

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM JUNE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

BUFFALO BAYOU – SABINE TO SHEPHERD

June 28 and 29, 2010

RECREATION

Trails

(June 28, 2010)

- Concern regarding the over-use of the Hike and Bike trail network.
 - Design should accommodate a large number of users and ease of passing.
- Design should explore alternatives to concrete for pedestrian trails.
- There is a dangerous trail intersection at Allen Parkway at Dunlavy that needs to be addressed.
- Trail design should accommodate a shoulder where the bike trail requires a guardrail
- Design of the trails should accommodate the speed differential between cyclists, joggers, etc.
- Signage placement is important
 - Maintain sight lines
 - Set back to avoid obstructing cyclists/runners using trails.

- Trail system needs to be interconnected to allow for more trail route choices and accommodate increasing population density.
- There needs to be adequate notification of construction related trail closures and detours.
 - Could be Web-based
- There needs to be signage or control devices to discourage bicycle access on footpaths
- Include walking trails through natural areas.
- Locate trails close to bayou for views.

June 29, 2010

- Bikers enjoy hills – redesign should incorporate and make use of existing topography.
- Trail alignment should preserve trees
- Bike accessibility (sloped walks or ramps) should be incorporated at steep conditions where there are stairs.

Dog Park

June 28, 2010

- A fence should be considered to create a safer separation between dogs and bicyclists.
- There are conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists and
 - Incorporate Signage that notifies dog owners of park rules.
- Dog park should be integrated into design – peak use should be considered.
- Take into consideration water quality issues if dog waste is not managed
- No to dog parks!

June 29, 2010

- Yes to dog parks!

Water-based Recreation

June 28, 2010

- High water is utilized by Kayakers. Incorporate a Notification system for water release from Dam
- Put-in/Take-out locations for kayaks and canoes need to be incorporated/enhanced.
- Allow for shorter boating routes (Sabine Bridge is too far)
 - Specify specific loading zone for boats
- Utilize floating dock to address water elevation fluctuations

June 29, 2010

- There should be improvements to Canoe and Kayak put-in/take-out locations
 - Intersection at Shepherd Drive is an important pick-up point

Other Recreation

June 28, 2010

- Exercise stations should be considered
- Topography is an asset to Cross country running users
- Disc golf use is important
- Climbing boulders could be considered
- Some hills could be designed for a specific use; Run/bike training, etc

COMFORT & SAFETY

June 28, 2010

- Picnic Areas need to consider access to restrooms
- Lighting design should address wildlife habitat and meet *Dark Skies* criteria
- Blue lighting at bridges downtown is not good
 - Night vision concerns due to blue lights
 - Low contrast with blue lights
 - Safety for drivers (on freeway ramps above)
- Incorporate lighting under Montrose bridge
- Restrooms should be incorporated
 - Should be nice and well-maintained
- There is a restroom at the Skate Park that could be utilized with proper signage
- Human Comfort should be considered
 - Shade
 - Tree orientation
- Drinking fountains should be incorporated
- Emergency phones are needed

June 29, 2010

- Falling embers from fireworks is a problem currently
- Security is needed for parked cars at Elenor Tinsely Park

ACCESS

June 28, 2010

- Allen Parkway pedestrian crossings need to be incorporated/considered
 - Taft/ Gillette/ Dunlavy are important crossing points
 - Improved esplanades would help make crossing more safe
- No Parkland should be used for parking
- There will be riots on Allen Parkway if signals are added!
- Neighborhood access needs to be considered/enhanced
- Lot H (COH public parking lot) should be utilized more for parking
 - We should optimize/advertise existing parking facilities
- We need to look for cooperative parking solutions with neighborhood land owners/ business
- Coordinate with the Livable Centers Initiative
- Bus/shuttle staging areas should be incorporated

June 29, 2010

- Access from Washington should be considered/enhanced
- Link between Shepherd and Memorial Park is very important
 - This is a long distance route for runners and bikers.
- Need to better link and coordinate circulation/recreation trail system initiatives of neighboring communities
- There should be an educational component; interpretive signage of site history, ecology, etc...
- Parking garage at Gillette could be considered
 - There are currently parking issues at adjacent neighborhoods during festival/events
 - North Montrose needs parking relief during festivals/events
- There are opportunities for parking south of Allen Parkway
- Festival parking problems on north side of bayou in the Old Sixth Ward
- Need structured public parking with pedestrian access and handicap accessible connections to bayou.
- Incorporate shuttle bus connections to downtown parking facilities
- There is a major need for increased weekday parking
- Incorporate transit solutions in place of increased parking

ENVIRONMENT

June 28, 2010

- There are Bacteria / water quality issues in Buffalo Bayou that need to be addressed
 - dog parks are a contributor to these issues
- Wetlands should be incorporated to help clean water flowing into Buffalo Bayou
- Difficulties for property owners during the Permitting process for construction of slope stabilization measures results in increased soil erosion
- Erosion control measures need to be addressed
- Interpretive Educational component should be incorporated
- Can we sell excess silt?

June 29, 2010

- What Water Quality measures are being considered?
- Plan should preserve the 'green' character and wildlife habitat of the bayou corridor.
 - Impact of increased usage a major concern
- Smaller trees important for habitat (in addition to larger ones)
- Should consider National Historic Heritage designation for Buffalo Bayou (for heritage tourism)
- Need to monitor construction projects for trash/dumping in the bayou (observed by park user)
- Existing Memorial Drive median guardrail is ugly

DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE

June 28, 2010

- City of Houston Planning and Development needs to be involved in process
- Maintenance agreements with local agencies need to be established
 - Fourthwardlivablecenters.com
- No café/ restaurant

June 29, 2010

- Retain clover-leaf at Waugh Drive
- Restaurant/Café – yes votes (majority)
- Café-no- Don't compromise mission of plan or the 'green' character of site
- Consider the formation of a management district to ensure maintenance
- Encourage adjacent development projects to connect or 'open-up' to Buffalo Bayou
- Share parking with adjacent mixed use development