



# LITTLE STACY PARK

CLMP164 2015 Landscape Architecture Rotation List PA15000028

## Public Meeting 1 Summary

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# Public Meeting 1 Summary

An initial public meeting was held for Little Stacy Neighborhood Park on Saturday, August 30th, from 9AM to 11AM. Approximately twenty to thirty community members participated, to provide their input and join in a walking tour of the site.

When asking participants what they'd like to add to, keep at, and remove from Little Stacy Park, some themes emerged, which could be categorized between natural environment, access, recreation, and amenities. A full list of comments may be referenced at toward the end of this summary, which is described below.

## Natural Environment

Little Stacy Park is adjacent to Blunn Creek, which leads to two primary areas of concern: erosion and natural habitats. Due to the slope of the site, the park channels storm water runoff towards the creek, causing erosion and tree root exposure. Community participants offered suggestions for rain gardens, a catch-pond, and removal of invasive plant species. Native species and wildflowers were identified as desirable with overall site landscape improvements, where the park's ability to offer wildlife habitat can be enhanced. It was also mentioned that new trees should be planted to offset the old age and stressed condition of many of the park's existing trees. A concentration of additional shade trees would be welcome on the south edge of the park, where the volleyball court is currently located.

## Access

Improving access throughout the park is a priority of this project, where several elements are not compliant with ADA standards. The toddler-aged park amenities attract many families to the park, and high stroller use on the paths and to the different elements of the park.

Some participants were concerned about the effects of the proposed roadway closure along the north and west edges of the park. Appropriate parking accommodations should be considered. Additionally, homeowners along the eastside alley are concerned about traffic being redirected behind their homes, and have suggested limiting access to property owners and authorized vehicles. Alternatively, traffic calming techniques could be applied to discourage people from passing through.

Because of the regular use of this park by the community, one resident suggested phasing park construction to maintain access to other portions throughout the year.

## Recreation

The recreation features provided at Little Stacy Park include a kid's playscape, two tennis courts, a wading pool, basketball court, and a volleyball court.



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The playscape is designed for toddlers and elementary school-age children. Participants indicated a balancing beam, climbing wall, basket swing, and monkey bars as potential added features. While parents would like to add seating areas along the perimeter, where they can sit, while watching the children play.

The wading pool with its adjacent heritage Oak tree was identified as a unique and cherished landmark that should be preserved. Many recognized it as “the best pool in town,” but would like an extended pool season to include May through October. Several participants suggested adding a splash pad, which would be operational into the school year.

The tennis courts are in poor condition, and are well-used features of the park. One suggestion for improvements was to add a rebound wall to allow one person to practice.

The basketball court should remain. Possible improvements may be expansion of the court, and an added cover.

There weren't strong feelings towards keeping or getting rid of the volleyball court, however many said that it wasn't used, largely because it's location at the top of the hill would require someone to constantly run down to retrieve it. Some expressed ideas to replace it, including adult exercise equipment, or something that has a multi-generational appeal, including pre-teens and teenagers.

### Amenities

There are several added amenities that were identified to enhance the quality of space and park features that are currently on site. These include the following: trash cans, mulch under Live Oak tree picnic area, water fountain behind volleyball court, increased seating areas, and additional lighting.



# Community Comments

"I want to ADD \_\_\_ at Little Stacy Park."

## Natural Environment

- A corner (near the Larry Monroe Bridge) dedicate to wild-animal habitat. People would be encouraged to enter and leave on a single path, quietly, respectfully.
- Erosion control
- Wildflowers on sunny slopes
- Wildflower garden
- Better landscaping
- Rain garden on northeast eroded corner of park
- More native plantings
- Shade trees on south side of park (especially to replace removed Junipers)

## Access

- ADA access to park and restrooms, and pool, splash pad, etc.
- Bollards to block driving within the park
- Fix entry to park by tennis courts – maintain so it's a bit smoother for strollers while keeping the natural environment, i.e. not necessarily cement
- Path access / signs improved
- Parking options
- Restrict access to alley to residents and authorized vehicles

## Recreation

- Another water feature – splash pad fountain
- Keep water feature open at least May through October (keep in mind Austin weather)
- An additional tennis court
- More seating areas
- Resting area
- Playground equipment for ages 10-12
- A separate area for pre-teens and teenagers to play at the park, away from toddlers
- Rebound wall at tennis court for one person to practice hits
- Volleyball court needs to be moved so it can be used
- Water feature at volleyball court area?
- Replace pool with splash pad, rather than closing it
- Improve or repurpose volleyball court
- Splash pad
- Balance beams
- Climbing wall
- Basket swing
- Climbing net
- Monkey bars
- If you add adult fitness equipment, please don't replicate the equipment that was placed

# Community Comments

at Big Stacy Park (between eastside and Blunn Creek Greenbelt). Anyone under 5'6 has difficulty using bars. Unfortunate.

## Amenities

- Food trailer / ice cream truck?
- Dog drinking fountain
- More trash cans
- Resident funding to do this project the right way
- Mulch under large live oak trees (picnic area)
- Water fountain in sunny area behind volleyball court

"I want to KEEP \_\_\_ at Little Stacy Park."

## Natural Environment

- Maintain and increase the comfort level of the wild animals which live here and/or pass through
- Sight lines
- Keep some open areas

## Recreation

- Keep the pool and the oak that shades it
- Keep basketball court and tennis court
- Love our pool, trees, climbing structure of playscape
- Playscape
- Keep pool, move it, find a way to keep open from when temps hit 90s (May to Oct)
- Extend the pool's hours and season

## Access

- Phase construction to maintain access to at least a portion of the park.
- Some way to limit loose dogs into Little Stacy
- Alley access for homes on Alameda

"I want to REMOVE \_\_\_ from Little Stacy Park."

## Natural Environment

- Non-native ligustrum at NE corner of park
- Grass lawn on east side (replace with native bunch grasses)
- Erosion issues
- Paving

## Recreation

- Fire ants in play area
- Volleyball court and net
- Volleyball

# Community Comments

## Access

- Fence along north and west edge of park
- Loose dogs

## Map comments

## Natural Environment

- Extend low wall around the end of the basketball court to keep erosion off the court
- Plant wildflowers on sunny slope on the hill
- Fix erosion at drop-off at west side of park
- Fix erosion at northeast corner of the site
- Add a rain garden and catch-pond at northeast corner of the site
- Remove ligustrum at northeast corner of the site

## Access

- Drop off from road on the south side of the site is unsafe and needs barrier
- Traffic is a huge issue in the alleyway, which will be exacerbated when Sunset Lane closed. Make alley one-way? Speed bumps? Accessible by homes only?

## Recreation

- Hill is bumpy, add slide (Santa Monica)
- Make basketball full sized, perhaps covered like Ramsey Park
- Add a splash pad somewhere
- Make volleyball court nicer with nets to catch ball and make sandpit, or repurpose; new playground equipment
- Could add adult fitness equipment at the volleyball site

## Amenities

- Add seating area for adults to observe children in the play area
- Improve lighting all over

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