



MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-5258; 452-4169

Date: September 30, 2013

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Glenn Kost, Parks Planning Manager
Scott Vander Hyden, Parks Project Coordinator

Subject: Surrey Downs Park Plan Update

Action Requested: *None. Feedback is requested on the Park Plan Update and Public Process*

Summary: The approved light rail alignment along the Surrey Downs Park frontage will eliminate vehicular access to the park off of 112th Ave SE. This will require revisions to the adopted Surrey Downs Park Master Plan, which contemplated access from 112th. We are currently working with the Surrey Downs community to implement changes to this plan. At your meeting, we will review the process to-date, share initial feedback from the neighborhood and request comments from the Board. Based on Park Board and community feedback, and working with the park committee, we will develop a plan for Park Board and City Council review. We hope to return to the community in November, then return to you at your November or January meeting with a preferred plan to review and recommend to the City Council, after which the Council will be asked to adopt the Master Plan Update.

Background: The master plan public process for Surrey Downs Park began in Nov. 2007 and included significant public outreach and community involvement. Over 200 people participated in three public meetings. The Boys and Girls Club participated in those meetings and advocated the development of a large, multi-use community center and gymnasium at the park, though Surrey Downs generally opposed the idea. The Park Board reviewed the plan on two occasions and recommended the plan to the City Council, who also reviewed the plan at a study session and adopted it in March of 2009. The Plan (*see attachment*) was strongly supported by the Surrey Downs community. It balances passive and active recreational areas while providing a variety of elements to accommodate the multi-generational interests of the community. The plan contains a large open lawn area, walking trails, picnicking and gathering spots, a picnic shelter, environmental and traditional play areas, two Little League-sized baseball/softball fields, a soccer field overlay, small basketball court, hazelnut grove, skate spot, and contemplative area. While the number of athletic fields remains the same as today, the larger field sizes and reconfiguration would allow for greater programmed use. The plan also includes a large "Development Zone" (white space) reserved for a building program and parking which was to be determined at a later date after the light rail alignment was established. The

building zone included a series of requirements intended to limit the impact of a building on the neighborhood. The full Surrey Downs Master Plan document is available for Board review upon request.

In November of 2008, the voters approved the Park and Natural Areas Levy, which provided funds to develop Surrey Downs Park. However, because of the delays in the light rail alignment decision and court relocation, funding for Surrey Downs Park was deferred from the 2013-2019 CIP budget.

Park Update Progress to-date: The planning effort is lead by the Parks & Community Services Department staff with assistance from the landscape architecture firm of The Berger Partnership and the Surrey Downs Park Advisory Committee. The public involvement process to-date has included two staff meetings with the Park Advisory Committee, staff attendance at the annual Surrey Downs Community Club picnic held on Sept. 8, and one public meeting held at City Hall on Sept. 25.

The Surrey Downs Community Association is actively participating in this process, and has established a Park Advisory Committee to help provide information about the desires of the neighbors. They have also distributed a survey requesting information from the residents about their interests for the park. Information from this survey will be available soon and second more detailed survey will be distributed by the committee in the coming weeks.

Approximately 20 residents from the neighborhood and four Park Board members attended the Sept. 25 meeting held at City Hall. The meeting included background information about the 2009 master plan, updates on the courthouse relocation, project funding, and impacts of the light rail alignment. This was followed by two facilitated breakout session stations in which participants were invited to offer their comments, suggestions and desires for the park. Significant feedback was received regarding vehicular access, parking needs, frontage improvements and program elements which we will share at the meeting

Information received from the picnic, neighborhood survey, past information from the previous master planning effort and the public meetings will help form the basis for the revised park plan.

Attachment: 2009 Adopted Master Plan



Surrey Downs Park Proposed Master Plan

PLAN SCALE: 1"=40'



