

Barn Bluff Park Master Plan

Concept & Feedback Review Meeting

HKGI Office - Feb 12, 2016

Attendees: Brian Peterson, Bruce Blair, Bruce Chamberlain, Jeff McMenimen,
Sarah Evenson, Jennifer Cater

ENTRY AREA

Parking—

- Keep parking lot within city owned property as much as possible
- Possibility of low-impact temporary overflow parking on Xcel land that still functions for their purposes
- Locate additional parking along 5th Street south of Hwy 61 and north near Izaak Walton League property

Plaza Layout—

- Combine entry plaza and use of pumphouse from Concept 2 with linear plaza and interpretive panels of Concept 1
- Shorten connection into park along park entry trail
- Minimize lawn area
- Locate opportunity for Native/Dakota monument

TRAILS

- Create single circular trail junction somewhere between one shown on concept 2 and the existing Kiwanis Stair landing
- Retain idea of moving from profane to sacred with use of vegetative change and "threshold" into forested area
- Utilize circular "thresholds" on the ground where the entry location occurs
- Remove access trail to top of the kiln

KILN PLAZA

- Create concept vignette for master plan that minimizes plaza concept to more of a walkway with central viewing platform; include interpretive panels, benches, and railing
- Discuss restoration process and interpretive opportunities

EAST OVERLOOK

- Reduce to 2 vistas at East Overlook: one at the high-point and one at the edge location
- Realign trail from vista 1 to north of ridgeline and build with stairs / treads to help accommodate grade change; steps to be made of limestone or integral-color concrete and modular in form
- Connect lower prairie trail along existing volunteer trail between lowest vista and back to ridgeline?
- Edge overlooks with low limestone seatwalls

Barn Bluff Park Master Plan

Concept & Feedback Review Meeting

HKGi Office - Feb 24, 2016

Attendees: Brian Peterson, Bruce Blair, Steve Kohn, Bruce Chamberlain, Jeff McMenimen,
Sarah Evenson, Jennifer Cater

ENTRY AREA

Parking—

- Parking lot stays within city owned property and achieves 20 stalls
- Confirm parking lot turning radii
- Is there another parking lot configuration that can achieve more parking spaces?
 - Steve sent a concept- Sarah drew to scale- only achieves 18 stalls
- Though-drive to Xcel property for additional 55 spaces on natural surface (overflow parking)
- Parallel spaces along 5th Street to potentially double as pull off area for buses?
- Explore an appropriate turnaround for buses (likely by Izaak Walton League/Xcel drive)
- Additional parking along 5th Street located north near Izaak Walton property and south of Hwy 61 overpass (would require coordination with MnDOT to formalize) – Master Plan to include these as labeled areas or diagram
- Added bike parking near the restrooms

Plaza Layout—

- Plaza links pumphouse area with base of Kiwanis stairs
- Interpretation along water reservoir walls and near pumphouse
- Kiosk with park info and trail maps at pumphouse entry and at base of stairs
- Lawn area minimized....possible circular form; link with contemplative space or pathway
- Service vehicle access to pumphouse maintained
- Location for potential Native/Dakota monument opportunity to be determined. Discussed the notion of the memorial being a space/place. Explore the concept of integrating the lawn area with the memorial. Discuss with Art
 - Sarah to provide Brian with concept and examples for discussion
- Repeat use of circular space and design materials for key locations, such as plaza space, entries, junctions, and overlooks. Think of this as a family of spaces/materials/symbols
- Integrate stormwater infiltration with planting areas at plaza (raingardens)

Entry Trails—

- Entry location to park moves into forested area (from profane to sacred) and starts ascent to trail junction, with option to continue straight on ADA trail to base of Kiln (a no-outlet trail)
- Park entry path climbs with long ramped treads with 8% grade to circular trail junction
- Eliminate trail to upper kiln area from junction

UPPER KILN AREA

- Formalize trail between Quarry Trail and top of kiln where trail ends (no outlet)
- Use as location for additional interpretation for kiln
- Design with rail or barrier and plantings to keep people off the kiln and avoid visual impacts below

TRAILS

- Create trail hierarchy diagram that identifies a primary loop route, secondary connections, and no-outlet destination trails
- Identify trail improvements for each designated trail (e.g., North Trail, Prairie Trail, etc)
- Design to identify width, drainage, safety interventions, stairs, passing zones, etc
- Identify locations for indicators of dangerous edges—use limestone slabs and seatwalls
- Additions must maintain historical integrity, and should use a consistent design vocabulary throughout

Quarry Trail—

- Formalize one of the cut-offs uphill with informal timber treads

South Trail—

- To maintain a 5% grade, 129 stairs are needed
- Prefer to keep trail navigable for service or emergency vehicles; engineer for durability and drainage
- Maintain a width for at least 4 people across and for vehicular access

Fall Line Short-cut Trail—

- Remove existing trail
- Field-test 2 ideas: 1) continuation of Kiwanis-style staircase up to Prairie trail; 2) Narrow 6%-grade trail east from top of existing stairs along contour to meet Prairie Trail

West Overlook—

- Field-test 2 ideas: 1) adapt volunteer trail below mound to connect to Prairie Trail and west overlook with need for 12 stairs at overlook location; 2) establish new trail from Prairie Trail north into Savannah and cantilever a new staircase on north side of ridge down to the west overlook
- Potentially replace railing with one that has less visual impact
- Revegetate overlook area

North Trail—

- Coordinate structure engineer to make recommendation on Kiwanis stair repair/maintenance
- Talk with Kiwanis about involvement for repair
- Add eye-bolts and rope as hand hold in some locations
- Saw-cut steps into rock outcrops or remove rock to be level with trail where appropriate

NEXT STEPS

Bruce Blair: Field test ideas for West Overlook approach and stair connection or trail alternative to Fall-line Shortcut Trail.

Sarah Evenson: Complete draft of preferred concept graphic with agreed trail connection; re-test parking loop for maximizing capacity

Sarah Evenson & Jeff McMemen: identify graphic deliverables for Master plan and schematic plan drawings needed

Jen Cater & Bruce Chamberlain: begin drafting document and recommendations for master plan

Brian Peterson: Follow-up meeting with Art Owen – confirm ideas for contemplative space and monument; need for secluded location or in more visually prominent area

Goal for Draft document for review: last week of March

Goal for Master Plan presentation and public celebration: May

CONCEPT OVERVIEW

- > Kiwanis Stairs are maintained, but a new entry plaza centers around the Kiln Trail and Pump House
- > New trail winds through restored forest from the entry plaza to a new trail junction at a wooded Council Ring
- > Single parking lot surrounded by prairie plantings
- > Additional on-street parking available on 5th Street across from Izaak Walton League (north of the railroad tracks), and south of Hwy 61 on the north side of 5th St.
- > Restrooms located in north half of Pump House
- > Parking lot surrounded by prairie plantings
- > Gathering lawn could house memorial feature/place
- > Opportunity for interpretation on panels along Water Storage Tank
- > Existing visitor information kiosk moved to base of Kiwanis Stairs
- > Riverfront Regional Trail utilizes Barn Bluff entry plaza for restrooms, water, and information
- > Natural surface circular landing replaces concrete landing at top of Kiwanis Stairs. Prairie and forest meet here, forming a threshold
- > The kiln trail is benched into the bluff slightly
- > Kiln Overlook Trail offers additional interpretation opportunity as an offshoot of the Quarry Trail (dead-end)



Parking



Council Ring Trail Junction



Interpretive Panels



Visitor Information



Pumphouse Expansion



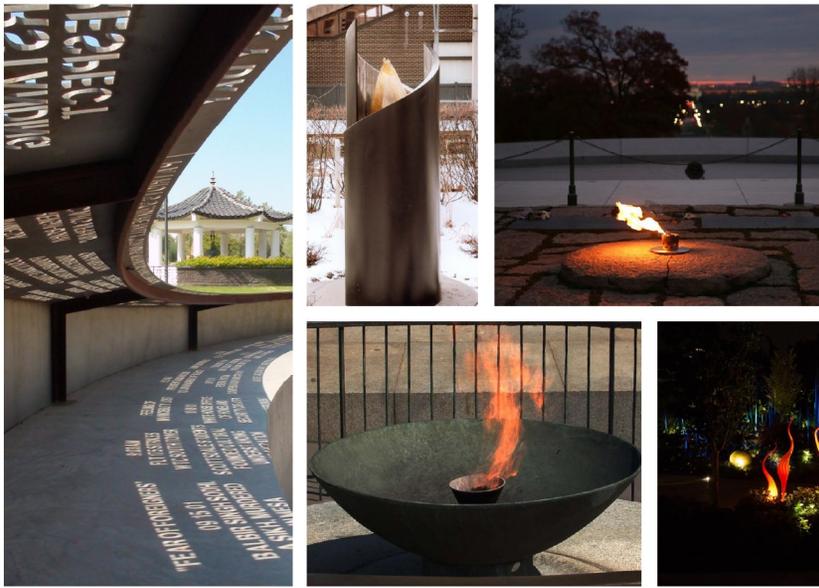
Bike Parking



TREES CREATE CONTEMPLATIVE PLACE



ELEMENTAL SYMBOLISM



CIRCLES

