

PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION

Bartram's Mile: A Multi-Use Trail and Neighborhood Green Space

Phase II Community Feedback Summary

For the second phase of civic engagement for Bartram's Mile, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation felt it was important to not only receive direct feedback on the design concepts drafted in the first half of 2013, but also to focus our outreach on near neighbors to build interest and potential stewardship for the green space once it opens. As part of our outreach, we reviewed the phasing plan with residents and discussed what could be accomplished in the short term versus the long term.

In this phase, we received input from 365 citizens, primarily community leaders and Southwest Philadelphia residents. This brings the total engaged population to over 820 Philadelphians.

This document outlines the feedback we received from participants in July 2013. It includes summary notes from our two public meetings as well as focus groups we conducted with other Southwest Philadelphia community organizations. Comments will be considered when making design decisions for this phase as well as future phases of Bartram's Mile. For any questions or comments, contact Andrew Goodman at 215-746-3849 or agoodman@design.upenn.edu.

Meeting notes begin on the next page. Below, please find a distilled list of some of the feedback we received during this phase of civic engagement.

- Trail design comments
 - Above all else: make it clean, safe, and accessible; include basic park "ingredients:" benches, shading, game tables, play area, BBQ/picnic zone, restroom, water fountain.
 - Identify a space where the community can make its mark, show it's uniquely Southwest.
 - The street crossings to Bartram's Mile will require major creativity and beautification to improve safety (51st Street, 56th Street).
 - Open fields for sports and playing.
 - Nature viewing area.
 - Make sure the "manmade" elements blend in with nature (horticulture, habitat).
 - Designated fishing spots.
 - Install the Newkirk Monument to commemorate important railroad historical moment.
 - How about the trail on the east side of Botanic Avenue, not the west side?
- Ideas on activities and programming along Bartram's Mile
 - Annual Southwest Philadelphia Community Day/carnival at the base of 56th Street.
 - Think about public boating as more than just kayakers (i.e. rentals, paddle boats, etc.).
 - Food stands...perhaps a connection to Bartram's Farm?
 - Engage Southwest Philadelphia businesses to bring neighborhood vitality to the river.
 - Free active recreation opportunities.
 - Free wireless internet—ways to stay "connected" to the world amongst nature.
 - Free or cheap camp or camp-like activities for children coordinated with Bartram's.
 - Community events: movie nights, fishing festivals, etc.
 - Play *in* the river (i.e. swimming, floating pools).
 - An edible landscape (learning through picking, eating along the Mile).

Bartram Village Civic Feedback Session
7-24-2013

Questions asked were the following:

1. What excites you about this vision?
2. What concerns you?
3. What should the new “open spaces” (i.e. National Heat and Power, 56th Street plaza) look like?
4. How can we make the “community access points” more creative?
5. What sort of activities would make you want to visit Bartram’s Mile in the future?

Three (3) groups were formed to respond to the questions above. The results of each group are listed below.

Group 1

Question 1

- The speed of the project
- Location in an underserved neighborhood
- Idea of having a waterfront destination-not just somewhere to walk along, but having space to stop, relax, and spend time on the waterfront
- Incorporating programming and activities for the children

Question 2

- Strong potential to feel isolated and unprotected in the area already- how will this be rectified?
- How do we get local community members down to the river? Specifically, for those within walking distance, by foot?
- The dead ends from 54th to 56th serve to dissuade people from trying to go to the river. How can we improve these areas so that when people try to access through there they don’t give up but instead go to those entry points that do allow river access?
- Both programming and the natural feel are important to have. How will we ensure that the waterfront park is neither too under programmed (lowering eyes on the street and feelings of security) nor too over programmed feeling like a zoo and crowded, losing the feel of tranquility and connection to nature?
- Safety-crime-how will these be addressed? There are already incidents of crime and danger along the waterfront and that is without the advertising and encouragement to go there.

Question 3 &5

- Natural seating-like the large, flat, boulders that people like to sit on
- Food/drink kiosks
- Seating that encourages large gatherings-like at Clark Park
- Games tables-chess, checkers
- Fishing and boating sites
- A shell like performance space that provides a place to entertain and be entertained but does not contribute to heavy noise pollution for nearby neighbors (hence the shell shape, sound barrier)
- Children’s garden—place where both local and non-local children can participate in the planting and tending of part of the landscape/produce
- Bike racks
- Binocular/viewing stations
- Picnic Sites

Question 4

- 'Living Gateway'- using strong and vibrant landscaping around the entrance to intrigue passerbys and encourage exploration
- Signage-especially the incorporation of icons that reflect the various programming at the waterfront—a kayaker, a picnic bench, a fishing rod, etc.—so that people know from the start that there is more than just a trail for bikers and pedestrians down there

Other Suggestions

- Composting bathrooms
- Separate bike and pedestrian paths so pedestrians don't keep having to move off the trail and yield to bikers
- Involving local BV children in the development of the trail/park
 - Getting them Union jobs since the Union will be ones working on it (words of attendee)

Group 2

Question 1

- Idea of preserving remnants of what is there now—saving the trees and wildflowers to use in the landscaping
- Birding-wetlands habitat
- Incorporating the history of the place into design

Question 2

- Trash upkeep- how will they maintain a space that looks kept and people respect?
- Safety-in terms of property crime and violent crime

Question 3 & 5

- Children's facilities—sprinklers, swings, play area, merry go round
- Multi-purposed furniture-amphitheater that also handles stormwater
- Benches
- Quiet areas—for couples, for fishing
- Reuse buildings for a gym
- Programming for kids/teens so they are not just congregating unsupervised
 - Shows at the plaza—kids bands

Question 4

- Trolley Stop announcement—where the driver actually advertises it themselves—'Next stop 56th street and Batram's Mile Waterfront Park'

Other Suggestions

- For Safety- cameras, strong lighting, a call box with numbers, Park Service Patrol

Group 3

Question 1

- What took you so long?
- Environmental Enhancement/cleanup
- Cycling path—greenways—open space

- Focus on children and stewardship
- Community pride! Connectivity (Wi Fi)
- Possible event location/ civic activities

Question 2

- Parking
- Grays Ferry Bridge being a challenge for cyclists (broken glass)
- SAFETY

Question 3

- Honor the historical setting while still being modern
- Interpretive graphics along the trail, markers along the trail, educational signs
- Sustainable construction-recycled materials
- Place to camp/have camp out nights

Question 4

- Green entryway—flowers, landscaped entry marker
- Well-lit area—corridor to direct you to the river

Question 5

- Boardwalk/pavilions
- Kiosk- place to purchase food, beverages, use a restroom
- Fireworks
- Picnic area-BBQ Pits
- Amphitheater
- Outlets
- Boat rides

Bartram's Garden Civic Feedback Session 2
7-29-2013

Questions asked were the following:

1. What excites you about this vision?
2. What concerns you?
3. What should the new "open spaces" (i.e. National Heat and Power, 56th Street plaza) look like?
4. How can we make the "community access points" more creative?
5. What sort of activities would make you want to visit Bartram's Mile in the future?

Three (3) Groups were formed to respond to the questions above. The results of each group are listed below.

Group 1

Question 1

- Backyard for the Village
- Maintain Industrial History
- Not trying to make it all 'natural'
- Quest to make it authentic to this place

Question 2

- Safety & Liability
- Emergency call stations? Furthest point from access?
- It should not be trying to gentrify
- Access for the local community & others
- Congestion could be a problem----can there be separate bike & ped?
- In terms of visibility: Is it enough of a destination without the crossing?
- Why go if you can't cross over?
- Edge conditions?
- Talked with police department? Good to incorporate their insights
- Phytoremediation? May not be needed-- depends on contaminants

Question 3

- Place for the elderly- shade, something that attracts them but also makes them feel safe
- Participatory Art installation--Interactive
- Permanent part & temporary part
- Mural Arts
- Utilize Industrial artifacts
- Industrial qualities seemed more authentic, re-interpret what is and was there
- Farmers Market at Bulkhead?
- Restrooms--Bartram's are over used, composting toilets, toilets in a truck
- Boathouse Row/Cafe----PIDC?
- Food Trucks
- Markers to explain history

- Interpretive signage
- Lewis & Clark
- Urban skating surface? Under the Grays Ferry Bridge?

Question 4

- More generous gateways---mini parcels at trail heads--is there space?
- 58th St Triangle as outside connection to trail ahead? Things could happen outside scope
- Bartram's Garden Entrance Gateway
- Blue Stand and benches lining the sidewalk at a trolley stop

Question 5

- For elderly: chess, checkers, bocce
- Fishing
- Boating options-- People want PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS--kayaks, swan boats, Paddle Boards
- More river access the better
- Camping
- Rental Bikes
- Exercise Stations
- Focus trails on history and sciences & industry

Other Suggestions

- Evidence of Native Americans? Yes but not obvious
- Rail History
- Markers for distance traveled along trail
- Groups to help with maintenance?
- Boy Scouts?
- Friends of Bartram's Mile?
- "What Chester Makes, Makes Chester"
- Support local business

Group 2

Question 1

- Waterfront Trail
- Spreading landscape of BG to greater BM
- BG entrance as 3rd gateway
- Swing bridge--what is access?
- Obelisk
- Ecological restoration

Question 2

- Speed of traffic at gateways
- Direct waterfront access
- Bird habitats with re-development
- Conserving character

- Less is more--commitment to eco vs. heavy programming and design
- Too heavy programming at bulkhead could overshadow BG
- Capacity for use--trails & BG
- Without being detrimental to ecosystems

Question 3

- Arlington, VA --> Past industrial use incorporated in redeveloped landscape
- Wilmington, DE --> Christina Riverfront --> signage
- Marketing of open space
- Landscaping for birding
- Plants that attract birds
- North Side -- connect industrial past, maybe more programming as entry/connection to urban built environ
- Don't plan too tightly for specifics
- Amphitheatre
- Public art to enhance space--- like Race St. Pier had
- Industrial as art
- Water fountains
- Elevated walkways
- Rest areas

Question 4

- City signs
- Similar to BG new entry
- Bartram's "SMILE"
- Green transit stop to reflect nearby nature site
- Like green roof bus stop at 15th & Market
- Bumpout at corners to cue destinations ahead

Question 5

- Non traditional play structures/art
- Overlooks on bridges for views at 56th St too
- Shaded areas
- Multi-purpose design
- Website to market and inform
- Boating
- Frisbee golf
- Dog park
- Soccer/ultimate
- Fishing
- Rope swings

Group 3

Question 1

- Bringing it to the river, river as Gathering place-events/art
- Recreational access -- soft access to river, grays ferry access for northern populations
- Vendors & concessions/amenities
- Connecting E& W --bridging the divide
- Greening 51st & 56th St -- bring users
- Quiet & remotes --maintain sense of peace
- Sense of wilderness via ecology and canopy
- Industrial archaeology 'ruins' point of access
- Using legacy of Bartram's for restoration
- Intactness of Bartram's (floodplain)
- Bartram's as trail head

Question 2

- How does the trail/green space improve life in adjacent neighborhoods?
- Users of trail...who are they? impact on neighborhood? concessions?
- How do we maintain respect for the landscape?
- Avoid being invasive?
- Not enough easy, non-motorized boat/kayak access
- How do we manage demand/new user? And maintain cultural core of Bartram's?
- Picnic areas non-traditional play areas public art fused with industrial ruins
- How do we foster stewardship? Local safety teams?
- How do we activate the sites? Create safe/comfortable places and avoid dead ends-- temporary connections of the gaps (signage, maps, cue sheets, paint & markings)
- Unimpeded access across 49th St

Question 3 & 4

- Grays Ferry Ave Bridge needs improvement
- Signage- directional--historical interpretive
- General ID- branding space
- Archways & details-- clear signal of arrival at meadows
- Active recreation & eco areas
- Shade structures
- Must be age friendly & accessible
- 51st street- heavy vehicular traffic, create safe segments-- areas of refuge
- Seasonal flowers --landscape is TEACHING
- Dog park as destination-activate ENDS
- H2O feature
- Adaptive reuse of historical structures
- Landscape as continuum

Question 5

- Bike & kayak rentals
- Reenactment as assisting stewardship and understanding of site

- Active neighborhood-- government partners stewarding and maintaining facilities (time & \$\$)

Bartram's Mile

Bartram Farm and Food Resource Center

Focus Group Comments

July 23, 2013

15-20 teenagers

Ways to showcase/strengthen the Farm

- Something demonstrative/semi-permanent along the Mile
- Permanent farmers market shed (i.e. Headhouse Square)
- Concession stand where you could buy prepared foods that came from the farm

Concession stand/food, even if it's not connected to the Farm

Free WiFi

Bike Share station at Bartram's Mile

Edible landscape, i.e. fruit trees along the route that anyone can pick, or perhaps a structured place to pick strawberries and the like?

JOBS for Southwest teens (i.e. safety patrol, gift shop attendant)

Ways to attract people to the Mile

- Signs
- Murals
- Billboards that promote what's available from Lindbergh
- Not the boring Park signs: something more creative, visually compelling
- Speakers on poles that play music, tell you what important landmarks are nearby, what's going on on the Mile
- Give Mile its own identity, trademark
- Colored lights, light shows
- Interactive kinetic sculpture

Outdoor sports

- Football
- Basketball
- Skateboard

Basic Walkway Amenities

- Flowers
- Benches
- Running trail
- Safe
- Well lit
- Blue-light phones for emergencies
- Water fountains
- Trash cans
- Bathrooms

SAFETY—natural and forested isn't always a good thing. People can hide behind trees. Space needs to be open and visible.

River as entertainment: bring attractions to draw people to the river

- Circus/carnival
- Parties
- Concerts

- Movie nights

Safe bike access/off-road

Bigger boat dock

Paid activities for entrepreneurs/upkeep money

- Paddleboats
- Boat rides
- Horse rides
- Kayaks
- Amusement park/carnival games (seasonal)
- “Boardwalk for the neighborhood”
- Beach
- Arcade
- Bike rentals
- Gift shop
- Café/places to eat

Fountains/art/decorative elements

Swimming

Graffiti wall

Exercise trail (i.e. chin-up bars along the trail)

Large gathering space: stationary grills, summer events, live shows

Decorated for holidays

Something to showcase views of the river

- Light show
- Water show

Animal showcase/petting zoo

Go/Golf carts for easier accessibility, i.e. Segway Tours on Kelly Drive

Bartram's Mile

Richard Allen Charter School

Focus Group Comments

July 29, 2013

25-35 students, 5th through 10th grade

TOP VOTED IDEAS

- Annual community picnic
 - Seasonal events for holidays
- Involve Richard Allen and SW residents in public art or some component of Mile construction: beautifies the trail, and also allows for neighborhood to build its own identity into it
 - Connect with other local schools? (i.e. Bartram HS)
- Sports: basketball, open lawn (football, soccer)
- Food/drink stand
 - How about an edible landscape where you can pick fruit from the orchard?
 - Example: Linvilla Orchards, Media PA
- Dirt bike trail
- Picnic area
- Movie nights
- Recreation zone: paintball, horse rides, arcades, races, rock climb, rope climb, zip line, hay ride
- Swimming pool
- Tours: boat rides, golf cart up and down the trail
- Bike rental
- Water fountains
- Playground
- Learning experience
 - Informational exhibits about wildlife, history, ecology of the Mile
 - Plant and bird "fun facts" plaques
 - Maps (for Mile and the whole trail)

Gift shop

Boat dock: paddle boats, canoes, etc.

Music venue for concerts

Motivational quotes along bike trail

Daily special events

Skate park

Fountains: bird bath

Use river water to water plants

Dog park

Connection to Richard Allen: make it part of science curriculum, bring Garden Club

Sitting and relaxing along the river