

**Harrisburg Homesites  
Neighborhood Park Master Plan**

## **Harrisburg Master Plan**

In the spring and summer of 2004, the City of Harrisburg worked with Howard R. Green Company (HRG) to develop the Harrisburg Parks and Trails Master Plan. Due to the rapid growth of the community and an increase in housing development, the City wanted to ensure that space was reserved and strategically planned to maintain effective recreation opportunities for the community. This planning process began with a series of public input meetings, research and collection of current land uses, a parks inventory, a community tour, and coordination with City Staff. HRG met with key stakeholders in the community including City representatives, SD DENR and other agency representatives, developers, business and industry representatives, landowners, school representatives, school age children, retirees, and the general public. The input meetings focused on identifying unique opportunities in the community, identifying what is missing from the area, determining project goals and objectives, and further designing a program for the community. After the data was collected and mapped, HRG identified opportunities for recreation areas of various sizes, in order to meet a variety of needs for the community. New or expanded neighborhood and community parks as well as opportunities for trail connections to nearby regional parks were considered. Potential trail routes around and through the community were also identified.

The Parks and Trails Master Plan that was presented to the City identified existing and proposed neighborhood, community and regional parks and trails. It also recommended park and trail alternatives, as well as park uses and amenities. Along with the presentation, HRG provided existing conditions and inventory mapping, summaries of stakeholder meetings, opinion of probable cost, phasing recommendations, and a summary report.

## **Homesites Park Master Plan**

Upon development of the Harrisburg Homesites neighborhood land was designated by the developer to be given to the City as community park space. Prior to the development of the Comprehensive Park Plan, many ideas were generated for the Harrisburg Homesites park property. The City wanted to obtain public input in the design of the park. They knew there was a growing need for recreational opportunities in this part of the community, and identified a detailed master plan for the Harrisburg Homesites Park space as a first priority.

In the spring of 2006, Howard R. Green Company was hired to assist the City of Harrisburg in creating a master plan for the Harrisburg Homesites Neighborhood Park. The first step in the park master plan process was determining what the residents in the area wanted in their neighborhood park. With the help of the City of Harrisburg, HRG created and dispensed a park amenities survey that asked local residents to rate individual park elements based on their desire to include them as part of the future park. Accompanying the survey, a public input meeting

was set up at the Harrisburg American Legion Hall. Residents were invited to see examples of the current park trends and potential park elements. They also discussed, as a community, what would fit best in the Harrisburg Homesites neighborhood. Both the survey and open house were very successful, with over eighty surveys returned and over forty-five residents attending the open house.

With the information gathered from the survey and public forum, HRG began laying out the park master plan. A summary of the survey and meeting notes from the public meeting can be found at the end of this report. The following are the recommended elements:

- Quarter-mile running/walking trail with access to the planned community trail system
- Benches along the trail for sitting
- Small aquatic splash pad
- Basketball court
- 2-5 year old playground
- 5-12 year old playground
- Small areas of flowers and decorative plantings
- Public restrooms
- Space for sitting and observing activities, children, and park elements
- Ample unprogrammed open space for a variety of activities. (Soccer, football, baseball, softball, field games, etc.)
- A small shelter and picnic area

The concept for the park was to cluster the programmed elements together with a shelter in the center for surveillance of the entire park. A circuit trail encompasses the outside of the park, connecting all the elements together. Berms were also used as whimsical site features, potential seating for large events and delineators of space. The large open areas were also grouped together so that space could be maximized for field games such as soccer and softball. Overstory trees were included throughout the park to provide shade and to add to the park atmosphere.

Other features were also included. While these were not the most popular choices gleaned from the public input, they are elements that were requested and can provide the City an opportunity to 'try them out' at a very small scale, in order to decide whether or not they can be programmed into the City's other parks and open spaces.

- Xeriscape planting area that could be planned, planted, and maintained by local agriculture or horticulture classes and would emphasize low water use landscaping
- Simple structures, installed along the trail, that could be used by skateboarders

## Conceptual Opinion of Probable Costs

An opinion of probable cost for the proposed improvements was prepared and is listed in the table below with costs broken out for each area or item.

**Homesites Neighborhood Park  
CITY OF HARRISBURG  
7/17/2006**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	EST. QTY.	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
1	Mobilization (5% of Construction Costs)	1	LS	21,700.00	\$21,700.00
2	Earthwork, Fill, and Finish Grading	850	CY	25.00	\$21,250.00
3	PCC Sidewalk, 5"	1822	SY	35.00	\$63,770.00
4	6" Aggregate Subbase (under walks)	1822	SY	5.50	\$10,021.00
5	Site Furnishings, Litter Receptacle, Furnish and Install	7	EA	600.00	\$4,200.00
6	Site Furnishings, Bench, Furnish and Install	26	EA	600.00	\$15,600.00
7	Lighting (fixture, controller, and conduit)	10	EA	3,000.00	\$30,000.00
8	Plantings, Overstory Tree	34	EA	400.00	\$13,600.00
9	Plantings, Evergreen Tree	28	EA	350.00	\$9,800.00
10	Plantings, Understory Tree	18	EA	300.00	\$5,400.00
11	Plantings, Perennials	350	EA	12.00	\$4,200.00
12	Amended Soil	53	CY	40.00	\$2,120.00
13	Xeriscape rock	60	TON	25.00	\$1,500.00
14	Turf grass Seed/Sod	4	AC	3,000.00	\$10,500.00
15	No-mow fescue/Buffalo grass for berm	1	AC	3,000.00	\$3,000.00
16	Basketball Court	1	LS	30,000.00	\$30,000.00
17	2-5 Playground (including surfacing and install)	1	LS	20,000.00	\$20,000.00
18	6-12 Playground (including surfacing and install)	1	LS	40,000.00	\$40,000.00
19	Spray Park	1	LS	60,000.00	\$60,000.00
20	Gray Water Irrigation for Gardens	1	LS	10,000.00	\$10,000.00
21	Public Bathroom	1	LS	50,000.00	\$50,000.00
22	Gazebo Shelter	1	LS	30,000.00	\$30,000.00
23	Sign	1	LS	500.00	\$500.00
		<b>Subtotal</b>			\$457,161.00
		<b>Contingency (15%)</b>			\$68,574.15
		<b>Expected Project Total</b>			\$525,735.15

## **Conceptual Implementation Strategy**

To determine an implementation strategy, HRG looked at the results from the survey and open house to see which elements were identified most often, and the most sought after. It is recommended that the two playgrounds along with associated safety surfacing be the first elements constructed, due to their overwhelming popularity. Along with the playgrounds, the turfgrass seeding and site grading (including creation of the berms) would need to occur to provide a safe place for children to play and provide for a large variety of different activities. It would be in the City's best interest to stub underground utilities for future restrooms, splash pad, etc. to minimize the impact to the site when future elements are added. It is also recommended that overstory trees be planted as soon as the park is graded to allow them to reach their full potential as soon as possible. Following the playgrounds and site work, and depending on available monies, the following were identified as the next highest priorities:

- The running/walking trail
- Basketball court
- Splash pad

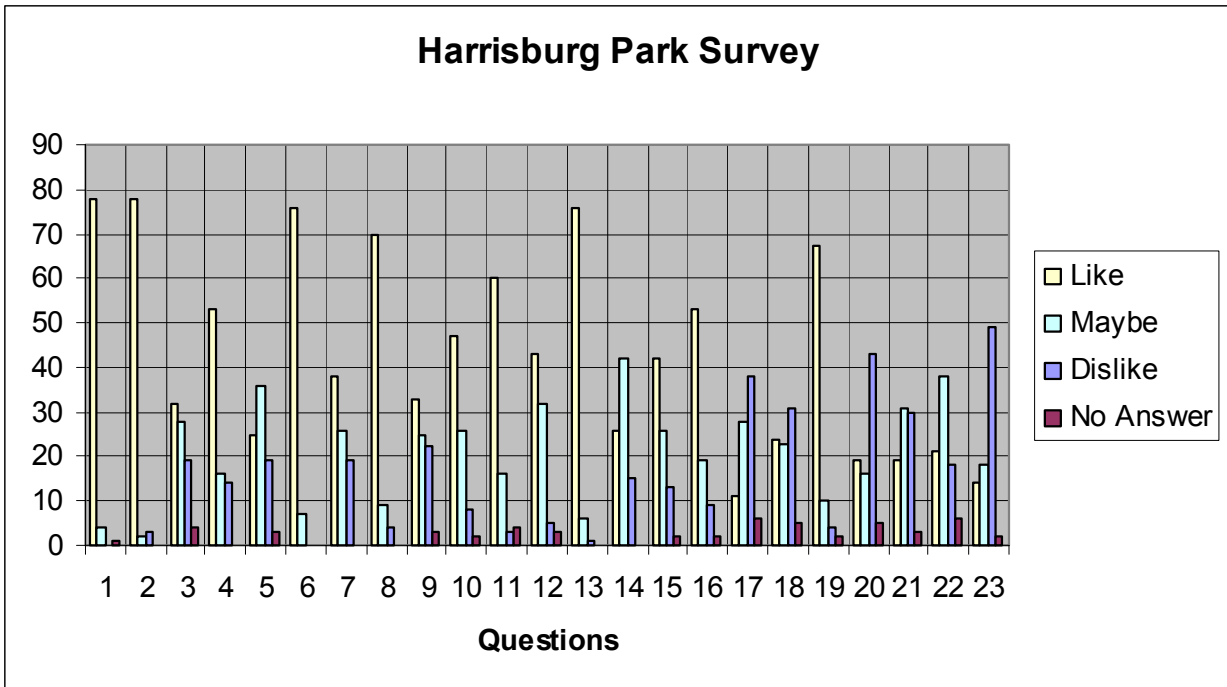
As volunteer efforts, community donations, and/or other funding is available and as the City deems appropriate; it is recommended that elements such as the xeriscape planting beds, shelter restrooms, bench seating, trash receptacles, and potential skateboard structures be phased in with annual park improvement plans.

## Appendix A

Results from Survey:

**Question A. Please check the following elements that you would like to see or not see incorporated into a park plan.**

- 1 Play Equip. 2-5
- 2 Play Equip. 6-12
- 3 Play Equip. 13+
- 4 Spray Park
- 5 Gazebo
- 6 Picnic Area/Tables
- 7 Outdoor Grills
- 8 Drinking Fountain
- 9 Large. Rental Shelter
- 10 Parking Area
- 11 Open Areas
- 12 Bike Parking
- 13 Benches/Seating Areas
- 14 Flower/Formal Gardens
- 15 Shade Structures
- 16 Basketball/Tennis Courts
- 17 Arboretum/Prairie Area
- 18 Trails
- 19 Restroom Building
- 20 Dog Park Facilities
- 21 Disc/Frisbee Golf
- 22 Bocce Ball/Horseshoe Pits
- 23 Skate Park



**Other - please list** - 19 responses pool. 3 responses bike trail. 2 responses volleyball. 1 response mini-golf. Lots of trees would be nice.  
Maybe a sidewalk or trail so people from the southern homes have access without having to ride their bikes etc. on the cliff.  
Children need to have a pool in order to have swimming lessons. I think it is critical for us to get a pool.

**Question B. Of the items you identified as "likes", which do you feel should be implemented/constructed first and why?**

Play Equipment 47 Like to see it off to the side so an open field for soccer games can be available. Kids have no where to go now.  
Restrooms 18  
Frisbee golf 2  
Spray Park 16 This will keep our kids busy and keep them from driving to SF. Since we have a park, this would add something more.  
Tennis Courts 5  
Dog Park 4 - Lots of dogs here. Many dogs in the neighborhood.  
Gardens 3  
Picnic Areas 12  
Drinking Fountains 6  
Shade Structures 4  
Large Rental Picnic Shelter 3  
Basketball court 6  
Benches/Seating Area 8  
Bocce Ball  
Skate Park  
Parking Area 2  
Grills 2  
Bike Trails around town

**Question C. Additional comments/suggestions?**

Low cost and upkeep for the community. Looking forward to this! The large area at Emmet Trails has a skate park for older children and basketball/tennis courts, restrooms, etc. It is best to separate children of different ages. Level ground better so when it rains we don't have a lake up on our property. I feel a skate park has too much chance for injuries. Maybe the park should be in the town instead of by those houses. With the flowers, make a walkway with the flowers. It will depend on how much you have to work with. How do the people around the park feel? A dog park is a fine idea but not in the same place that little children will be playing. I feel the kids need a good park and things to do before we worry about the Dogs! Will there be multiple entrances into the park? Any of these ideas makes Harrisburg a great "Family Town" and encourages growth and pride. Would like to see play equipment at Ellis Larson Park replaced. Bike/walking trail between all areas. How about a trail from Homesites, past Industrial Park to Elementary school, with a safe crossing at Cliff Avenue. It would be nice if the city could incorporate into the bylaws that in every new development, the developer has to put in pocket parks. Would like to keep it neighborhood friendly. I think the spray park would cost too much and bring in a lot of traffic that doesn't need to be more than 1/2 block away from park. We should make this an ongoing community effort - looking into the future of Harrisburg. Other towns would not recommend a skate park, may bring negative behaviors. This would be a great addition to Harrisburg.

## **Appendix B**

Harrisburg Homesites Park Public Input Meeting – May 9, 2006 6:30 pm

### Attendees:

Brad Hewer	Kari Hoffman	Trent Boe
Stewart Schramm	Briant Brinkman	Gene Glass
Lynnelle Schramm	Amanda Brinkman	Tina Larsen
Deb Pahl	Mike Raye	Paul O'Neil
Janell Glazier	Tim Gregoire	Jill O'Neil
Jason Hoffman	Bobbie Gregoire	Tom Strong
Tom Williams	Jon Klemme	Cindy Neuhardt
Julie Brodkorb	John DeVos	Lee Bartlett
Jacob Larsen	Jodi Bauer	Aric Oslund
Eric Kandt	Ray Bauer	Jill Oslund
Travis Larsen	Jason Leach	Dale Kiebach
Ricky McDonald	Bridget Leach	Laura Berg
Robert Daws	Jared Hoffman	Hans Klein-Hewett
Lon Bymers	Liz Hoffman	Nicki Jensen
Kyra Bymers	Mary McClung	Tanya Miller

The meeting started with a brief introduction of the project by Tanya Miller from Howard R. Green Company (HRG). She mentioned that although many of the surveys collected indicated the need for a pool, this site did not have the infrastructure or the space to provide such an amenity. She agreed that, based on overwhelming survey comments, discussion of a new pool is warranted but the Homesites neighborhood is not the place.

Nicki Jensen briefly discussed some of the amenities that were included in the survey. She showed pictures and discussed some of the benefits and concerns for each piece. She then opened the floor to discussion starting with what opportunities of the space offered.

- The park is centrally located within the Homesites neighborhood.
- A question was raised about the budget for the park. Nicki responded by saying that the budget would be determined by the process – the public would decide what they want and the city would acquire the money needed. Phasing would also be implemented so the attendees were encouraged to think about which elements they would want first.
- Questions were raised about other parks in the Harrisburg area and the availability and the amenities at each. Mary McClung noted that amenities at Ellis Larsen Park were planned to be installed on May 20, 2006.
- Many people in the Homesites neighborhood are bike riding families. Right now they will not ride their bikes along Cliff Avenue into Harrisburg Proper because of the lack of sidewalks and number of cars. Questions were then raised about the implementation of the trails master plan done by HRG. Tanya answered by saying that property development would stipulate the building of trails. As more residential developments are built,



trails will be built according to the master plan to connect the different areas of town.

- The Homesites neighborhood had lots of kids and dogs.
- Questions arose about the access to the park. As originally planned, parking would occur along Troy Ave but secondary pedestrian access would occur in between lots along the corners. Local residents mentioned that currently nobody parks along the street but with a park, they worry about too many visitors and not having the space for their visitors to park.
- Dog parks were mentioned as a possibility. Reservations quickly arose, however, with topics such as problems with barking, smells, maintenance, and visual appeal. Some suggestions for these problems included having a curfew for the park and encouraging self-regulation to combat any unwanted byproducts. It was suggested that the park be placed somewhere else, as this park is surrounded by so many houses.
- A shelter and picnic areas were mentioned as a necessary amenity.
- Questions arose about who makes the final decision about which amenities will be included. Mary McClung, from the City of Harrisburg, said that the city council would have the final say about which elements are included, although the public will inform HRG about which elements they would like included.
- A resident mentioned that he was originally told by the developer of the neighborhood that a nature park was going to be implemented in the space. He described the nature park as a place with trees and native vegetation that had walkways and open spaces to play and walk dogs. He said the developer did not pursue that plan and was wondering if there was any way a nature park could be included. It was suggested that the trail system, that was planned to go along nearby drainage ways, would be a perfect place for that sort of linear park. It was also mentioned that the overall good of the master plan was to create a series of parks throughout town and connect them together with a secondary series of linear parks. Later, the trail connections were mentioned as a high priority.
- Local youth brought up the idea of a skate park, mentioning that they are often kicked out of other places throughout town where they like to skate and that there are many skaters in Harrisburg. They brought up the liability of skate parks and said that the skate park in Sioux Falls has a monitor. Later the mentioned that the skate park in Sioux City has a pool, skate park, and shelter and kids govern themselves. The problem for them is that they don't have the means to make it to Sioux Falls or Sioux City. They also mentioned that more and more kids are becoming interested in skating and rollerblading and that a skate park would be good for the future of kids needs.
- Sand volleyball courts were mentioned, saying that the multitude of 20-30 year old couples would like to have a place they could enjoy. Basketball courts and tennis courts were also mentioned.

- A concerned parent brought up the school football field; saying that it was a good place to play, but to get there the kids had to ride their bicycles down Cliff Avenue. They suggested that a basketball and football field would be necessary for the kids to have a local place to play.
- A question came up about spray parks – asking about their safety and need for supervision. Nicki answered by saying that although some large spray parks need supervision, other spray parks are small and simple and that lifeguard-type supervision is not always required. Many people spoke up about them, saying that a spray park would be unique and dynamic; they would be good for all ages and a small one would fit well into the space.
- Many people mentioned that there are many young families in the neighborhood, and most of them have kids. They suggested that multi-generational planning should be put in place so the park can meet the needs of many different age groups.
- Trees and open grass were mentioned as being mandatory. Not only football space but also space to play baseball/softball as well. Perhaps space large enough for both activities would suffice, as little league and football practice occur at different times throughout the year. Baker Park in Sioux Falls was mentioned as a good park due to its proximity of amenities: playground next to shelter, next to basketball court, next to open field.
- Playgrounds were also mentioned as mandatory. The attendees agreed saying two playgrounds would be good for different age groups.
- One local resident mentioned a walking trail would be nice around the outside of the park. She also mentioned that it would be nice to have trail access in between houses and seating around the play areas.
- Many residents mentioned that anything would look better than what is there now: a large low spot.

Nicki ended the meeting by asking what amenities would be needed in the space in the next five years. Their responses were:

- A shelter
- Open space
- Playgrounds
- Walking trail
- Court games
- Spray park
- Trees and flowers

# Appendix C Park Master Plan

