

II.b.3 - Watson Park

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING and SITE VISIT:

April 10, 2008

RECREATION SUB-DISTRICT PRESENTATION:

May 15, 2008 - Anderson Recreation Center

OVERVIEW:

Watson Park is located at the corners of Bannister St. and Bellview Rd. and Brookview Dr. and Boulevard Heights. Watson park is a neighborhood park with the following amenities: a picnic shelter, non-programmed baseball field/open space, picnic tables, and 1 covered picnic table. Watson Park is approximately 3 acres in size.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

The City Engineer attended this meeting and is interested in detaining the water on site to alleviate storm water problems downstream. At the same time, the citizens do not want large amounts of water sitting on site for more than 24 hours. There is a possibility of piping storm water from Bannister Road through the site to a detention pond on Bellview road. It would also be possible to lower the grass area next to Brookview Dr. to create a small detention pond on site.

Another topic of discussion was vehicular access into the park. Many people drive into this park and cause damage to the grass. The citizens would like to block vehicles from coming into the park and instead look at allowing vehicular parking along Bannister St. and Brookview Dr.

The citizens are interested in a walking loop around the park that maintains visibility with the playground at all times. They would also like to see the playground updated in its current location and add some benches around it. The community would like to see the existing picnic shelter repaired and look into the possibility of adding a new one, with grills, to be used in the summer months.

The citizens want to eliminate problems with golf in the park, as well as dog waste.

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 suggest the Recreation Department look to the Public Works Department for a partnership on this project. One of the issues with this site is drainage and a partnership may be possible for funding for storm water repairs in this park. In addition to fixing storm water issues we propose placing a large picnic shelter and a playground facility on site as well as connecting a walking loop around the park. The grassed open space will serve as a place for non-programmed sports such as frisbee, soccer, football, and baseball/softball for which a backstop would be maintained.

