



BIRCHETT PARK PLAN PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

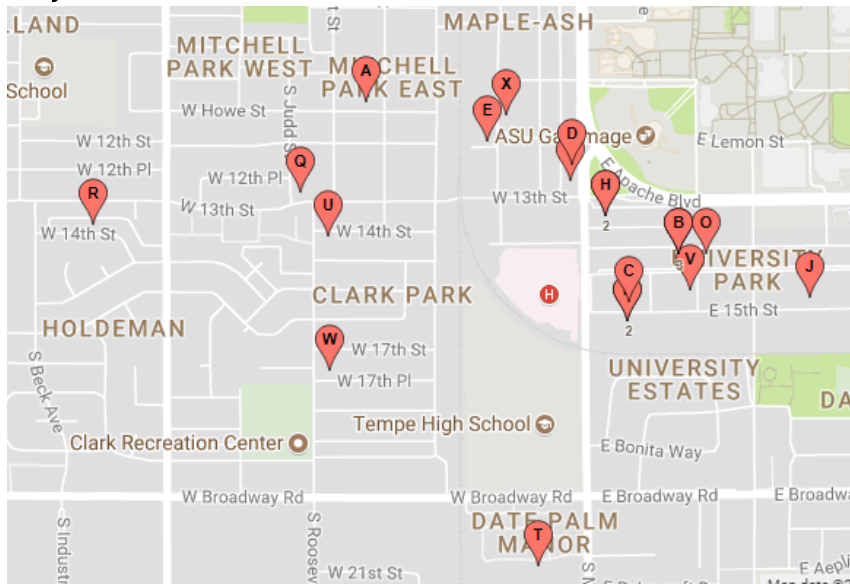
Overview

A follow up public meeting was held on January 31, 2018 to get feedback on Birchett Park. Residents in the area of University to the Railroad, Hardy to McAllister (1345 households) were invited to attend. 21 residents signed in at the meeting. Surveys were available at the meeting and online from January 31 through February 14, 2018. A total of 23 survey responses were received; 17 at the meeting and 6 online.

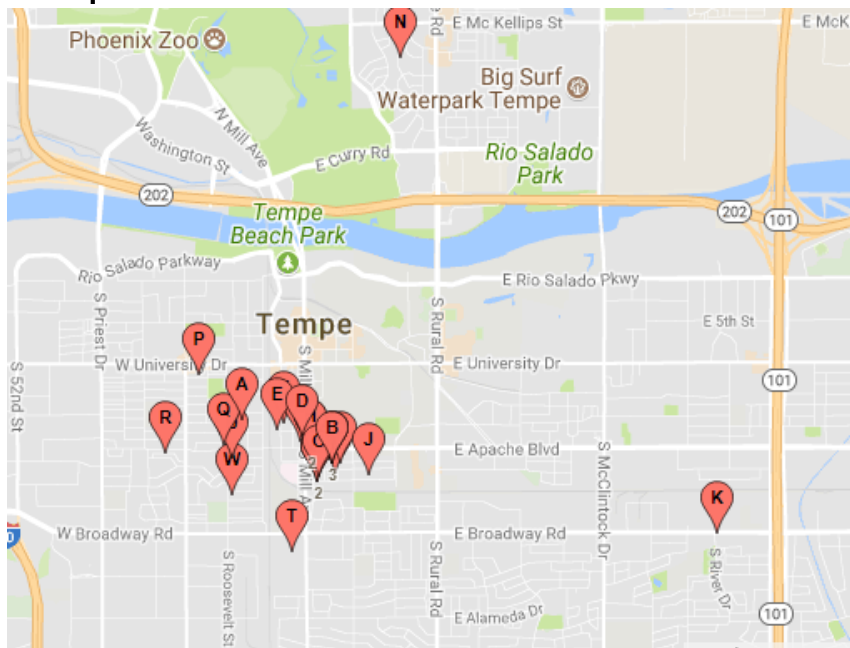
Residents were asked to provide comments on the level of change they were comfortable with in the park as well as specific landscape design elements.

Map of Survey Respondents

Project area

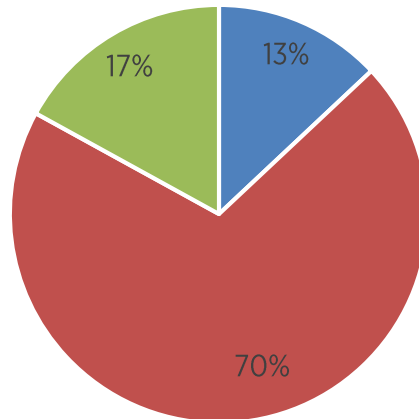


All responses



Survey Responses

1. What level of change to the park would you be comfortable with?



- None (3) - I do not support any changes or improvements to Birchett Park
- Minor (16) - Update existing hardscape, landscape, and other park elements within current general park footprint
- Moderate (4) - Update existing hardscape, landscape, and other park elements with some changes to general park footprint and the addition of appropriate elements.

2. If you are in favor of minor or moderate changes to Birchett Park, as defined above, please check the updates you would support: (RANKED in order of support):

Planting additional roses (14)	61% of respondents
Lighting that accentuates plantings (11)	48%
Placing existing roses in planters (9)	39%
Shaded seating area/s (9)	39%
A formal garden area with seating and shade (7)	30%
Landscape buffer between street and sidewalks (7)	30%
Alternative pathway materials, other than concrete (7)	30%
Reconfigure pedestrian flow through/around the park (6)	26%
Public art in the main area of the park (6)	26%
Low walls for seating (5)	22%
Historically descriptive signage (5)	22%
Trees planted close together in turf, providing dense shade (5)	22%
Lighting to highlight evening use and views of the park (5)	22%
Lighting hung from trees (5)	22%
Open space (turf) (5)	22%
Improved pedestrian crossing (5)	22%
Raised planting beds (4)	17%
Interpretive signage for plants (4)	17%
Creative/artistic signage (4)	17%
Bike racks (4)	17%
Standalone seating options within the park (benches, picnic tables, etc.) (3)	13%
Planting bed/seating combinations (3)	13%
In-place park activities (cornhole, chess/checker tables, horseshoes, bocce ball) (2)	9%
Public art within landscaped "islands" (2)	9%
Central area with appropriate shade structure (1)	4%
Creative pedestrian treatments on sidewalks (1)	4%
Additional concrete sidewalks and/or paths (0)	0

3. Additional Comments:

1. I have checked only ONE of the "improvements" listed and hope that only ONE will be done. City crews have not taken very good care of the wonderful rosebushes that have offered their fragrance and beauty for many years. Chainsaws are NOT the proper tool to prune with. This little park does not need a lot of money spent on it. As it is, it can be a peaceful, contemplative place to sit or walk about if only for a few minutes of quiet. It makes me sad that the big blossoms of apricot colored roses, such a close match to Gammage Auditorium's distinctive hue, are no longer there. Maya Angelou said "To survive is important, to thrive is elegant." I miss the elegance of Guess Birchett's roses. Hedges, trees, and other improvements should NOT block visibility of the park by police as they drive by and around it. Occasionally a person will pass out from ill health, lack of water, or excess drugs. Law enforcement should be able to see the area without having to park their vehicles and then inspect the park. The rose bush barrier is an excellent way to block the traffic noise from Apache. New bushes would be fine.
2. I like the round about that was in the other plans as well for 13th and mill... Also I see this park everyday.. there is moderate homeless traffic that hangs out in the middle so I think this park needs to open up and be visible from all sides.. not create a haven for activities that might be in the best interest of the public.. but lets keep it green, no desert landscaping.
3. I have lived in the Maple/Ash neighborhood for over 50 years. This park has been a welcome respite/green-space between ASU and our neighborhood. It has served us well just as it is. There is no need to "revamp" or "upscale"as is so popular with the current "hyper" development attitude that seems to prevail currently. As my grandfather, whose home I currently live in would say; "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"
4. If you make change to attract people you will need to take part of it and add parking. In addition it needs to be made safer to get to for pedestrians and bikes.
5. Keep park as a buffer. Just make it better. Deteriorated walls should be updated.
6. Please spend as much time as the ASU charrette did. An "Oasis" is a gateway.
7. Shade along walkways/edges/bike paths. Maintain flood irrigation. First priority maintain what's there.
8. Please do not make any changes to the park that are drastic. It just need updated, taken care of, etc. We don't need any more "unsolicited" parking here at our place of business. Get maintenance to take care of roses as they should be.
9. The park has limitations that cannot be easily altered: 1. No parking- it is a pedestrian park; 2. It is bordered by traffic on three sides. A substantial conflict to a traditional park- not conducive to children playing; 3. The landscaping should be low maintenance "sustainable"; 4. The existing landscaping (IE roses) should be kept up by persons skilled in that talent. if the city can not maintain it, perhaps a botanic group could adopt it?; and 5. Make use of irrigation- keep it if at all possible
10. I would like to see this park in addition to highlighting the roses and the original focus of the park to have a heavy desert and sustainability focus and showcase some of the beauty we have in our own surrounding desert.
11. Birchett park is important to me because it is a visual relief from development. I seldom walk through it, but nearly every day the park gives me pleasure as I walk or drive past. Appropriate lighting for safety which does not impinge unfavorably on nearby homes should be addressed. suggest that because the park enjoys flood irrigation large trees be planted. (I mean large at maturity. Small trees suffer minimal transplant shock; soon catching up to the large-at-planting trees.) Mrs Birchett nursed injured birds back to health. Trees would provide nesting sites which is consistent with honoring her life. With regard to roses; perhaps there is documentation on the varieties initially planted. If so, either replace the ones growing from root-stock with these older varieties or with improved similar varieties.

Emails

1. Monday, February 05, 2018 - For Birchett Park: Drive north on Mill Ave heading toward the intersection of Mill/13th. Look over toward the park as you go through the intersection. All the eye level shrubs, trees and vegetation that blocks view of Gammage should be removed. Gammage is your downtown entry feature, you don't need to create anything in that small open space, or activate the area or put parking in. Clear out the view of Gammage and you have the most amazing entry feature to downtown imaginable. Add in some flower beds or something if you think necessary, but otherwise, I'd leave it alone.