

## **MEETING AGENDA –NC project for park at 11St N and Danville**

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Date: 2021.07.15

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the park improvements to the public space at 11St. N and N. Danville Street. This is a Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Project initiated by the Clarendon Courthouse Civic Association. The scope was approved by the community in 2019. Funding for the project was approved by the NCAC in December 2020 as part of the Fall 2020 funding round. Funding was approved by the County Board in April 2021.

### **DPR Staff Attendees:**

Kathy von Bredow, Landscape Architect

### **Community Attendees:**

Alyssa Cannon, NC Rep

## **1. Overview**

### 1) NC process and the overall agenda:

- a. Two scoping meetings were held to select a project scope and develop a concept plan through Community consensus. The final concept plan and budget was approved by the CA in 2019. Items which are not in the scope have not been funded for this project. The scope is only for the park, as this is an NC parks project.
- b. Neighborhood Conservation is run through the Civic Associations. The Civic Association may request projects that fit their NC plan. All neighborhood plans can be found here: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation/nc-plan-program/nc-plans/>
- c. Staff reviewed the CCCA NC plan, specifically the following passages in the 2007 update developed by the community:  
*Clarendon-Courthouse views local parks as a vital element of Arlington's residential neighborhoods. The two primary County parks within the neighborhood's boundaries, Rocky Run (a portion of which was renamed Barton St. Park) and the unnamed park at 11th & Danville Streets, are heavily used by local residents and in need of ongoing maintenance. A third "park area" is the Metro Park between Clarendon and Wilson Boulevards between N. Highland Street and Washington Boulevard. Residents want green areas that are walk-able, inviting, safe, and beautiful.*

### **Danville and 11th Street Park**

*A second, smaller park was created at the behest of Clarendon-Courthouse residents when the Market Common and Clarendon Park Townhomes were developed. This small, unnamed park at the corner of Danville and 11th Street is a more passive park, established to preserve and increase the area's tree canopy and provide true green space for residents in the heart of*

*the Clarendon-Courthouse Neighborhood. The civic association strongly advocates that this park remain “undeveloped” except for the current paths and benches to keep it a natural, open, green space. However, high volumes of use by the ever-increasing population of the neighborhood have put significant stress on this park. The gravel path was improperly constructed without a drainage system so each heavy rain washes the gravel onto the Danville Street sidewalk. Numerous trees planted at the conclusion of the parcel’s development have had to be replaced and sod conditions are poor. This is a good example of the additional stress our limited green spaces are taking as a result of increased residential population and why additional open spaces is needed.*

## **2. Park History/Existing Conditions/Site Constraints**

“Danville” Park is a small neighborhood park. The park currently features an open space with benches, paved/gravel circulation, two bioretention facilities and many large trees. Nothing is ADA compliant. Alyssa Cannon explained more about the history of the development and the park.

The runoff from the adjacent townhomes flows into the park, and for that reason, two bioretention facilities were constructed in 2018 by DES.

Any disturbance over 2500 sf to the park will have to include stormwater management. This would include the new walkway.

## **3. Project Scope:**

### **New walkways to replace the existing gravel path in poor condition**

Flexipave (a type of porous pavement) and concrete were mentioned as consideration for walkway materials. Staff explained that the cost of flexipave is significantly more expensive than concrete. Porous pavement requires regular maintenance to maintain porosity. Use of permeable pavement for trails/ sidewalks under tree cover is typically not conducive for the long-term success of porosity due to the high amount of sediment from adjacent uses (i.e. lawn/vegetated areas). That area is known as the contributing drainage area. At the same time, if stormwater calculations recommend the use of a section of porous pavement, that may need to be considered during site engineering.

Flexipave installed on grade with minimal excavation may be in consideration for an additional pathway under large trees (i.e. corner of 11th and N. Danville) where there is a current desire path. At the same time, it will not be maintained as porous pavement and may or may not be considered ADA compliant depending on tree roots.

The new path will remain in approximately the same location with some re-alignment which will be laid out during design. The path will remain a five-foot wide meandering path through the park. All the existing gravel and steel edging will be removed.

### **Landscaping, tree planting, soil compaction and lawn areas**

This project will use landscaping to direct foot traffic in some areas. Canopy and understory trees will be planted to replace the tree canopy that has been lost and increase tree canopy. The open lawn area will be kept open and soil compaction will be addressed through deep-tine core aeration outside the critical root zones of trees. A pollinator planting will connect the two bioretention areas.

Irrigation will be considered if the budget allows for the lawn area and the pollinator plantings. Irrigation lines have to be kept outside of the critical root zones of large trees.

Landscape boulders may be used to define planting beds and direct foot traffic away from overly compacted areas near entrances. Landscape boulders would be more cost-effective than low landscape fencing. These boulders could help prevent compaction.

All trees in good condition to remain per urban forestry discussion post scoping meeting. There are several memorial trees and staff can share the memorial tree policy at the next civic association meeting.

There will be a tree inventory prior to construction, as the project moves into construction documents. Kathy will work with the urban forester and Lyndell Core (park area manager) to discuss what kind of location, establishment and maintenance would be required. During scoping meetings, the group specified that they would not want as many trees near the town houses as their roots are starting to erode their wall. They said that they would prefer new trees be placed towards 11th St. Trees in open grassy areas that would be removed due to death may not have their stumps grinded down if it would disturb the other nearby trees.

## **Signage**

The park will have two sets of park rules signs since there has been an issue with park users letting their dogs off-leash. Other signage includes a formal park sign (name to be chosen after going through the park naming process) and bioretention/no-mow informational signage. There have been issues with people letting their dogs go into the bioretention facilities.

## **Site Furnishings**

All existing benches will be replaced. There was discussion on the center armpiece, which does not have to be on the benches. There will be four sets of trash and recycle cans. Options discussed were to have a specialty bench and heavy, commercial-grade, recycled plastic moveable Adirondack chairs. These chairs would be like those in McCoy Park. The group said they would welcome usable art like a custom bench similar to what's in Mosaic Park, they just don't want it in the center of the park where people like to play various games that require open space. Staff suggested that attendees visit several different parks to try out different types of seating elements. The specialty benches can be chosen by the community at the September 2021 CCCA meeting. It was reiterated that picnic tables are not desired, and funding for picnic tables is not included in the project budget. Some community members commented on eating in the park and issues with vermin. If there

were any events for which the civic association wanted picnic tables, they can let the park area manager know and he can place some of the County's movable tables in the park for the duration of the event and retrieve them once the event is over. The group asked to leave the bike racks in the design. Depending on the final bids, as long as there is enough remaining budget, path lighting is planned to address the center of the park to 11st St. Several CCCA member commented on safety issues and also the issue of people staying in the park long after park closing hours.

#### Dog Issues

Meeting attendees commented on the issue of dogs running loose and dog poop in the park and owners not picking up after their pets. Lyndell Core, the park area manager, has been increasing patrols by park rangers. **New signage** will be installed that clearly indicates that dogs must be on leash and that people need to pick up after their dogs. **At the same time, park staff noted that dogs are allowed in parks on leash and people are required to pick up after pets.**

Dog waste bag stations are not installed or maintained by the County, but they can be installed if maintained by the Civic Association or a local sponsor. Per Lyndell Core, the park area manager, it is acceptable to install on park property if the locations are coordinated through the park area manager

#### 4. Next Steps & Follow Up

County staff will take the community input from the meeting back to the office and develop the final project design concept plan for review at the September 2021 CCCA meeting. After the meeting, the project will be posted on the DPR project page online and through the CCCA listserv.

The park naming process will be discussed at the September 2021 CCCA meeting. Several names were discussed during the meeting, including "Charles Monroe Park", who was instrumental in getting the park. The Civic Association will coordinate with Diane Probus, a planner from DPR to review the park naming process and to choose a name for the park. Staff noted that it will be good to have this process finalized and have an official park name by the time that construction begins. The park naming process can take up to six months. Park names and addresses will be included on the new park signs and the information is important for emergency responders.