Schwarz Pond Park Redesign Analysis and Improvement Plan

Overview of Analysis

Current Amenities:
- Parking
- Skate Park
- Fishing Pier
- Playground
- Pond and Nature Area
- Walking Trails

Key Issues:
- Lack of public transit near Schwarz Park
- Limited lighting at night decreases visibility and introduces safety concerns
- Pond is in poor condition and overrun with invasive species
- Existing prairie grass and land conditions vary and are challenging to maintain

Access and linkage, lighting, and safety:
- Provide approved inlets along residential property line to provide connection between the park and the neighborhood.
- Implement handicap-accessible pathways throughout the park.
- Improve lighting by lining pathways with solar-powered lights.
- Install bus stops along Connemara Trail to provide public transit in proximity to Schwarz Park.

Community gathering enhancements:
- Install a disc golf course to better utilize the large space.
- Introduce a dog park as an additional functional use of the large space and a community gathering space.
- Add sculptures or other community art to the park to create a sense of community pride.

Functional amenities to be added:
- Off-leash dog park
- Disc golf course
- Sculptures and other forms of community art
- Solar-powered lights lining trails
- Bus stops near Schwarz Pond Park
- Informational Signage

Ecological Functions:
- Add informational signage detailing the existing ecosystem of native prairie grasses.
- Increase ecological diversity by introducing structural habitats for various critters and nurturing the current ecosystem of trees and grasses.
- Improve pond quality and rid park of invasive species.
- Attempt to decrease variance in grasses for maintenance purposes.

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Table:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HELPFUL (for your objective)</th>
<th>HARMFUL (for your objective)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths</td>
<td>Weaknesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>62 acres of park space to utilize</td>
<td>Existing prairie grass requires more maintenance than typical grass</td>
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<td>Large pond with sufficient buffer</td>
<td>Too much variance in land conditions complicates the planning process</td>
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<td>Extensive trail system and open skate park</td>
<td>Lack of public transit or sufficient linkage to potential visitors</td>
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<td>Current existing natural environment supports a variety of ecosystem types and provides habitat for wildlife</td>
<td>Limited night visibility decreases safety</td>
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<td>Opportunities</td>
<td>Threats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central location and large size increases potential to become new city center</td>
<td>Lack of public interest and support</td>
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<td>Addition of spatially large functions</td>
<td>Poor quality of the pond</td>
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<td>Introduce structures of that promote resideny of birds and wildlife</td>
<td>Patrons of the park may damage ecosystems</td>
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<td>Space potential to utilized as a host site to public city events</td>
<td>Invasive plants and aquatic species</td>
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Overall, Schwarz Pond Park has immense potential to become Rosemount’s new city center. However, with its large size and varying land conditions, it is hard to maintain this park. The park needs something that functionally occupies large space while providing many benefits and uses to the community. It also needs adequate lighting to improve the current safety conditions.

Diagram:

As a group, we divided the park redesign process into several categories: placemaking and community engagement, access and linkage, lighting and safety, community gathering enhancements, and ecological functions. We conducted a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis for each area, and then combined the information into an overall SWOT analysis. We compiled all of the information into a final report, which summarizes the goals in each area and recommended approaches to achieve these goals.