

Brown Park Pond Redesign Public Meeting

May 28, 2003

Community Feedback

Values

The project team heard the following community values expressed at the public meeting.

Preserve Natural Areas

- *Preserve woodlands*
- *Keep woodlands as natural as possible*
- *Preservation of the wooded areas*
- *Maintain native species in woods*
- *Have park remain as natural as possible. Maintain natural features*
- *Sustainable design.*
- *Establishing native species in wetland*
- *Maintain habitat*
- *Restoration of the native plants and wildlife (birds, turtles)*
- *Preserving and enhancing natural areas*
- *Keep natural aspects of park*
- *Maintain a natural appearance*
- *Natural area preservation*

Enhance Water Quality and Provide Flood Protection

- *Stormwater management*
- *Improve flood runoff to avoid future floods*
- *Improve creek quality*
- *Water quality improvement, while maintaining the downstream flood protection (Packard to Washtenaw)*
- *Making the Brown Park Pond function the way it was originally designed to.*
- *Controlling stormwater, improving water quality*
- *Manage impact of large and smaller storms*
- *Control downstream pulses and severe erosion-the bank full and other smaller rainstorms*

Incorporate Education

- *Educational opportunities (signs, community volunteer work sessions)*
- *Provide trails with signage*
- *Incorporate education with wetland development*

Support Compatible Uses and Recreation

- *Maintain compatible uses for the park-at the same time as enhancing the natural environment.*
- *Maintain the disc golf course*
- *Keep a good playground*

Others

- *Maintain safety and accessibility*
- *Enhance community involvement*

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- Replace them if they are disturbed during the construction. Neighbor children value the safe slide.
- Maintain the links and trails that connect the parks in this area.

Ideas

Attending community members shared the following ideas with the project team:

- Increase the use of volunteer stewards for extended maintenance support through the watershed and in other park areas.
- Consider a boardwalk to go through the wetland area with educational signage.
- Incorporate citizen involvement in all aspects of project and in the ongoing maintenance and management plans
- There is currently a good balance of water in the woods. Attend to and maintain the water levels in the woods
- The area at 805 elevation (NE corner of project area) is a sensitive ecological boundary and needs careful; attention to impacts to plant life there.
- The water on the golf course near hole 13 may be flows from Verle Street (eastern boundary of park) not from the wetland area.
- Pay attention to the mandate for paved parking in the park. Help mitigate the impact via the wetland area.
- Include a plan for dealing with displaced animal life during changes. (i.e turtles)
- Erosion and soil stability issues on the golf course need attention. Consider soil options that will reduce erosion on course.
- Develop a plan to control invasive plants in the new wetland and surrounding areas
- Add obstacles for the course (water etc)
- Change the name of the park For example: “Le Deux Fultons”, for Doug Fulton (Ann Arbor News) and Jerry Fulton (DC 72-75) without whom this would be solid little “ticky tacky boxes all in a row”.
- Could this site serve as a detention area for neighboring properties that presently have no detention?
- Is increasing the storage capacity feasible and worthwhile to compensate for added upstream imperviousness?
- Focus on the community project aspects versus the engineering project aspects
- Do not improve the parking area-the solitude is the best thing about the park
- Visit Lillie Park East to see how education has been incorporated with wetland. Consider a design for a children’s ‘natural treasure hunt’ to guide young people through the area.
- Do disc golfers care about natural habitat? I don’t know. I would guess not. I’m not altogether behind the disc golf course.

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Questions

- Q. Can aquatic life move through the outlet weir?
A. *Not as it is currently constructed. The team expects that the proposed designs will allow movement of aquatic life through this area.*
- Q. How will the changes affect West Nile virus issues?
A. *The proposed designs will have moving waters that are much less conducive to mosquito breeding and support natural predators like dragonflies.*
- Q. What are the potential uses of the soil that will be removed?
A. *That will be determined once soil testing has occurred. That information will be available in later July.*
- Q. What types and levels of toxics are in the sediment that has collected?
A. *Testing for toxics in the sediment will occur during June and more will be known on that in early July.*
- Q. What are MDEQ requirements for this wetland?
A. *The project team has been talking with MDEQ and the goals of MDEQ and the team are very closely aligned. The project team will continue to engage MDEQ to ensure full agreement to any proposed changes to wetland and storm control areas of the park.*