

II.c.1 - Anderson Recreation Center

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING and SITE VISIT:

January 1, 2008

March 19, 2008

RECREATION SUB-DISTRICT PRESENTATION:

May 15, 2008 - Anderson Recreation Center

OVERVIEW:

Anderson Recreation Center is located at the corner of N. Murray Ave. and Bleckley St. This facility currently provides a soccer field and a baseball field for programmed uses as well as a multipurpose recreation facility located on site.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

The January 1st input meeting regarding Anderson Recreation Center was between representatives of the Anderson Recreation Center and Arbor Engineering.

A desire for Anderson Recreation Center was the availability of special needs facilities for wheelchair softball and basketball. This would also include a handicap designated parking lot near the special needs courts to handle the parking problem.

In a facility like Anderson Recreation Center, with its potential of highly programmed uses, parking issues are inevitable. The need for sufficient parking was discussed at this meeting and different possibilities were explored.

The March 19th meeting for this Center was again between representatives of the Anderson Recreation Center and Arbor Engineering. The primary topic of discussion at this meeting was the possible programmed uses of the park. Anderson currently has teams for the following sports: baseball (Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken Leagues), softball (Little League Soft Pitch and a Men's Soft Pitch League), soccer and football. Currently the YMCA runs the outdoor soccer program and the Recreation Center was discussed as a possible partner in

the future for soccer facilities. Anderson also has 60-70 Little League Baseball teams and there are approximately 12 fields to meet the needs of these teams. There are nearly 40 men's softball teams as well that need facilities. Football has 9-12 youth tackle teams per season and 16-18 adult flag teams. Currently McCants Field is the only facility with a football field. This meeting about the Recreation Center included discussion about the potential this facility has to meet many of the programming needs for the City of Anderson's Recreation Department.

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:

This facility could accommodate baseball, softball, football, soccer, basketball, and handicapped softball and basketball. The design forms a parking loop from Bleckley St. up behind the existing soccer field and then back down the site out to Piedmont Ave. This parking would accommodate the needs of a programmed facility without interfering with the space needed for the athletic fields. We propose erecting a scoring tower in the middle of the complex that would also contain rest rooms and concessions. Our design on the following page also suggests the addition of a couple of playgrounds and picnic shelters on the site. This site has the potential to become the center of Anderson Recreation due to its location and size capabilities. It also connects to the Greenway acting as a strong node in the center of town for people entering or exiting the Greenway. We strongly suggest focusing efforts on the programming of this park to alleviate pressure on the community parks. We believe this would allow community facilities to serve their purpose better while Anderson Recreation Center could become the central hub of sports that Anderson's Recreation Programs need.