

II.b.2 - Darwin H. Wright Park

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING and SITE VISIT:

April 10, 2008

RECREATION SUB-DISTRICT PRESENTATION:

May 15, 2008 - Anderson Recreation Center

OVERVIEW:

Cater's Lake park is located between E. Greenville St. (Hwy. 81), Hiawatha Dr. and College Ave. It serves the City of Anderson as a community park providing picnic tables, some paved walking trails and a paved parking area. Darwin H. Wright Park is approximately 37 acres in size.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

The desire of the Committee exploring the redesign of Darwin H. Wright Park is to make this regional park appealing to tourists. This would enhance tourists' experience as well as increase the number of tourism dollars. Some items discussed were: constructing a bandstand near the beach for "Music Nights," hosting the Dragon Boat Festival and rowing events, and providing a Conference Center for meeting space/catering similar to the Clemson University Outdoor Lab.

The attendees liked the idea of mirroring activities between the two sides of the park. They desire more pedestrian trails and playgrounds and possibly primitive campsites. They would also like to add 9 Disc Golf holes to the existing 9 holes, with the possibility of hosting tournaments.

Revision of the parking to enhance open green space, separation of vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and limiting the boat ramp usage to emergency situations were also discussed.

Safety is a big concern in all parks. Lighting, as well as police and emergency vehicle access were discussed as possible solutions to these concerns.

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS:

We recommend starting renovations at Darwin H. Wright Park by removing the parking loop at the South end of Anderson Beach Blvd. and moving the parking area against the tree line. This will create an open space for active recreation and room for a picnic shelter and playground. This parking will also serve the beach area that provides sand volleyball, a rowing dock, a boat dock, and space to sun bathe or go for a swim in the lake. The removal of the traffic loop will ensure safety for pedestrians by removing the vehicular traffic from this area. We also suggest leaving the boat ramp but limiting usage to emergency cases. There is an opportunity for a walking loop around the park as well as room for an 18 hole disc golf course through the trees. We see potential for primitive camp sites and a nature trail on the northern side of the park. We would suggest creating two separate spaces in the park with the same amenity package. In order to do this we propose enhancing the parking area along Anderson Beach Blvd. to serve a smaller open area with another picnic shelter and playground facility. Also in this area you have another beach, sand volleyball pit and smaller picnic shelters which can be rented out for events and family gatherings. One alternative to be considered is a Conference Center in the large open area at the end of Anderson Beach Blvd. This Conference Center would serve as a place for large event gatherings with a large conference room and smaller break out rooms as well as a kitchen and catering services. This center would create revenue and enhance tourism money.