

PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION

Bartram's Mile

Dinner Conversation

Civic Engagement Recap

November 5, 2012

Park Space/Public Health (Maitreyi, Patty, Harris)

- Direct interaction with river
 - Place to literally touch the river
 - Access water via boat
- Softer spaces to walk on (i.e. pebbles)
- Define programs/activities
- **Preserve the tranquility of Bartram's Garden and its river's edge**
 - Don't get too crowded, overwhelmed
 - Ensure that "wear and tear" on historic site is minimal
- Heighten natural experience that exists
 - Retain bird habitat/nature experience
 - Opportunity for wetland education
- **Union of the genteel/serene nature with the gritty industrial surroundings**
 - Historic character of the site: natural and industrial
 - Celebrate industrial heritage—iconic artwork
- Trail as bridge to the north and south of Bartram's Garden
- Ecologically responsible parking
- Make Bartram South site a park landscape on the river's edge
- **Don't make the 100' feet like a standalone—make it feel like a park that is expanded and integrated into the future development of the PIDC site**
- **Create destinations at south and north to bookend Bartram's with unique activities that have its own draw**
- Access for groups of children
 - Schools
 - Churches
 - Local community
- **Public transportation access: loop to the river via 49th or 58th Street?**
- **Animate space with innovative programs**
- Prep trail to go further north to Woodlands in the future
 - Visual connections
 - Interpretive opportunities
 - Tie through USP property?
- Discourage/eliminate illegal dumping
- **Make neighborhood connections through greening—as important as the trail itself!**
 - Beautiful, inviting links for community
- **Create multiple experiences along the trail**
- Safety
 - Lighting

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- Security
- **Integrate art with the landscape**
 - Though if done well, the trail design itself is the public art
 - Functional art
 - Opportunity for Mural Arts? i.e. paint walls with art that links to the trail
- Fishing

Public Access/Connectivity (Mark, Jose, Andrew, Chris)

- Importance of cross-river connection: make it iconic, don't settle.
- 100 feet is wide enough for standard trail and "whimsical" ways to experience nature, the river
 - Make it unique and creative
- **Interpret the nexus of industry and botany**
 - Use old structures to tell that story
 - Interpretive signage
 - Healing landscapes: bioremediation, showcase Philadelphia's union of environmental and industrial innovation
 - Research for historic resources on site (i.e. archaeological dig)
 - Industrial "bones" make for interesting accents along the trail
 - Connect to active industry as well, not just former; views of boat, rail, etc.
- Boat access: current dock at Bartram's Garden is problematic (no vehicular parking, can't launch motor boats)
 - Perhaps there is another spot on the Lower Schuylkill for improved access
- **Open/extend/improve existing street connections to park (49th, 51st, 56th, 58th)**
 - Crucial neighborhood links
 - Cannot wait for the PIDC development for this to happen
 - Lighting, treatment, security
 - New riverfront road could help access, if built.
- Increase access to nature
 - Migratory bird habitat
- **Building orientation to the park/trail is crucial: how they relate to the river and each other**
 - Not just a setback in a vacuum: make it seamless
 - Could Streets Department site redevelopment set the tone as a model?
 - Reuse of some old buildings for revenue generation purposes
 - Campus feel
 - River Life!
 - Integrate park with the fabric of the neighborhood, future development
 - Don't fence it off; make it porous.
- **Access to the 36 trolley: connects Center City, UCity, West Philly to this new park**
 - Improved station (i.e. sheltered, better lit)
- Preserve historic character of 49th Street
- Create a new "river living" community
 - Fill development gaps between here and Woodland Avenue
 - Better connect the park/landscape to neighbors

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- Balance **naturalized/unpaved** experience with only the most necessary of paving
 - Make it as unpaved as possible.
- **Give adjacent communities some identity/stamp in this new park space**
 - Gathering space
 - Crucial in order to have sustained use of the parks
- Connection between Bartram's and Woodlands
 - Heritage tourism opportunity?
- Reduce the perceptual barrier: this trail connects SW Philly to the rest of the Fairmount Park system. Shrinks the city through a relatively small link.
 - Southwest Philadelphia as gateway