Gentry Park

History and Character

Gentry Park is located at 210 A Guthrie Avenue in the Warwick Village neighborhood.

The park is 0.2 acres and is located both between and behind a block full of town houses and is publicly accessed through a narrow sidewalk, which sits beside two town homes on Guthrie Avenue. The entry path continues into the park and dead ends at the far end of the park.

The park also features a hillside with native plants and a small open lawn area. The lawn primarily serves as an extension of the backyards of the homes along Mosby Street and does not have easy access from the path in the park. Natural Resources Division staff have enhanced and managed the natural area on the naturally steep slope near the park entrance by removing annual and perennial weeds and planting appropriate native plants.

Existing Conditions Map

Gentry Park

Which of the following existing park elements would you like to preserve, enhance, or transform?					
Element Number of responses	**Park sign** 6		**Element** Number of responses	**Open area** 6	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**	**Value**	**Count**	**Percent**
Preserve it	5	83	Preserve it	0	0
Enhance it	1	17	Enhance it	5	83
Transform it	0	0	Transform it	1	17
Element Number of responses	**Conservation area** 7		**Element** Number of responses	**Path** 7	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**	**Value**	**Count**	**Percent**
Preserve it	0	0	Preserve it	1	14
Enhance it	4	57	Enhance it	4	57
Transform it	3	43	Transform it	2	29

What is currently NOT in the park that you would like to see there?

1. A rain catch/butterfly sanctuary. Seating. Anything.
2. Play equipment. Plantings
3. Public are of some kind
4. I'm not sure it's the Parks fault but as soon as you turn on Mount Vernon from Glebe, the area announces "bad area". The storefronts could be cleaned up to look nicer and it wouldn't set the theme for what you entering as a run down area.
5. Benches! I was sorry to see the former benches removed. It is a popular spot to wait for the school bus and metro buses.
6. Interesting history about the neighborhood or nature.
7. A nice lawn and landscaping
8. Tables, benches

Community Feedback

In Fall 2018, staff collected community feedback to understand how the park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey and community workshop. Over 400 people responded to the survey in total, eight of which were specific to Gentry Park. Staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

In 10 years, I would like this Park to…

(Top three rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

1. *Be a safe place for children to explore*
2. *Be a place to create social connections with neighbors*
3. *Help reduce environmental impacts from urban surroundings*

The image above is an example of a stepping stone path. A stepping stone path allows for less pervious surface in the park and better fits within the steep landscape of the hill. The stepping stone path also preserves the natural look and feel of the park.

Gentry Park

Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like?

Recommendation Number of responses	Landscaping & erosion 12	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	9	75
I like it	2	17
I don't like it	1	8

Recommendation Number of responses	Path 12	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	5	42
I like it	4	33
I don't like it	3	25

Recommendation Number of responses	Seating 12	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	7	58
I like it	3	25
I don't like it	2	17

Improvement Recommendations

In the summer of 2019 RPCA staff collected community feedback on the draft recommendations for improving this pocket park. The following information summarizes what was heard through online surveys and community feedback (see appendix for full results). The city received 716 responses in total, 12 of which were specific to Gentry Park.

Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. A major change to the draft park plan is the amendment to the originally proposed path through the park. The path will be a stone path that traverses the hill and ends at the grass area of the park. A stepping stone path allows users greater access to the park, while maintaining the open space and not disturbing the drainage of the park by introducing large amounts of impervious surfaces. Another change made to the draft plan is the inclusion of a new City standard sign. The sign will be site and size appropriate, understanding that the park is small and its entryway between two homes. Additionally, after internal meetings with the Natural Resources Division, the addition of natives were added as a recommendation at the northwestern end of the park.

Gentry Park

Improvement Recommendations

1. **Continue to maintain sheet flow runoff**
Continue to help slow sheetflow runoff on slopes by maintaining existing site-appropriate native vegetation, which serve as a groundcover, slowing water and helping it infiltrate into the soil.

2. **Install a stepping stone path**
The current path in the park dead ends at the far corner of the park. Build steps into the hillside and add a stepping stone path extension to increase access to the grassy area of the park. Using stepping stones allows for less permeable surface and fits with the naturalistic feel of the park. Due to the steep slope and thick vegetation, the path will end at the grassy area of the park.

3. **Create a seating area**
Install moveable chairs to provide a place to relax and socialize.

4. **Continue invasive species management and increase vegetative diversity**
The Natural Resources Division will continue to manage the invasive species and replace with native species as appropriate.

5. **Install native plantings**
Plant additional native graminoids (grasses and grasslike plants,) and wildflowers along the edge of the upper slope and terrace bench to further help intercept and slow runoff.

6. **Update park signage**
Update the existing park welcome sign to the current city standard.

Recommendations and Rankings		
Recommendation	**Ranking**	**Cost**
Maintenance of sheet flow		
Steppingstone path		
Seating area		
Invasive species management		
Native plantings		
Park signage		

DRAFT - WILL BE UPDATED IN FEBRUARY 2020

COMMENT - 1/16/2020