CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
for a New Community Park
at
Linwood & Athens Avenues

STUDIO GAEA
SALT DESIGN STUDIO
Recap of Master Planning Process

**JAN – FEB:** Inventory & Analysis

**MAR – APR:** Site Program & Conceptual Design

**MAY – JULY:** Development of Preferred Design Concept & Completion of Master Plan
History & Ecology

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF SITE
Limwood & Athens Avenue Park Master Plan
Township of Lower Merion - Department of Parks and Recreation

watersheds

potential habitat

bird corridor & patches

plant communities

lowland appalachian-oak forest

water drainage

sunstudy

regional context
Circulation &
Scale

which way do you walk?

neighborhood
amenities

Precedents

PARK COMPARISON STUDY
Linwood & Athens Avenue Park Master Plan
Township of Lower Windsor • Department of Parks and Recreation
people & place

- exchange
- integrate
- gather
- play
- flexibility
- enclosure
- connections
- outdoor rooms
- civic space
- “the third place”

native plants

- diversity
- succession
- edible
- layers
- restore
- educate
- flow
- infiltrate
- meander
- clean groundwater
- recycle
- stormwater
- ephemeral gardens
- celebrating
- rain
- water

local birdsong habitat
- corridors
- nesting patches
- wildlife

opportunities

noisy
- traffic
- access
- utilities
- void

constraints

what does this place want to be?
FEBRUARY: Public Meeting to present
Inventory & Analysis
MARCH & APRIL
Surveys & Interviews
MARCH & APRIL Community Workshops
MARCH & APRIL
Community
Workshops
Site Programs & Sketches
from
Community Workshops
MARCH & APRIL
Community Workshops
We Heard from the Community…

“I want to sit and read a book in the park”

“I need a place to do a puppet show with my friends”

“there should be food for the birds”

“I want to throw a frisbee with my Dad”

“give us a walking trail through the woods”

“we need benches with backs”

“I want to roll down a hill”

“I want to get up in the trees”

“I want a log to sit on”
We Heard from the Community…

“I want a thing to climb on”

“we need a place to show movies”

“a spot to watch birds”

“bridges to somewhere”

“I want shade in the summer”

“I want to collect leaves in the fall”

“can we have water in this place?”

“We need flowers and trees and all the plants should be named”

“We need a stage for events”
Common Threads

Active & Quiet Spaces
Multi-Purpose Plaza with Shade Structure
Native Plant & Wildlife Habitats
Stage for Community Events
Elevation Changes/ Landforms
Walking Paths
Water Element
Lots of Seating options
Open Lawn
Rain Gardens
Gateways at Park Entrances
Climbing Structure/Art for Children & Adults
Traffic Calming at Intersection
Buffering for Adjacent Properties
The Big Ideas

Emphasizing the Two Watersheds & Ridge Line
Creating Park Zones: Civic, Active & Quiet
Reintroducing Native Habitats
Harvesting Stormwater
Emphasizing the Two Watersheds & Ridge Line

Creating Park Zones:

Civic
Active
Quiet
Reintroducing Native Plant Communities

1. Preserves native biodiversity
2. Decreases long-term maintenance
3. Creates critical habitat for native wildlife
4. Gives sense of regional place and connection to land where you live
Capturing Stormwater celebrates the connection between rain and plants
Capturing Stormwater decreases pollution to drinking water sources.
Concept B
Concept C
Testing the ideas with the Study Committee
Revised Concept

Curvilinear approach to design from Scheme A
Central plaza and Shade Structure from Scheme B
Perimeter Path and Rain Gardens from Scheme C
Landforms & Water Movement
Native Habitats

- woodland
- clearing
- lowland
Opportunities

Socializing

Playing

- strolling
- lounging
- tumbling
- lunching
- reading
- riding
- climbing
- performing
- picnicking
- sitting
- playing tag
- meeting friends
- throwing frisbee
- gathering
- learning
Gateway into Park at Linwood & Athens Avenues
Civic Space, Interactive Sculpture & Tumbling Hill
Ridge Line, Ribbon Wall & Rain Garden
Reading Garden & Lunch Spot
Plaza, Stage & Shade Structure
Lawn, Tree Lookout & Walking Trail
Thank you for being involved!
Thanks to the many Contributors!