



UNDERWOOD PARK FORUM (PUBLIC MEETING #2)—DOCUMENTATION OF ALL COMMENTS AND NOTES
Meeting Date: 3/21/23 6-7:30pm

RECORDED NOTES FROM GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Initial Feedback:

- Swings – need!
 - o Emails from community members to town staff asking for swings for kids
 - o Adult swings = plus but not as immediate
 - Mackworth Island has a great precedent for adult swing
- Lighting – none because park use = Dawn to Dusk

Feedback from Groups:

Group 1:

- o Orchard = Yes
- o Nature Playground = Yes
- o Playscape = Yes
- o Play mounds = Yes
 - Opportunity for year-round use
 - Winter sledding & snowball fights
- o Concerns about taking down surrounding trees / impact on existing vegetation
- o Prefer to add pickleball & b-ball courts to top of Brown Property
- o Workout Stations = No
 - Seen as unnecessary, underutilized at other parks
- o Pavilion = No
 - Too expensive

Group 2:

- o Nature-play Mounds = Yes
- o Orchard helps create a buffer/natural barrier between park & road for kids
- o Expand natural garden into play space
- o Workout Equipment & swings = expensive & could breakdown over time
 - The child friendly workout equipment = great if it works for all ages

Group 3:

- o Accessibility = high priority
 - Adults of all ages & children with limited mobility
 - Parents with Strollers
- o Future maintenance/ware and tare of equipment should be incorporated into total budget – set some aside for later needs
- o Play mounds = Yes

- Parking = limited to day use only - no overnight trailer parking
- Workout Stations for all ages = Yes
- Shaded play space = yes
- Open play field for unorganized sports only
 - No team sports practices
 - Always open – no reservations needed

Group 4:

- Overall Cost = concern
- Modern Pavilion = No
 - Keep natural looking
- Multi-use field = keep as is and improve
- Sensory Garden could be good for all ages
- ADA / Accessible = strollers & elderly
- Consolidate parking phases into one – don't phase it
- Benches & picnic tables = Yes
- Native Gardens = Yes
- Keep Dawn to Dusk Parking
- Incorporate Art & Meditative space in woodland
 - Opportunity for local artist to exhibit?
 - Opportunity for high school students exhibit?
- Incorporate a shade structure with sail to reduce costs, instead of pavilion?
 - Like structure in East End Portland?

Group 5:

- Safety Concerns & liability
- Lots going on in one small space
 - Simplify design & program
- Add bigger play structure – make that the focus
- Define urban swings – debatable whether it's necessary
 - Cool concept, but what's the maintenance?
- Informal multi-use field = Yes
- Concerns for trees removed around sensory garden
- Dog Walking – how does it fit into park?
- Pavilion = No
- Keep Parking Lot

Group 6:

- Benches = Especially great for elderly people to sit & observe
- Doubts about the durability of all proposed equipment
- Maintenance of garden?
 - Who will maintain it?
- What is an urban swing?
- Child friendly swings = Yes

Group 7:

- Parking = need designated space
- Pavilion = No

- Playground = Yes!
- Multi-use field = Yes
 - Unorganized rec...frisbee etc...
- Workout Station = most likely not used
 - Less priority
- Butterfly Gardens = Strong Yes!
- Wind chimes & noise makers takes away from the quiet space?
- Re-organize paths through mounds

Group 8:

- Pavilion – not modern = Yes
- Play spaces = Yes
- Parking = Yes
- Play mounds = No
- Workout Equipment = No

Additional Feedback:

- Add crosswalks to park
- Too much going on in space – 1/4mile loop
 - Simplify program
- Create “L” with playscapes (refer to plan)
 - Extending play area to bigger footprint
- Parking = continued issue & don’t phase parking = have one solution
- Bike Parking = alternatives to get to park & help solve parking issues?
- Parking = against on Brown Property
- Rt. 88 = safety concerns
 - Need sidewalks
- What’s the purpose of the park? What’s the scale?
 - For local neighborhood citizens?
 - Create destination for visitors from far away?

COLLECTED NOTES FROM MEETING ATTENDEES

MAP ONE

- No tree cutting, move the butterfly garden north
- Space for courts north of orchard
- Likes: orchard play. Nature play, butterfly garden, mostly low upkeep, nature play woods loop
- Don’t like: workout station
- Dots marking favorite amenities:
 - Nature play mounds (2)
 - Multi-use field (2)
 - Playscapes (3)
 - Orchard play mounds (2)

MAP TWO

- simple benches along trail?

- retain parking on rt 88 too?
- doubts about durability of gateways, playscapes, etc.
- long term maintenance of sensory garden?
- What is an urban swing?
- Child-friendly swings?
- Dots marking favorite amenities:
 - Nature play (3)
 - Playscapes (2)
 - Orchard mounds (2)
 - Southern parking lot (1)
 - Loop path (1)

MAP THREE

- Love everything
- Don't know if we need the workout stations?
- Take away the old play structure—all nature play
- We need swings for all—love all the possibilities
- Wooden simple pavilion—no metal
- No lights
- New play structure made of wood, and expand playscape across the loop path
- Remove play mounds from the orchard
- Add meditative aspect to butterfly garden
- Put the sensory garden north of the field
- Put parking lot in north spot and picnic tables in current parking lot location
- Remove work out stations
- Dots marking favorite amenities:
 - Butterfly garden (3)
 - Multi-use field (3)
 - Playscapes (5)
 - Loop path (4)
 - Urban swings (1)
 - Nature play mounds (1)
 - Trail gateway (1)

MAP FOUR

- Safety concerns (play mounds/stumps)
- Kid swings!
- More quiet areas
- Do adult workout stations get used year round?
- Nature play mounds nice for younger kids watching soccer playing
- Enlarge playscapes to join mounds in available open space
- Add benches
- Replace workout stations with benches
- Dots marking favorite amenities

- Nature play mounds (4)
- Multi-use field (3)
- Playscapes (and swings) (3)
- Orchard play mounds (3)
- Southern parking area (1)

MAP FIVE

- save money, install benches instead of urban swings
- extend orchards and pollinator gardens into northern open space
- include swings in playscape
- no mounds in orchard for safety reasons
- prioritize play mounds on north edge
- yes to pavilion, but keep it simple and use natural materials
- love the nature based workout stations
- Dots marking favorite amenities
 - Extended orchard and pollinator gardens in north area (3)
 - Playscapes (3)
 - Pavilion (2)
 - Orchard (2)
 - Nature play mounds (2)
 - Multi-use field (1)
 - Sensory/butterfly garden (1)
 - Workout station (1)

MAP SIX

- Plus
 - Nature! Really love the feel- natural and modern
 - Workout stations look cool
 - like smaller parking lot- focus on park use, not overnight
- Minus
 - Concern re: lighting (no lights?) pickup games?
 - more discussion about parking (resident vs. non-resident)
 - orchard play near road a good idea? Just do orchard as a barrier
 - seating
 - does anybody really use workout stations?
- in trail area add a meditative space
- add: native plants, benches/picnic tables in the blank brown property area
- include public art somewhere, sculpture? Possibly interactive?
- Please include kid swings in the playscapes, use natural elements—stone, wood (like Deering Oaks)
- Move the parking lot to the other lot space. That way we only have one lot (starts small and add more spaces later if needed?)
- Pavilion:
 - harken back to school building
 - keep it natural
 - consider sail type cover (canvas)

- leave fitness stations for teenagers
- Dots marking favorite amenities:
 - Sensory/butterfly garden (4)
 - Playscapes (4)
 - Multi-use field (3)
 - Urban swings (2)
 - Orchard play mounds (1)
 - Loop trail (1)
 - Woodland loop trail (1)
 - Workout stations (1)
 - Pavilion (1)

MAP 7

- If there's concern about too many trees cut down for the butterfly garden, the woodland trail loop could become more of a sensory path and incorporate features for neurodivergent community members
- Major components of play structure and areas need to be accessible, not just to children, but it will make it accessible for older and/or less mobile adults
- Maintenance costs must be considered and part of the long range plan.
 - Structures
 - Grass
- Small parking lot is a good thing. Love natural pavers for park use, not for Town Landing.
- Include crosswalk/safety features
- The field should be unscheduled/informal—no scheduled practices
- Based on experience with the sensory garden at the elementary school, while the plants may be low maintenance, they still need to be cared for
- Love stone dust for wheelchair and differently abled accessibility versus tarred or woodchips.
- Love the steps with Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, etc (precedent)
- Benches to sit on and watch children
- Pavilion would allow for all ages to rest under cover and watch others play. Maybe use sail type cover to cut costs.
- Save money:
 - Hold up on bigger parking
 - No lights around field
 - Use natural products, can sand off graffiti
 - Hold off on swings
- Dots marking favorite amenities
 - Playscapes (4)
 - Nature play mounds (3)
 - Woodland loop trail (2)
 - Sensory/butterfly garden (1)
 - Multi-use field (1)
 - Workout station (1)
 - Pavilion (1)
 - Orchard mounds (1)

-Parking lot in south location (1)

MAP 8

- No nature play mounds—cost too high
- Add a basketball court to the north open spot
- Expand playscape north of loop path, and add swings
- Add fencing or hedge along Rt 88
- Remove workout stations
- Natural paths preferred
- Small gazebo instead of pavilion (12'x12')
- Love the idea of a new playground and swings!

-(Written on sticky notes) Thank you for your efforts. I fully object to any parking spaces on the Marion Brown property and ask town leadership and counselors to please take this off the table. This would be inconsistent with the goals, objectives, visions, actions, strategies, of the town's Comprehensive Plan and Open Space Plan which clearly calls for acquiring and preserving open space, especially when adjacent to other open space. Please stop prioritizing this issue and stop talking about Marion Brown parking. Furthermore, the Town Landing parking study mentions parking at Marion Brown but there were five other recommendations also noted in that plan. There is not a proven need for more Town Landing parking in this area. Please feel free to call or email me.

Mary McCrann

PS. It is frustrating that parking on the Marion Brown property continues to be discussed without looping in the public about all the issues about why it's not needed.

- Dots marking favorite amenities:
 - Playscape (5)
 - Orchard play mounds (3)
 - Multi-use field (3)
 - Small gazebo instead of pavilion (2)
 - Sensory/butterfly garden (1)
 - Parking lot in south location (1)