

Negley Run Watershed Task Force

October 29, 2020

See the Zoom Chat Below for attendance.

Liberty Green/River Roots

Paul Martinich – Liberty Green portion is almost finished. They are waiting for a water feature piece. River roots end is looking good. The park will be finished by Thanksgiving.

Art place funded Liberty Green – Malik's thoughts on an opening / dedication of River Roots. There is focus on water and there are a couple of ideas of how we might extend and create space making in that community as part of the ongoing effort around River Roots project. Even as the work around the NRW starts to take shape. Next year, spring 2021 will convene a meeting of the LWL / River Roots team will get together. Art Place will close out at the end of this year. There are clever ideas around that program – Allegheny College seminar at the Seminary. Malik would speak with Alicia Wormsley about extending that work as well. We will have a fruitful discussion and how to extend it and keep it going.

If we want to organize in the spring – open it up to other folks in the NRWTF – and then have more activities in 2021. Malik is interested in a performance program at River Roots to connect to water. There is a water affinity group meeting during the Art Place American conference.

The Water Alliance has retained its first water in residency. He could get added to the list.

Larimer Orchard

Workday in the Larimer Orchard in partnership with Fruit Tree Planting Foundation. Ashley Kybers' rain catchers have been installed. Not sure if they are fully functioning yet but will check on that.

Lincoln Lemington Projects

Dana Fowler, Shaman Pomaj, and Joanne Tippet

1. Lincoln Ave at Verona Rd – Ashley Kyber might work on this. Trying to seek funds for her to do a water fountain.
2. Chadwick project was pushed back a little bit. A water catchment system will be done with aircrete. It's in line with permaculture. Pomaj was going to start growing this year but they found out they removed the water pipes in that area and so were not able to start that process. They will grow food next year, 2021.
3. First national negro house – successful in applying for state funds. They will revisit that next year. Love thy neighbor grant – clear away debris from the site.
4. Want to work with kids to improve the Lincoln Ave corridor – trash pick-ups and debris removal.
5. Joanne – Lincoln Lemington neighborhood plan is about to start. There will be a survey to ask who experiences flooding in the neighborhood.

Westinghouse Park

Vivian Schaeffer – N. Pt. Breeze – Tree Pgh had done a tree survey in Westinghouse Park. Considering pursuing designation for the park as an arboretum. The city has developed some criteria for city owned parks designated as arboreta. They're still looking into it.

Also substantially complete for listing the park as a significant historic designation. Determination of eligibility for listing on the national register of historic places. Federal designation but moved forward at the state level to the State Historic Preservation Office application.

N Pt Breeze is getting community engagement contracts. N. PT. Breeze will come to this group for ideas and info – they'll bring times for NRWTF to engage around the park!

Damon Weiss - Homewood Field consultants are getting under contract. Westinghouse Park and Homewood Field should be connected. Its not at all accessible. Hopefully be able to drop off at sports practice and then go over the bridge to Westinghouse Park. Long range hope that these 2 parks become an amenity for all the communities. Pt Breeze, N. Pt. Breeze, and Homewood. Has the potential to be a cultural center for the neighborhood. Damon at Ethos want to talk with people about the bridge and the other park project.

The RR is an interesting barrier – look to the approaches and not necessarily the bridge across the RR.

Should we have design session at the NRWTF for Westinghouse Park and Homewood Field?

PWSA projects

Ryan Quinn provides up date for:

Thomas McPherson Blvds – had several community meetings and is at 90% design. Permit review is happening. Construction will happen at the start of next year. It will create storage under the median, also permeable paver alleys. 1 year construction timeline.

<https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/search-all-projects/thomas-mcpherson-stormwater-project>

Fleury Way – no drainage in an alley. Will be constructed next year in Homewood.

RAND NR Report update

Report was published on Monday 10/26; Research brief was published today – 10/29

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RBA564-1.html

RAND will have conversations with many groups as an imp next step. Jordan requested that the NRWTF read the report and / or research brief and send feedback and thoughts to him.

An immediate next step – there is a lot more data that RAND is sitting on. Hoping to share more data through visual interactions on LWPgh. www.livingwaterspgh.org

RAND is wondering how to incorporate more visual interactions – feel free to give Jordan feedback about this.

Joanne – likes the report. Daylighting – is a central concept for the visioning for lower Highland Park – bring natural flows back to the surface.

How do we support the recommendations – circle back and talk about the recommendations especially ones that are directed to the Task Force. Some are most applicable to Agency folks and some that are best for the NRWTF. This will be put onto the January agenda.

Little Negley Run at Larimer Park

There will be a Water Walk in Negley Run in November

Larimer has been thinking about water issues for at least 20 years

- Larimer Community Plan
- Larimer Vision Plan
- Living Cities Masterplan
- Choice Neighborhoods

LWOL goals – make sure that water is appreciated

Many reports that are the basis of the group and transitioned into the NRWTF.

Engineering analysis to separate stormwater and improve park by the river. Started by looking at all of NR and then focused on the lower part. Community Visions are feeding into the engineering work.

Some of what is happening at LNR@LP like the mouth of Negley Run vision.

Joe Hackett – growth in Larimer - housing.

Little Negley Run at Larimer Park Project Goals

1. Understand and document community's desires and elements in the park
2. Assess existing conditions to id opportunities and challenges
3. Understand how to make it real
4. Create a plan to get it done.

The real backbone of the work is how the neighborhood progresses and how the water follows.

Tim Nuttle and ecology – his firm, CEC looked at vegetation composition and what it could be in the future. Tim found seeps by the Meadow St bridge. There is potential to capture groundwater and into a stream. Also found across Negley Run Blvd. – a lot of water there. There are also rock outcrops and potential vistas with the potential for a path.

Looked at the vegetation of the site. Might be potential for creating a water channel. There are potential landslides. There will be a geotechnical boring to investigate how to put in new stairs.

Zone B will eventually become a park – WRT started this and we want to take this a bit further. What should zone b accomplish. It should be an interconnected park and open space system. Have all green spaces become connected? Zone B can also convey stormwater and take it into the site. Also strengthening the connection to the other parks and even to HP to the north. Movement slide and how might need to improve sidewalks.

Park could be bigger because Auburn St will stay where it is. Previous thoughts have a trail, a stream, overlooks.

Can't unbury the stream, but can add water to it and pay homage to the stream.

Opportunities around stormwater create guiding strategies – have open space to provide recreational and economic benefits. Opportunities to introduce variety of GI solutions to the park – subsurface storage or rain gardens.

There are existing storm inlets and catch basins and contribute to overloading of the system. Can disconnect these points and slow the water down and drain to LNR. From there connect additional pieces to LNR Park to where the Army Corps is pulling the plug from the bathtub and allowing to outlet to the river.

Watersheds that drain to the park should share the costs of stormwater improvements.

Then reconsider reconnecting from onsite management and then to the CSO but to LNR instead.

Can weave Meadow Street microshed to the LNR feature as well?

The total area is large and could connect all the way to the river. Take a chunk out of the flood problems along Washington Blvd.

This will connect pedestrians through the whole area.

Will have a watershed walk in Nov and get additional feedback.

Project 15206 also occurred across the road. There are other places to connect to.

Can the stream be daylighted?

Record your answers to these 3 questions here!

- 1) What are the top 3 things you want to see in Zone B park?
- 2) What are the biggest opportunities in creating this park?
- 3) What are the biggest challenges in creating this park?

Malik recommended that there should be some level familiarity of what went into the park visioning in the first place. What were the original park program intentions for the entirety of the park via Zone A, B, and C? Within this effort, there should be an easily understood narrative especially around water from those projects and into Little Negley Run at Larimer Park. Whatever was accomplished in Section A and A' should be part of this LNR@Larimer Park work. There was a lot of discussion around how River Roots and / or Liberty Green were functioning for people. Also, is it a local or a regional amenity.

Zinna Scott – there have been many ideas from the community from the start and their ideas must be a part of it. Otherwise its not a good effort to community relations. There are now people living in that area. Zinna Scott is standing on a table top screaming that there should be community input.

This type of presentation could be given to LCG and Donna Jackson / Harriet Tubman Guild leadership.

Dana Fowler – in agreement with Ms. Scott and Mr. Malik about how this is impacting the people in the neighborhood. How did outreach happen? There should be outreach to the Harriet Tubman building. Dana is a stakeholder and member of the BOD. This is the first time she is hearing about the park. Have people walking and behind this building day and night. What kind of park is it?

Zinna – how to engage the people in the area that should be included. They will be affected and with kids and are living there. Zinna is talking about the new residents. How best to reach out to that community? Zinna has someone to reach out to. John will connect with her.

Is there a way to do some type of presentation to the residents there and pull that off too. Help the NRWTF about how to do that. This could be turned into an opportunity to complement the landscaping of the HTG behind as well.

Dana – right now everyone is quarantined – that makes this harder.

When they finish the walk – share zoom footage and the manager can show people how to get on.

Include the HTG BOD. The residents are not interested, they will not be going behind the building.

Malik – look holistically at the neighborhood and at what has been accomplished and what can be accomplished. Across Meadow Street is another recreation green space and yet another consideration to be taken up; what happens with this parcel? Another recreation space is the playground and field. And the adjacent basketball court was also renovated and dedicated. They all become part of the picture and the Negley Run Watershed Task Force should keep in mind what happens with this space. These are not freestanding projects; they are part of a narrative / discussion / inspiration.

Use the word community – because its community also across the street on Larimer Ave the Green Initiative is doing something there. The Village Green – that site is 95% complete.

Should include community amenities / parks in the maps and discussion

How does the park sit within the network of parks in the neighborhoods?

Monday 11/2 at 3 PM at EcoCenter. Monday, Nov 2, 3pm to 5pm meet at ECCO Center, 200 Larimer AVE (Facade program walk)

This is the first bit of outreach

Would Zinna please tell us who to speak with from the community?

On the water walk, consider walking as far down as the BB court to see all the improvements.

One Walk options would be to go on Lenora St above the valley, to the BB courts and back Larimer Ave.

John will set up smaller meetings with the community.

January 28th next NRWTF meeting – RAND recommendations and LNR outreach.

Zoom Saved Chat below

- 17:55:55 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA : Welcome everyone!
- 17:56:08 From Lauren Terpak : Lauren Terpak - ms consultants, inc.
- 17:56:08 From info@evolveEA.com : Claudia Saladin, Evolve
- 17:56:25 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA : Roll call! Please list your name and organization in the chat box here :)
- 17:56:39 From rebeccamizikar : Rebecca Mizikar, Grounded Strategies
- 17:56:45 From Josh Jedlicka : Josh Jedlicka - Wade Trim...I'm joining at the invite of Dave Anthony, who may also join in
- 17:58:04 From Damon Weiss : Damon Weiss, Ethos Collaborative
- 17:58:07 From Paul Martinchich : Paul Martinchich URA
- 17:58:14 From Erin Copeland : Erin Copeland, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- 17:58:33 From Elijah Hughes, evolveEA [he/him] : Elijah Hughes, evolve environment::architecture (evolveEA)
- 17:58:34 From Tim Nuttle : Tim Nuttle, ecologist with CEC
- 17:59:26 From Dana Fowler : Dana Fowler, Lincoln/Lemington Green& Beautification Team
- 17:59:31 From Jordan Fischbach : Jordan Fischbach, RAND Corporation
- 17:59:48 From Stephanie Walsh : Stephanie Walsh, Highland Park Community Council
- 17:59:57 From Phillip Wu : Phillip Wu, Department of City Planning, City of Pittsburgh
- 18:00:19 From John Stephen : John Stephen, NRWTF
- 18:00:22 From Joe : Joe Hackett, LaQuatra Bonci Associates
- 18:00:48 From Oliver : Oliver Morrison, PublicSource
- 18:01:04 From Brenda Smith : Brenda Smith, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
- 18:01:59 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA : If you're just joining us, welcome! Please list your name and organization in the chat if you haven't yet
- 18:02:38 From susanrademacher : Susan Rademacher, Foreground
- 18:03:08 From Erin Copeland to susanrademacher(Privately) : Is that your firm's new name?

18:03:54 From Anna Leisher - Riverlife : Anna Leisher, Riverlife

18:06:41 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA : If anyone has questions or comments throughout the meeting, feel free to type them in the chat here and we will address them.

18:12:59 From susanrademacher to Erin Copeland(Privately) : Think so — what do you think?

18:18:42 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : Great news about the grants! Congrats!

18:19:00 From susanrademacher : Will the project include the Opera House grounds, with respect to both stormwater and historic landscape restiratuib?

18:19:17 From susanrademacher : “restoration”

18:22:01 From Erin Copeland : Viv, could you please repeat the historic designation

18:23:30 From Erin Copeland : Thanks, just trying to be accurate for the notes!

18:30:05 From Viv : Erin it's the Determination of Eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

18:30:37 From Jordan Fischbach : https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RBA564-1.html

18:34:27 From Dana Fowler : Hello Mailik I have not. 412
-478-4528 is my cell.

18:35:49 From Tim Nuttle : Daylighting = to open up to daylight something that was previously buried underground

18:38:54 From Dana Fowler : dana.fowler@att.net is email and yes call me in the morning.

18:40:47 From Dana Fowler : susan yes, to opera house question

18:42:32 From susanrademacher : Excellent!

18:55:09 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : Any questions about the history or want clarification??

18:56:00 From Oliver : I have to get off now. But just wanted everyone to know that Probably about two weeks after the election I’m going to be writing a kind of check in piece about the place of GI in the city/area. If you have thoughts/ideas/news and would like to chat either on the record or on background, my email is Oliver@publicsource.org and if you are worried about privacy or want extra encryption you can reach me on Signal on my cell phone at 206 643 9731.

18:57:23 From Dana Fowler : How does this affect the Harriet Tubman Terrace Bldg?

19:01:54 From Tim Nuttle : Hi Dana, the park is adjacent to the Harriet Tubman apartments building but not on that property. Thus the plan is essentially to provide a park next to the apartments that would benefit people living there as well as other residents and visitors.

19:07:30 From Erin Copeland : Could we put an image back up to the screen for people to look at some more?

19:08:45 From Viv : Did I understand you to say that it's not possible to daylight the stream? What are the barriers to that? Or did I misunderstand that? (There's background noise here.)

19:11:27 From Paul Martinchich : i cannot do the 21st, other days are ok. the poll isnt coming up on my screen

19:13:06 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : alright, closing the poll soon. get your answers in!

19:13:43 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : Thanks for your note, Paul. We will add it to our notes in the combined forces.

19:17:49 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : Record your answers to these 3 questions here!

19:18:01 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : 1) What are the top 3 things you want to see in Zone B park?

19:18:13 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : 2) What are the biggest opportunities in creating this park?

19:18:27 From Nicole Catino, evolveEA [she/her] : 3) What are the biggest challenges in creating this park?

19:20:38 From Elijah Hughes, evolveEA [he/him] : 1) Top 3: Water conveyance; new Meadow Street staircase; and park amenities like benches, picnic tables, or exercise equipment. 2) Biggest opportunity: New connections for the neighborhood. 3) Biggest challenge: Interagency coordination and financing.

19:21:13 From susanrademacher : 1) Top 3: A healthy ecology throughout; a trail system; and overlooks/gathering spaces.

19:24:34 From susanrademacher : 2) Integrating the movement of water and people through a natural area. 3) Longterm management with support of multiple stakeholders

19:26:14 From Tim Nuttle : Viv in answer to your question, I don't think anyone said we could not daylight the stream. Yes, it's challenging, but I personally think it would be wonderful if we can. One issue is that it is not clear at this time how much water we can deliver to the top end of the site near the River Roots park.

19:26:58 From Jordan Fischbach : 1) Top 3: stormwater capture and conveyance; safe pedestrian and bike access; neighborhood connection to Highland Park; 2) biggest opportunity: connecting separated stormwater upstream to the downstream system; 3) coordination, funding, and maintenance as additional increments are added

19:27:05 From Paul Martinchich : WHAT ABOUT PARKING??? ;-)

19:29:25 From Viv : Thanks Tim!

19:31:00 From Phillip Wu : 1) The top 3 things to see would be to see accessible areas for elderly and disabled residents, at least a small area of open space on the plateau for somewhat active recreation, and benches along the trail. 2) The biggest opportunities are the creation of additional green space for residents who don't have easy access to it and the management of stormwater runoff to mitigate flooding. 3) The biggest challenge is ensuring that the park meets the needs of people in the community

-- the park should be able to meet the watershed's ecological needs while also being a welcoming place for residents (should not just be attractive to people living outside of the neighborhood).

19:35:19 From Elijah Hughes, evolveEA [he/him] : Great discussion everyone! Looking forward to the water walk. It is exciting to see how these planning projects have built upon each other. I need to sign off, have a great evening!

19:36:22 From Viv : Top 3: I don't live in the neighborhood so my top 3 should be secondary to those who do. I'd like to see the park invite neighborhood kids to explore nature and to play. I'd love for residents to be able to learn about the park's role in the watershed, in a fun way. It's important for the park to be an asset for the people who live nearby.

19:36:31 From Erin Copeland : Please say the date again Paul

19:38:36 From Paul Martinchich : Monday, Nov 2, 3pm to 5pm meet at ECCO Center, 200 Larimer Ave (Facade program walk)

19:39:58 From Jordan Fischbach : Great work! Thanks everyone.