



UNDERWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING #1—DOCUMENTATION OF ALL COMMENTS AND NOTES
Meeting Date: 1/10/23 6-8pm

RECORDED NOTES FROM GROUP PRESENTATIONS

GROUP 1:

- Enhance natural beauty
- Responsible forest management
- Be respectful of neighbors
- Consider adding: pond, gazebo, picnic area, and/or integrated fitness group
- Enhance play area and turf field

GROUP 2

POSITIVE SITE ASSETS

- Trails and open space
- Walkability and accessibility within community
- Park is open all day, available for young families to use during the day (unlike school playground, which is admittedly superior in terms of play structure)

AREAS TO IMPROVE

- Trails could use some work
- Enhance entrance to park with more vegetation
- Improve current parking lot
- Mention historical aspects with signage?
- Size down lighting along RT 88
- Remove debris and invasives from the back of the Brown parcel

ADD

- swings, a playground for older children
- a pavilion like Underwood Springs casino
- Sporting facilities (skating and pickleball?)
- Bottle filling station or water fountain
- Trashcans
- ADA accessible trails
- Sidewalks that lead from the park down to town landing
- Crosswalk across RT 88 to the park
- Add 4-6 parallel parking spaces on RT 88
- Community gardens

DON'T WANT

- Non porous parking spaces
- Buildings
- Pesticides used to control invasives or improve field
- Discarded debris left at the back of the Brown parcel

GROUP 3

- Table of parents
- Would like a gathering space (pavilion?)
- More parking spaces
- Keep apple trees (children love them)
- Splash pad like the one at Payson park
- Accessible seating (pregnant mothers)
- Add more swings and climbing structures
- Add different playground areas for different ages of kids, want the park to be useable for kids and adults at all stages of life
- Family bbq area?
- Preserve native plants on site
- Add a story path to the trails? Consider making them ADA accessible
- Maybe the additional play structures can be nature play structures
- Like that the playground is accessible for everyone, not just residents
- Like Mackworth island and payson park as a precedent

GROUP 4

- Like natural environment and green field
- Like the opportunity to add amenities
- Would like to enhance the playground by making it more natural, less plastic
- Add seating and picnic tables
- Would like to add a recreational court, maybe tennis or basketball
- Like to add a splash pad like Payson park—could be an ice skating rink in winter?
- Add a gathering space
- Add community garden, creates opportunity for intergenerational interaction
- Mixed feelings about public outdoor pool
- Understand the benefits of improving parking—maybe pilot a few new spaces and see how that goes, with the opportunity to add more spaces if needed
- Add bike racks to encourage more biking and walking to the park

GROUP 5

- Desire to keep the park green/natural
- Expand parking to facilitate need but also enhance the appearance of parking area with more vegetation
- Expand recreational area—add pickle ball or basketball court away from the road so the ball doesn't go into the street
- Add small, easily maintained community gardens

- Consider adding a small fenced in dog park?

GROUP 6

BEST ASSETS

- Trails and open field
- Play structure
- Natural border/seclusion of the site and depth- away from road
- Space for events and sport (although the field needs improvement)

IMPROVEMENTS

- Expand playground
- Improve existing parking (most people reacted badly to adding another parking lot)

ADDITIONS

- Lookout or lighthouse structure (like Underwood springs casino)
- Gazebo or other gathering space
- Stage?
- Restrooms
- Basketball court—flooded in winter and made into ice skating rink
- ADA accessible walking paths
- Dog park?
- Art installation
- Fence or gate along the road to be a barrier

DON'T WANT

- More parking
- Basketball or pickleball
- To remove trees
- Don't touch the trails

GROUP 7

- Like that the park is used quite a bit
- Most people seem to be walking to the park
- Would like to improve the playground
- Enhance the field experience (it's pretty pitted now)
- Highlight the existence of the trails in the woods—add signage
- Maximize the minimal parking on site. Maybe partner with the church next door?
- It would be great if Underwood could connect formally to Forest Preserve, then bridge across Mill Stream to access the back of the shopping center.

GROUP 8

- Love that this is a place for all ages, everyone should feel welcome here
- Great asset that this is a central location
- Don't want additional parking when existing parking can be optimized
- Don't want to "over asphalt" the park

- Would be cool if there were bike lanes or a shuttle from the landing or foreshore to make the park more accessible without adding parking
- Could add commemorative or historical plaques to acknowledge the history of the site
- Add swings and playgrounds in a nature play style (like Fort Williams park)
- Add benches/areas for conversation
- Add more natural materials
- Add bathroom facilities (drop toilet?) including drinking fountain
- Add a bug/butterfly garden and bird houses
- Maybe a court or multi-use court/s
- Enhance curb appeal, make the park more inviting from the street
- Add a pavilion on the footprint of the old school?
- Fitness circuit or more deliberate walking trails

COLLECTED NOTES FROM MEETING ATTENDEES

BLUE STICKY NOTES

Best Assets

- Trails
- Big open field
- Play structure
- Natural border/seclusion
- Depth (away from road)
- Easily accessible to neighbors
- Open to everyone
- Easy access from every direction
- Enough space for sport events

What we should improve

- Expand playground
- Existing parking

New Stuff

- Crooked house
- Accessibility
- Lookout or lighthouse or gazebo
- Outdoor theater or stage?
- Picnic tables/seating/outdoor grills
- Restrooms/porta potties
- Basketball court
- Pickleball
- Walking paths
- Dog park
- Art related or butterfly garden
- Fence/gate stonewall to act as barrier to street

Don't want

- No more parking
- No basketball court
- No pickleball court
- Preserve the trees
- Don't mess with trails

NOTES ON AGENDA SHEET

- The site's best assets are open field, trails, play structure, proximity to lots of residents. Opportunity at the brown property to add amenities
- Mixed views on adding parking, maybe pilot a small number?

Dream

- Public outdoor pool—consider private fundraising
- Add an all kid's swing—dedicate a footprint if not built
- Community garden—intergenerational ages
- Courts (tennis and pickleball) many ages
- Bike racks, parking—efficiencies of existing parking. Caution about more parking, can we limit to residents?
- Splash pad/ice skating amenity
- Performance area with seating—natural pavilion or gathering space
- Enhance playground
 - Organize it
 - Equipment for all ages
 - Integrate natural elements
 - Not so much plastic
 - Similar to deering oaks playground
 - More equipment for all ages
 - Natural seating or picnic tables
 - Better seating along southern perimeter
- Outdoor grills

UNDERWOOD PARK/BROWN PROPERTY FORUM NOTES

- Park uses- compared to Huston park
 - Bball and soccer goals, ice skating—encourage outdoor activities for all ages
- Trails- love the trails
- Brown property is a mess
- Clean up and update playground- no need for major changes – more expensive park – not parking
- Focus on OS portion of underwood
- Bryce Hach- trails- active recreation in front
- Blend two properties- passive in the back and active rec in the front, add actual trail network in the back to preserve forest

- Ben- former Yarmouth resident- used pedestrian bike access, disappointed in falmouth's- not comfortable riding bikes on Rt 88
- Rework existing parking to increase parking for town landing
- Town landing parking concern
 - Grass pavers as an option, brown property originally purchased for parking- don't overlook parking
- Town landing- climate change – revamped with less parking, more picnic
- Belfast ME, greatest playground, natural playground
- Accessible trails incorporated
- Concerns about more parking—more pedestrians and more congestion
 - Maximize existing parking and minimize additional parking
 - Is there another property suitable for parking?
- Town landing—more recreational, not parking on site
- Explore leasing church parking lot

BIG PAGE 1

- Playground improvement (gets used)
 - Field opportunities
- Maximize minimal parking (church?)
- Connect trails to downtown
 - Welcome to our trails signage
 - Connect trails to water
- Recreational and expand nature backdrop

BIG PAGE 2 (GROUP TWO)

- Access to waterfront needed BUT parking isn't a priority because there is parking allowed on public roads in area, we could bus people from shaw's area
- SITE ASSETS
 - Open space
 - Trails to nature preserve (connectivity to other trails)
 - Walkability and accessibility for a lot of people (most dense part of town)
 - Open all time of the day (young families can use playground)
- IMPROVEMENTS
 - Improve trails
 - Shrubs and perennials
 - Scaled down lighting along 88 and park
 - Remove debris along back of brown parcel
 - Resurface current parking lot and signage
 - Historical markers
 - Management of invasives and vegetation
- ADDITIONAL AMENITIES
 - Swings
 - Older children needs
 - Benches, picnic tables, seating

- Historical markers
- Gazebo, pavilion, pagoda, ie underwood springs
- Sports: bball hoop, pickleball, skating, ballfield
- Water fountain
- Dog waste receptacle
- Sidewalks beyond existing
- Crosswalk to park
- 4-6 additional parallel parking spots on rt 88
- Community gardens on brown property (donations for food pantry?)
- Permanent connection easement to the Falmouth nature preserve
- NOT WANTED
 - Non porous parking lot
 - Enclosed buildings, ie offices or residential
 - Pesticides
 - Discarded debris with invasives

BIG PAGE TWO

- Basketball hoop
- Markedly upgrade the play equipment including the swings
- Natural pond/garden/walking trails
- Community gardens
- Protect wooded part
- Protect the trails that connect to preserve
- Responsible forest management (hire a biologist)
- Lights that are dark sky approved
- No lights
- Pretty, more parky
- Low impact
- Gazebo
- Picnic area
- Integrated fitness equipment

BIG PAGE THREE

- A commemorative plaque for the history of the school/site
- Swings, playground, something that is natural in appearance (ref. children's garden @ cape)
- Benches, area to foster conversation
- Natural seating (granite, wood)
- Water fountain, drinking fountain (either/or)
- Toilets? Huge maintenance issues
- Basketball court or hoops / pickleball / futbol (soccer?)
- Flower garden with bird houses
- Parking enhanced
- Pagoda (gathering space with shade)

- Multi-use athletic field
- Fitness circuit in woods
- Bike lanes/racks to address concerns
- BEST ASSETS: green space, central location to town landing
- IMPROVEMENTS: something for all ages- small kids, teens, and adults
- AMENITIES: same as improvements
- DON'T WANT: too much parking/asphalt (bball exception), don't sacrifice this park for cars from all over

BIG PAGE FOUR

- Great resource for the town, increase in town usage
- Expand and enhance existing features
 - Playground (increase size and add seating/picnic tables)
 - Entrance to hiking paths
- Parking
 - Expand to facilitate public needs
 - Enhance the appearance of parking
- Expanded recreation
 - Pickleball
 - Basketball
- Community gardens
- Dog park
- Keep as green as possible

NOTES ON MAP (GROUP THREE)

- Dawn to dusk uses
- One small parking lot for the park
- Get rid of existing parking lot
- Native plants
- Children's garden
- Permaculture
- Pollinator garden
- Pavilion
 - Bbq
 - Family gatherings
- Picnic tables
- Structured field
- Farmer's market
- Water fountains
- Story walk with art features
- Playing fields
- Kid's water feature
- Live music/early evening

- Playground
 - Swings
 - Climbing structure
 - Monkey bars