

May 2018

Dorothea Dix Park Master Plan Status Report



Summary of Activities and Work Completed

The MVVA team's work in May focused primarily on the Master Plan theme the Park and its Buildings. This work will be presented to the public on Wednesday June 13th at Community Meeting #3.

MVVA team visit to Raleigh, May 15 - 17th:

Park Neighbors: On May 15th in Raleigh, MVVA and City of Raleigh officials met with representatives from Healing Transitions (HT) to discuss the relationship of the future park to the facility. Planning topics that affect both groups include:

- Better pedestrian and transit connections along Lake Wheeler Road to downtown, to include the extension of a multi-use path/greenway connection along Lake Wheeler that connects Walnut Creek to Rocky Branch Greenway
- Clearly-defined and easy to understand edges between public park spaces and the HT facility
- Successional strategy for the pine grove that surrounds HT; the trees today are mature and may require replacement/restoration strategy in coming years to maintain the planting

Michael Van Valkenburgh presented an update on Master Plan progress to the City Council on May 15th. The presentation illustrated the big, unifying concepts that MVVA recommends as essential for transforming the existing hospital facility into a great public park. (LINK 1)

In the evening of May 15th, the MVVA team led the Master Plan Advisory Committee through a presentation and conversation of visionary ideas and implementation specifics as to how and why the buildings at Dix's hilltop campus may be selectively rehabilitated and reused to contribute positively to the life of the future park. (LINK 2)

On May 16th, MVVA presented similar content (on the big, unifying concepts for the site's transformation from hospital to park and Park & its Buildings strategies) to the Master Plan Executive Committee and Dix Park Conservancy representatives.

On May 17th, MVVA along with City of Raleigh and Conservancy representatives visited longleaf pine and bald cypress wetland areas with naturalist and educator Tom Earnhardt in Eastern North Carolina: Black River, Green Swamp and Weymouth Woods – Sandhills Nature Preserve.

MVVA and sub-consultant Utile worked together for a full day planning session about the Park & its Buildings topics; this included detailed study of site-wide scenarios with estimates of probable cost for building

rehabilitation and demolition; building concepts to be shared with the state farmers market representatives; criteria – both in terms of design and location – for any new construction on site.

MVVA performed detailed grading studies at the proposed areas of restoration along the Rocky Branch corridor, in order to test the implementation potential for high level restoration concepts.

Sub-consultant Limnotech analyzed Dix's landfill documentation by others and created a series of analytical sections that describe the known and unknown aspects of the existing conditions. This analysis is crucial to inform both (1) further existing condition studies required prior to schematic design of Rocky Branch improvements and (2) a sampling strategy to characterize groundwater + surface water interaction at the Rocky Branch/landfill interface.

Engagement Related: MVVA composed relevant precedent images for both Park & its Buildings, Park & its Partners to inform Work Group discussions and feedback on those topics.

June 2018: Upcoming Activities and Work to Do

The MVVA team's work in June will be focused on the development of materials for the Park and its Partners and the Park and its Buildings Master Plan themes. The MVVA team will also begin to formulate the format, style and organization of work to date into a singular draft master plan deliverable.