



PLAN CONCEPT

This plan proposes to refurbish the existing Steel City Park to make it into a Neighborhood Park that meets the needs and desires of the residents of Steel City. A Community Visioning Session was held on August 4, 2008. At this session, Steel City residents were able to voice their opinions about what they like most about the park as it exists today, what they like least about the park as it exists today, and what they would like to see happen in the future for Steel City Park. Answers receiving the most votes for what residents currently like about the park are as follows: the park is small and local; it is simple and undeveloped; the basketball courts; and the parks programs. Answers receiving the most votes for what residents like least about the park are as follows: not enough area for older kids, no public restrooms, poor drainage on the sports court, and no walking paths for recreation. Responses receiving the most votes for the question of what residents would like to see happen in the future for Steel City Park are as follows: better enforcement of park rules, better maintenance of playground safety surface areas, and a sand volleyball court. This sketch plan addresses those physical aspects of the park that can be improved through design while maintaining the small local park aspects of the existing facility. Other aspects such as a maintenance plan and a plan for maintaining the security of the park will come at a later date as the park design progresses.

EXISTING FEATURES

The 1.8 acre +/- site is located at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Mathews Avenue, directly south of the Steel City Fire Hall. Schwab Avenue borders the site to the south. Lewis Avenue to the east has been vacated, and a portion of the vacated paper street has been added to the total park area. The park currently contains swings, some play equipment and benches, a pavilion, sport court and a rudimentary baseball field. The pavilion and play equipment, as well as benches, are in good repair and can be reused in the renovated park. The current sport court and baseball fields are in poor repair and need complete refurbishment. Existing vegetation provides screening between the property and the southern portion of the vacated Lewis Avenue.

PARKING AREAS

Currently, no parking is available on the Steel City Park property. The plan proposes ten parallel parking spaces along Riverside Drive, with a crosswalk to the Steel City Fire Hall parking lot should an agreement regarding overflow parking area could be located within the park itself in the southeastern corner of the property. An additional nine spaces could be located in this area, and should this additional parking not be desired, this area could be used as passive open space or a picnic grove.

TRAILS

One of the desired park elements that received the most votes at the Visioning Session was paved walkways that could be utilized for walking, biking, jogging, etc. This plan proposes over 1/4 mile of walking trails that form two loops around the park and connect to both proposed parking areas, Riverside Drive, a proposed crosswalk to the Steel City Fire Hall, and Mathews and Schwab Avenues. All elements of the park are accessible by following the paved trails, and the circular layout provides ample opportunity for residents to exercise, stroll, or simply move from one park activity to another. Additionally, the 6' wide trails provide emergency and maintenance access throughout the park.

FENCING

One of the main concerns of residents regarding the neighborhood park is security, better enforcement of park rules, and an ability to effectively close the park at the designated time. The plan proposes a uniform 6' chain link fence surrounding the perimeter of the park, with gates for access to Riverside Drive and the parallel parking area and the Fire Hall parking lot, and gates providing access to Mathews and Schwab Avenue and the optional parking area off Schwab Avenue. A uniform fence at this height will enable officials or law enforcement to effectively close and lock park facilities and will make it much more difficult for people to trespass on park property after closing time.

PAVILION AND TOT LOT AREA

This plan proposes to move the existing pavilion to an area in between the proposed sports court and the proposed tot lot. This will provide a shaded area for caregivers to keep a close eye on children as they play. Existing playground equipment can be relocated to the tot lot area, and relocation of the pavilion will enable the refurbishment of the baseball field to include a complete outfield. The pavilion is located close to proposed parking areas for easy unloading of cars, and a fence is provided at the outfield perimeter of the adjacent ballfield to prevent children from wandering into any ongoing activity on the ballfield.

SANITARY FACILITIES

Several restroom facilities are proposed towards the center of the park. This location is easily accessible to all play areas, especially the pavilion and tot lot. Landscaping is proposed to provide shade cover for the facilities, and with their proximity to the walking trails should make them easily accessible for maintenance and access by pumper trucks. The facilities could also be covered by a small shelter-type facility for aesthetic purposes. This area should also include hand sanitizing facilities kept stocked with hand sanitizer for cleanliness.

SPORTS FACILITIES

Three sports facilities are proposed. The existing baseball field is proposed to be refurbished to a regulation sized little-league practice field with skinned baselines, outfield fence with gaps for access, curved backstop, protective fencing, and benches. This field could be used for local teams to practice, but is not meant to be used for actual games or tournament play. A basketball/sports court is proposed, and contains enough area for a high-school regulation sized basketball court. A sand volleyball court is also proposed, which is one of the features that received a large number of votes at the Visioning Session. Both the sports court and volleyball court are easily accessible from parking areas and the restroom facilities, and are within easy viewing distance of the relocated pavilion. The practice baseball field is also easily accessible from proposed parking facilities, and restroom facilities are accessible from the baseball field by following the walking trails around the ballfield or going through the access gap in the outfield fencing.

LANDSCAPING

Additional landscaping is proposed along both Mathews Avenue and Schwab Avenue to provide buffering for adjacent properties. Additional landscaping is proposed to provide shade and aesthetic benefit throughout the park.

NOTE

Survey Conducted by Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc., June & July, 2007

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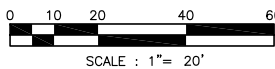


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PROJECT :
STEEL CITY PARK
LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

APPLICANT :
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JOB NO.:
0895013

DRAWN BY:
VLS

CHECKED BY:
JSG

SCALE:
1" = 20'

PLAN STATUS:
PRELIMINARY

TITLE :
FINAL PLAN

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PROJECT NAME :
STEEL CITY PARK

SHEET
1 OF 1

DATE
FEBRUARY 11, 2009