

PARKS AND GOUNDS COMMITTEE
REPORT ON MEETING, MARCH 21, 2022

The following persons attended this working meeting:

Committee members: Bruce Pirnie (Chair), Alfred Muller, Paula Durbin

Other Council members: Mike Dorsey, Michael Mezey

GreenSweep: Jedd Narsavage (Chief Designer), Kelley Heim (Horticulturist)

The Council passed this motion in its March meeting:

"That the Council select the design submitted by GreenSweep, modified to reduce the amount of hardscape and to add a signature tree. Parks and Grounds Committee will work with GreenSweep to modify the design and to prepare a contract in consultation with the Village's attorney to realize that design. It will present the modified design and contract to Council at its April meeting."

Pursuant to this motion, the Committee approved the following actions:

Reduction of Paved Area

Three actions will greatly reduce the paved area:

First, The central patio is currently planned to be sixty feet in diameter. It will be reduced to 45-50 feet in diameter.

Second, there will be a large, circular green space in the middle of the central plaza, planted in annuals, perennials, and ornamental shrubs. See Note below.

Third, the western patio will be deleted entirely. In its place will be the play area, moved from the southwestern to the northwestern corner of the Park.

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, GreenSweep reduced the diameter of the central patio from sixty feet to forty feet. At this diameter, there was no longer enough space for a large, circular green area and so GreenSweep did not include this feature in the modified design.

Signature Tree

The signature tree will be located in the center of the Park 15-20 feet north of the central patio. The existing crepe myrtles are roughly at the center of the Park. The signature tree would be slightly north and slightly east of where these trees are now, putting it near the center of the Park. Looking at the site plan, the signature tree would

be just north of the central patio, bearing in mind that the central patio will shrink by at least ten feet in diameter to reduce hardscape.

The signature tree may be as large as 6-9 inch-caliper when planted. However, the larger the tree, the more time is needed to recover normal growth after transplanting. The Committee suggested numerous candidates for the signature tree, including Princeton elm, red maple, dawn redwood, yellow poplar, linden, and willow oak, but GreenSweep recommended the following species: quercus macrocarpa (burr oak, mossy cup oak), liquidambar styraciflua (sweet gum), nyssa sylvatica (tupelo, black gum), and ginkgo biloba (ginkgo).

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, the Committee unanimously chose the tupelo or black gum tree. In an informal survey, all other members of Council also approved a tree of this species. Black gum has a straight trunk, spreading canopy, and brilliant crimson foliage in autumn.

In addition, the Committee approved these actions:

Abating Noise from Play Area

Residents have expressed concern that children in new play area might cause disturbing noise. The modified plan will reduce likelihood of noise in two respects:

First, the play area will be located farther from the western property line, as described in the section "Reduction of Paved Area."

Second, more hedge plants will be added along the western boundary of the Park. These plants will include skip laurel as recommended by residents. The planting schedule will include a variety of plants to avoid the appearance of a uniform hedge that would clash with the natural appearance of other planting in the Park. Height should be sufficient to protect the privacy of residents on the ground floor, yet still allow residents on higher floors to have good views of the Park.

Pennsylvania Blue Stone

The Pennsylvania blue stone will be varied in color including blue, silver, gray, and some light browns. Use of various complimentary colors will make the paved areas more attractive than if a single, uniform color were used. The Pennsylvania blue stone will be cleft (sawn or split) and will lie on a four-inch concrete foundation with 1/2 inch rebar to assure that it remains stable and level.

Sitting Walls

The sitting walls will be faced on both sides with natural fieldstone in thickness of one inch to 1 1/2 inches and in rough dimensions of three to five inches. The colors will be grey, silver, blue, and tan to produce a natural appearance and to complement the colors of the paved areas.

Existing Crepe Myrtle

GreenSweep will make every reasonable effort to transplant the crepe myrtle trees currently located in the drystone circle, but it appears unlikely that this effort will succeed.

Pathways

The stretch of pathway from North Park Avenue to the eastern patio will be smoothly faced to allow use by persons with limited mobility. It will most likely be paved in Pennsylvania blue stone like the patios to assure a harmonious appearance. Pathway beyond this stretch will be in crushed bluestone with metal edges to prevent the stone from dispersing.

Southwest Staircase

This staircase will be dry set in a stone dust sub-base and have a concrete footer along the vertical riser to prevent settling. Use of heavy fieldstone will prevent shifting.

Iron Railing

The iron railing along the southern edge of the staircase will have small, raised knobs or other protrusions, similar to those used on railings in Humphrey Park, to prevent use by skate boarders. These knobs will not detract from use of the railing by persons climbing the stairs. People with limited mobility will prefer to use the eastern entrance to the park, which will be smooth and gently inclined, rather than the stairs on the western side of the Park.

Central Patio Pergola

A sufficient number of purple wisteria plants will be added to the Plant List to climb over the wrought iron members of the pergola. The Committee first considered climbing roses, but this species would not grow to sufficient length. GreenSweep advised that that wisteria is a strong candidate although it requires frequent pruning to keep it from overwhelming the pergola. A native cultivar is available, but it does not have the same striking appearance.

Site Furnishings

GreenSweep will continue looking for the best choice in site furnishing, keeping in mind that moveable furnishings need to withstand high winds.

Lighting

There is a placeholder for lighting because it is too early to determine the best locations. The lighting must be solar powered because no other power source is available in the Park. The lighting will be soft and downward facing. None of the lighting will face upwards to illuminate trees or structures in the Park. Probable locations for lights include under the lip of sitting walls, on the underside of the pergola, and along walkways. The intent is to make the Park safely usable up to 10:00 PM without disturbing residents.

Signage

The currently preferred option is to place a large boulder near the eastern entrance to the Park with a bronze plaque reading: "William Tyler Page Park." A second plaque may read "GreenSweep 2022" to acknowledge the builder's effort. However, GreenSweep will continue to explore options for signage.

Erosion

The most serious threat exists behind the adjacent building, not behind the Park, but erosion still remains a concern. GreenSweep will minimize site disturbance while working on the Park, i.e., phasing the work in such a way that the entire site is not disturbed for an extended period. It will also consider adding native plants along the wood line to inhibit further erosion.

Irrigation

GreenSweep will change the water outlets to its plan for the Park.