

IMPERIAL PARK

Alternative Concepts Workshop: Public Comment



Imperial Park
Alternative Concepts Workshop

Thursday
February 13th
6:00 - 8:00

Forest Dale Golf
Course Clubhouse
2375 South 900 East

Based on input received at the recent public scoping meeting, the Landmark Design Team has now developed three alternative concepts for Imperial Park located at 1560 East Atkin Avenue. Please join us at the workshop to review the concepts and provide feedback as we work toward settling on a preferred alternative.

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Three alternative design concepts were presented at an open house/workshop that was held on Wednesday, February 13th 2014 at the Forest Dale Golf Club building. With more than 30 people in attendance, a wide range of discussion and interaction ensued, and 22 comment forms were submitted by the end of the meeting. The three concepts were also posted on the project web page to facilitate comment from those unable to attend the workshop, which resulted in an additional 15 electronic comments.

As detailed in the following pages, the input that was received has been analyzed in three different ways:

- 1. Summary of Most Preferred Elements**
- 2. Summary of Preferred Elements by Concept**
- 3. Verbatim Comment Responses to Questions**

1. Summary of Most Preferred Elements

Based on analysis of the feedback we received, the following are the most desired park elements/features that should be included (in no particular order):

- Pavilion with traditional architectural style (possibly a steeple feature)
- Restroom (not a portable toilet) – could be attached or unattached to pavilion
- Tables and benches – both within the pavilion and dispersed around the park
- Open field
- Berm or hill
- Playground – a hybrid of traditional and natural play, buffered from the adjacent residences. Specific playground elements that might be included:
 - Traditional: swings, slide
 - Nontraditional: rock/boulders for climbing, large net/climbing structure
- Lots of trees for shade
- Shade sail structure – not necessarily bird theme – around the playground in particular
- Curved walkways
- Educational elements – sundial, water feature, etc
- Solar power
- Fence separating park from neighbors
- Furnishings: tables and benches (both within the pavilion and dispersed around the park), drinking fountain, bike rack, trashcans, lighting.

2. Summary of Preferred Elements by Concept

The following items are key elements or features mentioned in the comments that were provided. The number refers to the amount of times the element was mentioned. Bolded items represent the most features/ideas mentioned.

Concept 1 – Garden Square: 2 people preferred this concept

- Likes:
 - **traditional playgrounds: 6**
 - **pavilion architecture: 6**
 - **attached restroom: 4**
 - visually compatible with neighborhood: 3
 - steeple: 2
 - seating/benches around park: 1
 - neat, classic design: 1
- Dislikes:
 - **classical/linear design: 5**
 - disconnected fields: 2
 - fenced rooms: 2
 - playground is close to south side: 2
 - no solar: 1

Concept 2 – Farm and Field: 15 people preferred this concept

- Likes:
 - **large playground with modern play equipment: 14**
 - **berm/hill: 13**
 - **shade sails (not necessarily bird theme): 13**
 - shady areas (trees and/or sails): 5
 - pavilion architecture: 5
 - restroom (not necessarily attached or unattached): 5
 - open space: 3
 - curved paths: 3

 - landscape buffer/demonstration garden: 2
 - playground is separated from pavilion: 2
 - water feature: 2
 - stylized farm fences/furnishings: 1
- Dislikes:
 - **no tables/benches: 7**
 - green roof: 4
 - no solar: 2
 - pavilion architecture: 2
 - berm/hill: 2
 - shade sails: 1
 - farm/reclaimed wood: 1
 - water feature: 1

Concept 3 – Nature to City: 7 people preferred

- Likes:
 - **nontraditional play (rocks): 13**
 - **water feature: 11**
 - **natural design: 9**
 - **sundial: 7**
 - open field: 4
 - solar power: 2
 - pavilion architecture: 2
 - curved/disjointed fencing: 1
- Dislikes:

- **needs playground (traditional playground equipment): 10**
- **hidden portable toilet: 6**
- rocks create safety hazard: 2
- pavilion architecture: 1
- too crowded: 1
- no tables/benches: 1
- natural design: 1

Other Comments/elements mentioned in comments:

- **Swings: 6**
- **Slides: 4**
- Monkey bars: 1
- Sandbox: 3
- BBQ facilities: 1
- Trashcans: 1
- Drinking fountain: 2
- Dog litter pickup station: 1
- Lighting: 1
- Keep the angled parking: 2
- Entirely fenced with gates: 1
- Take down shade sails in winter, change sails over time to give a different look
- Concerned about the south fence options, and haven't seen anything that I think would satisfy beauty, privacy and maintenance needs

3. Verbatim Comment Responses to Questions

Participants were asked to answer three specific questions, as well as to provide general comments and ideas. The following are the verbatim comments received, in that order.

QUESTION 1:

Do you prefer one of the options in its entirety? If so, please elaborate.

- I like things in each of the three options but if I had to choose I would select concept 2. It has a great hill, playground, and pavilion and a lot of trees.
- The farm and field design has the most elements I like.
- Concept 2.

- 3! Beautiful, artistic, functional, educational (sundial), not-traditional play equipment for kids, solar. This has it all.
- 2 is most family friendly.
- Farm and field. I like the shade, a big play structure, and an open area. The hill is kind of fun too.
- I prefer a hybrid.
- Nature to city.
- 3 - most impressionable image out of all three, there lies intrinsic value.
- In general I prefer the farm and field concept. I like a large play area with the bird and shade and large climbing structure. A flush bath house is preferable to a portapotty.
- 2
- Nature to city but would need playground area.
- Farm and field
- 1
- I found all the concepts acceptable, but Concept 3 stood out for me above the rest. Concept 1 would be my second choice, and Concept 2 my third.
- We are so excited for a park to come to our neighborhood! All of these design concepts look beautiful, however I am liking #2 the best.
- I like them all! They feel very friendly and inviting so I know the end result will be beautiful. I think concept 1 or 2 would blend best with the neighborhood. I like to think of a residential park as an extension of the front yards for the homes nearby, that way the park blends and enhances the properties around it instead of feeling like a stand-alone idea.
- I know my kids would LOVE the 3rd design, they are never on the play structures, always on the rocks or in the trees. I don't know if this is a voting thing, but my first preference would be to vote for the 3rd design - "Nature to City". However, if that is not a design anyone is voting for I would want my vote to count for the 2nd design - "Farm and Field".
- He likes design number 2 - Field and Farm - because it seems that it will have the most shade initially. However, he really liked the natural rock play area of number 3 and thinks it would be nice to have that incorporated to design #2.
- I like plan #2 except that I'd like to see a water feature more like in #3 as well as rocks. My 8 year old son also likes plan #2 except that he wants the water feature from #3 and wants to make sure there are swings.
- I prefer Concept 3 Nature to City. This plan stands the best chance for retaining the property as a park, preventing the City from turning it into another sports field or neighborhood plot garden.
- At this point, I like the 2nd design concept "Farm and Field" the best.

- Of these designs, I like 2 and 3 best. 1 looks good, but 2 and 3 are more interesting. I like how all designs have a large open lawn. Of these, I may slightly prefer 2 to 3, as water features are not very important to me. However, I think that either of these designs would be a park I would want across the street from where I live.
- If I had to just straight up pick one design, I would go with #2, but I would really prefer a combo of all three.

QUESTION 2:

What elements of each design concept do you like or prefer?

1. Garden Square

- I love the playgrounds and the pavilion between the two. I wish the fields were more connected.
- I like the traditional play area, dislike how close play area is to south side houses.
- Play area.
- Don't like fenced rooms. Like steeple.
- Don't like grassy areas, too broken up to be functional for games.
- I like the space where there is swings and slides.
- I like this pavilion.
- Flat open area, lots of playground equipment! I like that the play equipment is in the middle.
- I like the pavilion with tables and benches. Move it out from the back wall into the middle. I like the slides and swings for younger kids.
- I like the structure the most.
- Very nice pavilion, but where are solar panels? Restroom needs to be part of pavilion.
- I like the play spaces. This plan seems most visually compatible with the neighborhood. I like the water fountain, restroom, bike rack features and the lighting plan. "gardens" don't have to be fences all around. My favorite overall, but the square and rectangular lawns seem stiff to me. Garden paths are often known to curve and wander.
- Shelter trellis with attached restroom.
- I don't like the classical layout. However, the perimeter seating/benches is a great feature.
- The word "garden" is in the title.
- I think a gate should close each opening of the fences around the entire park (a child can easily get away from a parent and dart through the opening. I like the gazebo away from the playground.
- The gazebo paying homage to the old church.

- This will be beautiful from all perspectives. – important given the site/locale.
- Boring, nothing special, too linear.
- Nice and neat classic design. Nice touch with “church” top of pavilion.
- Good balance of public and recreational spaces and I liked the architecture of the structure; it just seemed a bit more bland than Concept 3.
- The Garden Square design seems the least appealing, with not much for kids to explore.
- a bit too formal for the surrounding neighborhood. While I like the small fenced areas, I don’t feel like it fits the neighborhood as a whole and again would require extra maintenance.

2. Farm and Field

- I love the hill and the playground. I wish the pavilion was a little more traditional, it doesn’t seem super usable.
- The berm is a good idea. Variance in elevation makes it more interesting. Kids love to run up and down hills. Shade sails are great.
- I like the pavilion area and berm.
- Restroom. Play area.
- Favorite. Add sundial, add angled parking, add rocks in orchard (nature play area). Love the berm, shade sails, and the landscape buffer/demonstration garden.
- Shady areas are good, play area will be fun.
- I like the open space.
- Needs benches for parents around playground. Love the sun shades, bathroom, water runnel, and the hill is nice.
- Play structures, shade, hill.
- I do not like the berm area or the shade sails. Don’t need so many hills and shrubs.
- I prefer this one except for the structure. A grass, flat roof seems like a poor concept for our hot summers and snowy winters.
- Great play structures and play surface. Hill is interesting, but does it limit available flat play area? Nice pavilion but where are solar panels?
- The green roof on the shelter is an interesting idea, but it leaves lots of questions in my mind about maintenance.
- Play area with safety surfacing. Shade sails.
- I like the small dedicated playground area, but it could be incorporated with #3.
- Traditional play equipment – but modern. Elevated section.
- Large play area, large shaded seating area, water feature, stylized farm fences and furnishings, large pergola area.

- I like this one. It incorporates the elements that I think will be most appreciated and used.
- Like the contoured grass. Demonstration garden too shaded. Green roof problematic – convert to solar sections.
- Like the small hill and sun shades. Really like overall design – pavilion area, walkways to walk or ride on.
- I love the shade sails above the playground so I don't have to worry too much about sun burning for my kids or the playground being too hot. I also like the play structure all in one area as I have 4 kids and would like them to all be in one area playing so I can keep my eye on them better.
- Love the idea of a more sophisticated play area using shade sails for playful color vs. a "MacDonald's Playland" look for slides and equipment. The sails can be put away in the winter, changing the look of the park and brought out for an event marking the Spring/Summer season. I also like the idea of changing the sails over time to refresh the look of the park down the road.
- Lots of people in this neighborhood walk their dogs regularly so I like the sweeping curves of concept 2. I think it invites walkers in without the feeling of "all roads lead to the playground." Having the smaller-kids play area away from the other structure also allows folks a quieter place to relax and chat without trying to compete with kids having fun. I'd like to see those two areas separated like concept 2.
- I really like the large curves of the sidewalks which will encourage our senior neighbors to walk the park. I also like the position of the bathroom and playground. I love the shade sails as I think they add interest and color. Trees could be planted around the edges of the playground so that when the sails wear out or become dated, the trees will be mature enough to provide shade. I would remove the runnel water feature, again because of expense and maintenance issues. I think the berms could also become a problem. Kids jumping them with their bikes, and the inevitable mud puddle that will form at the base at the end of winter would require constant attention.
- I like the hill next to the playground in #2, as well as the shade sails and demonstration garden.
- Shade Sails are a must, otherwise kids can't play on the equipment after 10am in the summer. An alternative would be large shade trees on the east and south side right by the playground. I would love just standard swings/slides equipment, maybe the big climbing tower, but not the metal turn things (vomit comets) - they just are not really used.

3. Nature to City

- I love the open field and the pavilion. There needs to be a playground.
- I like the rocks as “natural” seating and climbing areas. I like the curved and disjointed fencing in the south eastern corner. It almost acts like a maze to play in.
- I like the more natural look with the rocks and stream. Feel there is a need for playground equipment. Parking kept on north side.
- Sundial and water feature.
- Add some formal equipment, don’t care for solar.
- Largest open grassy area for games, Frisbee, etc. Rock structures are cool – actual bouldering feature? Sundial is awesome! Water feature is fun, kids would love it. Eliminate the bathroom and put money into the pavilion/shelter.
- This is too crowded, limited space.
- I like the cost of portapotty, but prefer restrooms.
- Love the rocks and water, but needs a playground.
- I like this the least. My kids would prefer more of a playground, but I do like the open area and the water will be fun later.
- Too much rock – need actual play equipment. Make it a more family park and needs tables and benches and a pavilion like #1. Sundial could be smaller.
- I like this but not the lack of play equipment. I envision scrapes and broken bones from children rock climbing. Need a real potty.
- Great design concept, but needs a real restroom. Use some of the grass area for the playground from farm and field. Where are the solar panels?
- I like the “river”. Rocks for climbing worry me. They look like injuries waiting to happen.
- Sundial plaza, river walk, and rock hill. Prefer a permanent restroom structure visible to street.
- I like the mixture of design, elements, and general feel. Love the water incorporation.
- Terrain, sundial, unique artistic lines.
- I like this concept but feel like we need a fence around the entire park so children if going after a ball the fence will block the ball and no children will be forced to go into the street.
- Nice flow from wooded/shaded area to open space/lawn. Climbing rocks. Sundial.
- This is beautiful, creative, and exciting. But I miss the play equipment that I think is needed in this neighborhood.

- Water feature is great. Good size lawn area. Like the “nature” concept but needs equipment for smaller kids. Different style pavilion. Real restroom, not hidden.
- I thought Concept 3 provided interesting spaces, aesthetically pleasing design, sufficient public and recreational spaces and more of a natural feel that would make it stand out in the neighborhood, fitting for that area of Salt Lake City.
- Since most of the homes are cottage types and established, concept 3 feels too modern for the surrounding architecture.
- I do think a set of swings would be nice to incorporate. The water features would be awesome!
- I was initially drawn to concept 3 “Nature to City” because of the unique curvilinear design and the tunnel water feature. I have since decided that because of the expense and maintenance associated with the water feature, the money would be better spent on a small playground. Without the tunnel, the circular shape of the central feature loses some of its appeal. I do however love the stone hardscape and would like to see that in the final design. Children love to climb on them and they also provide areas of random seating. I would hope you could also incorporate a sundial in the final design, possibly in another area of the property.
- I like the "Adventure/Nature Play" area of #3 as opposed to a more traditional playground. I like the interesting design of the pavilion in #3.

QUESTION 3:

Do you have other ideas that you could like us to consider that are missing from the three alternatives?

- Basketball court, soccer goals, sandbox.
- Parks are often used for birthday parties for kids or other family gatherings. Tables for sitting and eating would be good. Look at Westminster Park (800 E 1700 S) as an example of small tables that could work.
- If there was a way to combine the farm and field concept and nature to city concept. Keep natural look with rocks, have different pavilion, some playground equipment throughout.
- More picnic tables under trees.
- If you have picnic tables, you need a place for the cooking (bbq facilities). Where will you place the trashcans because you will always have trash floating around. Drinking fountains.
- Sandbox, monkey bars, benches, picnic tables.

- Dog poop pickup station – would limit litter issues. Sandbox – my kids LOVE the sand.

General Comments:

- I would go with the Farm and Field and would incorporate rocks along the base of the berm or even throughout the park.
- Please keep slanted parking! Don't know about restroom, don't like portapotty. Not familiar with decomposed granite. Some tables needed.
- I like 1 and 2 because the children have a place to run and swing without interference. Every 4th of July you can see many of the fireworks from Sugarhouse Park. If you have too many trees, it prevents you from seeing event. Also if it is possible to have a bench named after me- Chuck Wagon. I look forward to seeing it finished.
- Neighbor to south is concerned about having a good high fence. Children playing currently damaged property by throwing things.
- PLEASE keep bathroom, drinking fountain, bike rack, and shade. If the park is too sunny, my family simply won't use it. Please have a "bucket style" baby swing – not the kind with a chair. Chairs always break and kids can slide out. If no bathroom, we won't use the park.
- Water features are nice by may be too costly. A permanent fence is needed on south side. A playground is a must! Grass is costly to water! Need to have a restroom that is integral with the pavilion.
- Option 3 while best is badly missing the play equipment. If the slides or see saws were incorporated into elevation in the terrain, that could solve the problem.
- From my kids: climbing structures/nets, slide, spinny things
- Which concept has the easiest maintenance? Is that a factor for the future?
Thanks for all you planning and design!
- I am hoping the play structures will consist of at least one slide, something to climb and a few swings. And I am very excited about a bathroom! I have been to other neighborhood parks without toilets which results in children relieving themselves in the bushes. Thank you for being open to hearing input from the neighborhood!
- I wouldn't be as interested in the farm/reclaimed wood elements as much as an English garden finish since I think that fits the neighborhood the best. Wood elements will need more maintenance and breakdown over time. (the turf on the roof looks a bit foreign in the end) I also wouldn't be interested in the water features since they require more attention and might become an source of frustration down the road.

- I'd like to see the lighting strategically placed to keep negative activity out of the area. I think the bathroom in concept 2 looks well placed for both use areas and could be lit effectively there. I'd like to see comfortable benches that are well lit for the same reason. I wouldn't want secluded seating that would invite problems—again, well-lit and rather "out in the open" would get my vote.
- Would love to see a few trees that are already good sized so it won't take forever for the park to look established. Some ornamental grasses/low maintenance solutions in some of the panting areas would be an option for me. Hope this is helpful and I'm really looking forward to see how you finish out the plans. The neighborhood is so excited to have you working on this project.
- There are several parks and playgrounds nearby. I like the idea that this park will be something more distinctive and unique
- Pavilion: tables, benches, but no restroom is needed. If this is a neighborhood park, everyone can just run home if they need it. Adding a bathroom just invites a homeless element and problems.
- I'm concerned about the south fence options, and haven't seen anything that I think would satisfy beauty, privacy and maintenance needs. I am excited that we have enough space to have a park that meets the needs of all ages, not just the children. In addition to a park for kid's activities, I anticipate that it will be used for musical performances, larger family reunions, and as a gathering place for singles, parents and seniors to recreate and socialize. Thank you for all your hard work. When I received the call from the representative from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints informing me that the property was being donated to SL City, he had only one request and that was that we "make sure you build a beautiful park of which we can all be proud". These are beautiful design concepts and I'm very excited about the prospects for the final product.
- Great work guys! Below are a few links that may spark some ideas for artificial bouldering features you may consider for the park:
 - <http://rockcraft.net/cms/gallery>
 - <http://shop.tjb-inc.com/playground--climbing-boulders-c431.aspx>
 - <http://x-move.net/pages/en/climbing-facilities/boulder-rocks.php>
 - <http://www.dreamclimbingwalls.com/fibreglass-boulders/>
 - <http://heeleypark.org/the-park/the-millennium-park/bouldering.html>
 - <http://www.sloclimbing.com/bouldering-at-night/>
- These are my second impressions after thinking about last night's meeting regarding the Imperial Neighborhood Park Design:

The presentation of the 3 design concepts you selected was a brilliant move on your part. The verbal description of each design was very good, and made each sound very doable, but each seemed to leave something out. The 3 designs

presented were Conservative (Garden Square), Middle of the Road (Farm & Field), and Liberally Radical (Nature to City). Each had its good and bad points, but none had enough of what everybody wanted; so nobody was expected to select only one design.

If it was one or the other, it would have had to be design #2, Farm & Field; but that still comes up short. In reality, I was disappointed in the offerings. There are a few things that every design should have, and none of the offerings had them all. Every design should have a playground, a covered pavilion (and based on community input, that pavilion should have a restroom), and some grass for free play. Other things needed are a fence to set it off from adjacent neighbors, a few trees, some benches & tables, and some walkways.

I expected to see those few things as starting points for all 3 park designs, and then “extras” should be added as costs allow. Extras (not in order of priority) to include, water features, community gardens, artistic renderings, solar panels, exercise stations, unique playground equipment, lighting structures, climbing rocks, special surface materials, creative shade structures (both added to pavilions as well as over play areas), and then integrated design to tie them all together.

The budget for this park is more than adequate to cover all aspects, but it shouldn't be wasted on artistry over utility. It is nice to have a park that's a showplace, but it's better to have a park that everybody wants to use. Every aspect needs to be evaluated as to uniqueness versus utility. The entire layout needs to be invitingly useable, recognizably safe, and easily maintainable.

I'd appreciate the opportunity of sitting down with you and your design team and discussing these things in more detail.

- I think that it would be advantageous to have the Imperial Park Committee meet with your committee soon in finalizing the preferred design.