

MURDOCK PARK MASTER PLAN

Park Design Concepts

PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROJECT STATEMENT

The development of a master plan for Murdock Park is an opportunity to explore how this public space can be enhanced to enrich the lives of the citizens of the City of Sherwood. The master plan will be used to guide future improvements to the park and as such, it will be of the utmost importance that the plan is not only feasible, but that it is collaborative and firmly rooted in the values of the City of Sherwood. This process should result in a design for Murdock Park that is enduring and beloved by the community.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Based on direction from the 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the following guiding principles have been established as a starting point for this study.

Provide Green Solutions:

Add more native vegetation around the stormwater pond, convert turf not being used for recreation to ecolawn or drought resilient plants, increase landscape complexity, and plant more shade trees.

Promote Health and Accessibility:

The park should be a place for people of all ages, abilities, and recreation interest.

Enhance the Play Experience:

Build upon the existing playground and incorporate additional amenities, such as nature play elements and climbing features. Consider the location of elements to create a playful space that inspires joy.

Improve and Expand Park Amenities:

The Plan for Murdock Park must provide recreation amenities consistent with design guidelines for neighborhood parks, such as a picnic shelter overlooking the pond, a restroom, a sport court, and an enhanced path network with additional connections, a longer loop, and embedded measured distances.

Elevated Park Design:

The design of Murdock Park should inspire delight and be enduring and meaningful to the residents of Sherwood. Opportunities to express Sherwood's identity by integrating cultural, historic, and place-based art and interpretation should be capitalized on.

EXISTING SITE



SITE ANALYSIS

Legend

- Area of Moderate Slopes**
 These areas are sloped enough that consideration will be needed for any programming in these spaces. Maintaining accessible pathways through these areas could require some re-grading.
- Area of Steep Slopes**
 These areas are sloped steeply and could potentially require significant re-grading in order to make these areas viable for park programming.
- Pathway Accessibility**
 These highlighted sections of pathways do not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility due to the slopes being too high.
- There are only two pathway entrances into the park, from the north and the south, limiting accessibility into the park. In addition, there is no paved pathway to the picnic shelter.
- Fences at Property Line**
 The west and south boundaries of the park back onto houses with fences along the property line. Site activities must be designed in a manner that minimizes disturbance to neighbors.
- Tree Condition**
 These trees are in good condition.
- These trees are in okay condition, however they are showing signs of stress or have the potential to become safety and/or maintenance concerns.
- These trees are in poor condition. Although not currently safety concerns, they show signs of decline and should be monitored.
- Existing Culvert**
 The existing culvert is near the end of its design life. As such, there are opportunities to reconsider this crossing and related chain link fences.
- Wetland Setback**
 The pond will be regulated by Clean Water Services, meaning that there will be a 50 ft. planted buffer. This buffer will have strict requirements on the types of programming that can occur in this zone.
- Shallow Bedrock**
 There is bedrock below the surface that will need to be considered for any improvements in the east portion of the site. This could possibly affect what can be built in this area.



WHAT WE HEARD

People love the natural and serene feel of the park

It was a common sentiment that one of the most loved aspects of the park is its serene, natural feel, particularly as it relates to the pond. Much of the feedback received was supportive of enhancing this feeling and aesthetic and to use this as a theme for enhancements not just adjacent to the pond, but throughout the park.

Enhance the pond

Enhancement and addition of amenities that allowed users access to or views of the pond were popular. Boardwalks, enhancement of the overlook, and the addition of new overlooks were popular programming opportunities.

Add a restroom, but do it with care

There was strong support for including a restroom with a drinking fountain in the plan. There were some concerns raised, however, that such a building would block site lines, potentially making the park unsafe for parents monitoring their children. Proper placement of this element will be important.

Update the playground for both parents and children

It was noted that one of the primary users of this park are parents and their children. Upgrades to the playground, including a preference for nature play elements, more inclusivity, protection from the sun, and more seating for parents, were recorded.

Adding a sports court is divisive

The addition of a basketball and/or sports court received mixed support, with some expressing a desire to have a place for sports in the park and others expressing concern that the noise and activity would detract from the serene environment in the park, noting that Synder Park already has such facilities.

Accessibility is important

There was general support for ensuring that the pathway system and future park improvements be upgraded so that the park is fully accessible.

Be mindful of the informal ways the park is used

The community informed the design team that one of the informal uses of the park was sledding in the northeast corner of the park. Some expressed concern as the sledding is directly adjacent to the street, however others expressed a desire to maintain some sort of opportunity for sledding.



Basketball Courts



Ping-Pong Tables



Community Bulletin Board



Chess Tables



Expanded path network with measured distances



Drinking Fountains



Public Restroom



Small Scale Seating Areas

CONCEPT 1 PLAN



CONCEPT 1 PRECEDENT IMAGERY

Playground



Park Entry Feature



Pond Lookout



Combined Shelter
and Restroom



Play Area Seating



Ping Pong Table



Wetland Planting



Bridge



Chess Table



CONCEPT 2 PLAN



CONCEPT 2 PRECEDENT IMAGERY



CONCEPT 3 PLAN



CONCEPT 2 PRECEDENT IMAGERY



CONCEPT PLANS

1



2



3

