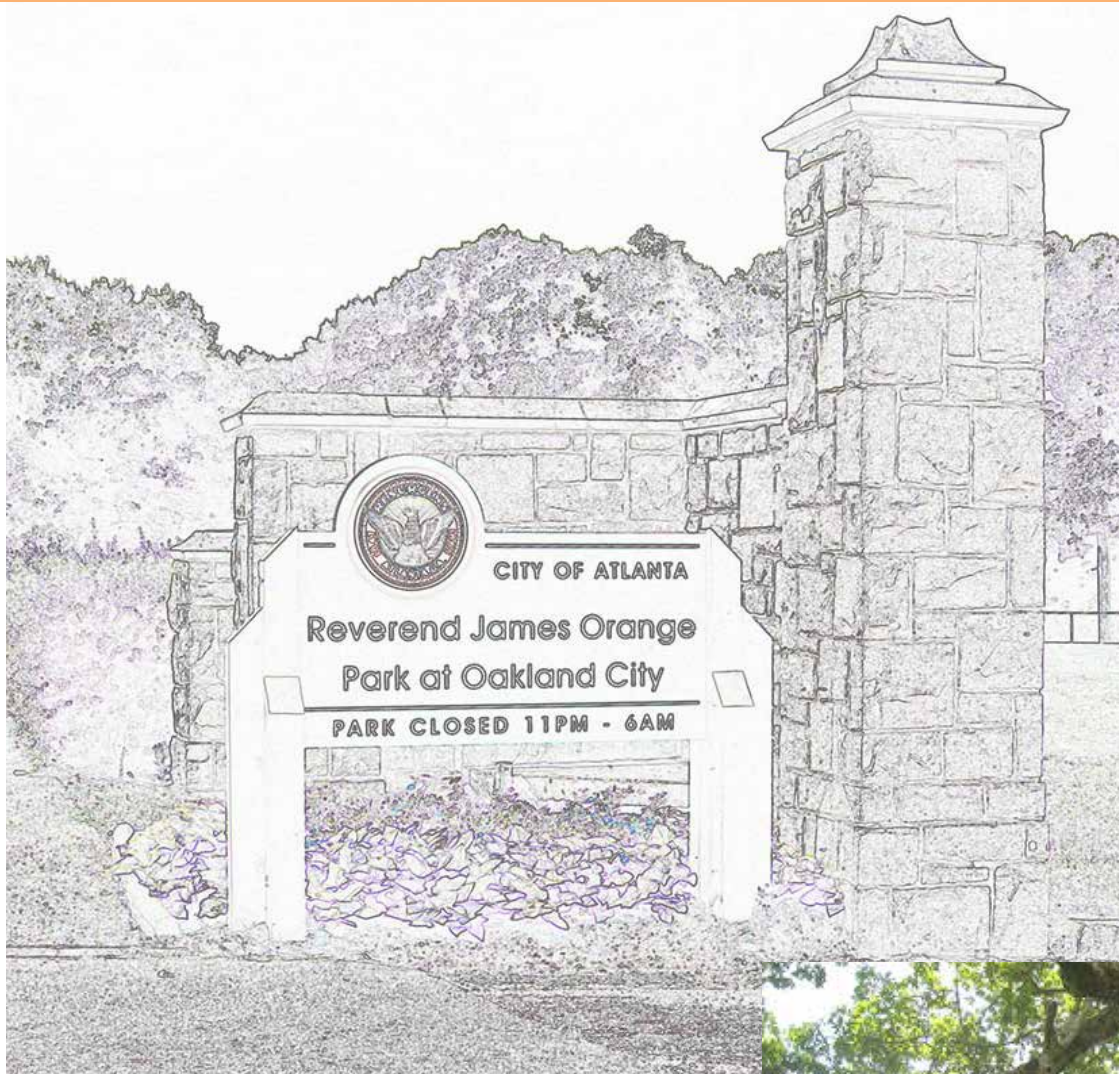


Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City

Vision Plan 2012



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Acknowledgements

Park Pride would like to thank all who participated in the public engagement opportunities and in the visioning process at Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City. Without the efforts and dedication of those who participated the plan discussed herein would have little, if any value. In fact, the true value of the results of the planning process is that it represents a wide base of support.

Many thanks go to Amy Johnson, the Friends of Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City chairperson. Amy's dedication to her community and the park surpassed any of Park Pride's expectations. The countless hours she spent preparing notices, organizing meetings, reaching out to her community members, and preparing home cooked meals were invaluable.

The visioning process could not have been completed without those who served on the Steering Committee. Each person on the Steering Committee took on tremendous responsibility to guide the development of their park. Park Pride would like to thank:

Barbara Burson
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Milton Jones
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Jamida Orange
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Aketa Wise

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Special thanks goes to Councilwoman Cleta Winslow for her participation and support not only for the park, but also for the park visioning process.

The Friends of Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City have made great strides in guiding the development and planning for their park. The care they have demonstrated in building relationships will serve them well as they carry the implementation of this plan forward.

Thank you to Park Pride's interns Becky Katz and Christine Rollins for their dedication to the Reverend James Orange Park visioning and the Visioning Department.

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Executive Summary

The visioning process began in April of 2012 when the chair of the Friends of Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City, Amy Johnson, along with City of Atlanta Parks Department submitted an application for Park Visioning. After being selected for the 2012 Visioning Program, residents of the Oakland City area were invited to participate in the process. Visioning began Thursday, June 7, 2012 with a Steering Committee kick-off meeting.

The Steering Committee met four times over the ten week visioning period to organize the community, enlist participation, build consensus and guide the Park Pride staff throughout the process. They scheduled two public meetings and developed a public outreach plan to attract the community to participate. The Steering Committee used fliers, community websites, email reminders and phone calls to invite the community to participate in decision making. The two public meetings were held on:

June 30th, 2012	Preliminary Design Review
July 28th, 2012	Final Design Review

Both public meetings were well attended, and Steering Committee members made great efforts to represent the views and opinions of those who could not formally participate. Councilwoman Cleta Winslow attended both meetings to show support for the park and the visioning process. The Vision Plan for Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City has wide-spread community support.

The Vision Plan was presented at the final meeting. After review and discussion, the community completed a prioritization exercise which illustrated the community's priorities. Following the public meeting, a Project List compiled from the Vision Plan was discussed with the Steering Committee. High priority projects were identified based on the results of the public meeting's prioritization exercise and the Steering Committee's review of the Project List.

Projects deemed 'high priority' included a new multi-purpose community center, outdoor pool, multi-aged playground, memorial garden, splash pad, the removal of a segment of Oakland Lane. As a technical consideration, demolition of the pool and bath house should be timed with grading and removal of the road segment in order to make way for the prioritized projects.

The Vision Plan is neither a strict set of rules for development nor a construction document. It demonstrates concepts and serves as a guide to relationships between amenities' size, shape and location. Detailed design documents will be needed as each project is funded.

The Steering Committee, Friends of group, Stand UP!, Rev. James Orange Foundation, Rev. James Orange Commission and various other community groups will lead the efforts to implement the Vision Plan in Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City. A development plan of this nature could take decades to fully implement. Park Pride will continue to offer support to the Oakland City community with advice, guidance and potential funding opportunities. The enthusiasm and engagement of this community and the wide-spread support of this Vision Plan is the first step for the revitalization and success of Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City.

The Design Process

Public Meeting Schedule

The input of the public at every point of the design process is the core of Park Pride's community design process. The first step of the process was the formation of a Steering Committee who represented the various stakeholders. They met four times to develop and report on community outreach strategies and to review input given at public meetings.

The schedule of public and Steering Committee meetings was as follows:

- Steering Committee 1: Thursday, June 7th, 6:15pm
- Steering Committee 2: Thursday, June 14th, 6:15pm
- Public Meeting 1: Saturday, June 30th, 10:00am
- Steering Committee 3: Thursday, July 12th, 6:15pm
- Public Meeting 2: Saturday, July 28th, 10:00am
- Steering Committee 4: Saturday, July 28th, 12:00pm

Overarching Project Guidelines

At the first Steering Committee meeting, attendees compiled a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges list (also known as SWOC). This SWOC list guided the development of the overarching guidelines. The overarching guidelines (below) were drafted to serve as the guide for decision making throughout the visioning process.

- Visibility – Lighting – Safety
- Connectivity to neighboring amenities (including MARTA and Fort McPherson)
- Park serving as a community hub
- More street presence
- Gathering spaces
- Friendly, open and accessible for all ages
- Honor and educate the community about Reverend James Orange

Project Wish List

The Project Wish List was compiled by the participants of the first and second Steering Committee meetings along with the Friends of Reverend James Orange Park. This list served as the starting point for visioning within and around the park. As the design process proceeded and reviews from the community took place, some of the projects were dropped from the list. The initial list included:

Parenting classes
Computer lab—working computers/internet
Cooking/sewing/health classes for children
and seniors
Healthy living classes
Black history program
Movie night

Old school block party—music,
jumprope, jacks
Meeting space for community
Fitness program
Tennis classes
Benches for playground
Additional pavilions

Project Wish List

Safe walking trails
Football field
Convert softball field to baseball field
Restore swimming pool (no splash pad)
Basketball, computer lab, meeting/activity rooms, fitness center, game rooms
Better lighting in indoor recreation center
Regular police presence/police visibility
Better lighting—more outside lighting
Repair road through park
Improve drainage throughout park (large pavillion, Epworth side and low lying areas)
Erosion control
New pool—aquatic center
New recreation center
More park staff
Water feature
New playground—multi-age
Trails—rubber
Safety—police presence
Ampitheater
Bigger pavilions
Art projects
Improve Epworth St. frontage

Improve Epworth St. entrance
Café/Juice bar
Fairway entrance from Campbellton Rd.
Football field
Bleachers/seating
Concessions
Acquire more land
Swings
Gardens
Tennis center
Outdoor fitness equipment
Miniature golf
Address vehicular circulation issues
Alter topography
Police cool-out spot
Musical playground
Replace steps by baseball field
Full recreation center
Indoor basketball court
Computer lab
Rooms for meetings, activities, crafts, and games
Fitness room
Games including table games



The existing playground, which is in disrepair, is missing a bridge and the paint is starting to fade and peel.

Preliminary Design Concepts

At the second Steering Committee meeting, the compiled Wish List was used to conduct a design workshop. Attendees were divided into two groups, given maps of the park and surrounding land and asked to use the Wish List to draw where they felt the desired amenities should be located (Figures 1 and 2). Park Pride designers used these drawings to generate three preliminary design concepts for Reverend James Orange Park (Appendix E).

At the first public meeting, the three concepts and the connectivity map (Figure 3) were presented. The community was lead through the preliminary designs and the meeting was opened for discussion. The community commented on different elements of the designs, made suggestions and built consensus. During the course of public discussion some additions to the wish list were made while others, such as the community garden, were eliminated.

There was thorough debate about the future of the swimming pool. An indoor pool was considered, but consensus was not reached. If in the futue, strong support was built for a natatorium, this plan does not exclude that possibility. During this process consensus was reached that a design including an outdoor pool and splash pad should be developed

Next, the Park Pride team reviewed feedback from the public meeting and created a Collaborative Design Concept (Figure 4) which was presented to and reviewed by the Steering Committee.

It should also be noted that a Connectivity Design Concept (Figure 3) was created to show the importance of connecting Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City to surrounding amenities including the Oakland City MARTA



The pool and bathhouse have remained inoperable for the past nine years.



Community members gather to discuss three preliminary design concepts and the connectivity design concept.

Station and Fort McPherson. The Oakland City community has gone through a separate community driven process for the visioning of those connections. The plan named *Fort McPherson Community Action Plan* can be found in Appendix J. Due to the completion of that plan, the connectivity design was not emphasized in the Park Pride visioning process.

Design Workshop

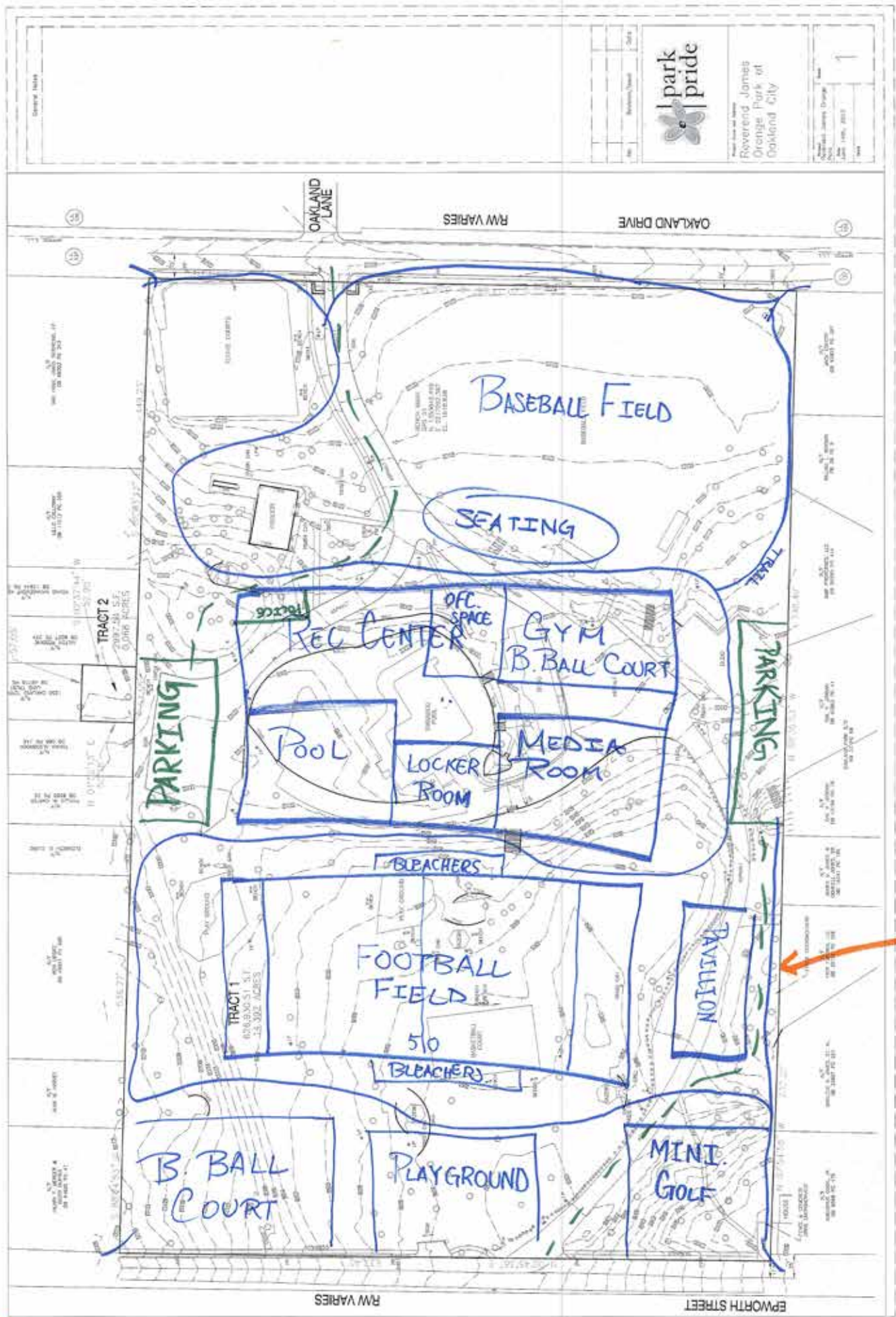


Figure 1: Group 1 Design Workshop Map

[illegible]

Figure 2: Group 2 Design Workshop Map

Connectivity Design Concept



Legend



Reverend James Orange
Park at Oakland City

**Community
Connectivity Design
Concept**

June 30, 2012



Figure 3: Connectivity Design Concept

Collaborative Design Concept

Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City Vision Plan

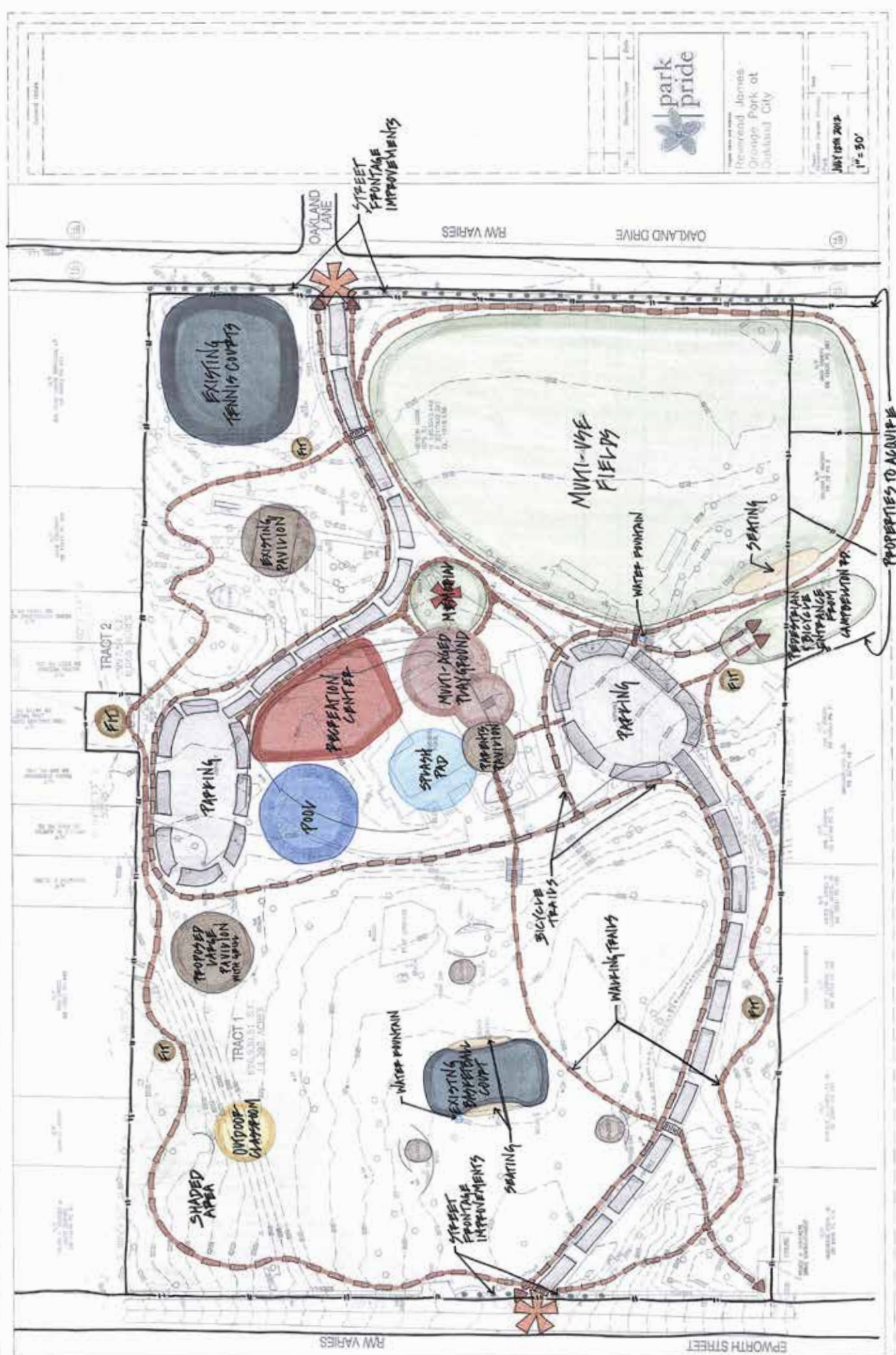


Figure 4: Collaborative Design Concept

Vision Plan

The Vision Plan was presented at the second public meeting. It is a combination and refinement of community feedback on the three Preliminary Design Concepts (Appendix E) and the Collaborative Design Concept (Figure 4). It illustrates the relative size, shape and location of features that the community desires to see implemented in the park. Descriptions of projects are found in the Project List which follows the Vision Plan and is included in Appendix G.

After the Vision Plan was reviewed, attendees participated in a prioritization exercise. Each attendee was given two green dots and asked to imagine the dots as blank checks. They were then asked to place the dots on projects they would write checks for first. This exercise helped to identify priority projects for the community without the limitations of cost.

The Prioritization Exercise Plan (Figure 5) shows that the highest priority is building a new state of the art multi-purpose community center and an outdoor pool. Other high priorities included redeveloping the park where the current inoperable pool and bath house are located. This includes demolishing the pool and bath house and removing a segment of Oakland Lane to eliminate the ability to drive through the park. In place of these inoperable amenities a multi-aged playground, a garden which memorializes Reverend James Orange, and splash pad would be built. Redeveloping the current softball field into a multi-use field, which includes acquiring three properties to the southeast of the park, was also a high priority.

It is anticipated that it may take decades to implement all the projects identified in the community's Vision Plan. This plan, while not a construction document, should be used to guide the development of the park. The Vision Plan is a strong tool to aid in the fundraising efforts. This visioning process is a demonstration of the community's continued dedication and support for the park.



Attendee completes the prioritization exercise by placing a green dot on the Vision Plan.



Councilwoman Cleta Winslow and community residents gather to view and discuss the Vision Plan at the final Steering Committee meeting.

Legend

A	Multi-Use Field
B	Reverend James Orange Memorial Garden
C	Proposed Large Pavilion
D	Tree Grove
E	Outdoor Pool
F	Multi-Aged Playground
G	Splash Pad
H	Recreation Center
I	Existing Amenity to Remain
J	Fitness Stations
K	Seating
L	Parents' Pavilion
M	Outdoor Classroom
N	Reconfigured Parking
O	Drinking Fountain
P1	Oakland Drive Entrance*
P2	Epworth Street Entrance*
P3	Campbellton Road Entrance (Pedestrian and Bicycle Only)*
Q1	Walking Trail
Q2	Bicycle Trail
R	Enhance Natural Area
S	New Staircase
T	Lighting
U	Low Retaining Wall
V	Bollards
W	Demolish Existing Pool and Bath House
X	Remove Segment of Oakland Lane
Y	Erosion Control

*All Entrances Include Signage, Seasonal Landscaping and Lights



Vision Plan: Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City

July 28, 2012



Prioritization Exercise

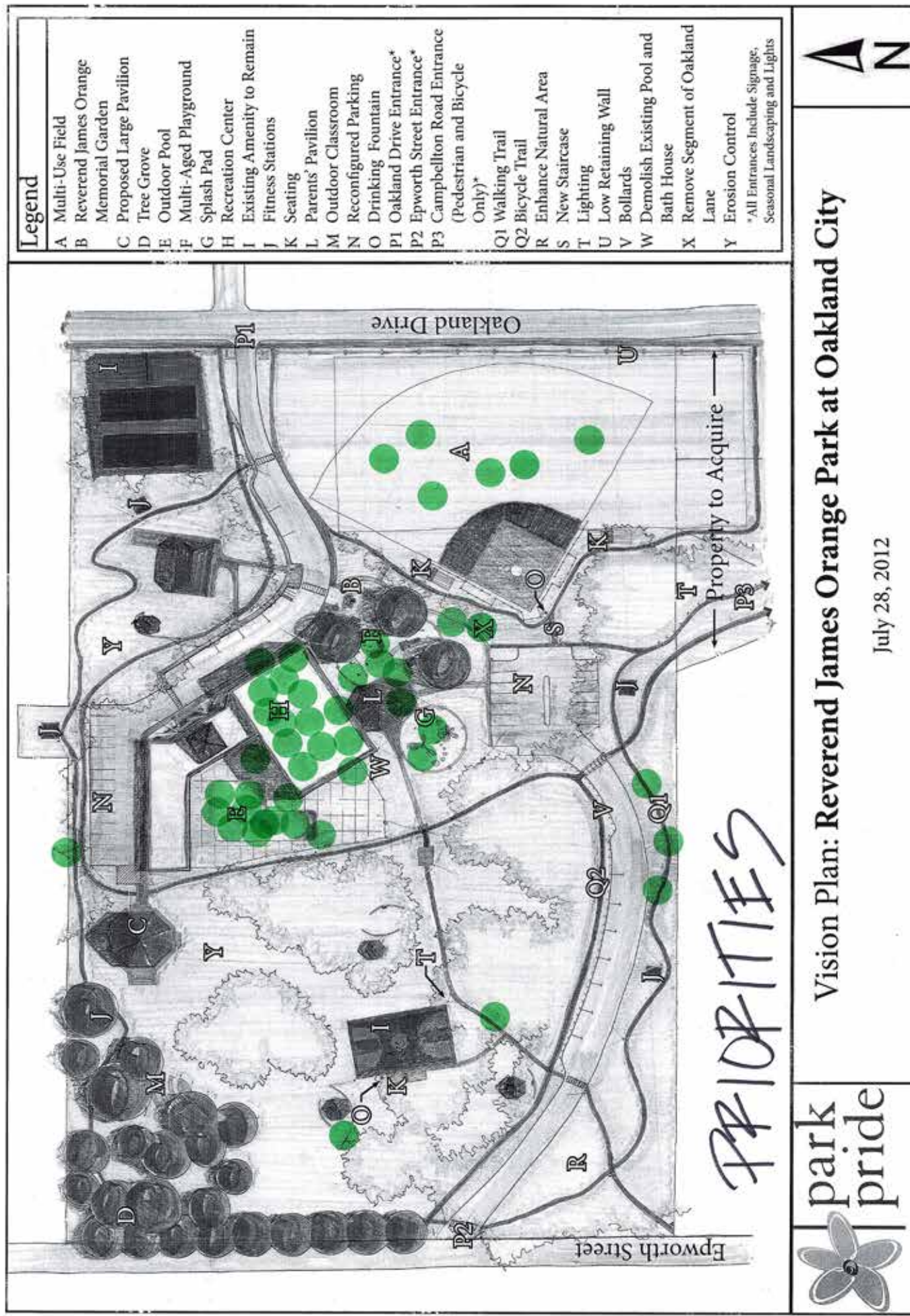


Figure 5: Prioritization Exercise Plan

Project List

Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Volunteer Opportunity	Possible Funding Source
Existing Park Property						
A	Multi-Use Field	High	\$150,000	Expand and grade existing field to enable use for baseball and football.		NFL Grant, Blank Foundation, Cal Ripken Foundation
B	Rev. James Orange Memorial Garden	High	\$80,000	Install memorial statue and garden commemorating Rev. James Orange. Statue should be approachable/climbable and garden should have direct access to playground.		Community Fundraising
C	Large Pavilion		\$100,000	Build pavilion on current playground site near parking lot to accommodate large groups. Include tables, grill and water spigot.		PP Community Grant
D	Tree Grove		\$3,000	Plant tree grove in northwest corner of park and along Epworth Street that provides shade for the outdoor classroom and along the trail. Trees should be limbed up to 10 feet to maintain good visibility into and out of the park. Include trees with orange fall color.	Yes	PP Micro Grant, PP Tree Grant, Volunteers
E	Outdoor Pool	High	\$1,000,000	Build new pool adjacent to new recreation center. It should be fenced for security. Primary access and locker room should be located in the proposed multi-purpose community center.		Community Fundraising
F	Multi-Aged Playground	High	\$85,000	Install multi-age playground with kinetic play equipment and swings with accommodations for disabled users.		Parks Dept., CDBG Fund (city)

Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Volunteer Opportunity	Possible Funding Source
G	Splash Pad	High	\$800,000	Build splash pad adjacent to proposed new playground and parents' pavilion. Required restroom facilities to be built into parents' pavilion. Include audio infrastructure.		PP Community Grant, Blank Foundation
H	Multi-Purpose Community Center	High	\$3,000,000	Build state of the art multi-purpose community center that includes offices, classrooms, computer room, instructional kitchen, gathering space, pool locker rooms and indoor gymnasium.		Community Fundraising
I	Existing Amenity to Remain		N/A	These amenities already exist within the park and should be maintained. Improvements will be needed.	Yes	Community Fundraising
J	Fitness Stations		\$20,000	Install exercise equipment along walking trails to promote health.		Kaiser
K	Seating		\$13,000	Install appropriately sized bleachers adjacent to identified park amenities.		Community Fundraising
L	Parents' Pavilion	High	\$100,000	Build parents' pavilion adjacent to playground and splash pad. Build in seating and room for strollers. A restroom facility for the new splash pad should be included in the structure.		PP Community Grant
M	Outdoor Classroom		\$25,000	Build terraced seating with stage area into the hillside near Epworth Street. Include lighting and audio infrastructure.		Community Fundraising
N	Reconfigured Parking		\$80,000	Reconfigure existing parking lots to improve layout and increase number of spaces.		Community Fundraising
O	Drinking Fountains		\$9,000	Install drinking fountains at the basketball court and at the multi-use field.		Parks Dept.

Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Volunteer Opportunity	Possible Funding Source
P1	Oakland Drive Entrance		\$80,000	Widen entrance and enhance with landscaping, signage and connected sidewalks. Consider lighting the park sign and landscaping.	Yes	Community Fundraising
P2	Epworth Street Entrance		\$8,000	Add landscaping to entrance and install new park sign to improve curb appeal.	Yes	Community Fundraisers
P3	Campbellton Road Entrance		N/A	Add new pedestrian and bicycle entrance to enable and promote community use of the park. Include sign, lighting, landscaping, and hardscape.		Community Fundraising
Q1 & Q2	Trail Systems		\$25,000	Build separate bike and pedestrian trails throughout the park to promote connectivity with sidewalks and the neighborhood. Include crosswalks where necessary. Trails should be constructed of rubber surface, concrete or edged asphalt to reduce maintenance.		Community Fundraising
R	Enhance Natural Area on Northeast Corner of Park		\$3,000	Eliminate invasive plants and replace with native plantings in wooded area along Epworth Street.	Yes	Micro Grant
S	New Staircase		\$60,000	Build new staircases between multi-use field and parking and between field and memorial garden.		Community Fundraising
T	Lighting		\$200,000	Use low-wattage, bollard lights to illuminate walkways after dark. Appropriate lighting should be used for each amenity. Lights should be on only after dark until park closes. After hours, the lights should be triggered by motion sensors. Lights at entrances should be on at all times.		Community Fundraising
U	Low Retaining Wall		\$85,000	Remove hedges on Oakland Drive to provide better visibility from the street. Replace with low stone retaining wall and plantings.		Home Depot Grant

Reverend James Orange Park at Oakland City Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Volunteer Opportunity	Possible Funding Source
W	Demolish Existing Pool and Bath House	High	\$90,000	Demolish the existing pool and bath house. Site should then be prepared for new amenities including playground, parents' pavilion and splash pad.		Community Grant
X	Remove Section of Oakland Lane	High	\$30,000	Remove section of Oakland Lane between ball fields and current pool house to eliminate the through traffic.		Home Depot Grant
Y	Erosion Control		\$1,000	Address erosion issues near existing large pavilion. Use combination of waddles and planting ground cover on slopes. Some regrading may be needed. Clean out existing drain inlet.	Yes	Micro Grant
Properties to Acquire						
1	Properties adjacent to Southwest corner of park	High		Acquire the three properties adjacent to southwest corner of park to expand the multi-use field and give the park more street presence. Eminent domain should not be a tool to acquire properties.		Invest Atlanta
Work with City Parks and Fort McPherson to Connect the Community						
3A	Pedestrian connection to Fort McPherson			Create an identifiable pedestrian connection between the park and Fort McPherson. This may be accomplished with green street design along existing sidewalks or by acquiring property to create a linear greenspace connection. See <i>Fort McPherson Community Action Plan</i> for further community input.		
3B	Lighting			Install lighting that is consistent with lighting in the park to promote safety and security along the pedestrian connection. Consider bollard-level lighting.		

Appendix

- A. Reverend James Orange Park Visioning Application
- B. Steering Committee M.O.U.
- C. Sign-In Sheets
- D. Preliminary Workshop Drawings
- E. Preliminary Design Concepts
- F. Vision Plan
- G. Project List Spreadsheet
- H. Park Survey
- I. Meeting Summaries
- J. Fort McPherson Community Action Plan



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