

Parks With Purpose Community Task Force Newsletter and Meeting Summary

March 25, 2019 Meeting | Norman and Betty Camp Education Center

Meeting Participants: Kevin Boyer, Louie Rivers, Christy Perrin, Amin Davis, Claudia Graham, David Proper, Bill Flournoy, Mikiya McClain, Randy Senzig, Francis Carmichael-Jones, Bettie BrodieThompson, Claire Cooney, Kristi Moyer, Stacie Hagwood, Eric Butler, Frank Lopez

Decisions/action items:

- **Next meeting is Monday, May 6 at the Norman and Betty Camp Education Center, dinner at 5:30pm, program at 6:00 pm.** We'll review a presentation on the final LA students' results, and share/ discuss additional info gathered. Wear shoes that can get dirty- we may get in a van to go for a short walk on the property south of Walnut Creek.
- **The group decided to focus the grant funds on designing and implementing park facilities south of Walnut Creek, in partnership with City of Raleigh**
- Seek better understanding of the hydrology of the site, to determine limitations and possibilities
- Louie will send Dresden McGregor's graduate paper to the group. Her work identified areas of flooding in the community.
- Christy and Louie will meet with City of Raleigh partners before the next PWP meeting to touch base on data/information available, information needs, and potential next steps.
- Consider how to reach out to inform and get feedback from property owners along Bailey Drive, including strip mall owner/residents.

Announcements:

- Upcoming local events:
 - Partners for Environmental Justice and local park development projects will be featured in the May issue of Walter Magazine.
 - Mud Day is May 18 from 10am-2pm at the Walnut Creek Wetland Park. We will host a table.

Discussion of top priorities for PWP

Top priority results from Mar 18 exercise with Design students were:

- Integration of green stormwater infrastructure
- Engaging local minorities in environmental activities
- Walnut creek bank restoration and cleanup
- Access to walnut creek and community events
- Intergenerational

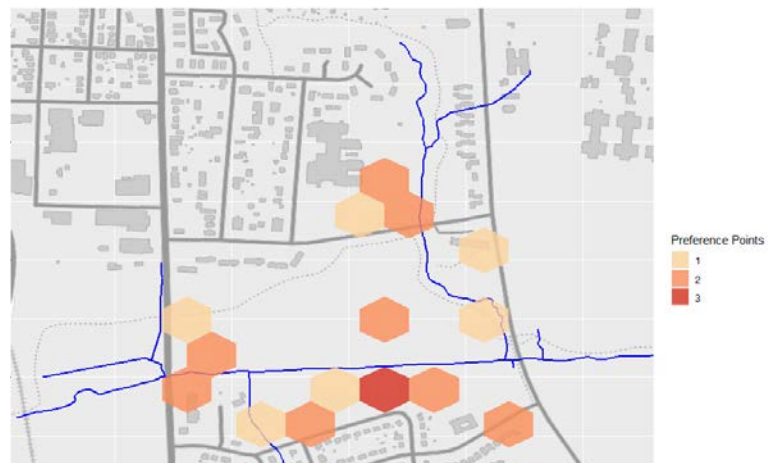
The group reviewed the list of priorities from summer 2018, and were not surprised that they had changed a little. A comment arose that it seems like a natural evolution of the discussions held over the last year. Earlier votes may have been split between the similar ideas of stormwater management and flooding. This project could raise awareness of the importance of stormwater management, whether or not it has the ability to directly impact stormwater. Also, Green infrastructure has co-benefits- plantings can benefit pollinators, aesthetics. A resident commented that the community may not say much about flooding as it is resigned (hopeless) to the idea of flooding as a way of life. Another was concerned that more community members weren't at the table yet. To make an impact on flooding, projects need to happen upstream- Raleigh, Cary, and immediately upstream (such as around I-40 and public and private properties nearby). The Rochester Heights tributary where it meets Walnut Creek gets backed up, exacerbated by I-40 runoff. The stores and church on corner of Bailey Dr. and Garner Rd floods frequently. The group discussed the importance of incorporating the social aspects- education, fostering engagement with nature, providing gathering space- as well as addressing stormwater and improving streambanks. A comment was raised that it's important to create something that people can see and touch out of this grant, and not just another plan.

Design and implementation questions:

- How will projects influence stormwater and the tributary?
- NCDWR has tools to estimate stormwater volume reduction for projects
- What can be done in floodplain? Can green stormwater infrastructure go there?
- Is there a way to maximize existing wetland assets- allow more storage for longer?
- Former residential lots are not likely wetlands- could pose opportunity for stormwater and/or gathering space?
- Could City of Raleigh stormwater cost share contribute to green stormwater infrastructure? What if it's in a flood plain? (possible)

Selecting a site for the grant

The group reviewed the map produced by design students that showed Mar 18 meeting participants' preference for the project. The site south of Walnut Creek had the highest preference (9 points). Tied for second is the Park parcel north of Peterson St. and Garner Rd (both with 5 points). The group clarified that they wanted to consider the entirety of the property south of Walnut Creek- from State St. to Garner Rd, possibly through a linear concept. The group did a consensus check (5 finger vote with 1 as top support and 5 as no support) on the proposal:



Target the area south of Walnut Creek for the Parks with Purpose grant, incorporating stormwater management and/or education as is possible.

Consensus check:

- 1 -- 8
- 2 -- 1
- 3 -- 2
- 4 -- 0
- 5 -- 0

The two participants with hesitation (who ranked it as a 3), cited concerns about trying to put stormwater controls in the floodplains as wetlands already serve that purpose, and that the only way to really mitigate flooding involves watershed-wide projects with engineering solutions. **With the concerns noted, the group chose to move forward with the proposal.** The team will need to consider how to reach out to inform and get feedback from property owners along Bailey Drive, including strip mall owner/residents.

What participants like about the student designs

Participants took a few minutes at the end of the meeting to review the student ideas and put sticky notes with comments about the specific features they really like.

1. Retrofitting the edge (Li)

- Marked trail crossing across Peterson addresses some very real access issues
- Park north of Peterson St. - like the integration of GSI and community elements

2. The Community Park (Peterson)

3. Hear the Voice (Zhuang)

- Interesting way to bring nature, play and education together (outdoor classroom with plants, paths, rises)
- Like the nature playground- playgrounds invite people to a place
- Good idea to reduce street noise on Peterson St.(shows earthen mounds and trees)

4. Close to the wetland (Liu)

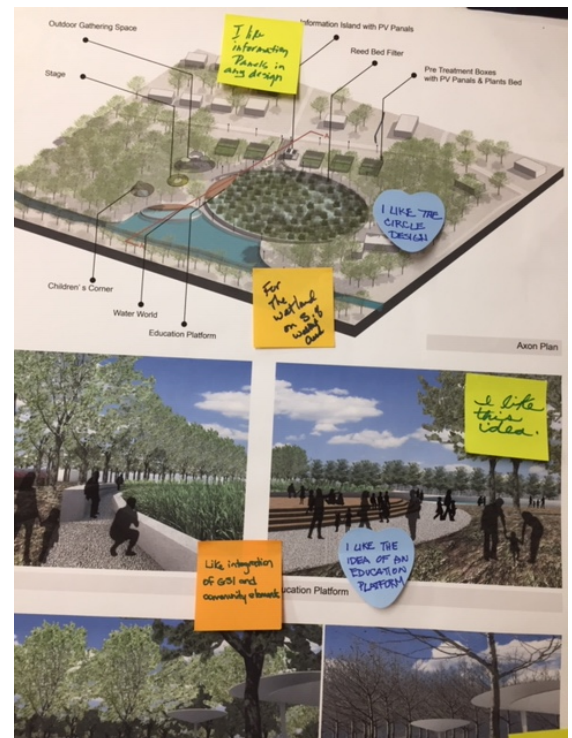
- Like access to park (shown at corner of Bailey Dr/Baoz Rd)

5. Garner Road Connection (Walters)

- Like retrofit that incorporates green infrastructure to treat existing road infrastructure
- This is it!
- Deals with 2 concerns at once- safety and stormwater runoff
- I like this (Roadway Section C-C, shows road with pathway, wooden stairs to overlook, with stormwater planter, boardwalk)

6. Save the Little Creek (Wu)

- Like information panels in any design
- I like the circular wetland design
- Like the wetland south of Walnut Creek
- Like integration of GSI and community elements (shows pathway and seating around wetland)
- Like the education platform (2 likes)



Comments on "Save the Little Creek" design

7. Upcycling Park (Williams)

- I like the idea of sculpture (shown on Bailey Dr parcel)
- Looking at trash is important (focusing on?)
- Connect park facilities on Bailey Dr by trail along creek to State St., then into park at existing boardwalk
- No to cleaning and recycling-may encourage dumping

8. Little Creek Trail and Rochester Park project (Pratt)

The student designs can be viewed at the following link: https://wri.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/LAR-Projects_-_Parks-with-Purpose-Presentation-2.27.2019.pdf

For information about the Urban Park with Purpose Community Task Force or Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership, contact Christy Perrin at Christy_perrin@ncsu.edu and 919-513-1152 or Louie Rivers at lrivers@ncsu.edu