

Battle Bend Neighborhood Park
Community Engagement Meeting #1
Meeting Minutes 3/19/15

The Battle Bend Neighborhood Park meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015 was held at the South Austin Recreation Center. Nine (9) residents attended the meeting. Dialogue was open and the discussion was active, informative and a good start to this process. Below are the items that were discussed.

Introduction of Project:

- Primarily playscape replacement
- Drainage issues
- Play equipment outdated
- ADA access
- Adult and senior usage
- Long range plan opportunities for bigger picture
- What theme, feel park should have

Concerns from residents:

- Loss of big oak
 - Shade for picnic tables
- Invasive plants
- Pathways unclear
- Gazebo too close to the road
- Lack of trail for runners and walkers
- Lighting at basketball court
- Shade for basketball court

Needs Improvement:

- Basketball shade & lighting
- Playscape shading
- Visual screenings for condo
- Parent seating areas near playground
- General lighting improvements
- Bigger variety of swings
- More Mutt Mitts
- Drinking fountain

Positive:

- Trees
- Calming
- Picnic table with shade (before large oak died)
- Trees/Greenbelt feel on the west side

Ideas:

- Fitness trail
 - Pave trails for roller blading, trike track, strollers
 - Fitness equipment/work out stations along trail
- Maximize all available space
- Improve the intermittent creek
 - “Greenbelt feel”
- Clearing for grassy play lawn
 - Soccer, Frisbee, football
- Skate spot in NE corner
- Large, shaded pavilion for larger group events
- Smaller picnic areas throughout the park – SHADED
- Expand playground area to include age groups 2-12 years old
- Large “rocks” for older kids to play around
- Bench seating around park

Meeting Comments:

- Think of adults and seniors also when planning for new playground and grounds
- Nature-based theme was more popular choice at the meeting
- Try and create a “greenbelt” feel
- Level the left corner of the park and create a play lawn in the future (this may also help with flooding concerns)
- They would like a group party space where people would sign up for group parties, and shaded picnic spaces where people could just drop by and enjoy
- When considering playscape, they want to keep a natural feel, yet have bright colors for the equipment
- Liked the idea of ADA accessibility and potential to create a cross walk area on street
- Want to consider options for NE and SE corners of the park / want to use the whole park
- Would like shade for the playground area, but don’t want to feel enclosed or oppressive

Next Steps:

- Website
 - Upload meeting minutes
 - Upload links to park layout
 - Create links for catalogue so residents can view playscape options
- E-mail reminder regarding next meeting on April 4th
- Send reminder to media regarding next meeting