

Dundee Park

Community Meeting #1 Notes

On October 7, 2024, City staff (Josh Richardson, Parks Manager and Jake Gilchrist, Director of Capital Projects) and Mayor Coleman hosted a community discussion regarding ideas to improve Dundee Park. More than 20 residents attended the meeting and provided helpful feedback to get the project moving in the right direction.

General Comments

1. Everyone agrees that the park is in dire need of improvement.
2. Staff explained that the project budget is \$600k. To be as efficient as possible with the project funding and to minimize consultant design fees and procurement time, Staff plans to use a cooperative purchase program to procure the materials and accomplish the improvements. For a relatively small project, this method should deliver the best value for our budget.
3. Residents asked if the budget could be increased. Staff and Mayor Coleman explained that an increase would need to be considered and approved by the entire City Council.

Playground improvements

1. There is broad agreement that that Dundee Park and Clay Park should complement each other and not provide too much redundancy in terms of play elements.
2. Perhaps targeting the playground for toddlers and younger children at Dundee Park makes sense, but also include an older child area that is not too tall or hazardous for adventurous younger kids.
3. Overall, residents would prefer synthetic play surface (poured in place or synthetic turf) over loose fill wood fiber. Staff explained that the wood fiber is significantly less expensive and we'll have to balance the desire for synthetic surfacing against the overall project costs.
4. There is support for expanding the footprint of the playground but first we'll see how we can maximize the existing space.
5. It's preferable that the playground is fenced to keep children in and dogs out.
6. Playground themes discussed were nature and dinosaurs and these were generally supported by all in attendance.
7. A saucer swing instead of belt/buckets would be good – preference for no tire swing because of water collection.

Overall Park Amenities

1. There is strong support for picnic tables and the ability to support small gathering or birthday parties at the park.
2. Shade is important.
3. There is support for half-court basketball and accommodation for scooters or tricycles, provided that the hardscape area can be re-graded to be flatter and more usable.

Future Project Communication

In order to accommodate busy schedules and child care challenges, residents asked for a combination of online and in-person communication, such as Survey Monkey to review design choices but also potentially an in-person evening or Saturday morning event in the park.