

Hillside Park

History and Character

Hillside Park is located at 264 Burgess Avenue in the Warwick neighborhood. There are no documented historic sites within the park.

The Warwick Village Citizens' Association has adopted the park.

The 0.31 acre park is built into a hillside and features large shade trees, a walking path, benches, wooden stairs and a terraced hillside. The park is a passive, shady, and natural area.



Existing Conditions Map



Hillside Park

Which of the following existing park elements would you like to preserve, enhance, or transform?					
Element Number of responses	Trashcan 3		Element Number of responses	Benches 3	
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it	3	100	Preserve it	2	67
Enhance it	0	0	Enhance it	1	33
Transform it	0	0	Transform it	0	0
Element Number of responses	Park sign 3		Element Number of responses	Wooden stairs 3	
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it	3	100	Preserve it	0	0
Enhance it	0	0	Enhance it	1	33
Transform it	0	0	Transform it	2	67
Element Number of responses	Paths 2		Element Number of responses	Outlook area 2	
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it	1	50	Preserve it	1	50
Enhance it	0	0	Enhance it	0	0
Transform it	1	50	Transform it	1	50

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

1. Motion lighting at night. The park is a magnet for people who want to have sex, drink alcohol, and use drugs. These people also frequently litter. Combined with poor city maintenance of low hanging tree limbs and hedges, people who conduct illicit activities in Hillside Park find it very easy to hide at night and during the day. In the last 10 years, the City has done very little to invest in this park.
2. Get rid of the “no mow zones” and cut the grass. These “no mow zones” just attract rats, litter, and unsavory types.

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, 3 of which were specific to Hillside Park. Staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

In 10 years, I would like this Park to...

(Top 3 rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

1. *Be a space to go exercise on my own*
2. *Be a place to relax*
3. *Have lots of activity*



This picture above is of the flyer posted in Hillside Park informing the community about the survey.

Hillside Park

Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like?					
Recommendation	Park welcome sign		Recommendation	Exercise equipment	
Number of responses	13		Number of responses	13	
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	7	54	I love it!	5	38
I like it	6	46	I like it	7	54
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	1	8
Recommendation	Replace railroad ties		Recommendation	Landscaping & erosion	
Number of responses	13		Number of responses	13	
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	11	85	I love it!	11	85
I like it	2	15	I like it	2	15
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	0	0
Recommendation	Invasive species		Recommendation	Connection easement	
Number of responses	13		Number of responses	13	
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	6	46	I love it!	12	92
I like it	7	54	I like it	1	8
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	0	0

Improvement Recommendations

- 1 Update park signage**
The existing park welcome sign will be updated to the current standard.
- 2 Add outdoor exercise equipment**
Community feedback indicated a desire to use this park for exercise. The park already has numerous stairs which serve as a form of exercise equipment. Add exercise equipment to provide additional exercise opportunities throughout the park. Also add signage about proper ways to use the exercise equipment and how many approximate calories are burned by participating in different activities.
- 3 Replace railroad ties**
The slopes and stairs in the park are supported with wooden railroad ties which need to be replaced.
- 4 Resolve soil erosion on slopes**
The existing slopes are prone to washouts and erosion. Planting appropriate plants, such as groundcovers, will help establish vegetative cover to help control and reduce erosion. To ensure long term erosion control, a maintenance follow up plan will be developed.
- 5 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.
- 6 Seek easement for connection point**
If redevelopment of the adjacent shopping center occurs, seek an access easement for a connection point between the park and the shopping center.

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). Over 700 responses were collected in total, 13 of which were specific to Hillside Park.

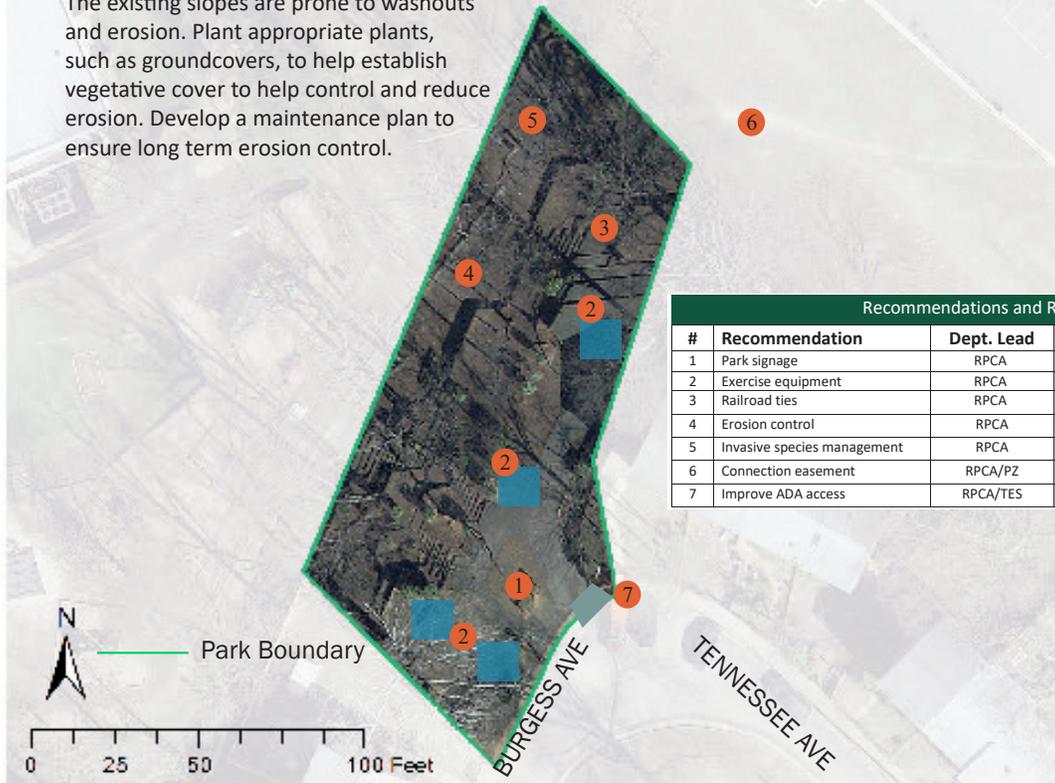
Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. No major changes were made to the original draft plan.

Hillside Park

Improvement Recommendations

- 1 Update park signage**
Update the existing park welcome sign to the current City standard.
- 2 Add outdoor exercise equipment**
Community feedback indicated a desire to use this park for exercise. The staircase already serves as a form of exercise equipment. Add exercise equipment to provide additional workout opportunities throughout the park. Add signage about how to use the exercise equipment and how many approximate calories are burned by participating in different activities.
- 3 Replace railroad ties**
The ties are old and in disrepair. Replace the wooden railroad ties that support the slopes and stairs in the park.
- 4 Resolve soil erosion on slopes**
The existing slopes are prone to washouts and erosion. Plant appropriate plants, such as groundcovers, to help establish vegetative cover to help control and reduce erosion. Develop a maintenance plan to ensure long term erosion control.

- 5 Continue invasive species management and increase vegetative diversity**
The Natural Resources Division will continue managing the invasive species and replace plantings with native species as appropriate.
- 6 Seek easement for connection point**
There is a goat trail from the park to the adjacent shopping center, if redevelopment of the adjacent shopping center occurs, seek a public access easement for a connection point between the park and Glebe Road.
- 7 Improve ADA access**
Improve ADA access to the park from Tennessee Avenue.



Recommendations and Rankings				
#	Recommendation	Dept. Lead	Priority	Cost
1	Park signage	RPCA	Medium	\$1,800 - \$2,419
2	Exercise equipment	RPCA	Low	\$34,800 - \$46,768
3	Railroad ties	RPCA	High	\$13,500 - \$18,143
4	Erosion control	RPCA	High	\$6,500 - \$8,735
5	Invasive species management	RPCA	Medium	\$17,500 - \$23,519
6	Connection easement	RPCA/PZ	Medium	\$15,00 - \$20,159
7	Improve ADA access	RPCA/TES	High	\$2,800 - \$3,763