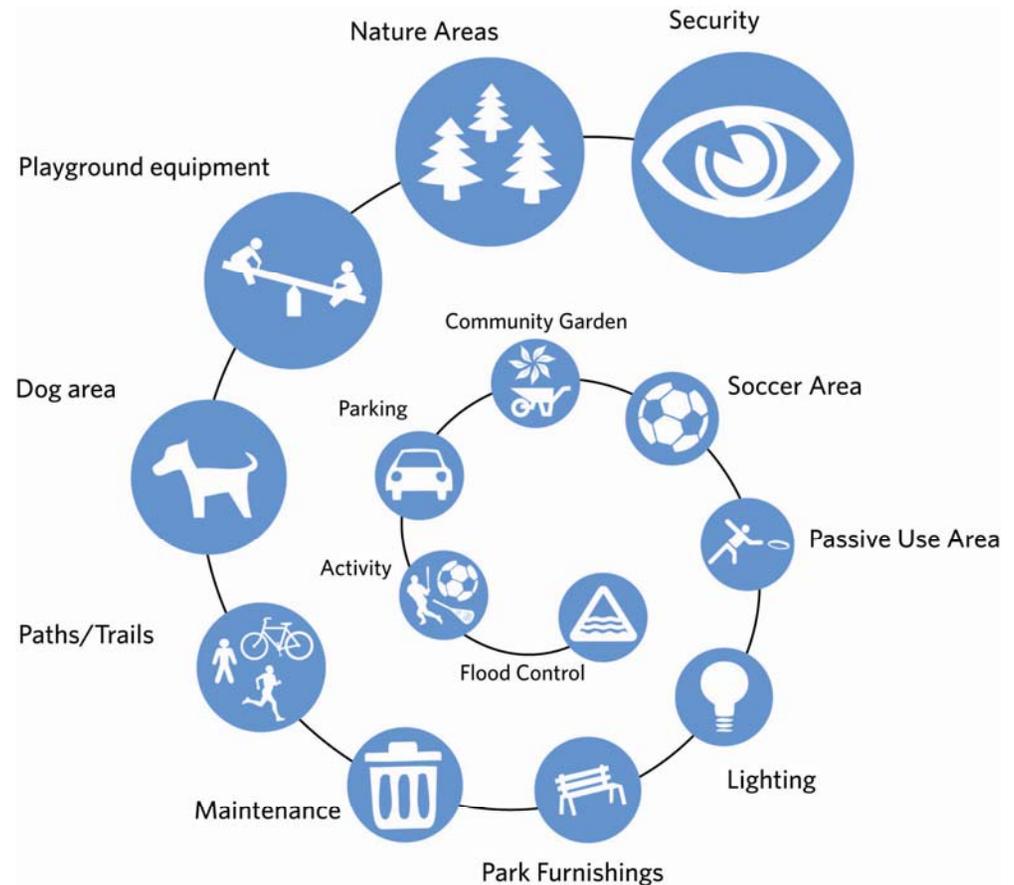
- Install mile markers along the trail
- Improve security through patrol and fewer “hidden areas”
- Install lighting along Beatley Bridge

Dog Area

- Create small dog area within Duke Street Dog Park

Playground

- Remove the fenced in former playground in Tarleton Park and relocate benches
- Replace playground equipment and include natural play features



Holmes Run Park Feedback Summary



Access

- Improve trail under the 395 overpass
- Designate bike and walking areas around the S. Jordan area of the trail
- Formalize the pathway and improve ADA Access along the South side of Holmes Run Parkway
- Connect All Veterans Park to Duke Street and to the Library

Design

- Re-Design All Veterans Park for increased site connection and usability
- Provide bench and picnic areas along N. Pickett Street and Holmes Run Parkway

Natural Resources

- Remove invasive species along the stream fence line
- Identify tree receiving area in All Veteran's Park

HOLMES RUN PARK: EXISTING CONDITIONS

- HARD TRAILS
- SOFT TRAILS
- PARK BOUNDS



1. ADD WAYFINDING & MILE MARKERS ALONG EXISTING PATH
2. IMPROVE FLOOD CONTROL FOR TRAIL UNDERPASSES
3. IMPROVE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND
4. REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES AND OPEN VIEWSHEDS THROUGHOUT PARK
5. ADD NEW PICNIC GROUNDS
6. CONSTRUCT NEW ADA-ACCESSIBLE SOUTH SIDE TRAIL
7. REPLACE OUTDATED PLAY STRUCTURES WITH NATURAL PLAY FEATURES
8. EXPAND FITNESS STATION
9. ADD LIGHTS TO BEATLEY BRIDGE
10. DIVIDE DOG PARK FOR LARGE AND SMALL DOGS
11. FORMALIZE SOFT TRAIL
12. INSTALL BRIDGE TO CONNECT ALL VETERANS PARK TO CHARLES BEATLEY LIBRARY
13. CONNECT ALL VETERANS PARK INTO HOLMES RUN CIRCULATION
14. MOVE JAMES MARX MEMORIAL FOR BETTER VISIBILITY FROM STREET
15. REGRADE ALL VETERANS PARK FOR SAFE VISIBILITY AND PARK USE
16. INSTALL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEATURE WITH EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT
17. REMOVE FORMER PLAYGROUND FENCE

HOLMES RUN PARK: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

	HARD TRAILS		PARK BOUNDS
	SOFT TRAILS		
	ENTRANCE PLAZAS		PUBLIC ART LOCATIONS



Ben Brenman and Boothe Parks Feedback Summary



Dog Area

- Add lighting to the dog park
- Install a water fountain
- Add trees for shade

Natural Resources

- Identify tree receiving area
- Control the geese population
- Underplant trees in Boothe Park

Access/Paths

- Install mile markers along Cameron Station Linear Park
- Formalize the paths around the fields
- Improve wayfinding signage

Garden

- Identify community garden area



Ben Brenman and Boothe Parks Feedback Summary



Athletics

- Re-purpose the volleyball courts
- Convert Boothe to 90' Field
- Renovate the basketball and tennis courts
- Install batting cage along the right field line of the baseball field

Pond

- Improve maintenance of stormwater pond and improve it long-term functionality

Playground

- Renovate Boothe Park Playground

Restrooms

- Renovate Boothe Park restrooms
- Paint/repair columns at Brenman restroom

Events

- Install support for events, including electric and water





1. IMPROVE CONNECTIONS TO HOLMES RUN TRAILS
2. ADD PATHS AND VEGETATION TO NORTHERN PASSIVE USE AREA
3. INCREASE BICYCLE PARKING
4. IMPROVE STORMWATER FILTRATION SYSTEM
5. RELOCATE MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND BUILD VEHICULAR ACCESS BRIDGE
6. CONSOLIDATE FIVE SMALL PLAYGROUNDS INTO TWO LARGE PLAYGROUNDS
7. BUILD MULTIMODAL BRIDGE ACROSS TRACKS TO EISENHOWER AVENUE
8. LIGHT DOG PARK (PUSH-BUTTON ACTIVATED, TIMED)
9. LIGHT BRIDGE EXIT (MOTION-SENSOR ACTIVATED)
10. RENOVATE COURTS AND INSTALL NATURAL PLAY FEATURES TO CREATE PICNIC ACTIVITY CENTER
11. CLOSE GAP IN VEGETATION LEADING TO TRACKS
12. RESERVE SPACE FOR FUTURE COMMUNITY CENTER



BEN BRENNAN & BOOthe PARK: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

-  HARD TRAILS
-  ATHLETIC FIELDS
-  ENTRANCE PLAZAS
-  PARK BOUNDS
-  PARK AMENITIES

Hensley Park Feedback Summary



Comments Received through surveys:

- Turf the upper field and improve parking
- Add more trees
- Improve the turf condition of the softball fields

Spring 2013 Youth Sports Advisory Board Comments

- Address drainage issues on all three fields
- Improve Parking



1. UPGRADE FIELDS WITH NFHS AND ASAA STANDARD DIMENSIONS
2. REORGANIZE SPORT LIGHTING TO ACCOMMODATE NEW FIELDS
3. CONVERT SOCCER FIELD TO ARTIFICIAL TURF AND REPLACE SLOPE WITH RETAINING WALL & ACCESS RAMPS
4. EXPAND PARKING LOT
5. FORMALIZE DRIVEWAY WITH TURNAROUND AND ADA PARKING
6. RELOCATE BATHROOMS CENTRAL TO ENTRY AREAS
7. BUILD ADA RAMP TO CONNECT UPPER AND LOWER FIELDS
8. CREATE "FESTIVAL AREA" WITH EXPANDED HARDSCAPE SLOPE SEATING AND EVENT STAGING AREA
9. PLANT NEW TREES TO REPLACE TREES REMOVED IN FIELD EXPANSIONS
10. BUILD NEW PARKING LOT
11. EXTEND DRIVEWAY WITH TURNAROUND AND PARALLEL PARKING
12. MAKE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS TO PARK ENTRANCE



“Speed Planning”



1. Break into 6 groups, each going to a different Park table
2. Spend 20 minutes at each table reviewing plan in detail and provide feedback (facilitator will let you know when to switch tables)

Next Steps



1. Make edits based on tonight's meeting
2. Post draft plans on web and solicit feedback
3. Hold Spring Workshops
 - May 15, 7:30pm – Four Mile Run Park, Cora Kelly Recreation Center
 - May 21, 6:30pm – Holmes Run Park, Samuel Tucker Elementary School
 - May 29, 6:30pm – Ben Brenman/Boothe Parks, Samuel Tucker Elementary School
 - June 5, 6:30pm – Chinguapin Park, Immanuel Church on the Hill
 - June 12, 6:30PM – Simpson Park, Mount Vernon Recreation Center
 - June 19, 6:30pm – Hensley Park, Lee Center
4. Integrate Feedback, Finalize Plans and Implementation Strategy, including cost estimates
5. Present to Council in Late Fall