

Valley Hi Community Meeting Overview

Desired Elements:

1. Provide a restroom at East end (near elementary school or nearest soccer courts)- very desirable
2. Covered picnic and BBQ area for large gatherings- very desirable
3. Overflow parking for use when soccer games are played- very desirable
 - a. Parking desired on East end of park (near elementary)
 - b. Possible mixed-use hardscape that could double as a gathering area (block party, farmer's market, etc.)
4. Amenities such as drinking fountains, permanent trash cans, and benches placed throughout- desirable
5. Jogging trail with exercise stations- desirable
6. Updated playground with shade- desirable but not a priority for the attending group
7. Water park/splash pad- desirable but not a priority
8. Shaded seating areas

New Ideas:

1. Youth Center/Community Center
 - a. Offer sports activities/classes- karate, boxing, etc.
 - b. Cut down on adolescent crime
 - c. Restrooms could be included in the footprint
2. Water feature such as a pond near picnic area
3. Parking lot at edge of park to offset neighborhood impact during soccer games

Issues and Concerns:

1. Police protection
 - a. Cars entering illegally and driving on paths, leading to damage
 - b. People in park after hours
2. Park rules not enforced/signage not present
3. Drainage problem at baseball field
 - a. Grade change creates a swamp-possible damaged pipe
 - b. Baseball field is underused
4. Valley Hi teenagers gather at East end (Center Parkway)- Which may discourage other users i.e. parents with school-age children
5. Sidewalk repair/replacement needed

6. Restroom use for homeless and drug exchanges- locking restroom is necessary
 - a. Restroom placement- near soccer fields, away from teenage hangouts
7. Sports usage:
 - a. Baseball field used infrequently
 - b. Soccer fields are heavily used
 - c. Volleyball courts are rarely used and sand pit seems unsanitary
 - d. Basketball court used infrequently
8. Playground location- dominated by Valley Hi teenagers- possibly move to center of park or eastern edge to tie in to nearby elementary school.

To Be Noted:

1. Joggers use the park to run in the evenings- jogging path with exercise equipment would be utilized.
2. Teenage skateboarders frequent the park and skate on paths- incorporating some skateboard/biking ramps/rails, etc. would be utilized.
3. Paths are in disrepair because unauthorized vehicles are driving on them into the park- paths may need to be reinforced to hold vehicles, or barricaded so that no car entry is possible.
4. Community members attending the meeting usually take their children/grandchildren to a different park to use the play structure- if the playground were updated with exciting equipment and shade, children in the neighborhood would utilize the Valley Hi playground.

Overall, the attending community members at the meeting were vocal about improving the park for all types of users. The general consensus for where the allocated money for phase 1 should be spent was for a new restroom, and to address parking issues. They also felt strongly about adding a covered group picnic area, benches throughout, drinking fountains, and a jogging trail.