

ATTENDEE COMMENTS
PRICE - STILESBORO PROPERTY PUBLIC INPUT MEETING #2
7/31/2019

Initial comments from Mr. Gisi, and the park designer:

- No development funding has been identified, but completing this master planning process will save significant time when funding becomes available.
- This would be a passive park, e.g. no organized sports or sports fields. In fact, we have heard this message loud and clear at all of our bond property meetings.
- Description of the plan, and its natural division into four quadrants.
- The Arboretum Trail area will be like a tree museum for west Cobb. It can also include a native plant rescue area.
- Request at the earlier meeting for a natural material playground
- Roadside monuments or plantings will create an identity for the park, like at the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park, signaling to drivers that this is an activity area, and to slow down.

Public Comments:

- What are the cross streets near the property?
 - Mars Hill Road to the west, Acworth Due West to the east
- When comparing natural surface versus concrete surface trails, which is more expensive to maintain?
 - Natural surface is less expensive to install, more expensive to maintain
 - Concrete is much more expensive to install, less expensive to maintain
- Have you considered an overhead pedestrian bridge?
 - An interesting option
- Is Stilesboro Road too busy for a cross walk, or a pedestrian crossing of any kind?
 - We will work to make this as safe as possible, with visual cues that will let drivers know that they are in a park setting, a HAWK crossing, other options.
- Enhance the crossing under the current roadway bridge
- Install a sidewalk along Stilesboro Road
- Is there enough demand for all of these bike trails?
 - Every indication is that there is, yes.
- Daily trail direction changes, bikes in one direction, hikers in the opposite direction
 - This helps, but not enough
 - We will have separate trails for bikers and hikers
- The new development on Mars Hill Road, will it have a connection to the park?
 - Yes, this was a zoning stipulation for the subdivision
- Can a family ride peacefully on these bike trails?
 - Yes, some are suited for beginner to intermediate riders
- You can start to develop trails now
- The plan shows four quadrants, with bikes on the two northern quadrants, and hikers on the two southern quadrants. We recommend switching it to have the bikes to the west of the creek and hikers to the east.

- We will certainly consider this change
- Request a loop trail, around the entire perimeter
 - A loop trail will require two stream crossing bridges, but a great idea
- Does the open play area on the plan exist now?
 - No
- No fenced in dog park please
- Approach the development of the park in phases. Request to include a bike path from the existing parking lot heading west parallel to Stilesboro for access to the path under the bridge.
- Others pointed out that a trail already exists there, but would need to be widened and perhaps fortified with gravel.
- Any size parking lot on the north side will be welcome. Can start with a gravel surface.
- Lights in the current parking lot are too bright, and shine into the woods.
- What size is the proposed pavilion?
 - 20' by 30', big enough for 8 to 10 picnic tables
- Is there enough demand for such a large pavilion?
 - Yes, we believe that there is or will be.
- Make the pavilion smaller
- Sometimes it's better if there are more visitors. There may be some anxiety to go into the park if there are too few cars in the lot.
- Restroom on the north side is a good idea
- Pavilion is necessary for safety in storms, and for shade
- Will parking lot accommodate school buses?
 - Yes
- This will be an opportunity for eagle scout projects
- Will bikes overwhelm the park when Allatoona Creek is closed in hunting season?
 - Probably not, because the trails here are much shorter, and many of the Allatoona Creek riders come for the long trail rides.
- Provide wayfinding signs telling riders about other bike trails in the area
- Will the future Allatoona Creek Greenway be all on one side of the creek or will it cross?
 - At this point, the greenway is just a proposal, no firm routing plans have been created
- Will the power company take exception to bikers under the power lines?
 - No, they have no problem with it. We just can't build any permanent structures there.
 - Also, the property is owned by the County, and the power lines are on an easement
- Exiting the new parking lot on the south side is dangerous, not enough sight lines
 - The new alignment was approved by the DOT, and while not perfect, it is far safer than it was before
- County could install automatic "Car Approaching" lights/signage to warn pedestrians trying to cross Stilesboro.
- Many people raised their hands when asked "Have you been to the property? Will you use it"? It's a great plan, and look forward to seeing it built.
- There is an "art gallery" under the bridge.
- What is the schedule for funding this park?
 - There is no identified funding source

- This planning process will include an Opinion of Probable Cost report, that will help our leaders to know how much will be needed.
- We can donate money to get it started
- Will Cobb DOT know about this plan if they were to widen Stilesboro Road?
 - Yes
- There are willing volunteers ready to get started soon
 - The BOC must approve the plan first, and any volunteer activity must be approved by the PARKS department.
- Phase the development
- There are unique plant communities on site that must be protected
- Where is my swimming hole?
- Please install one or two bocce courts either or at Kemp
- Put shades on lights on existing parking lot
- What is the timeline?
 - In the future
- Is there room to expand the planned parking lot beyond the 80 spaces shown”
 - Yes
- How far can one walk in the new property now?
 - All over the property, but be careful
- Please work towards eliminating the kudzu that has started to grow before it becomes established.
- Recommend that future bike trails be built by certified trail builders and plans submitted for prior public viewing

PARKS will send a notice when the final draft plan is to be presented to the Recreation Board.