

The Hoover Ridge Park is located in a delightful, pastoral, rolling, rural landscape. The design concept for the site is to preserve the rural character of the landscape, while providing a series of activity areas across the site that are guided by the undulating and flowing hills of the landscape. The design provides a sequence of experiences, such as water, earth and woods; as well as, a range of recreational activities, both active and passive, while at the same time conserving and enhancing the essential rural character of the landscape.

Possible Future Development

The area around the demonstration gardens is left open for possible future development, which can take place when and if needed. Because of its proximity to the major road, this area could serve many possible uses in the future that are unanticipated today. In the mean time, the undeveloped open space will help preserve the rural character of the site.

Potential Future School Site

A location for a future school, if needed, is proposed in an area where there are now existing soccer fields and adjacent to the existing school. This area can continue to be used as a practice soccer fields until the construction of new school begins. The future school and the existing school shall share the soccer fields, baseball fields and community facilities provided in the park.

Garden Plaza

The Garden Plaza connects the community recreation center with the community cultural and senior center. People can enjoy the passive, leisure and therapeutic activities of the amphitheater. For example, the plaza will have picnic shelters, a knot garden, flower beds, meditation shelters and a labyrinth. Activities are provided for children and adults alike.

Community Recreation Center

The community center consists of a cluster of buildings that can be built over time as needed and as the finances allow. Architecturally the buildings are designed and sited in manner that maintains the rural character of the site. When built out the Community Recreation Center will contain an indoor swimming pool, fitness center, indoor play area, meeting rooms, changing (locker) rooms and storage facilities. It also provides easy access to the athletic fields.

Entrance

The entrance to the site is enhanced by a tree lined avenue. The fences on either side of the road reflect the rural character of the area. The presence of signage announces our arrival at Hoover Ridge Park.

Internal Roads

The roads wind through the landscape and are designed to reflect the rural character of the site. In addition the road is designed in such a way to slow down the movement of the vehicles in the park for safety reasons. Traffic calming features such as flower beds and berms will create a pedestrian friendly environment. Parking spaces are provided along the roads at specific points and at the major activity areas. Approximately 200 parking spaces will be available. In some areas, a drop off zone will be provided. It is noted that the internal road will have an emergency exit on the other side of the site away from the main entry.

The Oakland Woodland

The existing Oak trees in this area are preserved and now serve as common picnic area. The area accommodates an historic exhibit, picnic tables and a tot-lot playground. This area provides opportunities for social and family recreation. The historic exhibit will commemorate President Hoover's visit to this site. The focal point will be the relocated and rebuilt, existing Red Barn or an architectural structure that will reflect the lines and visual characteristics of the barn. This will be a place for commemorative and civic ceremonies. It will also serve a place for social gatherings. A Memorial flag plaza is introduced at a point on the circumference of the core area that overlooks the large open space that contains the soccer fields. Seating terraces are located along the arc of the flag plaza and provide a place to observe soccer games or Fourth of July fireworks.

Pond

The expanded pond provides place for people to practice recreational canoeing and kayaking, as well as to fish. A bridge and arbors enhance the beauty of the place and makes it visually pleasing.

Agricultural Demonstration Gardens

A place where people can learn about planting flowers and vegetables, The agricultural demonstration center is located in an area of the site where the soils are not well suited for construction, but can accommodate agricultural activities.

Community Cultural and Seniors' Center

The Community Cultural and Senior Center consists of a series of buildings that can be built over time to accommodate need and budget. It accommodates a senior's center and meeting rooms, as well as, serves as a base and storage area for the agricultural demonstration gardens.

Amphitheater

The amphitheater provides opportunities for outdoor plays, music concerts and social gatherings. The amphitheater has been designed to take advantage of the bowl shaped of the natural topography. It is located next to the wetland area to take advantage of views of the water. It is enclosed by a curtain of trees on some of its edges making it semi-private zone.

The Natural Playground

Children are challenged to use their 5 senses (listening, seeing, hearing, touching and tasting) to experience nature in this playground. They can experience and learn through the use of natural material such as water, sand, earth, gravel, woods found in this area. Children can have a hands-on experience all those materials; for example, they can play and build structures out of sand.

Woodland

The existing woodlands provide an area for camping and more rustic woodland picnicking and a wonderful place for family outings amidst the woods. Picnic tables and restrooms are also provided. Trails run around the periphery of woodland and connect to the camping areas. A watch-tower with a picnic area around its base provides unique views through and above the woodland canopy.

Earth Mound and Viewing tower

A wooden viewing tower is located between the soccer fields and the baseball fields. The base of the tower is enclosed by a mound that serves as a gateway to the baseball park and at the same time provides a place for people to sit and enjoy a soccer game. A bridge connects the tower and gateway area with the baseball fields.

Baseball Fields

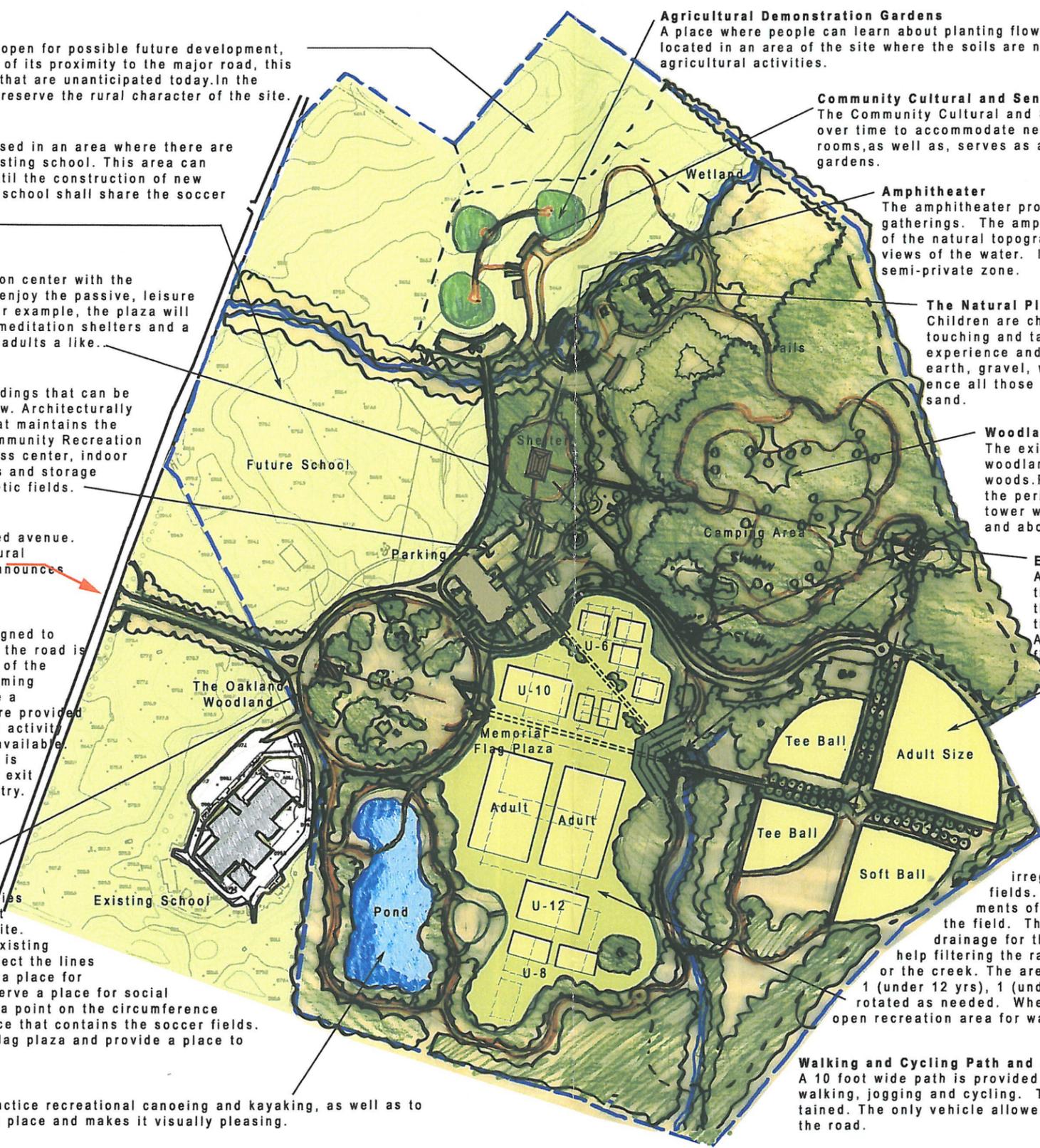
The four baseball fields (2 tee-balls, 1 adult size baseball and 1 softball) are oriented in such a way that prevents the batter from looking into the sun in the afternoon. A concession area is located so that it can be shared by the four base ball fields. The number of bleachers will be minimized because the grading of the landscape will allow the earth sitting mounds to be placed around the baseball fields.

Large Open Space and Soccer Fields

This area has been graded to create a large open space with an irregular and undulating planted edge and accommodates the soccer fields. The space is large enough to accommodate different arrangements of the soccer fields, allowing turf to recover at high use spots on the field. The area is relatively flat with just enough slope to achieve positive drainage for the athletic fields. Trees which surround and enclose the area will help filtering the rainfall runoff from the fields before being discharged into the pond or the creek. The area can accommodate 12 soccer fields in all: 2 fields (for adults), 1 (under 12 yrs), 1 (under 10 yrs), 2 (under 8 yrs), 6 (under 6 yrs). These fields can be rotated as needed. When the fields are not used for soccer this area will be a versatile open recreation area for walking, informal games, Frisbee, kite flying and other activities.

Walking and Cycling Path and Service Road

A 10 foot wide path is provided along the periphery of the site and provides opportunities for walking, jogging and cycling. The trail is not paved, so the rural character of the site is maintained. The only vehicle allowed on the path are designated service vehicles be allowed to use the road.



JOURNEY THROUGH A PASTORAL RURAL LANDSCAPE (IN PROGRESS)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT