

## II.c.2 - Beatrice Thompson Park

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### **COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING and SITE VISIT:**

March 28, 2008

### **RECREATION SUB-DISTRICT PRESENTATION:**

May 20, 2008 - Westside Community Center

### **OVERVIEW:**

Located at the corners of Cunningham Dr., W. Market St. and W. Franklin St., Beatrice Thompson Park is a neighborhood park that provides a picnic shelter with a grill, a playground, open play space and an unpaved parking area. Beatrice Thompson Park is approximately 4 acres in size.

### **COMMUNITY INPUT:**

The community desires additional shelters within the park as well as more picnic tables and grills. The existing playground needs upgrading and a possible relocation to the open area out from under the trees between the drainage way and existing trees.

The community expressed interest in acquiring the land across the drainage way adjacent to the existing park for more open space and potential vehicular access to and from W. Market St. The acquired land could also serve as a potential connection for the future Greenway and could tie to the existing park with pedestrian bridges across the drainage way.

Beautification of the park is important as well. The community made suggestions such as new plantings, replacing fences, and repainting rails, all of which were a top priority. A water fountain was also suggested as a nice option. Additionally there was a desire to maintain the amount of existing green space.

Parking is an issue and needs to be placed either within the park or

somewhere along Cunningham Dr. Pedestrian connections also need to be made and improved upon in the West end of the park at the junction with W. Market St.

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:**

Beatrice Thompson Park is a linear park that serves as a connection with the Greenway and as a much used community park. In order to enhance the use of this facility we recommend enhancing the parking area by converting from a natural parking area to pavement. We also would suggest the placement of new playground equipment along with a new shelter containing rest rooms and a grill for hosting family size events and gatherings to be located adjacent to the parking. A walking trail through the park would serve as part of the Greenway as well as creating a walking loop within the park for community use. Beautification and landscaping which “defines the space” is a needed amenity in the park. Street trees along Cunningham Dr. and W. Market St. will help to do this along with flowering trees, shrubs, and annual color at each entrance and the park sign.

