

Juri Commons Community 6/26 Meeting Summary

A second community meeting was held on June 26, 2018 to present and discuss conceptual design options for the Juri Commons renovation project. The full presentation, including survey results, may be found [here](#).

Rec & Park reviewed the survey results, and recapped a brief history of the site as segment of a rail line that once connected San Francisco to San Jose, and which continues to influence unique character of the space. We then reviewed the three underlying concepts that will drive the redesign:

- Transparency in the long linear space
- Site's railroad history
- Nature in the City (greenery being the highest "must have" item from the survey)

The scope of work will include:

- Pathway upgrade (fully ADA accessible)
- Irrigation repair
- Fences / gates at each end
- Play area upgrades
- Misc. smaller items (utility box, benches, planting, etc...)
- Lighting (if in the unlikely event that budget permits)

Three concepts were presented; they can be found in the slide deck [here](#). All three concepts included all the objectives and scope noted above, and all focused on maintaining the predominantly "green oasis" feeling of the park. All also integrated nature play opportunities to varying degrees into the equipment-based play areas. With different strategies, the schemes relied on porous boundaries between uses and the usefulness of social and design cues to enable many users to share the limited space. All were 100% ADA accessible.

The schemes differed in their physical distribution of uses (especially play areas) throughout the space, and in the grading to achieve them. The "Exploration Stations" scheme scattered four play spaces along the length of the park, each paired with an adjacent nature play area. The entire site would be regraded. The "Urban Play" scheme employed a similar approach, but retained the existing raised platform that holds the current play space. The "Walk in the Park" scheme clustered all the play spaces at the San Jose Ave. end of the park, leaving the rest as quieter green spaces. This scheme's path gently curved throughout the site.

The discussion concluded with a consensus that clustering the play spaces together was a preferable strategy to scattering them through the park. This had the advantages of allowing parents and caregivers to more easily supervise kids (especially younger ones), as well as leaving more of the park as green planted space. The "Walk in the Park" scheme achieves this, but there were concerns raised by some residents who abut the San Jose end of the park (and who have little or no backyards), They were concerned that this location would create noise and disruption both from kids playing in the daytime and teens, drinkers, and dogwalkers congregating at night. SF Rec & Park noted that the location was

proposed because it was sunnier, flatter, and near a quieter street, but will explore other locations for play space consistent with the other concepts in the “Walk in the Park” scheme.

Consensus items were:

- Keep as much green space as possible, integrated where possible with other elements
- Adjacency of active play and “nature” spaces
- Concentrate play equipment in one area, rather than scattered
- Porous but evident boundaries between uses
- Get rid of existing raised platform
- Low 3’-4’ fences at either end are preferable to high ones. This item was discussed in detail. Consensus was that even a tall fence would not prevent the types of problems residents encountered, and that a welcoming fence, along with active neighbor involvement (i.e. calling the authorities), was the best solution.
- Adult exercise area (small, perhaps integrated with play equipment)
- No bench outside the fence at San Jose Ave.
- Removal of 3 existing large trees
- No artificial grass

Other items desired, which did not generate opposition or concern, were:

- Some shaded seating
- Keep existing mural
- Keep existing mosaics; relocate if necessary
- Use San Jose Ave. fence as an art opportunity to welcome users to the park
- Swing(s), overhead climbing/swinging bars are favorites
- Drinking fountain would be nice if not cost prohibitive
- Homelessness is a concern, but is a citywide issue and should not drive the design
- Enough space to throw a ball
- Natural turf preferred (by people and dogs) over ground cover
- Gardening opportunities are nice, but meant to help to Rec & Park with maintenance rather than as a dedicated activity.

The next meeting will be in late July, where we will present a revised conceptual design reflecting these concepts and priorities for discussion.