

Georgian Acres Public Meeting

On November 2, 2016 the Austin Parks and Recreation Department held a community meeting to review and discuss the concept plans for improvements to Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park. The meeting was not well attended by the community, but the Parks and Recreation Department received valuable input on how to best move forward with the development of Georgian Acres Park. Participants had ideas about how best to route the walking trail through the park, where best to locate the pavilion(s), and what kinds of amenities would be most useful in the park. All of the public input took into consideration safety, flexibility of use for the community, and how to best serve families and children. Below are comments provided at the public meeting.

Public Meeting Comments

- I would use this (kiosk)
- Like tables under trees
- Good size pavilion for neighborhood events (Brentwood example, med. Size)
- Nice looks (stone detail on pavilions) Could save stone for a later time?
- Really like open playgrounds (dome playfeature)
- We really like this one (playscape with hanging nets)
- Love the nature theme playgrounds
- Will the playscapes be covered/shaded?
- Material easy to clean graffiti from
- Not a fan of having 4 spots (pavilions) Like one large and like more singles
- I feel the medium sized pavilions allow for more interesting points along the loop trail
- Love the trail on plan B. More choices for trail based on personal physical abilities
- I like that the play equipment (plan B) is on one side of the trail and the multiple pavilions add for more usage
- I like how this design (plan B) would disperse those using the park throughout the space. It uses the whole park.
- Connect here (John Nance, plan B) to make flexible short lengths
- Like loose chained picnic tables, or spread out
- Keep the trees! No open field
- Prefer flex space (plan A) to bolted in pavilion (picnic tables?)
- Maybe this layout (plan A) but with a few pavilions instead of one big one?
- Like this entrance (plan A John Nance G.)
- I think the idea of an open-flex space would be well received and utilized by the community (plan C)
- Trail cutting between playscapes may pose problems for joggers/children crossing between (plan C)
- Prefer playscapes closer to center of park (plan B&C) Not too accessible to streets. (worried about safety for the children)
- Like movable picnic tables
- I like the large pavilion but may be a small pavilion could be added at the south end.

Georgian Acres Concept Questionnaire

In effort to provide the community an additional outlet to give feedback, the Parks and Recreation Department issued a questionnaire via email. All meeting materials and concepts were shared on the project webpage for review. There are differing opinions among the community on where best to locate the playscape in the park; however, the reasoning for the location was always safety. Respondents felt that the playscape should be visible for parent supervision, and protected from the street for safety. The majority of people desired multiple pavilions throughout the park over a single large pavilion. Although, the reasoning remained similar for both choices. There should be flexibility of the space, and an amenity that promotes community building. Additional amenities desired in the park were pet waste containers, trash containers, water fountains and benches. Both restrooms and some kind of water feature were mentioned a couple of times. Some people also felt that a kiosk or message board would be used by the community. From the concept visuals, natural looking playscapes were preferred. The full comments from the questionnaire are below.

Question 1- Do you think the playscape should be visible from John Nance Garner Circle or be located closer to the middle of the park?

Responses:

- I don't have a strong opinion about this. The visibility is nice, but it could be hard to get to unless there is guaranteed access from Oertli lane.
- I think visible from the street so it is visible to parents at the apartments. You also don't want predators driving up to the street and watching kids but it seems that having it closer to John Nance Garner Circle could be safer? Note: I could not compare the Concept drawings; no legends on the drawing to tell what's what.
- Doesn't putting the playgrounds right where the many families living in the street can access them, from the Eastern end of John N. Garner, make more sense than more South?
- I don't have a strong opinion. I like having it in the middle of the park to encourage folks to walk a little more. However, if there is a large concern with vandalism or other similar activities, it should be visible from the road.
- I think parents with young kids would prefer easier access to the playscape, and would also rather have a clear site line to it from the park entrance.
- Is the purpose of visibility to attract people, or keep an eye on them? I don't have strong opinion either way.
- I think the playscapes should be towards the center of the park to best insulate them from traffic on the periphery.
- Yes, playscapes should be highly visible from John Nance Garner and nestled northward in the land mass as far from the E. Powell high crime magnet motels as is possible. Only adult oriented amenities should be positioned near E. Powell and the I35 HO-tels.
- Middle of the park
- I think in the middle would be better. That way children are safe. Can't run out into street (even though it's a dead end street) can still be dangerous.
- Visible
- Closer to the middle

Georgian Acres Park Community Engagement Summary



- Middle of the park, safer away from streets.
- visible from John Nance Garner Cir

Question 2- Would you prefer one large picnic shelter, 3 smaller picnic shelters or one large multi-use space that could be used for basketball, large gatherings or events and as a picnic shelter with movable picnic tables as needed?

Responses:

- I love the idea of a large, multi-use space for events.
- one larger multi-use space
- I prefer having more options for picnic tables- not just one large area with all the tables. It is very nice to have some single tables around the park in case the pavilions are in use- that way other folks have tables available. I'd say 2-3 medium picnic pavilions with grills plus a few single tables with or without grills would be nice.
- One other thing I wanted to say about the Pavilion. I think that having a single large meeting space encourages us to get to know our neighbors. I am picturing multiple groups/birthday parties all gathering under one roof, "it's your birthday too?! Cool, we're neighbors!" Or neighborhood wide Potluck at the pavilion, or movie night. And I think moveable tables open up a lot more possibilities for how the space is used.
- I think 3 smaller picnic shelters sounds good.
- I like the multi-space idea, but I wouldn't want a permeable covering like I see on a lot of basketball courts. If that's not an option would prefer the basketballs courts separate and a pavilion with moveable tables.
- 3 smaller picnic shelters to accommodate different groups simultaneously.
- 3 smaller picnic shelters, noooooo basketball court. I think the neighborhood large gathering needs can best be addressed by placement closer to E. Wonsley in the City parcel at 312 then the City securing the adjacent healthcare district parcels at the end of E. Wonsley that they are disposing of this month (hope someone is on that)!
- 3 smaller picnic
- Either is fine I guess. I don't think having movable tables us a good idea though. They might end up messing up landscape. And could even get stolen.
- Multi-use plus 1 smaller?
- 3 smaller picnic shelters
- 3 smaller picnic shelters
- 3 smaller picnic shelters.
- one large multiuse space

Question 3- What small park amenities besides a water fountain, bike racks and grills would you like to see in the park?

Responses:

- Benches
- Trash cans

Georgian Acres Park Community Engagement Summary



- Community bulletin board with neighborhood information and city departments and safety resources like 911 and 311.
- Dog waste station
- No litter signs in the park (if signs are effective at deterring litter)
- A bathroom! I'm not sure if that's possible since it's listed in the presentation as not something that's included, but it would be really nice since if there's no parking, I would be walking with my toddler and it's a long haul to get back to the house quickly if she had to use the restroom.
- I think the message kiosk would be beneficial to community building and well used.
- Dog poo sanitary stands.
- If we can't fully functional restrooms then maybe porta potties.
- Ideally a splash pad would be amazing but I understand that's not in the budget. I'd like good lighting, clear park boundaries, a water fountain and good seating around the playscape. Also if we could use the existing shade trees to shade the playscape that would be wonderful. If not, we need an artificial sun shade of some kind.
- Splash pad or water misters
- Dog fountain, pet stations, adult playscapes for working out
- Water feature
- Benches

Question 4- Are there items on the photo boards that appeal to you and you think should be included in the park?

Responses:

- Community board
- rock "benches"
- minimalist looking pavilion with rock benches (pg 13 bottom left on D'Anne's Concept presentation)
- I love the Nature themed park- and all the climbing rope features on play grounds. The short wall is also a nice addition by the playgrounds since it can act as extra sitting space or balance beam or whatever people need it for.
- Message Kiosk.
- I think the nature themed playscapes are more fitting with the park surroundings.
- Natural looking playscapes that include climbing and agility stations NOT IN PRIMARY COLORS!
- Nature mimicking playscapes
- Jungle gym. It's fun for kids plus a good workout for them to stay in fit.
- The climbing structures with the balance pass and ropes were always my sons favorites and parks that had them were the ones we went back to
- Cool playscapes, bbcourt
- liked the natural looking playscapes