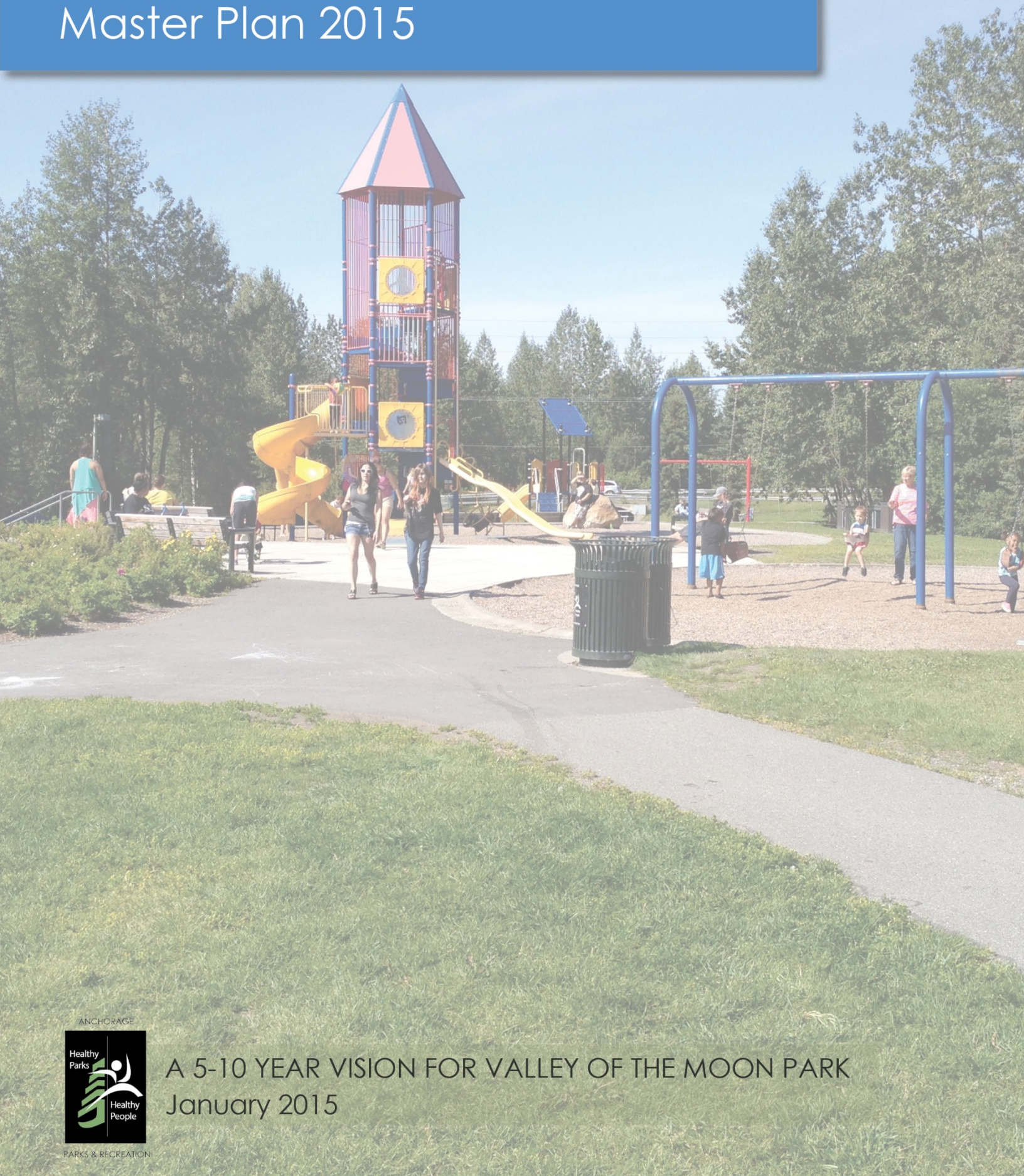


Valley of the Moon Park

Master Plan 2015



Acknowledgements

Anchorage Parks and Recreation would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance on this project.

Valley of the Moon Advisory Group

Anna Bryant	South Addition Community Council
Penny Burt	Park Neighbor
Mark Butler	Federation of Community Councils
Lanie Fleischer	South Addition Community Council
Matt Johnson	North Star Community Council
Susan Miller	North Star Community Council
Nick Moe	North Star Community Council
Kelsey Parpart	Park Neighbor
Melonie Rieck	North Star Community Council
Helen Thomas	Park Neighbor

Anchorage Parks and Recreation Staff

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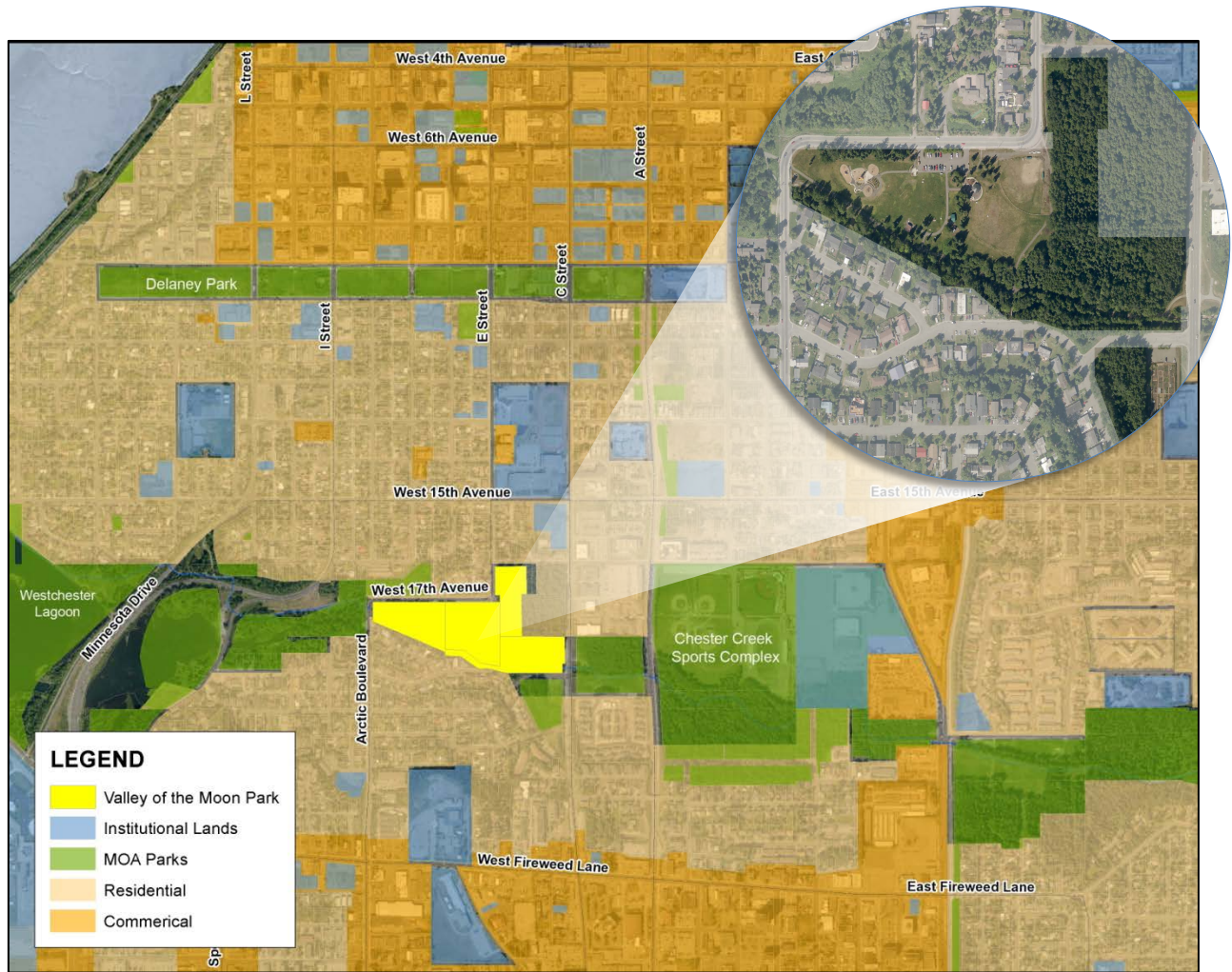
Introduction

This master plan provides a 5-10 year vision for the development and management of Valley of the Moon (VOM) Park. The plan embodies the community's vision to preserve the character of the park while providing for a range of recreational opportunities accessible to all residents of Anchorage.

Overview

Valley of the Moon Park is one of Anchorage's most popular and beloved parks. Located along the Chester Creek Greenbelt between downtown Anchorage and Spenard, the park draws residents from across the city. On a summer day, the park is often bustling with activity as friends and neighbors gather to enjoy the park's many amenities.

The popularity of Valley of the Moon Park presents challenges for the Parks and Recreation department. With upwards of 100,000 visitors annually, Parks and Recreation must manage both natural and developed areas while providing for the diverse recreational needs of park users.



Valley of the Moon Park in neighborhood context

Background

Since 1960, Valley of the Moon Park has offered Anchorage residents a range of recreational opportunities. Throughout the years, the park has evolved to meet the changing recreational needs of the community. As the park has evolved, new challenges have risen that require planning and community engagement.

In recent years, concern has been raised over several issues at Valley of the Moon Park. These issues range from illegal camping in the forest to overflow parking on 17th Ave. to off-leash dogs on the ball field.

Illegal camping in the forest in and around Valley of the Moon Park has created public health and safety concerns. The impacts of illegal camping degrade the environment and require resources to clean up. Park users report abandoned camps, piles of trash, human waste, empty alcohol containers and drug paraphernalia. The presence of illegal camps and signs of substance abuse negatively impact park users experience and perception of safety.

Parking at Valley of the Moon Park is limited and often insufficient on busy weekends. With only 41 designated spaces in the main parking lot, park users frequently park along 17th Ave. Given the popularity of the park among families with young children, parking along 17th Ave has become a safety concern.

In recent years, the ball field has become a popular gathering spot for off-leash dogs and owners. The popularity of this use has led to some discussion within the community as to whether a more formal designation would resolve conflicts between park users.

Purpose of the Plan

This document is intended to address issues and guide development of Valley of the Moon Park over the next 5-10 years. This master plan identifies community needs, addresses issues and public expectations, and establishes a framework for future development of the park.



Illegal camp in the forest



Overflow parking on 17th Ave



Ball field used as a dog park

Planning Process

Community involvement is a key component of any planning process. To ensure that this master plan aligns with the desires of the community, Anchorage Parks and Recreation facilitated public input and feedback at all levels of planning.

Public Involvement

Parks and Recreation staff worked with user groups, park neighbors, members of the 2009 task force, as well as the North Star and South Addition Community Councils in the development of this master plan. Representatives from these groups participated on an advisory group and provided Parks and Recreation with valuable input and recommendations.

Valley of the Moon Advisory Group

Parks and Recreation staff worked with an advisory group to assist in the development of the master plan. The group's primary role was to identify and prioritize improvements and to ensure that those improvements align with the needs of the local community.

The advisory group was tasked with providing input and recommendations to help guide Parks and Recreation in a three-step planning process:

Step 1 - Identify current and future needs and desired improvements

Step 2 - Determine appropriate development and prioritize desired improvements

Step 3 - Build consensus on a site plan for present and future development

In the development of a master plan, the advisory group carefully considered four alternative site plans. The group deliberated on the size and location of facilities as well as the appropriateness and compatibility of uses. Through dialog and discussion the advisory group developed several recommendations and consensus on a master plan.

Approval Process

The master plan was presented to both the South Addition and the North Star Community Council for approval in November and December 2014. Resolutions supporting the master plan were signed by both Community Councils. The master plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 15th, 2015 (Resolution 2015-01). Parks and Recreation plans to present the master plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for final approval in spring 2015.

Approval of the off-leash dog park space requires a recommendation from the Animal Control Advisory Board to the Parks and Recreation Commission and approval by the Anchorage Assembly.

The Master Plan

Valley of the Moon Park is a 21.78 acre community-use park located within the Chester Creek Greenbelt. The park is defined by Chester Creek to the south, Arctic Blvd. to the west, 17th Ave. and 16th Ave. to the north, and private undeveloped property to east between C St. and the park. C St. Gardens, located just south of Chester Creek at the intersection of C St. and 19th Ave., is included in this planning effort as part of Valley of the Moon Park.

Existing Site Conditions

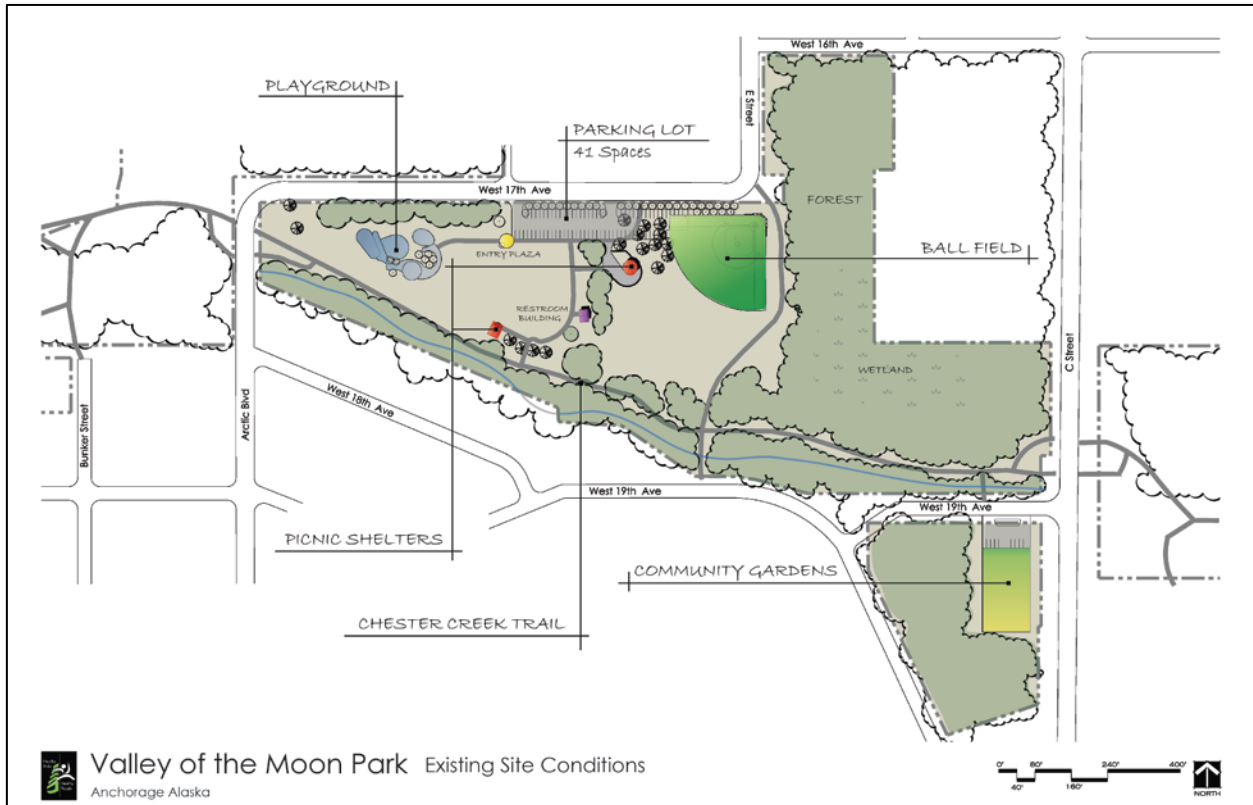


Illustration of existing conditions at Valley of the Moon Park

The Valley of the Moon Park is comprised of both natural and developed areas. The natural areas are located primarily along Chester Creek corridor to the south and east and form a buffer between the park and more developed areas. The park also features a variety of developed facilities. These facilities include: 2-5 and 5-12 year old playground, two picnic shelters, an entry plaza, a ball field, community gardens, open space, stream access, two parking lots, and bike/pedestrian paths.

Natural Areas

Valley of the Moon Park is comprised of open space, dense forest, wetlands, riparian areas and the Chester Creek. Roughly half the park is undeveloped and heavily wooded with birch, cottonwood, and spruce forest. This forest provides both a visual buffer and minimizes noise from traffic traveling along C St. Located within the forest there are approximately two acres of Class C wetlands.

The topography of the park is relatively flat with subtle variations in height resulting from previous development. In general, the park slopes gently from north to south facilitating the flow of water into Chester Creek.

Extending from Chugach Mountains to the Cook Inlet, Chester Creek is an important spawning ground for anadromous fish. The stream is located within the boundary of the park and runs parallel to the Laine Fleischer Chester Creek Trail.



Forest vegetation in early spring

Recommendations: Preserve existing natural areas. Tree removal and brush clearing should be limited to necessary maintenance and safety improvements. Clean up forested area and remove illegal camps. Remove invasive species. Rehabilitate riparian areas along Chester Creek. Provide access to Chester Creek at select locations to minimize stream bank erosion.

Parking

Valley of the Moon Park is served by two parking lots. The main parking lot has 41 parking spaces and is accessible from 17th Ave between Arctic Blvd. and E St. A second parking lot is located at the C St. community gardens and has 11 spaces. Because of the popularity of Valley of the Moon Park, the main parking lot is often full and park users park along 17th Ave.

Recommendations: Parks and Recreation recommends expanding the main parking lot to the east to accommodate an additional 27 spaces. This number was determined through an analysis of results from a formal parking study, the physical constraints of the site, and the anticipated future demand for parking. The current parking lot should be restriped to clearly delineate parking spots and maximize available space.

Access and Trails

The park is accessible from the east and west via the Laine Fleischer Chester Creek Trail. This popular multi-use paved trail connects the park to Anchorage's larger trail system and neighborhoods. Within the park there are two paved trails connecting locations within the park to the Chester Creek Trail. The farthest east

trail connects the Chester Creek Trail to E St. and the neighborhood to the south. There is an ADA accessible trail connecting the main parking lot to the playground.

Recommendations: Maintain existing alignment of the bike and pedestrian trails within the park. Rehabilitate and repave the north-south bike/pedestrian trail and other trails as necessary. Upon development of an adult fitness area, add a new short connector trail to facilitate circulation.

Playground

The signature feature of Valley of the Moon Park is the rocketship play equipment. Throughout the years, several versions of the rocketship have existed with the most recent play equipment being installed in 2010. The playground includes separated play areas for 2-5 and 5-12 year olds, a rope climber, swings, spinners, spring toys, a landscaped plaza and seating areas.

Recommendations: Maintain existing play equipment. Upgrade play equipment and fall surfacing at end of life cycle.

Picnic Shelters

There are two picnic shelters located at Valley of the Moon Park. Because of the complimentary mix of activities found at the park, the two picnic shelters are heavily used during the summer season. The shelters are popular with large groups and are often reserved months in advance. The original shelter is located along the Chester Creek Trail. A second picnic shelter, located near the ball field and parking lot, was built in 2010 and features a concrete patio and landscaping.

Recommendations: Maintain existing shelters as is with the option to replace the original shelter at end of life cycle.

Ball Field/Dog Park

A little league field is located to the east of the parking lot. The ball field has historically been used by Anchorage West Little League. In recent years, Anchorage West Little League has transitioned to other fields (Lyn Ary Park) and the ball fields have become a popular meeting place for off-leash dogs and owners.

Recommendations: The advisory group recommends that an off-leash dog space be designated at Valley of the Moon Park. The space should assume the location of the existing little league ball field (½ to ¾ acre) with a modified fencing layout to accommodate parking lot expansion and new dog park entrances. The off-leash area should extend no further south than the current ball field fence in order to preserve open space. Fences for the enclosed area should be at least six feet high with dual entrances and ADA access. Development of the off-leash dog space should include a rules sign, trash cans, and mutt mitts. Landscaping and fencing along 17th Ave should be installed to improve overall safety and to provide a safe transition from the parking lot to the off-leash area. Upon approval of the dog park, dugouts should be removed.

Community Gardens

The C Street Community Gardens are located south of Chester Creek on 19th Ave. There are 44 garden plots available to the public. The C Street Community Gardens are the most popular in Anchorage with demand for garden plots far exceeding availability.

Recommendations: An expansion of the community garden by up to fifty percent will accommodate those on the waitlist and allow for “more eyes on the garden”. When expanding the gardens, care should be taken to maintain a visual buffer between the gardens and homes on adjacent residential streets.

Open Space

Valley of the Moon Park has two distinctive open space areas, each approximately 1.5 acres in size. The two areas are defined by a large stand of trees in the middle of the park. Usage of the open space areas is often influenced by the amenities close by. Activities range from family picnics and barbecues to volleyball and pick-up soccer.

Recommendations: Preserve existing open space as is in present location.



Park users enjoying the open park on a sunny day

Entry Plaza and Landscaping

A small plaza is located the southwest corner of the parking lot. The plaza features an interpretive kiosk, park rules sign, bench, and landscaping. A second plaza is built into the playground area and features landscaping and a concrete seating wall.

Recommendations: Maintain as is.

Restrooms

A concrete building housing restroom facilities is located in the middle of the park and is no longer in use. The facility remains closed due to budget constraints, vandalism and high maintenance costs. Port-a-potty restrooms are provided; however, decorative screening intended to improve the appearance of the portable restrooms was installed in 2010 in a location making it difficult to service them. Port-a-potties are now located next to the parking lot.

Recommendations: Port-a-potties will be located next to the parking lot in a location that will provide for easy servicing. Restrooms screens will be re-located to improve the visual appearance of the port-a-potties. The restroom building will remain locked until a use for the building is determined.

Adult Fitness Area

At present, an adult fitness area is not developed at the Valley of the Moon Park. A 2010 site plan located an adult fitness area in the eastern portion of the park. Upon further discussion with the advisory group, a new location was determined.

Recommendations: A new adult fitness area was identified as a desirable amenity. The area should be located to the west of the playground so that parents working out can supervise playing children. To minimize social paths and damage to the lawn, the fitness area should connect to the playground and Chester Creek Trail via a paved pathway.

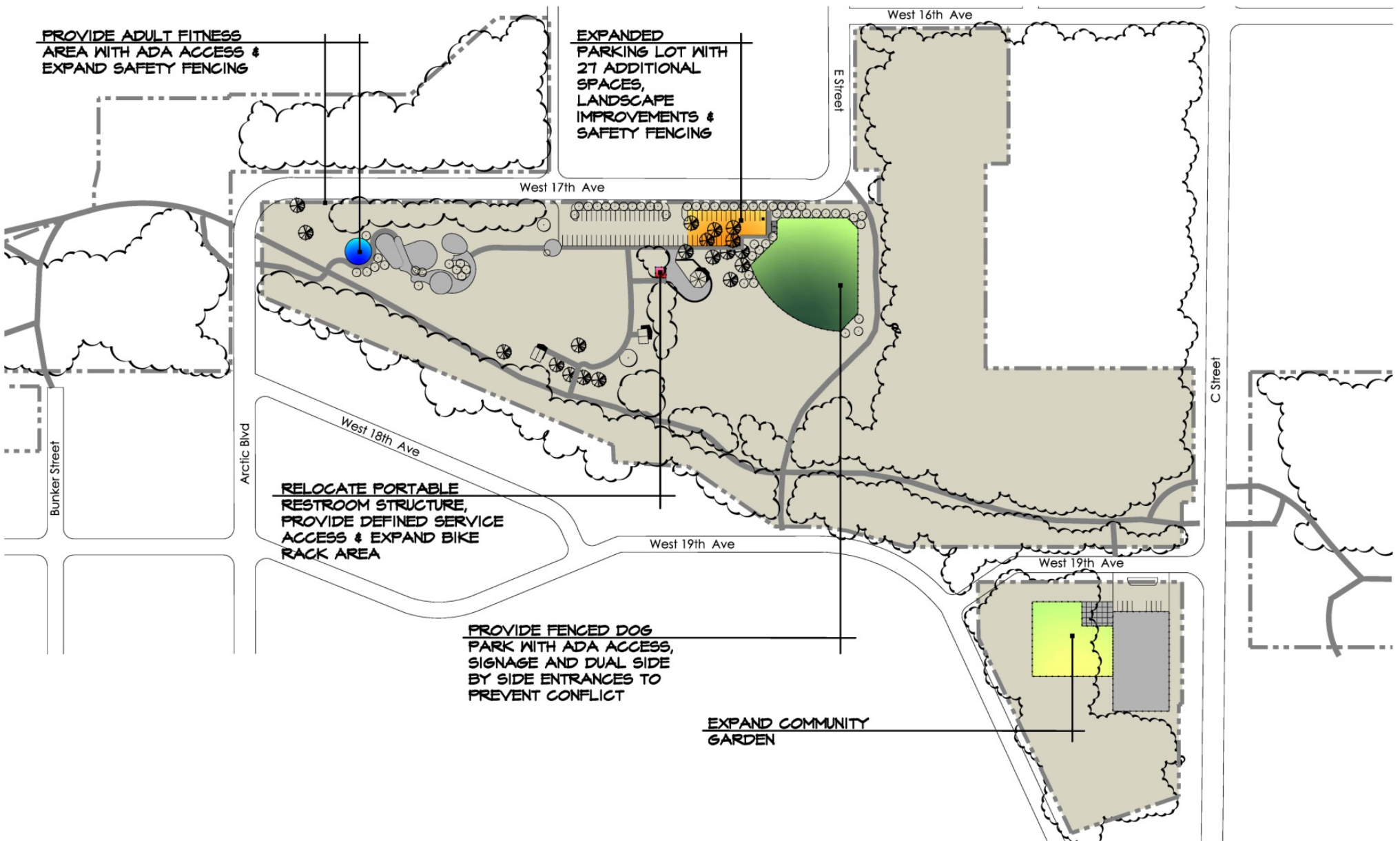
Amenities

Valley of the Moon Park has a range of amenities that enrich park users experience. The park has two picnic shelters, picnic tables, benches, trash cans, interpretive panels, plazas and landscaping.

Recommendations: Several new amenities were identified as desirable by the advisory group. Bike racks should be added in convenient locations to allow bikers to safely lock up bikes. The fence line should be continued along the entire length of 17th Ave from the Arctic Blvd turn to E St to improve safety. A rules sign, trash can and dog stations should be added with the addition of the off-leash dog space.



View of the playground and open space at Valley of the Moon Park



Valley of the Moon Park Master Site Plan

Anchorage Alaska 9.30.2014

Appendix A: Meeting Minutes



Valley of the Moon Park Site Plan Update Advisory Group Meeting #1 March 18, 2014 • Spenard Recreation Center

Overview:

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is updating the site plan for Valley of the Moon Park. To ensure that future improvements align with the desires of the community, Parks and Recreation is working with an advisory group.

The first advisory group meeting for the Valley of the Moon Park site plan update took place on March 18th, 2014.

Attendees:

Anna Bryant, Penny Burt, Mark Butler, Josh Durand (P&R), Lanie Fleischer, Matt Johnson, Pedro Kim, Susan Miller, Nick Moe, Kelsey Parpart, Steve Rafuse (P&R), Melonie Rieck, and Helen Thomas

Meeting Synopsis:

The meeting began with introductions from all the attendees and was followed by an overview of the Valley of the Moon Park project by Parks & Recreation Park Planner Steve Rafuse. Steve explained the purpose of the site plan update and the key issues that Parks and Recreation hopes to address by updating the site plan. Steve also described the approval process required to implement an update to the site plan and the advisory group's role as an advisory body to Parks and Recreation. Steve finished with a review of the development history of Valley of the Moon Park which included a look at past and present site plans.

Anchorage Parks and Recreation Park Planner Josh Durand followed with a discussion of the opportunities and constraints based on the current configuration of amenities at Valley of the Moon Park. Using aerial imagery of the park, Josh provided an overview of use patterns and design considerations. Josh identified several key issues that Parks and Recreation hopes to

address in the site plan update. These issues include: 1) relocation of the port-a-potty and screen to a serviceable location; 2) expand parking to address overflow parking onto 17th Ave; and 3) provide a formal direction for the ball field/off-leash dog park. This overview provided a starting point for a larger group discussion.

Following the discussion of opportunities and constraints, the meeting continued with each advisory group member sharing their experiences with the park. Advisory group members expressed their thoughts and concerns and discussed what improvements are most desirable.

Individual Group Member Comments:

The following list is a summary of comments from individual members of the advisory group.

Nick Moe:

- Forest: Positive use of the forest to discourage undesirable behavior and the negative presence of homeless activity (pump track or children's forest)
- Signage: Add signs to encourage bike/pedestrian/transit near parking lot
- Parking: Does not like high cost of building a parking lot
- Volleyball: A good addition to the park
- Adult fitness equipment: A good addition to the park
- Open Space: Space south of ball field is valuable and highly used (Stargazing, Ultimate Frisbee)
- Dog Park: Current space works – does not want to see too much of the budget invested

Kelsey Parpart:

- Dog Park: Separate areas for large dogs and small dogs in separate locations preferred to a single dog park separated by a fence, separate entrances, no sand

Helen Thomas:

- Dog Park: Deters negative behavior and less desirable traffic, likes idea of separate areas for small dogs and large dogs
- Bike Trail: Likes the idea of a bike path through the woods c E St/16th Ave to C St Gardens

Matt Johnson:

- Safety: Concerned about traffic and safety (at the bend in the road Arctic Blvd/17th Ave) and the proximity to the playground
- Adult Fitness Equipment: West of the playground may be a good location
- Bike Lanes: Prefers bike lanes separated from traffic on E St.

Mark Butler:

- Forest: “protect the woods”, recent degradation of the forest from homeless and other groups, forest protects from the “blight” of C St.
- Adult Fitness Equipment: Previous task force located equipment at bike trail intersection of park and Chester Creek Trail
- Safety: Continue fence from Arctic Blvd around bend to parking lot
- Parking: Overflow parking can be located to the east of the existing lot and north of the ball field fence
- Bike Trail: Straighten (north-south) bike path and locate dog park to the east in open field and forest
- Facilities: Add more picnic tables
- Other: Negotiate a land trade for properties to the east of the park

Lanie Fleischer:

- Dog Park: Likes to walk dogs on trails/footpaths in the woods (i.e. Connors Bog), trails in the woods help discourage homelessness and other undesirable activity
- Forest: Protect the woods, footpaths and trails won’t require lots of trees to come down
- Bike Trail: Move (north-south) bike path west – so as not to go through the middle of a dog park

Susan Miller:

- Restrooms: Move port-a-potty where they can be serviced, open in winter
- Ball field: Would like to see kids using little league fields, P&R should contact little league/softball
- Dog Park: Dog park is a “good idea” but prefers not to give up ball field
- Forest: Trails in the woods, bring the park into the woods - “let people know” that the woods are parkland
- Children’s Forest: Add children’s fairy forest, add entrance arch
- Disc Golf: Site has potential for a 9 disc course
- Community Gardens: Expand and add more community garden plots
- Parking: Overflow parking can be located to the east of the existing lot and north of the ball field fence, also expand to the west, or off of 16th Ave. and E St.
- Bike Trail: Consider adding water fountain/faucet along bike trail (every mile or so)

Anna Bryant:

- Facilities: Add another picnic shelter, add more trash cans – particularly, if you are developing a dog park
- Parking Lot: Expand parking lot to the east
- Dog Park: Likes the idea of a dog park in the forest
- Playground: More playground equipment – “is there a need for more play equipment?”
- Adult Fitness Equipment: Locate west of playground

- Safety: Add fence along Arctic Blvd and 17th Ave
- Children's Forest: Could be a good Girl Scout project, geocaching area)
- Other: Sponsor "clean ups"- little dog group would be willing
- Other: Limit the number of ice cream trucks taking up space in the parking lot
- Community Gardens: Expand C St. gardens

Penny Burt:

- Dog Park: "dogs are top priority", dogs and trees go well together
- Restrooms: Add more toilets, port-a-potty's okay
- Other: Encourage park users to use cell phones to deter undesirable behavior

Pedro Kim:

- Adult Fitness Equipment: Good idea to locate near playground for adults to use while their children (i.e. nieces) play
- Community Garden: Expand the C St. Community Gardens
- Other: Add bike tool station at key trail intersections
- Other: Build a pump track in the woods

Melonie Rieck:

- Adult Fitness Equipment: Do people use the equipment?, locate equipment that people will use - near the playground
- Dog Park: Dog park = more cars
- Parking: How much more parking do we add - adding more parking leads to more cars
- Forest: Trees provide natural value (i.e. flood protection and mitigation), recommends using wood chips for trails through the woods
- Community Gardens: Issues of theft and unauthorized use at the Community Gardens, questions about locking the gate and the Muni's lack of enforcement
- Restrooms: Add more toilets
- Volleyball: Add volleyball nets
- Other: The park as a family area
- Other: Acquire land to the east of the park

Summary of Common Advisory Group Themes:

Parking Lot: Overflow parking in summer was recognized by the group as a major issue. While the question of how much parking to add was not specifically addressed, the group's comments suggest that an expansion of the parking lot to the east of its current location was a viable option. The group briefly entertained the option of a new parking lot off of E St and 16th Ave as an alternative entrance to a dog park. This option may be worth further exploration.

Dog Park: The group acknowledges the popularity of a dog park at Valley of the Moon Park. Members suggested a fenced dog park with some access to the woods and trails would be welcome and may help discourage undesirable activity and homelessness in the forest. Members who were dog owners agreed that a separate area for big and little dogs was desirable.

There was general agreement to locate the dog park away from other park amenities and that adequate separation of a dog park and picnic and playground facilities is important. The group recognizes the challenges and constraints of the site in locating an off leash dog area and providing for fluid bike and pedestrian circulation.

Restrooms: The group recognizes the challenges of servicing the port-a-potty in their current location and agrees to move them with screen to a more functional location.

Adult Fitness Equipment: The group supported adult fitness equipment located near (west of) the playground. This location would allow adults to work out and supervise their playing children at the same time.

Forest: The forest on the eastern side of the park was widely discussed by the group. The group recognized the negative effects of homeless camps and other undesirable activity taking place in the woods. The general feeling among the group was to protect the character of the woods as a natural area and buffer but also to activate the space as a way to discourage negative activity. Activating the forest with trails, a dog park, pump track or children's fairy forest have all been proposed – the appropriateness of each activity for this location will require further discussion.

Safety: The close proximity of playground equipment to the road was recognized as a safety concern. The advisory group agreed that some capacity of additional fencing from Arctic Blvd to the parking lot on 17th Ave was needed.

Undesirable activity such as substance abuse in the baseball dugout and homeless camps in the forest was widely recognized as a safety concern. Activating these spaces with trails, a dog park, pump track or children's fairy forest could help shift that activity away from the park.

Bike Trail: The group acknowledged the north-south bike path as an important trail-street connector. Rerouting the trail may be necessary to avoid conflicts with a future dog park. More discussion is needed.

Volleyball: Volleyball was discussed briefly. Several members suggested developing volleyball courts at the park and the overall response was favorable. However, more discussion as to location and size will be necessary.

Children's Forest: The idea of a Children's Forest was brought up as a way to engage children's imagination. While members supported this idea, the close proximity to some of the more undesirable activity taking place in woods will require further deliberation among the group.

Facilities: The group recognized Valley of the Moon Park as a popular gathering place for families and friends. Several members suggested additional facilities such as a picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, and trash cans.

Other: The advisory group had a range of comments that do not fall neatly in a given category. Comments such as: "use cell phones to report negative behavior", "sponsor clean up days", "acquire the land to the east", "the park is a family park", and "limit the number of ice cream trucks" - provide a range of perspectives from those who use the park on a regular basis. Summed up, advisory group members recognize the importance of park user's to take ownership of the park.

Next Meeting:

The next advisory group meeting will be April 15th (6-8pm) at the Federation of Community Councils office on 1049 West Fireweed Lane.



Valley of the Moon Park

Site Plan Update

Advisory Group Meeting #2

April 15, 2014 • Federation of Community Councils Office

Overview:

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is updating the site plan for the Valley of the Moon Park. To ensure that future improvements align with the desires of the community, Parks and Recreation is working with an advisory group.

The second advisory group meeting for the Valley of the Moon Park site plan update took place on April 15, 2014.

Attendees:

Anna Bryant, Penny Burt, Mark Butler, Josh Durand (P&R), Lanie Fleischer, Matt Johnson, Susan Miller, Nick Moe, Kelsey Parpart, Steve Rafuse (P&R), Melonie Rieck, and Dana Myers

Meeting Synopsis:

The meeting began with Parks & Recreation, Park Planner Steve Rafuse providing a review of the project goals and the purpose of the site plan update. Steve reviewed the main issues identified in the first meeting and reiterated the role of the advisory group.

Project Recap: Following the review of background information, Steve provided a recap of the common themes from the first meeting as captured in the meeting minutes. The group agreed that the common themes presented were consistent with comments from the first meeting. Some advisory group members asked questions and provided additional points of clarification on the themes presented. Anchorage Parks and Recreation, Park Planner Josh Durand provided clarification on the departments intent not to purchase the adjacent 3 acre property to the east, citing limited funds and capacity to manage additional park lands at this time.

Concept Alternatives: Building on the discussion of common themes, Josh Durand presented four concept alternatives for Valley of the Moon Park. Each concept alternative incorporates advisory group feedback and provides a unique layout of amenities based on existing site conditions and professional parks and open space design principles. The concept alternatives presented were intended to be a conversation starter from which a preferred alternative would originate through conversation and consensus building. Advisory group members were asked

to elaborate on several questions during the discussion, these included: Which concept do you prefer and why? What specific elements of these concepts do you like? What doesn't work and why? The following pages provide a description and illustration of each conceptual design alternative.

Design Alternative 1

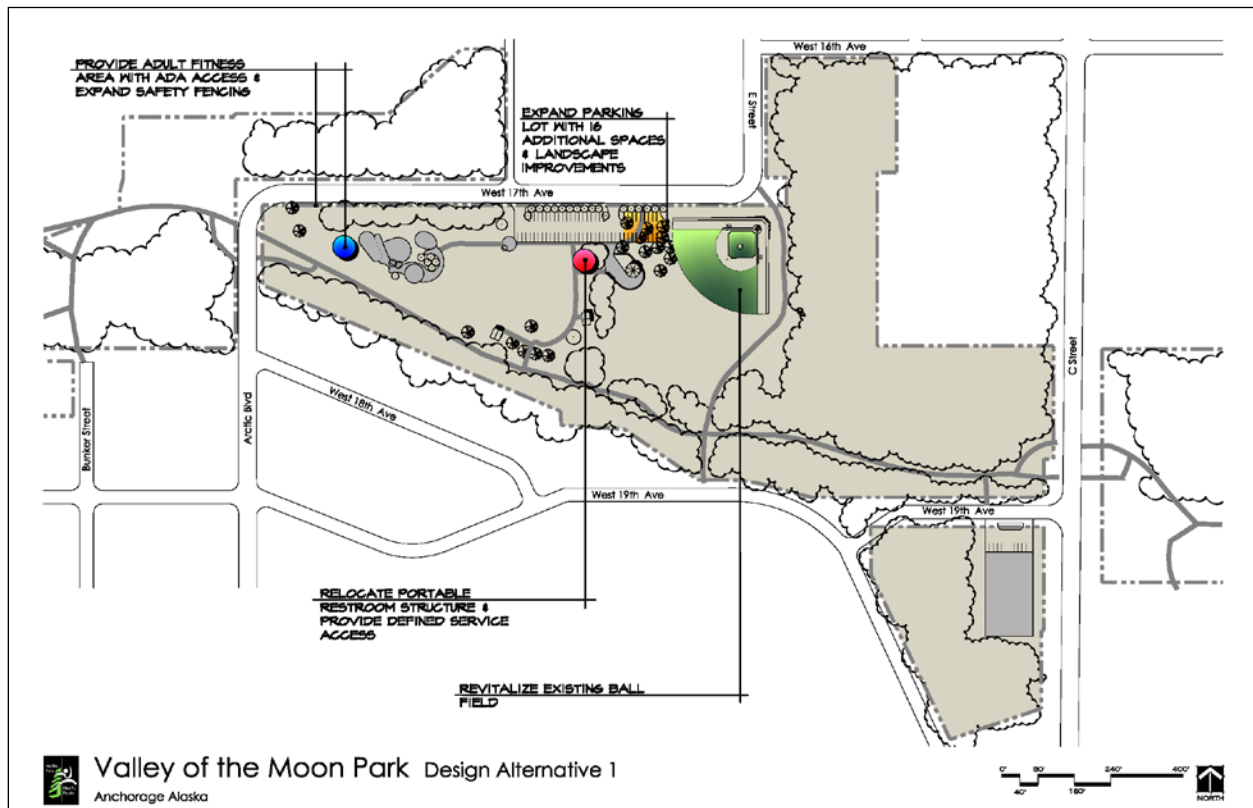


Illustration 1: Design Alternative 1

Design Alternative 1 Description:

1. Provides an adult fitness area with seating and ADA access.
2. Extends fencing east on along 17th avenue to provide improved safety for the adjacent playground.
3. Expands the existing parking lot to the east with an additional 16 parking spaces. Landscaping improvements will also occur just north of the expanded parking lot.
4. Relocates the restroom structure just south of the existing parking lot. Improved service access and landscape screening will be provided.
5. Rehabilitates the existing ball field for active recreation. Use of the field will be available for permitted and can be used on first come first serve basis.

Design Alternative 2

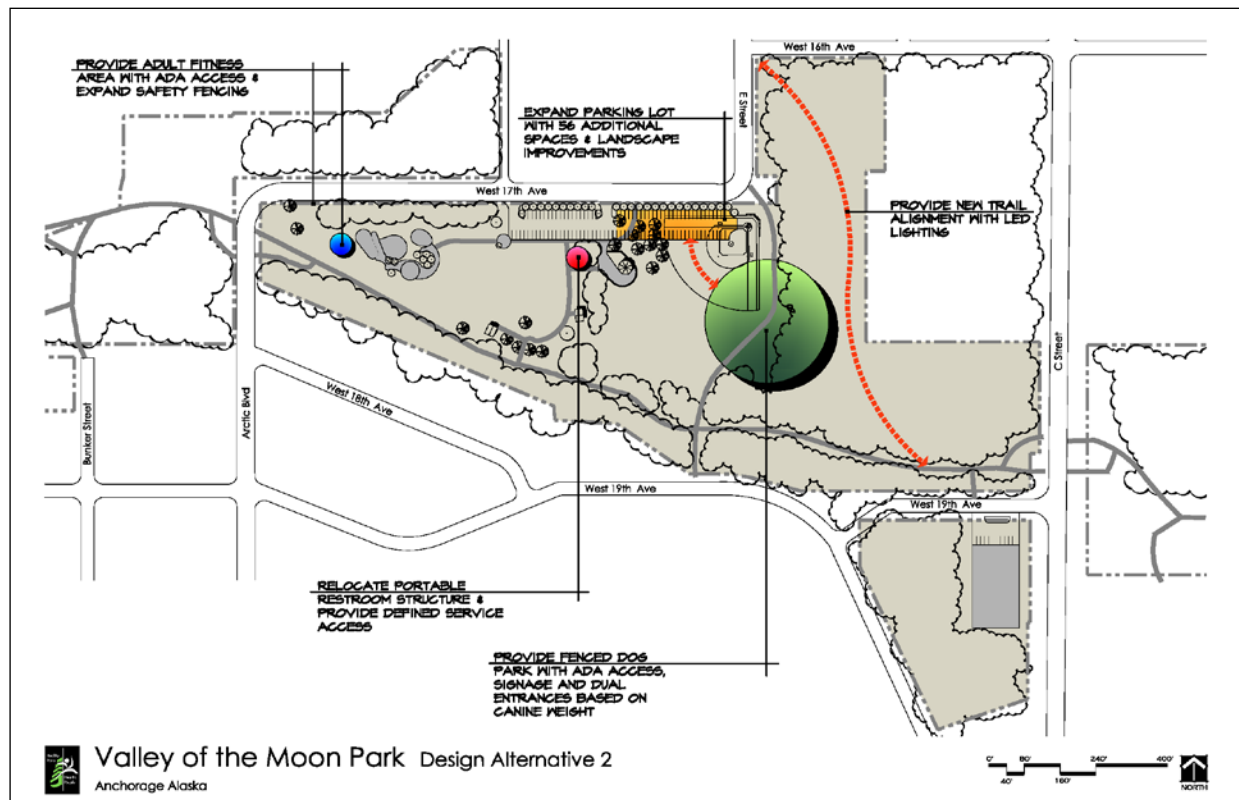


Illustration 2: Design Alternative 2

Design Alternative 2 Description:

1. Provides an adult fitness area with seating and ADA access.
2. Extends fencing east on along 17th Avenue to provide improved safety for the adjacent playground.
3. Expands the existing parking lot to the east with an additional 56 parking spaces. Landscaping improvements will also occur just north of the expanded parking lot.
4. Relocates the restroom structure just south of the existing parking lot. Improved service access and landscape screening will be provided.
5. Eliminates the existing ball field.
6. Provides a ½ acre fenced dog park with separate areas and entrances based on canine weight.
7. A new paved and illuminated trail will provide a north south connection through the park.

Design Alternative 3

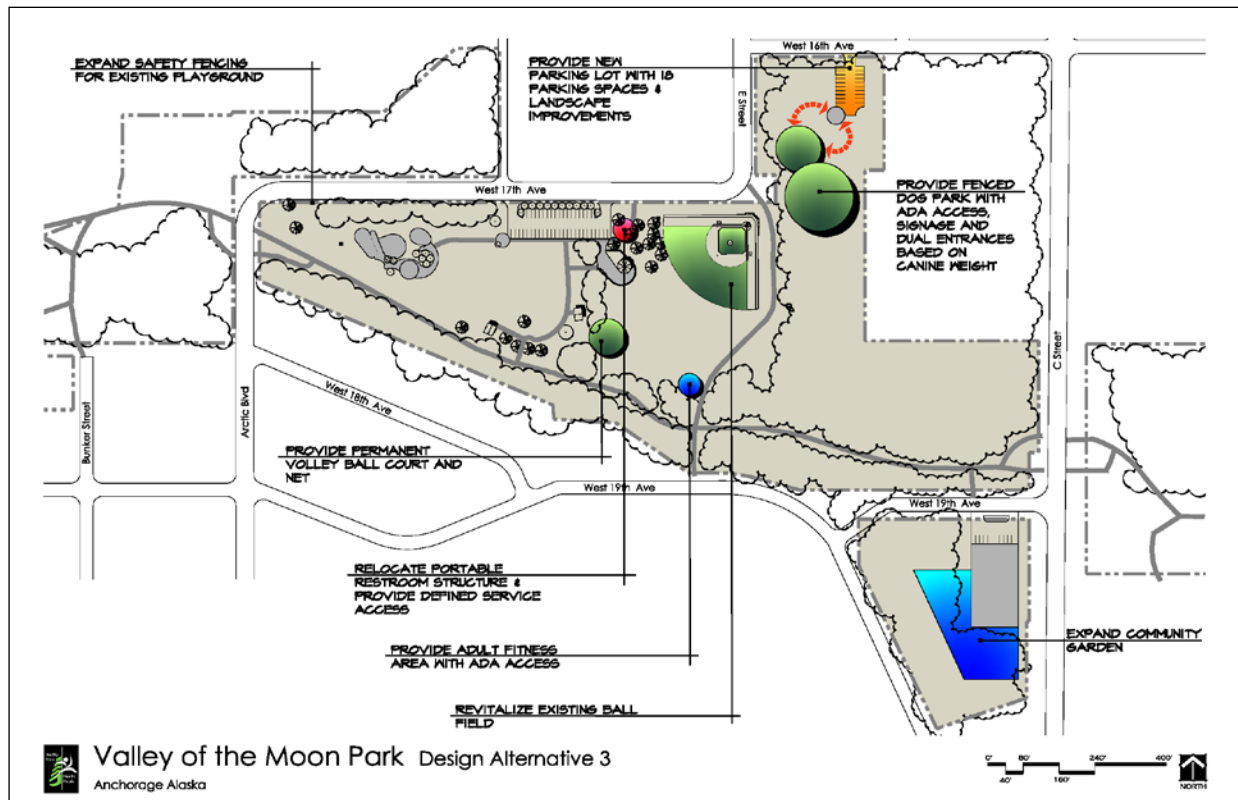


Illustration 3: Design Alternative 3

Design Alternative 3 Description:

1. Provides an adult fitness area with seating and ADA access.
2. Extends fencing east on along 17th avenue to provide improved safety for the adjacent playground.
3. Relocates the restroom structure just east of the existing parking lot. Improved service access and landscape screening will be provided.
4. Provides a new parking lot off of 16th Avenue with 18 parking spaces.
5. Rehabilitates the existing ball field for active recreation. Use of the field will be available for permitted and can be used on first come first serve basis.
6. Relocates the restroom structure just south of the existing parking lot. Improved service access and landscape screening will be provided.
7. Provides a permanent volley ball court and net.
8. Provides a ½ acre fenced dog park with separate areas and entrances based on canine weight.

Design Alternative 4

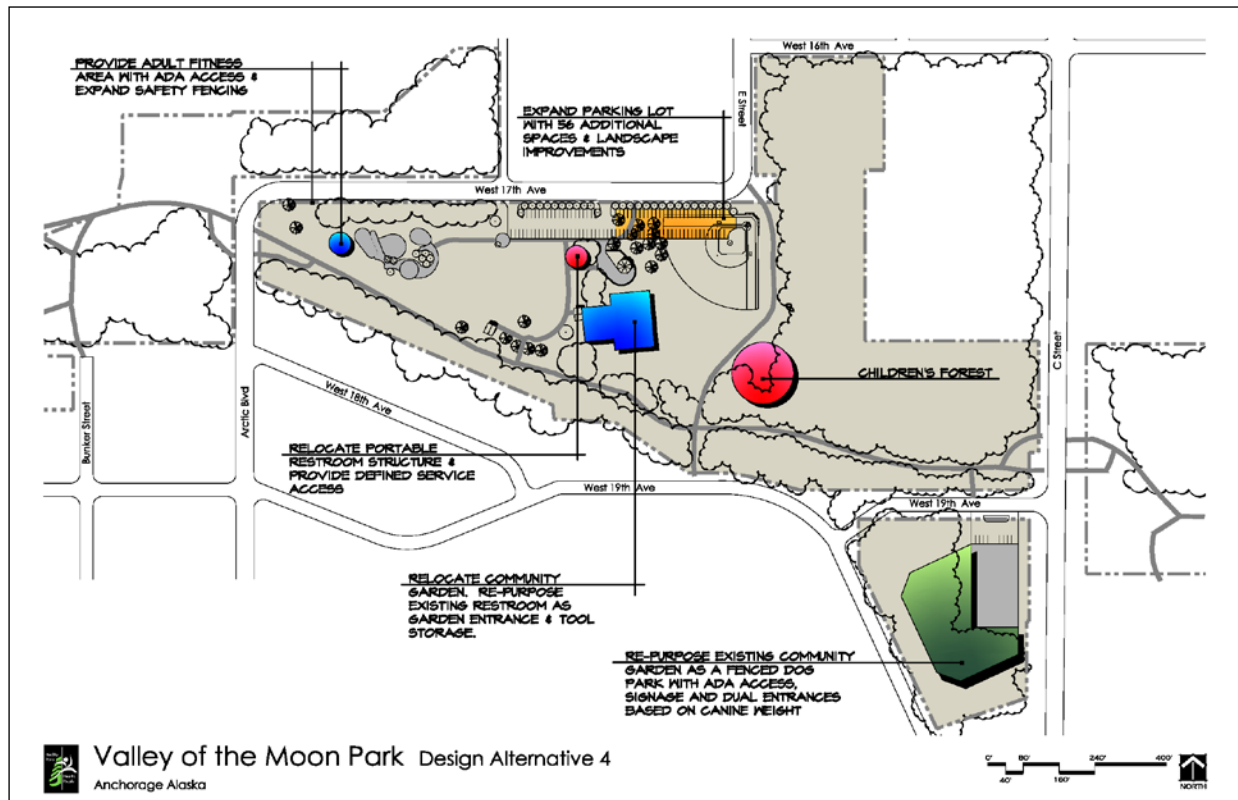


Illustration 4: Design Alternative 4

Design Alternative 4 Description:

1. Provides an adult fitness area with seating and ADA access.
2. Extends fencing east on along 17th avenue to provide improved safety for the adjacent playground.
3. Expands the existing parking lot to the east with an additional 56 parking spaces. Landscaping improvements will also occur just north of the expanded parking lot.
4. Relocates the restroom structure just south of the existing parking lot. Improved service access and landscape screening will be provided.
5. Eliminates the existing ball field.
6. Re-purposes the existing community garden to provide a 3/4 acre fenced dog park with separate areas and entrances based on canine weight.
7. Designates a 1/4 acre of the forest for to be developed as a "Children's Forest".
8. Relocates the fenced community garden in the center of the park while re-purposing the permanent restroom structure as the garden entrance.

Individual Group Member Comments:

Following the presentation of the four concept alternatives, the meeting continued with each advisory group member sharing their experiences with the park. Advisory group members expressed their thoughts and concerns and discussed which concept alternatives they preferred and why.

The following list is a summary of comments from individual members of the advisory group.

Penny Burt:

- Likes concept #4 because the dog park is separated from the other uses
- Feels that it is okay to use the undeveloped E St/16th Ave area of the park for active uses
- Supports concept #3 (prefers over #4)

Lanie Fleischer:

- Does not like community garden in the middle of the park because the open space is often used for picnics and play (concept #4); if community garden is moved it would be preferable to move it to the current location of the ball field to preserve the open space
- Likes adult fitness area by the playground
- Likes driving by community gardens on C Street and watching it grow through the season
- Likes concept #2: dog park in woods, re-routed bike path through the woods, and extra parking
- Remove the dugouts and replace with benches to prevent undesirable behavior taking place in the dugouts and to eliminate hiding places and litter

Melonie Rieck:

- Does not like the idea of moving the community garden as proposed in concept #4; “it takes a long time to make a good garden”, “I don’t like being on display like a zoo animal” referring to the idea of a highly visible community garden in the middle of the Park
- Likes the dog park in concept #2 but prefers the dog park moved closer to the parking lot - “nobody is going to hang out between the dog park and parking lot”
- Adult Fitness: likes location near playground
- Feels that access between 16th and E St to the parking lot in concept #3 will be dangerous
- Does not like the bike path in concept #2, cites that as a woman there is a feeling/perception of danger of traveling through the woods

Nick Moe:

- Likes permanent volleyball court in concept #3

- Does not like the dog park and community garden switched as proposed in concept #4
- Likes expanding the community garden (concept #3) but closer to 19th Ave
- Sees an opportunity for education at the community garden
- Prefers the adult fitness station in a more central location, cites that it is may be awkward for single males to work out near a playground (P&R response: the design would include a small plaza to provide a comfortable separation but still maintain a line of sight so that parents could watch their children on the playground)
- Add special parking for food truck vendors
- Promote more bike and pedestrian access as well as more visible public transit
- Asked about the absence of a pump track from the design alternatives (P&R response: the Parks department is currently working on pump tracks and other bike facilities in other parks and recommends that this new use is not tested at Valley of the Moon Park at this time)
- It is important to locate the dog park as far away from the creek as possible to protect water quality

Susan Miller:

- Clearly feels that concept #3 is the best
- Would like to add the Children's Forest from concept #4 to concept #3 and include archway entrances in the design
- Prefers adult fitness station near the playground

Mark Butler:

- Park is a highly successful neighborhood park but also serves as a busy community use/regional park
- The dog park creates a regional attraction
- Would like to activate the far western side of the park – adult fitness is okay
- Extend the fence from Arctic to the parking lot
- Extending the parking lot to east of its existing location is a logical location, consider the possibility of gated overflow parking that could accommodate additional parking on busy summer days and during events
- Strongly dislikes the new bike trail alignment in concept #2; cites that any new trail will need visual buffers which will lead to additional tree removal
- Proposes aligning the N/S bike trail on the east side of the E St bollards from park to 15th Ave to improve safety
- The dog park in concept #3 has the least visual impact
- Not interested in building a large dog park
- Expanding the community garden as proposed in concept #3 is okay
- Likes to keep the open field on the east side of the park for open play

Kelsey Parpart:

- Likes concept #2; it is the only concept that addresses the homeless population
- Move dog park closer to the parking lot in concept #2
- Likes the expanded community garden in concept #3
- Does not like the permanent volleyball courts

Matt Johnson:

- Does not like feel the need to keep the ball field, cites “not a fan of baseball at the ball fields”, “soccer is exploding in Anchorage
- Prefers that dog park activities are separate from other activities, tucked into an edge
- Prefers concept #2
- Is “not crazy about the volleyball courts”
- Likes the idea of expanding the open space

Summary of Consensus Items:

Restrooms: There is consensus among the advisory group to move the port-a-potties and screen to a serviceable location just south of the parking lot.

Adult Fitness Equipment: The advisory group supports the addition of an adult fitness station located west of the playground. This location would allow adults to work out and supervise their children on the playground. A plaza is recommended to provide a comfortable separation but still maintain a line of sight so that parents are able to watch their children on the playground. An access trail connecting directly to the Chester Creek Trail should also be considered in the design.

Parking Lot: The group agrees that additional parking at the Valley of the Moon Park will help alleviate overflow parking on 17th Ave. However, the location and amount of parking to be added has yet to be resolved. The four proposed design alternatives include between 16 and 56 additional spaces. Conversation between the group and Parks and Recreation staff suggest that somewhere in the middle would be most appropriate. The group agrees that an expansion of the parking lot east of its current location is, at present, the most logical location but expressed some interest in exploring the feasibility of a small parking lot off of 16th Ave.

Dog Park: The group acknowledges the growing trend of the ball field as an off-leash dog area. The group agrees that the addition of a new off-leash dog park should have direct access to a parking lot and separate entrances for dogs based on canine weight.

Open Space: The advisory group indicated a high level of support in favor of preserving the Park's existing open space.

Forest: The group agrees on the importance of protecting the character of the woods as a natural area and buffer. The group has also recognized that homeless camps and other undesirable activity, such as drinking and substance abuse, negatively affect park users experience and the perception of safety in the park. The group has discussed ways to find a balance between protecting the character of the woods and activating the space to create positive use.

Community Garden: The group showed strong support for expanding the community garden in its current location.

Summary of Items for Further Discussion:

Dog Park: The group acknowledges the growing popularity of the ball field being used as an off-leash dog area. The group generally agrees that any new off-leash dog area should be located at a considerable distance from Chester Creek to minimize further degradation of water quality. Adequate separation from other park amenities and the preservation of open space should be considered in design and site location as well.

Locations up for discussion are to the east of the current parking lot in the general vicinity of the ball field and in the northern panhandle of the park to the east of E St and south of 16th Ave. The design alternatives provide for a dog park approximately .5 Acres in size.

Ball Field: There was some support for preserving the ball field in its present location. However, the group as a whole tended to favor other uses such as additional parking, a dog park, and open space for the area.

Additionally, Parks and Recreation contacted Anchorage West Little League. The organization indicated that they have no future plans to use the ball field at Valley of the Moon Park. If the ball field is to remain, members of the advisory group asked to have the dugouts removed in order to deter misuse.

Safety: The close proximity of playground equipment to the road was recognized as a safety concern. The advisory group agreed that some capacity of additional fencing from Arctic Blvd to the parking lot on 17th Ave was needed.

Undesirable activity such as substance abuse in the baseball dugout and homeless camps in the forest was widely recognized as a safety concern. Activating these spaces with trails, a dog park, pump track or children's fairy forest could help shift that activity away from the park.

Bike Trail: The group acknowledged the north-south bike path as an important trail-street connector. Rerouting the trail may be necessary to avoid conflicts with a future dog park.

Volleyball: The advisory group was divided on the issue of adding permanent volleyball courts. Those who were opposed cited the loss of open space necessary to accommodate permanent volleyball courts as the main drawback and that volleyball can still be played at the Park without developing a permanent footprint.

Children's Forest: The Children's Forest was brought up with little discussion. Ideas included adding an archway and soft surface trails.

Next Meeting:

The next advisory group meeting will be April 29th (6-8pm) at the Federation of Community Councils office on 1057 West Fireweed Lane.



Valley of the Moon Park

Site Plan Update

Advisory Group Meeting #3

April 29, 2014 • Federation of Community Councils Office

Overview:

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is updating the site plan for Valley of the Moon Park. To ensure that future improvements align with the desires of the community, Parks and Recreation is working with an advisory group.

The third advisory group meeting for the Valley of the Moon Park site plan update took place on April 29th, 2014.

Attendees:

Anna Bryant, Penny Burt, Mark Butler, Josh Durand (P&R), Lanie Fleischer, Susan Miller, Kelsey Parpart, Vik Patel (APF), and Melonie Rieck

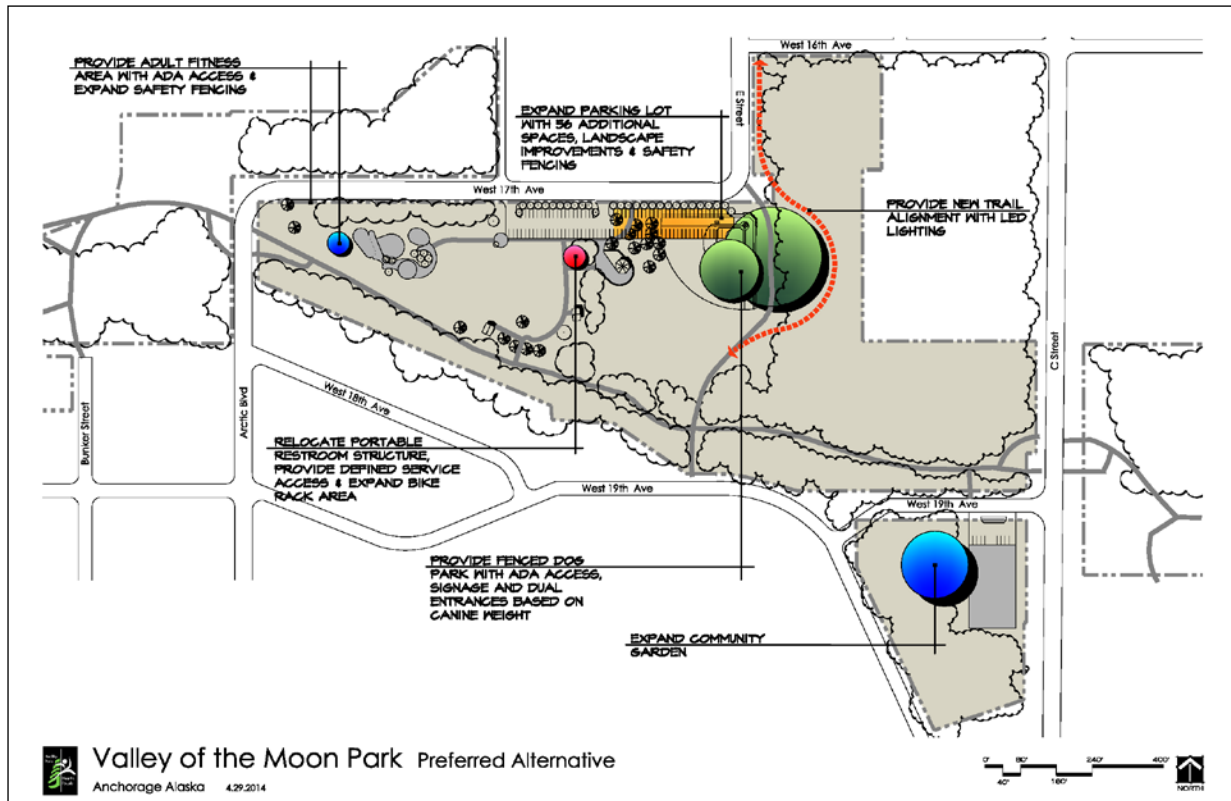
Meeting Synopsis:

Project Recap: The meeting began with a round of introductions followed by a recap of the project goals and main issues by Park Planner Josh Durand. Josh discussed the purpose of the meeting and the role of the advisory group in helping Parks & Recreation build consensus on an updated site plan for Valley of the Moon Park. An updated project timeline was then presented that accurately reflects Community Council and Commission approval in the autumn following summer recess. Vik Patel from the Anchorage Park Foundation was present to take notes.

Following introductions and review, Josh Durand discussed the common themes that were generated during the previous two meetings. Some advisory group members asked questions and additional points of clarification were made.

Preferred Alternative: Josh Durand presented a Preferred Alternative based on the advisory group's feedback of the four alternatives proposed in the second meeting. As requested, basic development costs for each proposed improvement were provided. The presentation was followed by a group discussion and then each member of the group was allotted time to speak. Individuals were asked to express what they "like" and "don't like" about the proposed site plan. The meeting finished with general consensus among the group in support of an amended version of the Preferred Alternative.

Preferred Alternative



The following is a description of the Preferred Alternative as presented and is based on advisory group feedback. This is *not* the final site plan.

Preferred Alternative Description:

1. **Fencing:** Extended fencing east on along 17th avenue to provide improved safety in the area adjacent to the playground. (\$25-\$50K)
2. **Adult Fitness Equipment:** Develop an adult fitness area with seating and ADA access. (\$60K)
3. **Parking:** Expand the existing parking lot to the east with an additional 56 parking spaces. Landscaping improvements will also occur just north of the expanded parking lot. (\$80-\$200K)
4. **Port-a-Potty Restrooms:** Relocate the restroom screen to just south of the existing parking lot. Improved service access and landscape screening will be provided. (\$5-\$10K)
5. **Community Garden:** Expand community garden to the west of current location. (\$?)
6. **Dog Park:** Formalize accessible dog park at current ball field location with modified fencing layout. (\$70K)
7. **Trail/Bike Path:** Re-route existing north-south bike path around new dog park fencing.

Summary of Group Discussion:

The following is a summary of discussion points generated during the presentation of the Preferred Alternative:

Fencing: Fence should be at least 5 feet tall so that kids cannot climb over. Design should be aesthetically pleasing and it should be constructed as to allow easy repair by Parks maintenance staff.

Adult Fitness Equipment: Fitness stations should be separated from playground equipment but be located in a way as to provide for clear site lines of the playground. Connect area with a paved pathway.

Parking: Parking is an issue, particularly overflow parking on 17th Ave; however, there is no general consensus as to how much parking to add. Issues to consider: the addition of both Sharrows on 17th Ave and dedicated bike lanes on Arctic Blvd. and E St. Parks and Recreation will conduct a formal parking study this summer to help determine the appropriate solution to parking at Valley of the Moon Park.

Port-a-Potty Restrooms: Relocate the restroom screen to improve service access. Expand and formalize bike parking. Explore ideas for renovating old restroom building as a potential location for a food vendor.

Community Garden: Expanding the community garden to the west of its current location is widely supported.

Dog Park: Formalize a ½ to ¾ acre dog park at the current ball field with a modified fencing layout. Provide dual entrances and ADA access. (\$70K)

Trail/Bike Path: Re-route existing north-south bike path around new dog park to avoid conflicts with trail users and dog park users.

Children's Forest Area: Not included in the formal site plan, but already exists to some extent.

Approval Process: The advisory group's approval of a site plan does not guarantee the development of all improvements. It is the first step in the approval process. Advisory group consensus does; however, demonstrate community support for improvements and helps park projects acquire funding.

Individual Group Member Comments:

The following list is a summary of comments from individual members of the advisory group.

Penny Burt:

- Dog Park: fix the fence, don't move it; the current surface/field turf is good; add a bench for older folks to rest
- Adult Fitness: like the adult fitness area
- More Parking: supports more parking, on-street parking is dangerous and additional parking would be better even if it moves into the fenced dog area
- Priorities: fix the dog park fence, move port-a-potties

Lanie Fleischer:

- General: feels that the park is a great park as is and that there is no need to change it that much; the playground and picnic shelters are very active and the park as a whole functions very well; money should be spent on making things better rather than changing and relocating amenities (i.e. bike path)
- Adult Fitness: supports the addition of an adult fitness area
- Fencing: supports expanding the fencing along 17th Ave
- Community Garden: supports expanding the community garden
- Dog Park: the size of what is currently used as an off-leash area is plenty
- Bike Trail: the trail is fine in its current location and does not come too close to the off-leash area; there is no need to re-locate the trail
- Priorities: port-a-potties first, ameliorate the northern end of the dog park for parking space, expand fencing along 17th Ave

Melonie Rieck:

- Adult Fitness Equipment: supports the additional of an adult fitness area
- Fencing: supports expanding the fencing along 17th Ave
- Restrooms: supports relocating the restrooms
- Bike Trail: does not support moving the bike trail
- Community Gardens: does not support the expansion of the community gardens; feels that if the Muni can't enforce the rules and use the waitlist then we don't need more gardens
- Dog Park: it shouldn't be too big, rather there should be more dog park options around town; prefers the dog park to stay in the location of the ball field instead of encroaching into the woods
- Parking: does not support more parking, however, is interested in seeing the data that is generated from P&R parking study this summer
- Forest: would like to discourage homelessness in the woods
- Other: add more bike parking

- Priorities: port-a-potties and bike racks, fix the dog fence so that it is adequate for dog usage

Susan Miller:

- Ball field: save the ball field; possibly remove the outfield fence, keep the sideline fences, remove the dugout to eliminate the unwanted visitor problem and debris problem
- Dog Park: locate the dog park in the northeast area of the park and save the expense of moving the trail
- Forest: the forest is currently a barrier and doesn't feel as if it is part of the park; open up forest, thin trees and bring into park; consider adding a "park ends here" sign to delineate the park boundary
- Bike Trail: does not support the expense of moving the trail
- Bike Lane: not sure if willing to give up on-street parking for a bike lane
- Priorities: expand fence along 17th Ave, move port-a-potties

Mark Butler:

- Fence: supports the expansion of the fence along 17th Ave
- Adult Fitness: supports the addition of an adult fitness area with a connection to the trails
- Forest: does not support additional tree thinning (already too much thinning along the Chester Creek Trail corridor; the potential future Knik Arm Bridge would bring significantly more cars, traffic and noise along C St
- Dog Park: does not want a dog park bigger than ½ acre in size; the current ball field should not limit the size of the dog park
- Bike Trail: does not support the re-alignment of the bike path through the woods which would mean more cutting trees
- Priorities: fix dog park fencing to make room for parking, add simple amenities for the dog park, port-a-potties

Kelsey Parpart:

- General: mostly in favor of the Preferred Alternative as presented; appreciates that the wet low lying area south of the playground has been addressed by P&R and is no longer wet
- Forest: lots of homeless people living in the woods
- Dog Park: with dog parks in general – it is all about sightlines and the wooded areas don't get used much; you can throw a ball in a wooded area but the people stand in the sun; need 2 or 3 additional garbage cans

Anna Bryant:

- General: I like most of what is presented in the Preferred Alternative
- Parking Lot: supports additional parking; add more parking as this town is mostly automobile commuters
- Dog Park: would like the dog park to stay in the ball field area and move a little to the south; add trash cans and a double entry
- Community Garden: supports expanding the community garden and thinks that it is a great thing
- Priorities: dog park fence, port-a-potties, dog amenities (if we are planning for parking, we might as well move that now - depending on what the study says)

Summary of Consensus Items:

Several items of consensus have been reached through the advisory group process. The group began by identifying key issues in the park and worked towards addressing those issues through facilitated discussion and open dialog.

The following is a list of items in which there is broad consensus among the group:

- Expand the fencing along 17th Ave to improve safety near the playground
- Add adult fitness area to the west of the playground with a connection to the trail system
- Expand the C Street Community Garden to the west to accommodate demand for garden plots and those on the waitlist
- Move the restroom screen and port-a-potties to a serviceable location
- Formally designate a dog park in the present location of the ball field with upgraded fencing and entrances

One issue that remains to be resolved is parking. While the group recognizes the safety issues associated with overflow parking onto 17th Ave, there has yet to be consensus among the group as to how much additional park at Valley of the Moon Park is appropriate.

Anchorage Parks and Recreation will conduct a formal study of parking at Valley of the Moon Park in summer 2014. As the group reconvenes in the fall for the approval process, Parks and Recreation will share the results of the study along with recommendations.

Next Steps:

Parks and Recreation will amend the Preferred Alternative based on feedback from this meeting. This summer, Parks and Recreation will study parking issues at Valley of the Moon Park. In the fall, the Department will make recommendations addressing parking and will present the final site plan for approval.



Valley of the Moon Park

Site Plan Update

Advisory Group Meeting #4

September 30th, 2014 • Federation of Community Councils Office

Overview:

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is updating the site plan for Valley of the Moon Park. To ensure that future improvements align with the desires of the community, Parks and Recreation is working with an advisory group.

The fourth advisory group meeting for the Valley of the Moon Park site plan update took place on September 30th, 2014. The goal of the meeting was to review Parks and Recreation's recommendation for an expansion of the parking lot and to finalize a master site plan for approval.

Attendees:

Anna Bryant, Penny Burt, Mark Butler, Josh Durand (P&R), Matt Johnson, Susan Miller, Steve Rafuse (P&R)

Meeting Synopsis:

Project Recap: The meeting began with an overview of the agenda by Park Planner Steve Rafuse. Steve recapped the purpose of the meeting and the role of the advisory group in helping Parks & Recreation build consensus on an updated site plan for Valley of the Moon Park.

Steve reviewed the main issues and concerns that Parks and Recreation hoped to address in this planning process. These issues include: 1) overflow parking onto 17th Ave; 2) providing a formal direction for the ball field/dog park; and, 3) determine appropriate future development.

Consensus Items: The meeting continued with a recap of general consensus items from previous meetings. In previous meetings, the group had reached consensus on a number of items. In reviewing these items, Parks and Recreation received feedback from advisory group members and made corrections to ensure that the recommendations accurately capture the advisory group's sentiments. See next page for full list.

Parking Study: This summer, Anchorage Parks and Recreation conducted a parking study at Valley of the Moon Park. The goal of the study was to collect data that would inform a recommendation for additional parking at the park. Parks and Recreation staff visited the park 20 times over a two month period. Observations were made at various times of day on all days of the week. Staff recorded: weather conditions, temperature, number of cars in the parking lot, number of cars parked on 17th Ave, locations of groups using the park, and other observed activities.

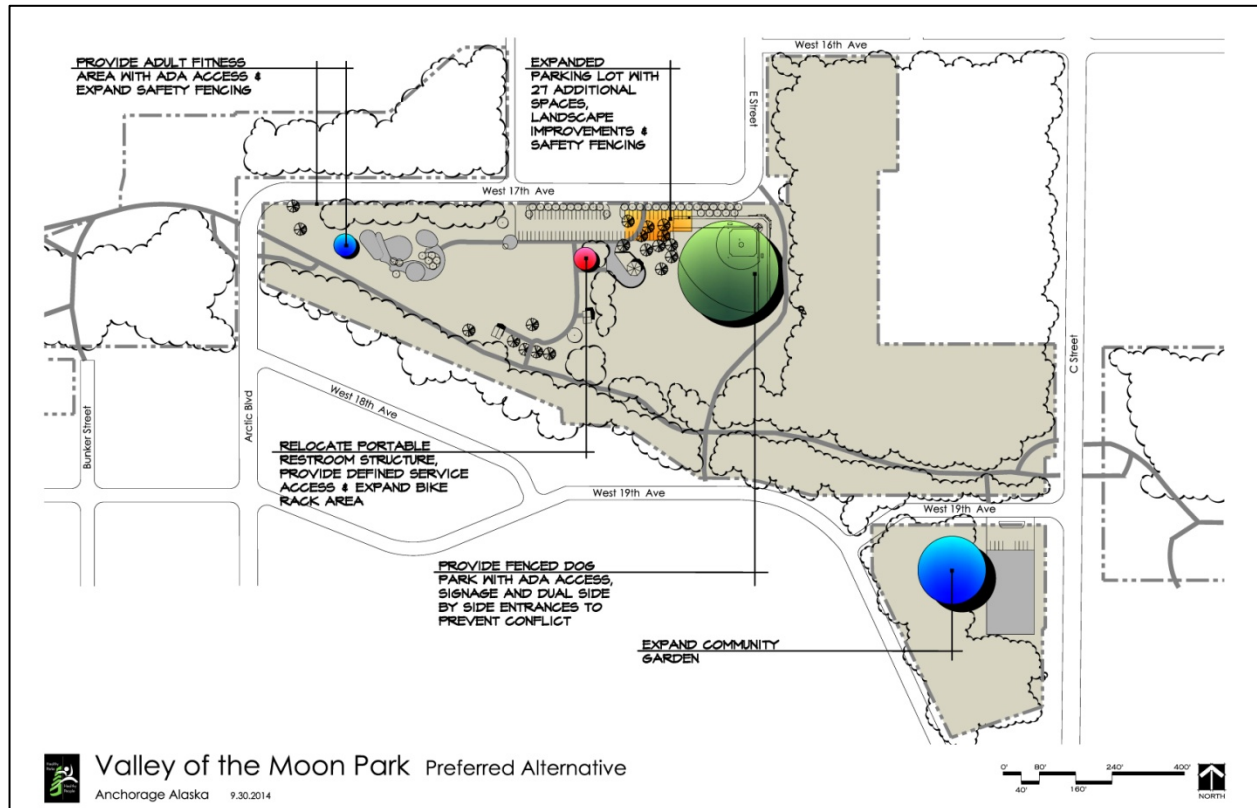
The study observed cars parked on 17th Ave on 9 out of the 20 visits. On 6 of these 9 occasions, parking spaces were available in the lot. Some drivers were observed parking on the street without checking the parking lot first. The study also observed that the parking lot was not used to full capacity. The parking lot is built for 41 vehicles; however, the lot was typically full at 35 vehicles. The study recommends restriping the parking lot to better demark parking spaces. The study also reviewed data on shelter rentals. From 2013 to 2014, rentals of the picnic shelters have doubled leading to greater demand for limited parking spaces.

Parks and Recreation recommends extending the parking lot to the east with an additional 27 new parking spaces. This would accommodate current overflow parking as well as meet the demand for additional spaces that would accompany the development of a new dog park. This design also works within the constraints of the site with minimal disruption to existing activities.

Advisory Group Consensus Items:

- Expand the fencing along 17th Ave to improve safety
- Add an adult fitness area to the west of the playground, include a paved connection to the trail system
- Expand the C Street community gardens
 - *AG feedback: expansion up to twice the size could be appropriate, the dimensions and location should be determined with feedback from neighbors and garden users*
- Move the restroom screen and port-a-potties to a serviceable location
- Formalize the dog in the location of the ball field, upgrade fencing and entrances
 - *AG feedback:*
 - *AB: locate trash cans near park entrances, address issues of overflowing trash cans*
 - *MB: the dog park should not extend any further south into the open space than its present location*
 - *PB: remove the dugouts immediately (reason: people sleeping in dugouts, dumping trash, and defecating in them), turn on water for dogs to drink*

- *MJ: look into the wooden home plate – is there any historical significance?*
- Maintain current alignment of north-south bike/pedestrian trail
 - *AG feedback:*
 - *MB: are there any plans to continue the bike trail to the east of the bollards up to 16th Ave?*
- Expand parking lot to the east and add 27 spaces



Next Steps:

Parks and Recreation will present the master site plan to the South Addition Community Council for Resolution. Parks and Recreation will also seek a letter of support from the North Star Community Council. Following community council resolution, Parks and Recreation staff will present the master site plan to the Animal Control Advisory Board for a recommendation before bringing the master site plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission for resolution. With the formalization of a new dog park, Assembly approval is required.

Appendix B: Resolutions



**Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department**

532 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 198850
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 937-343-4355
URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



**PRC RES NO. 2015-01
Valley of the Moon Park Master Plan**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the Valley of the Moon Park master plan provides a 5-10 year vision that will guide future development at the park; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department partnered with local Community Councils, stakeholders and park users to establish an advisory group to assist the Department in identifying and prioritizing desired improvements for the Valley of the Moon Park; and

WHEREAS, the improvements proposed in the master plan are based on community and stakeholder input and have been vetted by the advisory group through deliberation and consensus; and

WHEREAS, the improvements proposed in the master plan have received support and approval from the both the South Addition Community Council and the North Star Community Council;


WHEREAS, the new off-leash dog park space proposed by the advisory group and identified in the master plan has been recommended by the Animal Control Advisory Board, as required under Title 17.10.090;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the master plan submitted by the Department and the advisory group for the Valley of the Moon Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 8th day of January, 2015.


Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:


John Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

South Addition Community Council

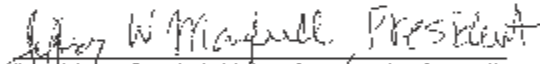
November 18, 2014

Resolution Supporting the Valley of the Moon Park Site Plan Update that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department Presented to South Addition Community Council on November 18, 2014

It is hereby resolved:

South Addition Community Council accepts the **Valley of the Moon Park Site Plan Update** as presented by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department to the members at the Council's meeting on November 18, 2014, and supports the Department going forward with the planning process on the basis of this Site Plan Update.

Resolution approved, November 18, 2014, by vote of South Addition Community Council: Voting Members present 10; In favor 8; Opposed 0; Abstain 1.


President, South Addition Community Council


Officer, South Addition Community Council

**North Star Community Council Resolution Supporting
the Valley of the Moon Site Plan Update prepared by
the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department**

It is hereby resolved:

The North Star Community Council accepts the Valley of the Moon Park Site Plan Update as presented by a task force of local residents that was organized and met during 2014.

Site plan items that were proposed included:

- Construction of a safety fence along West 17th Avenue to keep children from running into the street.
- Moving the site of the port-potties closer to the parking lot.
- Expansion of the community gardens.
- Removal of the softball field dugouts.
- Addition of an adult exercise area at the western end of the park between the bike trail and the adolescent play area.
- Expansion of the existing parking lot to the east along West 17th Avenue, which will necessitate the cutting of some of the existing large spruce trees. Landscaping would be included in any expansion of the parking lot.
- Creating a fenced dog park on the site of the existing ballfield.



Andre Camara, President
North Star Community Council

12-10-14

Date



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Animal Control Advisory Board

Date: January 7, 2015
To: Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Director, Parks and Recreation
From: Chair, Animal Control Advisory Board *[Signature]*
Subject: Valley of the Moon Off-Leash Dog Area Recommendation

Attached is Animal Control Advisory Board Resolution 2015-01 recommending establishment of a fenced off-leash dog area within Valley of the Moon Park as identified in the site plan preferred alternative dated September 30, 2014. This resolution was passed unanimously by the Animal Control Advisory Board.

AMC 17.10.80A provides that additional off-leash dog park areas may be established in the Municipality upon the recommendation of the Animal Control Advisory Board, concurrence of the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Mayor and the approval of the Assembly. Our Resolution 2015-01 provides our recommendation.

If the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Mayor also concur, we would ask that this recommendation be submitted for final approval action by the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

If either the Mayor or the Assembly have questions of the Board concerning our recommendation to establish this Valley of the Moon off-leash dog park area preferred alternative, we would be happy to provide additional information.

ATTCH: ACAB Resolution 2015-01