

## MEMORANDUM

DATE September 20, 2013  
TO Iveta Harvancik  
City of Saratoga  
FROM Isabelle Minn  
RE **Community Workshop #2 Summary**

This memorandum summarizes the second community workshop for the Quarry Park Master Plan, which took place on September 10, 2013 at the Joan Pisani Community & Senior Center in Saratoga. Approximately 25 community members attended the community workshop. Patrick Miller, Principal of 2M Associates, began the meeting by introducing the members of the Project Team, followed by an update on the Project vision and goals, as well as a summary of the site's history and existing conditions. Isabelle Minn, Principal-in-Charge at The Planning Center | DC&E, then took the audience through an opportunities and constraints analysis and described the two concept alternatives for Quarry Park.



Following the presentation, community members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide their opinions regarding the Project. The community members were then divided up into three small groups and asked to participate in a facilitated small group exercise. During the exercise the participants reviewed and critiqued the concept alternatives. Additionally, they conducted a short design exercise of the Day Use Zone, the relatively flat and most accessible part of the park. Groups then shared their reactions to the concept alternatives and their recommendations on what to include in the final concept.



Two of the three small groups (Group #1 and #3) preferred the first concept, "Saratoga's Hidden Playground", and one group (Group #2) preferred the second concept, "Digging into the Past". Although all groups chose one preferred concept, they incorporated some elements from other concept into the preferred concept alternative.

All groups were strongly supportive of recreational activities, but the interest in integrating the site's history into the concept design varied between the groups. While Group #2 wanted the focus of the site to focus on the history with a museum exhibit and interpretive walk that accessed the various structures on site, Group #1 preferred that the historical components of the project be restricted to an on-site kiosk with digital media access for smart phones.

Each group shared many common ideas about the infrastructure and recreational elements they preferred to have incorporated into the concept. Locating restrooms on-site and ensuring play areas to be ADA accessible was mentioned by all groups. Important recreational spaces included picnic areas, a natural playground, and a shaded special event space. Other amenities mentioned were a multi-use field, a zip line, a ropes course, a Frisbee golf course, a bocce ball court and a boardwalk extending across the pond.

Following is a summary of each group's recommendations.

### Group # 1

The first group examined each concept (reactions listed below) and ultimately decided Concept #1 was a better solution than Concept #2.

Reactions to Concept #1:

- Use the suggested name, "Saratoga's Hidden Playground", but include "Natural Playground" or something similar that alludes to the natural elements and low-impact design of the park
- Ensure there is access from ADA parking spots to play areas
- Design different types of trails, longer and shorter, that satisfy the needs of various age groups
- Create an overlook site, with seating and interpretive signage, at the upper vista point
- Include restrooms at the lower parking lot in the first phase, and then up by the day use zone in the second phase
- Use a soft and more natural material for the trail surface, not asphalt

Reactions to Concept #2:

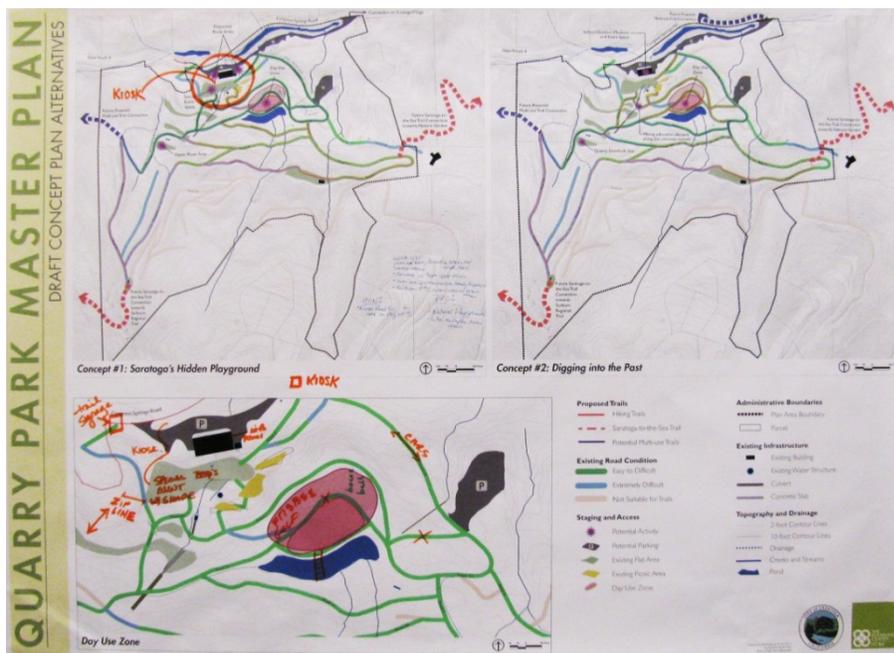
- Prefer Concept #1 (open space areas) because Concept #2 (programmed interpretive walk) is "not as fun"
- Incorporate education idea into an on-site kiosk, iPhone App, and other digital media
- Ensure historical information appeals to all age groups
- Include a first aid station on-site

In regards to the design of the Day Use Zone, the group had the following ideas:

- Create shaded space for special events
- Design zip-line to run between two high points over a low point, possibly near the southern end of the County-owned parcel used for maintenance
- Locate the kiosk near the trailhead
- Design a Frisbee golf course in conjunction with the hiking trail, at least one hole should be in the Day Use Zone near the pond
- Mark notable trees, both native and non-native, to create an arboretum



- Build a bocce ball court in the Day Use Zone
- Locate informal open space, like a multi-use field, in the Day Use Zone
- Include a playground for children in the Day Use Zone, but do not over-design and use only natural elements like tree stumps and logs



**Group #2**

The second group was strongly in favor of Concept #2 and had the following recommendations:

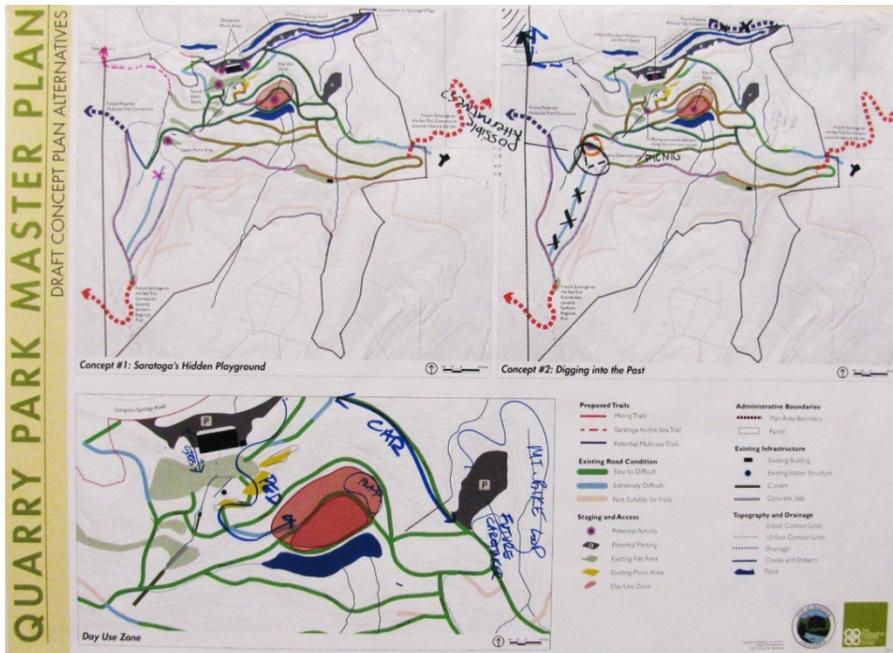
- Save stonework
- Connect trail to Congress Springs
- Create all trails loop
- Use loading structure for exhibits on nature, including native and non-native plants, rocks, and other biological aspects of the site
- Design an interpretative walking program that is a “walk through history”, both natural history and mining history
- Construct a pole that shows the scale of the original loading structure
- Reuse the loading structure – either rebuild to when it was operational (i.e. painting or photo from the quarry period) or build the front façade of the loading structure to show its original scale



- Designate space for a nature garden and smaller recreational picnic area, like the one that currently exists, in the upper meadow directly behind structure

In regards to the design of the Day Use Zone, they had the following thoughts:

- Use the second parking area for some parking, specifically ADA, but also have some other uses in the space so that it is not all parking
- Designate a caretaker trailer spot in the upper parking lot
- Include natural and unintentional adventure playground elements
- Connect play areas to the historical mining structures
- Design a beginner-level mountain bike trail that is a single-track connecting the two parking areas



**Group #3**

The third group was more in favor of Concept #1, but wished to include elements from Concept #2. They specifically had the following recommendations:

- Use the meadow as an event space
- Do not include small picnic areas next to loading structure
- Add mining education and access to mining infrastructure
- Add other interpretative themes, topographical and botanical, as QR codes on signage
- Use volunteers for cleanup and environmental education
- Work with Parks Management Program at West Valley College
- Keep and upgrade the historic picnic areas
- Address the traffic safety concern regarding roadway access at the eastern end of site



In regards to the design of the Day Use Zone, the group had the following ideas:

- Name trails
- Include restrooms
- Ensure ADA access
- Design covered picnic area
- Incorporate ropes course, zip line, and boardwalk with pavilion at pond
- Stock pond with fish

