Biscayne Park

URBS 3751

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Objective

This project was conducted by the URBS 3751: Understanding the Urban Environment class at the University of Minnesota, with the purpose of assessing existing amenities and proposing improvements to the Rosemount park system.
Park Overview

- 3.08 Acres
- Playground equipment
- Bike parking
- Community garden
- Portajohn
- Picnic tables
Existing Assets & Features:

KEY

- Current parking options
- Playground equipment
- Community garden
- Green space / space available for amenity additions
- CAP Agency & parking
# SWOT Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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| • Community Garden strengthens local bonds  
• Access to Portajohn  
• Tree shading over benches  
• Proximity to residents | • Lack of connectivity to greater community trail system  
• Utilities available at park  
• Outdated bicycle parking  
• Limited activities |

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<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
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| • Enhance trail linkages  
• Improve park landscape  
• Install charcoal grill near picnic area  
• Coordinate activities in open green space  
• Lighting in park | • People don’t know when they can use CAP agency parking lot  
• Too noisy for local residents  
• Changes to park may disturb neighbors |
Exciting Opportunities

• Expanding the community garden
  – Demand by local residents has exceeded available gardening plots
• Install lighted pathway around park
  – Intended to improve access and connectivity with neighborhood

Photo credit: Alexandra Paurus
### Team Roles

Each team was tasked with researching best practices, existing assets and challenges, and recommending changes and rationales for their specific role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Making and Community Engagement</th>
<th>Community Gathering Enhancements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal is to analyze best practices for placemaking and recommendations on community engagement</td>
<td>Goal is to assess, improve and or add recreation functions.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Access and Linkage, Lighting and Safety</th>
<th>Ecological Functions</th>
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<td>Goal is to increase usage of the park by creating safe access points, trails and amenities within the site to encourage usage.</td>
<td>Goal is to add environmentally-friendly amenities as well as enhance the sustainability of existing ones.</td>
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Place Making and Community Engagement

4 Placemaking Principles Incorporated

● Triangulate
● Community Engagement
● Have a Vision
● Start Small
Overview of Plans

**Short term plan:**

1) **Expand community garden plot**
   
   - to accommodate the increase in demand

2) **Replace + add bike racks**
   
   - to minimize complications & promote bikeability

3) **Rain barrels / storm water collection**
   
   water can be collected for many uses including for the community garden

4) **Recycling / composting**
   
   positive environmental impact

5) **Addition of picnic shelter**
   
   (1 grill, 2-4 picnic tables)

**Long term plan**

1) **Implement bike trail & add:**
   
   Trees & native grass species
   
   - create sound barrier, beautify parkscape, increase vegetation
   
   Park benches
   
   - transform corridor space into potential destination
   
   Additional lighting
   
   - motion sensored & solar powered

2) **Water fountain**
Phase 1 - Short Term

Short Term Recommendations & Opportunities:

KEY

- Replacement / addition of bike racks
- Community garden + compost
- Picnic shelter + grill, tables, & storm water collection
- New signage throughout park
- Additional solar power lighting throughout entire park
Access and Linkage, Lighting and Safety: **Short Term**

- Enhance and increase bike parking near playground
  - Promotes bikeability and healthy lifestyle
  - Less need for cars
Access and Linkage, Lighting and Safety: Short Term

- Implement solar-powered lighting around playground and pavilion/picnic area
  - Nighttime safety
  - Surveillance opportunity for neighbors

Access and Linkage, Lighting and Safety: **Short Term**

- Improve signage
  - New signage at front of park to welcome pedestrians and bikers
  - Signage for vehicles including park location
  - Location of parking areas
  - Broader map to show relative locations of other city parks.

https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/c5/1d/ae/c51daec995a6c951f9649635e554f4b9.jpg

Community Gathering Enhancements: Short Term

- Implement picnic shelter
  - Creates destination place
  - Additional shade
  - Reservable for large groups
    - http://www.cityofroseville.com/1133/Shelters

- Establish Grill space
  - Increases park’s recreational attributes
  - Prolongs stay in park
  - requested by interviewed residents
Ecological Functions: Short Term

• Expand the community garden
  – Allows more people to get involved in the garden
  – Increases awareness and respect for the environment
  – Opportunity for education
Ecological Functions: **Short Term**

- Add compost and recycling bins
  - Promote practice throughout community

- Implement storm water collection
  - Used for watering garden

[Sources: http://www.planetnatural.com/composter-connection/making/composting-at-home/
http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/stormwater/toolkit/rainbarrels.html]
Phase 2 - Long Term

Proposed Recommendations & Opportunities:

Following success of the short term proposal, these additions are intended to increase popularity of the park further and ensure its longevity in the community.
Access and Linkage, Lighting and Safety: Long Term

- Install pathway around park
  - Increases access to all areas of park
  - Promotes walking, healthy and active lifestyle
- Solar-powered lights alongside path
  - Nighttime safety
  - Motion sensors to reduce light pollution

Community Gathering Enhancements: Long Term

- Add Basket Ball Hoop
  - Encourages activity of all ages
  - Safe and low maintenance solution
  - No park is complete without a basketball court

- Establish Bike Path
  - Increases connectivity to greater park system
  - Promotes alternate way to get to Biscayne
Ecological Functions: Long Term

- Recycled rubber for the path
  - Collects runoff
  - Resistant to cracking and freezing
  - Strong and durable
  - Easy installation

http://www.porouspaveinc.com/
Ecological Functions: Long Term

• Plant native vegetation
  – Trees, prairie grasses, and flowers
  – Both around the park as a whole and;
  – Lining the path, providing a barrier between residences and the park

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html
Access and Linkage, Lighting and Safety

• Place a pathway around park
  – Increase access to all areas of park
• Install solar powered lights along the park’s path
  – Implement motion sensors with lighting to reduce light pollution.
• Implement lighting around the pavilion and playground

http://prephappy.com/prepping/6-ways-to-hack-outdoor-solar-lights-for-survival/
Thank you for listening!