Globeville Landing Park Community Meeting

Input Summary

On Wednesday, January 27, 2016 Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR), Denver Public Works and the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative held a Globeville Landing Park Community Meeting at the Stapleton Recreation Center. The purpose of the meeting was to create a forum for the community to provide input on the redevelopment of Globeville Landing Park. Items discussed included picnic areas, shelters, pedestrian paths, waterfront access and water quality.

More than 50 community members attended the meeting as well as several elected officials including Councilman Albus Brooks, Councilwoman Deborah Ortega and Happy Haynes, executive director of Denver Parks and Recreation.

The meeting provided a high-level overview of the broader Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems project, historical context of the Globeville Landing Park, and technical explanation of the outfall. The presentation was followed by clarifying questions and then moved into small group discussions facilitated by DPR project team members to collect input from community stakeholders on the topics of water quality, connectivity, park amenities and access to the South Platte River.

Meeting Overview and Agenda

- Angela Jo Woolcott (GBSM) opened the meeting and presented the evening’s agenda.
- Councilman Albus Brooks (City Council District 9) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the significant role that Globeville residents play in the future of Denver and the opportunity to be part of the visioning and design process.
- Jeff Shoemaker (Greenway Foundation) shared the history of the park and encouraged stakeholders to be involved and engaged on the re-design of the park.
- Jennifer Hillhouse (City and County of Denver) presented the larger Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems project overview which includes Globeville Landing Outfall (GLO), Lower Montclair Basin and Park Hill Basin.
- Cincere Eades (City Parks and Recreation) provided a summary of the GLO project, how it fits into the City’s park system, as well as outreach and feedback received to-date. Cincere also updated the group on a recent outreach field trip conducted by the South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) organization with students from The Garden Place School. The students identified their desires for the park redesign and future uses as input to the project.

Clarifying Questions

The overarching themes below summarize the questions and comments gathered following the presentation:

- **Larger Drainage Project** – Several community members asked for additional detail on the larger Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems drainage project.

- **Development/Decision Process** – Many stakeholders asked if other factors were involved in the project’s decision process and schedule.
A few asked if the project is being driven by I-70 East construction. Others expressed concern that the project is moving quickly and not allowing ample opportunity for community input.

- **Concerns about Floodplain** – There were many comments/questions about the floodplain and how this project will affect properties in the nearby community.
  - Specifically people wanted to know what the impacts and benefits would be.

- **Concerns about Park Design** – There were many comments/questions about the overall park design, specifically the amount of park space that will be dedicated to drainage facilities. The potential change in land design of the parks hills was also noted as a concern.

**Small Group Discussion**

The overarching themes below summarize the feedback received in small group discussion:

- **Park Amenities/Use** – Facilitators asked how community members currently utilize the park and what amenities they would like incorporated into the improved park. There were several comments about the perception of safety in the current park and that any design changes would be a drastic improvement. Some people inquired about the opportunity to utilize the National Western Center parking lot for drainage improvements. Everyone expressed a desire to retain the existing character of the neighborhood.

- Below are specific comments received regarding desired amenities:
  o Plumbed restrooms
  o Drinking fountain
  o Lighting
  o Improved wildlife habitat
  o Outdoor classroom
  o River access
  o Improved access
  o Shaded rest areas
  o Playground
  o Interactive water feature

- **Circulation and Connectivity** - The bullets below reflect the main discussion points on connectivity shared by stakeholders:
  o Currently the regional trail provides the key point of access for the park. Most people do not drive and access is limited because of the parks location.
  o A more direct connection across the park up to Arkins Ct. is needed (beyond the trail connections presented on the base design map).
  o It is important to connect the park physically to the National Western Center as this area develops.
  o There is a critical need to provide pedestrian access over the railroad tracks.

- Below are additional comments received beyond connectivity:
The focus should be on the community needs and not only the businesses in the area.
More space should be retained for park use versus dedicating use to drainage facilities. For example, shift the drainage channel towards Arkins Ct. to maximize park space in the center.
Consider a surcharge for new aquifer water being added to these types of drainage facilities.
Consider alternate outfall locations. For example, divert water in the Lower Montclair basin up Jackson Street to Sand Creek.

- **Water Quality** - Various comments received related to water quality include:
  - Consider underground options for the drainage infrastructure.
  - What is the planned material for water quality?
    - What type of vegetation?
  - Incorporate upstream water quality options
  - Reimagine new parkland
  - Consider using sand filters (like those used at car washes) on a large scale
  - Are there contaminants in the park from the former landfill?

- **South Platte River Access** - Comments related to river access and park space include:
  - Maximize/retain core park space
  - Alternatives should retain the current character of the community
  - Consider closing Arkins Ct. adjacent to the park and use it to expand the park space

**Meeting Conclusion and Next Steps**

Following the small group discussion facilitators from each table reported out to the larger group on major themes. In closing Councilwoman Ortega thanked attendees and encouraged them to stay involved and contact her and Councilman Brooks with questions or concerns. The project team committed to organize additional meetings to give the Globeville community other opportunities to collaborate with the team and provide additional input.