

Planning & Development

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Ideas and details for Zone Rec master plan

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Submitted by Marc Lefkowitz | Last edited November 15, 2007 - 11:40am

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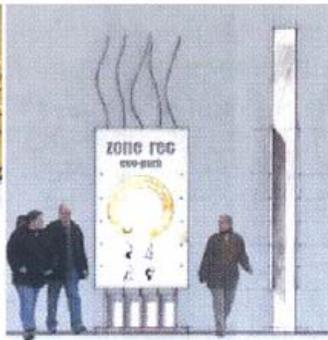
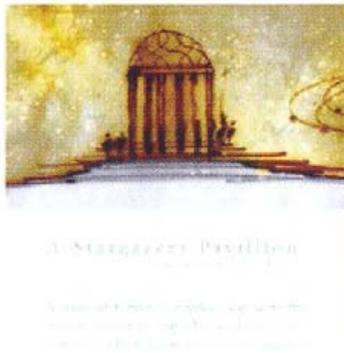
The master plan strikes a balance between two vocal groups in the community: those interested in active recreation and those seeking an environmentally balanced & proactive approach to park planning.



Active recreation on the site takes the form of baseball, softball, basketball, soccer and tennis courts and fields, as well as a play area and skate park. The relocated active recreation now surrounds the recreation center to take advantage of the center's facilities and to minimize the need for duplication of facilities, such as restrooms, on site. Runoff from these hard surface and lawn areas is collected into the stormwater retention system and runs through biofiltration swales and into constructed wet meadows and woods.

Historical maps dating back to 1896 were used to gain an understanding of the site's ecology, both man-made and natural, leading up to the present day. The master plan uses, as a defining element, a portion of the original street pattern that existed on the site as a central promenade and connector to nearby transit services.

Flanking the promenade and suggesting the historic house sites are a pavilion, gardens, play areas, orchards, and interpretive environmental education features such as solar and wind power exhibits and edible landscapes.



A key goal of the project was to retain a large portion of the stormwater on-site. Progressive stormwater retention and management techniques such as rain gardens, biofiltration swales, and permeable pavement will be implemented and interpreted on the site. Parking and other hard surfaces, roof drains and lawn areas run through a series of biofiltration swales and intermittent rain gardens. The swales feed shallow ponds located along the south portion of the site and will be planted with wetland, wet meadow and lowland woods species of plants and animals.

Three wind turbines located along I-90 will serve as a beacon and icon for the EcoVillage neighborhood. Open meadows on the eastern portion of the site will reduce the need for mowing yet serve as an informal playfield. Loop paths and boardwalks will run along and through the shallow pond areas. Interpretive signage will be used to tell the story of the environmental restoration of the site and now nearby homeowners can incorporate the techniques on a smaller scale.

Environmental art was integrated into the design process at every step. Environmental graphics and wayfinders will relate the history and environmental reconstruction of the site.

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