Guadalupe River Park & Gardens

Phase 1 Outreach
Interim Park Development Plan

December 8, 2021
Agenda

- Introduction of team
- Why are we here now
- Background on Guadalupe Gardens
- Building the vision of the future
- Public comments
- Next steps

Note: This meeting is being recorded. The recording will be available online at: https://grpg.org/guadalupe-gardens-improvement-plan
Introduction of Team

• Presenters
  • Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
    • Nicolle Burnham, Deputy Director
    • Yves Zsutty, Division Manager
    • Willa Mui, Associate Landscape Architect
  • Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
    • Jason Su, Executive Director

• Project Partners
  • Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport
  • Department of Housing
Ground Rules

• This is not a meeting about homelessness
  ✓ For information on encampment management project please visit: https://bit.ly/3ohcaHq
  ✓ To report encampments please call 408-975-1440 or email: homelessconcerns@sanjoseca.gov
  ✓ If you are experiencing homelessness and would like help please call 408-510-7600 or email: outreach@homefirstscc.org

• When Making Comments:
  ✓ Be respectful
  ✓ Be courteous
  ✓ Remember that public spaces are for everyone that follows park rules and social norms
City Council Item 3.5 on October 19, 2021 directed staff (in part) to:

- **ACTIVATION:** Explore and prioritize creative options for interim uses that ultimately enable uses that align with the Guadalupe Gardens Master Plan and create more vibrancy while discouraging future encampments. (Mayor’s Memo)

- Medium term (next 2-8 months): Engage surrounding community and stakeholders, and recommend to Council temporary recreational uses of the site to activate cleared areas; and identify funding sources; and (3) Long term (6-18 months): Engage surrounding community and stakeholders to identify permanent compatible public uses, and identify funding sources.
Things to Consider

- We are considering quick-build short-term projects in Phase I.
- Longer term improvements will be considered for Phase II.
- Assessment for soil contamination remains to be completed.
- There is no funding to construct park amenities at this time.
- Long-term maintenance funding for park amenities will be recommended based on feedback received.
Guadalupe River Park and Gardens

• 250-Acre Park originally conceived in the 1960’s
• In 1987 council recommended development of this urban park
• Three areas extending from Discovery Meadow to I-880:
  • Guadalupe River Park
  • Guadalupe River Trail
  • Guadalupe Gardens
The Guadalupe Gardens

- Master Plan dated 2002
- Property acquired with FAA funding
  - Approximately 30 acres developed south of Taylor Street
  - 40 Acres north of Taylor Street is subject of this discussion
- Columbus Park predates creation of Gardens
The Role of Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

**Mission:** Provides community leadership for the development and active use of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens through education, advocacy and stewardship.

**Project Role:** Work in partnership with the City on the community engagement, create partnerships, support future park development, fundraising, and operations of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, with the goal of building out the Master Plan and uplifting the community through parks.
Approach

Investigate
- SJC / FAA conditions
- Park Master Plan

Inquire
- Viable recreational options
- Unmet recreational needs
- Community-desired recreational preferences

Define
- Type, size and location of interim park improvements
- Improvements that are allowed (per SJC, FAA and Master Plan)
- Scope, estimate & schedule

Propose
- Phase I interim concept to City Council on January 25, 2022
Complement & Leverage

Existing Assets in the Gardens:
• Heritage Rose Garden
• Guadalupe River Trail
• Rotary PlayGarden (All-inclusive)
• Guadalupe Community Garden
Site Challenges

- No defined attractions
- Vehicle trespassing
- Dumping
- Encampments

Drop in Trail Usage: 350,000 in 2018, 182,000 in 2021
Site Limitations

- 2002 Master Plan (Initial Study)
  - Transitory Meadow Planting
  - Community Gardens
  - Pathways
  - City Corp Yard

- FAA Conditions
  - No residential
  - Activities that attract less than 120 people per acre
  - Preserve 30% of gross area open space
  - No activities that attract wildlife
  - No structures
Possible Quick-Build Improvements

Disc Golf

Dog Park (3+ acres)

Walking Paths

Urban Agriculture

Community Garden Expansion
More Possible Quick-Build Improvements....

- Educational Signage
- Nature Play
- Native / Pollinator Gardens
- Outdoor Exercise Equipment
Potential Phase II Improvements

- Art Walk
- In-park café / concession
- Restroom
- Flood Detention Area
- Pump Track
Option 1 - Golf, Dogs & Art
Option 2 – Wildflowers & Paths
Option 3 – Open Space & Agriculture

1. Dog Park
2. Disc Golf Course
3. Existing Community Garden
4. Urban Agriculture
5. Open Space / Perennial Grass

- Welcoming Entrances
- Pathways
Phase I: Interim & Creative

Building Community Through Fun
Feedback

• What do you like?
• What do you not like?
• What do you think is missing?
• Survey:
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GuadalupeGardens

QR code to survey
Next Steps

• Process Schedule
  • January 25, 2022 – City Council Meeting

• Feedback Opportunities
  • Take the Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GuadalupeGardens](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GuadalupeGardens)
  • Survey closes Sunday, December 19

• Get Involved:
  • GRPC’s Trail Ambassador Program
  • GRPC’s Volunteer Programs
    • Trail Clean-Ups
    • Heritage Rose Garden
    • Events and Office
    • Special Project