

Twain Harte Meadows Park

Refined Design Ideas – May 18, 2018



Essential Design Concepts

In order to create an exceptional park space, no matter which ideas are incorporated into the final design, the Park Committee determined that the following landscape design concepts need to be included:

- **Visually Open** – For safety purposes, the entire park area needs to be open visually from Meadow Drive.
- **Screening / Decorative Trees** – Evergreen trees will be placed at the perimeter of the park to help screen views of commercial buildings and to create a park environment. Decorative deciduous trees (with leaves that change color in the fall) will be placed on the interior areas of the park to provide shade and beauty.
- **Outdoor Rooms** – In order to maximize usable space for multiple groups of people and diverse activities, pathways, trees and boulders should be used to create “outdoor rooms” or separated spaces.

Essential “Must Have” Ideas

These conceptual ideas have a very high likelihood of being included in the design of Twain Harte Meadows moving forward. There is a possibility, however, that future analyses reveal that these ideas are not feasible.

- **Outdoor Pavilion** – A large outdoor pavilion was the 3rd most popular idea in the survey (supported by more than 60%) and was the most popular idea at the first design workshop. The pavilion will be a rustic mountain style and will provide shade for many outdoor activities such as picnics, community functions, weddings, parties and other social events. It will likely serve as the main architectural feature in the park.
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- **Large Meadow/Grass Areas** - One of the conditions of the land donation required the park to be made up of at least 1/2-acre of open space. This idea was also highly supported in the votes received at the design workshop. Many of the community designs, in a good attempt to include many great park facilities intermixed with open grass areas, still did not provide enough grass space to meet this requirement and desire of the community. This means that future designs will likely have to limit the number of facilities and include more open grassy space for the community to enjoy.
- **Water Fountain Play Area** - A water fountain play area was the 2nd most popular idea in the survey (supported by more than 60%) and the 2nd most popular idea at the workshop. The fountain area will create a great place for kids of all ages to play on summer days. It will include underground fountains that shoot sanitized and recycled water into the air above a hardscape surface. There will be no standing water. In the winter, the space could be used for other uses, such as a temporary town Christmas tree or small, temporary ice skating rink.
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- **Historical Monument** - The 3rd most popular idea at the design workshop was a monument dedicated to Twain Harte history. Some workshop participants suggested that the monument be incorporated into the park

entrance sign, which could mirror the arch and include tributes to Mark Twain and Bret Harte. While the details of the monument will be determined further along in the design process, the concept of a historical monument at the entrance of the park will likely be included in future designs.

- **BBQ/Picnic Areas** - BBQ/picnic areas started in the land donor's desires, were expressed in survey responses, and were a popular idea in the design workshop. They could consist of one large area or several small areas.

Adapted Ideas for Continued Consideration

- **Town Christmas Tree** - A town Christmas tree was supported by 54% of survey responders and was the 4th most popular idea at the design workshop. However, there was not consensus whether the tree should be a living, permanent tree or a temporary tree brought in and placed in an existing area such as the water fountain play area. The idea remains up for consideration, but the type will need to be determined.
- **Outdoor Ice Rink** – An outdoor ice rink was the number one idea in the survey (supported by 63%), however, it did not receive much support in the design workshop. Additionally, preliminary staff research staff looked into some preliminary costs and found out that costs to bring a vendor in for 8 weeks in the winter (before ticket sales) could range from \$70,000 - \$150,000 per year. The Park Committee decided this idea should continue to be considered, but not as a stand-alone design feature – it could be placed in an area with another use, such as the water fountain play area or under the pavilion.
- **Fire Pits** – Fire pits received decent support in both the survey and at the design workshop (48% of survey votes and 7th most popular idea at the workshop); however, many people also expressed concern about fire hazards and supervision. In response, the Park Committee decided to eliminate stand-alone fire pits, but consider a stone outdoor fire place in the outdoor pavilion.
- **Climbing Boulders** – Climbing boulders received the 8th most support at the design workshop, but some had concern about liability. In response, the Park Committee determined that large boulders could be placed throughout the park, but a large climbing structure should no longer be considered.
- **Horse Shoe Pits** – Horse shoe pits received moderate support in the survey (44%), but only received little support in the design workshop. The Park Committee decided that these could be left for consideration, but also determined that there are other locations in the existing park that could accommodate pits.
- **Other Ideas** – Many detailed ideas were recommended at the design workshop, (i.e. specific plants, mounding, types of art, seating options, etc. Design details will be determined after selection of conceptual design ideas.

Ideas for another Time & Place

- **Senior Playground** – A senior playground received moderate support in the survey (45%), but received very little support at the design workshop. The Park Committee determined that these types of facilities could be placed around the existing park in the future if there was enough community support at that time.
- **Sliding Turf Hill** – This idea was presented by at least one survey responder and received little support at the design workshop. The Park Committee determined that it could be placed near the existing playground in the future if there was enough community support at that time.

Ideas without Sufficient Support

- **Basketball Court**
- **Sand Volleyball Court**
- **Giant Chess Board**
- **Carousel**