Independence Park
2019 RENOVATION PLAN

Public Information Session
November 12, 2019
Agenda

1. INTRODUCTION
2. DESIGN UPDATE
3. CONVERSATION
Public Meeting 1

OVER 50 PEOPLE ATTENDED

Visitors took a “Walk in the Park” through themed educational displays and interactive games.
Invest or Remove

IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES

Participants were invited to place two flags on a site map to indicate:

- What is your highest priority for investment in the Park?
- What would you take away to improve the Park?
Invest or Remove

EMERGING THEMES

The collective feedback, which included nearly 100 flags, revealed four major themes:

- Make More of the Middle
- Fix the Weak Link
- Simplify the Upper Park
- Bring up the Basics
Design Principles Prioritized

COMMUNITY VOTES BY RANK

Top 5

• Clarify and Sustain the Canopy
• Preserve the Park’s Scenic Views
• Provide Gracious and Equitable Access for All
• Ensure Continuity of the Park’s Dignified Architectural Elements
• Improve Habitat Diversity and Connectivity
Project Context
Park Evolution

- **INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **ORIGIN**
- **WPA ERA**
- **PARK INFILL**
- **REDISCOVERY**

- **1904**
- **1934**
- **1949**
- **1981**
- **2020**

- **LATE 1800s - 1904**
- **1906 NOLEN PLAN**
- **1934 - 1949**
- **1949 - PRESENT**
Prior to its rebirth as the City’s first public park, the site was home to the City’s reservoir.
During this period, public demand for park space and civic leadership led to the creation of Independence Park.
Charlotte’s First Children’s Playground
The Work of Helen Hodge

- Grady-Cole (Armory) (1929)
- Sunnyside Rose Garden (1930)
- Lillian Arhelger Memorial (1931)
Park Evolution

A Period of Construction

- Baseball Grandstand (1934)
- Memorial Stadium (1936)
# Park Evolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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- Independence Boulevard [Charlottetown Ave] (1949)
- Hawthorne Recreation Center (1949)
- Armory Building (1950)
- Park Offices (1964)
- Kings Drive (1970)
Park Evolution

Independence and Friends

- Elizabeth Small Area Plan (1985)
- Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places (1989)
- Rose Garden Update (2017)
Park Context

Located in the historic Elizabeth neighborhood just outside of Uptown Charlotte, Independence Park is enjoyed by residents, visitors and institutional neighbors alike.
Character
ONE PARK, MANY ZONES

LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY

AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL STADIUM

ACTIVE + HISTORIC CORE

PASSIVE UPPER PARK
Nature

OVERLAPPING BOUNDARIES

The park is part of the larger Upper Little Sugar Creek watershed that extends under 74 and beyond traditional neighborhood lines.
Design Update
Big Moves
THE PARK TODAY

VERTICAL SEPARATION

PROGRAMMED HOLLOW

URBAN BACKDROP

VISUAL BARRIERS

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT
Big Moves
CHARACTER AND HISTORY

RELOCATE WITHIN THE PARK

CLEAR VIEWS TO UPTOWN

RELOCATE PROGRAMMING AWAY FROM THE CENTER OF THE HOLLOW

RELOCATE OUTSIDE THE PARK
Big Moves

ACCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide Beautiful and Accessible Entries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create Internal Loops at the Hollow Elevation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide Accessible Mid-Slope Paths into the Park</td>
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Big Moves

ACTIVITIES

CREATE COMMUNITY-SCALE PROGRAM AREAS AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE MAIN LOOPS
WHERE APPROPRIATE, INTRODUCE GROUNDPLANE NATIVE PLANTING

PLANT THE NEXT GENERATION OF FRAMING CANOPY TREES
CREATE STORMWATER LANDSCAPES TO HOLD AND FILTER RUNOFF BEFORE IT REACHES THE MAIN CULVERT
The Renovation Plan

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

2019 RENOVATION PLAN
The Renovation Plan

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

- RECONFIGURED PARKING LOT
- FLEXIBLE LAWN
- NATURE PLAY AREA
- CLARIFIED CIRCULATION
- ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS FROM HAWTHORNE LANE
- RESTORED STONE GRANDSTAND
- RESTORED FOUNTAIN
- HAWTHORNE REC CENTER
- RESTORED PARKING LOT
- FLEXIBLE LAWN
- CIRCULATION LOOPS
- RESTORED SHRUB GARDEN
- AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL STADIUM
- GREENWAY CONNECTION
- ARMORY
- RECONFIGURED ARMORY HILLSIDE
- RESTROOM BUILDING
- RESTORED GRANDSTAND
- CONSOLIDATED PLAY AREA
- FLEXIBLE LAWNS
- PARK DRIVE
- E 5TH STREET
- CHARLOTTEOWN AVE
- E 7TH STREET
The Renovation Plan

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Fix the Weak Link

Make More of the Middle

Unify the Upper Park
Fix the Weak Link
EXISTING ASSETS
Fix the Weak Link

RENOVATED PLAN

**Improvements**
- Enhance Armory hillsides and parking area
- Relocated court sports
- Create a greenway connection
- Shift baseball and soccer fields
- Establish tree-lined frame
Fix the Weak Link
EXISTING ASSETS
Fix the Weak Link
ARMORY DRIVE + HILLSIDE

**Improvements**
- New restroom and overlook structure
- Relocated Park and Recreation staging area
- Relocated/Consolidated basketball half-courts (2)
- (1) Tennis Court or (2) Pickle Ball courts
- (2) Relocated Table Tennis Tables
- Armory Courtyard
- Accessible path connection to/from parking
Restroom Design

PRELIMINARY FLOOR PLAN

Restroom Program

- Fixtures sized to accommodate day to day users
- Based upon current and anticipated Park amenities.
- Building Footprint: 24’ x 24’

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Plumbing Fixtures:</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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<tr>
<td>WC's Female @ 1 per 40 occ.</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WC’s Male @ 1 per 75 occ.</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lav. Female @ 1 per 150 occ.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lav. Male @ 1 per 200 occ.</td>
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<td>1</td>
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Restroom Design
PRELIMINARY SECTION
Make More of the Middle
EXISTING ASSETS
Make More of the Middle

RENOVATED PLAN

Improvements

- Create looping paths flanking the central hollow
- Provide accessible path from Hawthorne Lane
- Repair the Arhelger Memorial Fountain and pavilion
- Consolidate play area
- Establish tree-lined frame
Unify the
Upper Park
EXISTING SITE
Unify the Upper Park

RENOVATED PLAN

Improvements

- Create accessible pedestrian connections from Hawthorne Lane
- Integrate continuous circulation
- Reconfigure parking to reduce scale and visual impact
- Restore flowering shrub glen
- Introduce nature play area
- Create a tree-lined frame
Project Timeline
FULL DURATION

Mid-Sept '19 - Design Development
Dec '19 - Construction Documents
April '20 - Permitting
June '20 - Bid
Aug '20 - Construction
Nov '20

11 WEEKS
17 WEEKS
12 WEEKS
13 WEEKS

Public Information Session (Nov 12)

*TIMELINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Attachments
Tennis Hillside

- Previous Tennis Extent
- New Accessible Path Introduced
- New Restroom Building
- (1) Tennis Court Retained
- (2) Table Tennis Tables
- New Tennis Fence
- New Restroom