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# Acknowledgements

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Abner Clay Park is a neighborhood park in Historic Jackson Ward that occupies a portion of the block bounded by Brooks Road, Clay Street, Leigh Street, and Adams Street. Current park amenities include a tot lot, tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and an “urban plaza” with a covered gazebo. The park is surrounding primarily by residences and civic institutions such as churches and schools. Immediately adjacent to the park are basketball courts and the former Armstrong High School, which is now the Adult Career Development Center (ACDC). Ebenezer Baptist Church and the First Battalion Armory of the Virginia Volunteers (now vacant) overlook into the open field from Leigh Street. The Virginia Fire and Police Museum, Bojangles Monument, and the Black History and Cultural Center of Virginia are all just one block away from the park.

The plaza-like section of the Abner Clay Park near the intersection of Brooks Road and Clay Street, is currently underutilized. All seating was removed to deter unwanted loitering. Unfortunately, this leaves residents with no place to sit and enjoy the space informally on a day-to-day basis, or during more programmed special events. The plaza area serves as a meeting place, a starting point for tours, and a location for some neighborhood events such as the health fair. Other spaces in the park are undefined or uninviting and attract undesirable activity.

The Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) was asked by the Historic Jackson Ward Association (HJWA) to develop a conceptual master plan for Abner Clay Park. The entire block enclosed by Brook Road, Clay Street, Leigh Street, and Adams Street was included in the design study area. Recommendations were made on methods to enhance pedestrian connectivity, accentuate neighborhood gateways, and elevate the level of public pride and ownership of the space through planting, materials and other design features that better reflect the character and charm of Jackson Ward. With the help of the Historic Jackson Ward Association and City staff, the CDAC team worked to prepare a conceptual master plan that enables Abner Clay Park to better serve the neighborhood. The map on the following page provides a sense of context for historic Jackson Ward and the Abner Clay Park site.
Jackson Ward

Jackson Ward is a historically black neighborhood that at one time was known as the "Harlem of the South." A center for black commerce and entertainment, it was frequented by the likes of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Lena Horne, Cab Calloway, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole and James Brown. Some Richmond residents have bought homes in Jackson Ward to renovate and resell in order to live in a historic area and receive the cultural character of the neighborhood. Each first Friday of the month, 1st Fridays Artwalk is held all night on Broad Street, Art Galleries open their doors to an outdoor party that includes live music, including Jazz and Salsa. Local restaurants, bars and coffee shops serve customers who come to the 1st Fridays Art Walk.

Broad St. District

The Broad Street district is significant to Richmond due to the many commercial establishments that have been built along it throughout Richmond's history. Commercial corridors, many of which are located in the city's downtown, are defined by their geographic position and the nature of their trade. The Richmond historic district is a geographic area that includes all of Richmond's historic commercial corridors and their adjacent neighborhoods. The district includes the West Broad Street, West Broad Street South, and West Broad Street North districts.

Court End

Court End is a neighborhood in Richmond, Virginia that sits to the north of the Capitol Square and East Broad Street. Except for museums, most of the area is goldilocks, as Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia campus is a primary landmark in the area, as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia and City of Richmond.

Monroe Ward

Monroe Ward is an historic neighborhood in Downtown Richmond. It is East of the Fan district and includes several apartment buildings, usually with VCU students living in them. Recently, VCU expanded its Monroe Park campus into the Monroe Ward with the Engineering East/Need Hall building, as well as an under construction residence hall and parking deck.

Downtown Richmond

Downtown Richmond refers to a business district of Richmond, Virginia. The downtown area contains many notable buildings and institutions such as the James Monroe Building, VCU Medical Center, The American Civil War Center at Tredegar Iron Works, the Library of Virginia, Richmond Convention Center, and the Coliseum.
Historic Jackson Ward

“Jackson Ward is one of Richmond’s most valuable and significant neighborhoods. It was here that Bill “Bojangles” Robinson danced, Duke Ellington played, and generations of African Americans worked in what was once called “The Wall Street of Black America” because of its many banks. One was St. Luke’s Penny Savings Bank, where Maggie Walker served as the nation’s first woman bank president. The bank still operates today, as Consolidated Bank, and the Maggie Walker House is a national landmark. The area was a center for black enterprise and entertainment from the early 1920s to the late 1940s. Each year, the neighborhood now hosts the Second Street Festival to celebrate the history and vitality of that time. The neighborhood houses the Jackson Ward Historic Walking Tour that allows the public to visit these historical landmark. The maps on the following pages note the locations of these historic sites.

A majority of the city’s cast-iron porches are found in this neighborhood and reflect the influence of the European craftspeople that once lived there. The neighborhood is filled with Greek and Georgian Revival, Queen Anne and Italianate houses; many adorned with elaborate ironwork.

Jackson Ward is also looking ahead. Its location, halfway between Virginia Commonwealth University’s campus and the office towers of downtown, is a great asset. Aggressive revitalization and renovation efforts are bringing many properties back to their former glory. Projects such as the Dairy Building apartments and the expanded convention center are adding a new dimension to the existing neighborhood. For Jackson Ward, the future is shaping up to be as bright as the past.

Jackson Ward is the primary residential component of Richmond’s downtown. The boundaries of the neighborhood run from 3rd Street on the east to Marshall Street on the south to Belvidere on the west and to Interstate 95 on the north.” (http://www.richmondgov.com/Departments/communitydev/neighborhoods/jacksonward.aspx).
Historic Walking Tour
Jackson Ward
City of Richmond, VA
Geographic Information Systems
Character Inventory

Jackson Ward, Richmond VA
Design Process

The CDAC design team began the project with an initial site visit in mid-July 2009. During that visit the CDAC team met with Charles Finley, HJWA President and Leighton Powell, HJWA Vice President, to walk the site and discuss neighborhood desires and concerns for Abner Clay Park. The CDAC team also spent some time walking and photographing the surrounding neighborhood.

The CDAC team returned to Abner Clay Park in August 2009 to continue to gather information about the park and how it is used. The CDAC team met with the HWJA on August 11th, 2009 to discuss the project, to learn what residents liked and disliked about the park, and to begin to understand community need and design preferences for the park.

The CDAC team returned to Richmond in September to meet with City staff in Parks and Recreation, Community Development, and Law Enforcement to discuss issues, opportunities, and design parameters for the park. The CDAC team, along with Leighton Powell, met with the ACDC principal in early October to introduce the design project and learn more about ACDC needs and desires as it related to the outside environment. The CDAC team and Leighton Powell also met with Kim Vann and Billie Tebbins from Henrico County to discuss opportunities to improve the residents perception of the park and safety through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Based on the feedback gathered from the HJWA members, City staff, the ACDC principal, and CPTED trained professionals, the CDAC team developed two preliminary design concepts for Abner Clay Park. These preliminary designs were first presented to CDAC design review panel member Joshua Galloway of Community Housing Partners, for comment. Ideas were refined and then presented to the HJWA for review and comment.

Based on guidance for HJWA members and elected officials, and feedback from Richmond City staff, the CDAC team refined the preliminary concepts into a semi-final conceptual master plan. This plan, along with supporting sketches were presented to the HJWA in December 2009.

The semi-final plan was revised based on comments received from the HJWA. The plan was then shared with City staff for further review and comment and was refined. A final conceptual master plan for Abner Clay Park was presented to the HJWA in March 2010?

This short, supporting report was prepared to describe the design process and corresponding conceptual designs.
The CDAC team’s initial site visits showed the immense potential for redeveloping Abner Clay Park into a great destination for Jackson Ward residents and Richmond visitors. As a part of the site inventory and analysis, the design team took note of a variety of existing conditions, such as circulation, inventory of spaces, and vegetation. The design team then analyzed aspects of the site to unify the park with the historic character of the surrounding neighborhood.

**Vehicular Circulation:**

Directly north of the site, Leigh Street serves as a major corridor through Historic Jackson Ward. Clay Street, a one-way street to the south, is a mainly residential street. Both accommodate on-street parking. Brook Street and North Adams Street, the western and eastern boundaries, are less-trafficked. Vehicles on Brook Street, however, gain extensive views into the park. The intersection of Brook and Clay Streets form an obtuse corner which was identified as a prime opportunity for a highly-visible and inviting park entrance. Another entrance opportunity was identified for the highly-trafficked Leigh Street with its significant historic landmarks.

**Pedestrian Circulation:**

The Historic Jackson Ward walking tour follows a significant portion of the park’s boundary, including Brook and Leigh Streets. In order to provide information on the history of Abner Clay Park, an informational kiosk was proposed for this purpose. Several bus stops dot Leigh Street, another opportunity for attracting pedestrian visitors. Two corridors were identified as routes to highlight: Leigh Street and Clay Street, as well as possible entry points for the park. Several pedestrian paths exist within the park; these will remain and enhancements to these pedestrian corridors are proposed. Two alleys leading into the park are also addressed for improvement.

**Existing Spaces:**

Six identifiable spaces exist within the park block: the tennis courts, the plaza, the playground, a practice field, and two parking lots which service Adult Career Development Center. These spaces and their functions are retained in the final design.

**Existing Vegetation:**

The park has considerable existing vegetation, though the appropriateness of some existing plants will be addressed. Existing trees include: Japanese Zelkovas along Leigh Street, Sycamores within the plaza and along Brook Street, shrub planting concentrated around the perimeter of the tennis courts, and several evergreens and Crape Myrtle trees within the park’s interior. The low diversity of the existing plants will be addressed in the conceptual design phase.
Preliminary Design Concepts

Two conceptual design alternatives were prepared and presented to the Historic Jackson Ward Association in October 2009. Several desired elements, identified with help from the Jackson Ward community, are present in each concept: a dog park, a splash pad, a walking path, and a formal park entrance.

Concept A

In this concept a dog park was proposed for an area somewhat centrally located along Brook Road, utilizing an existing retaining wall as one enclosing edge. A walking path marks the boundaries of the grassed practice field. A splash pad was sited north of the playground, surrounded with a grassed area. In this plan, the formal entrance to the park is located from Leigh Street, with a brick walk and plantings to enhance the parking lot edge. The plaza remains relatively unchanged, with proposed plantings around the existing gazebo and within the adjacent existing planting bed. Finally, community gardens are proposed for the area between the ACDC parking lot and North Adams Street.

Concept B

Concept B also proposes a dog park somewhat centrally located along Brook Road, with a different configuration than in Concept A. The plaza is re-paved with permeable paving. The splash pad is located just west of the tennis courts in the previous location of a raised planting bed. The formal entrance is located at the corner of Clay and Brook Streets, identified with a kiosk, brick walk, and a planted path to the playground. Between the tennis courts and the ACDC parking lot, a raised community gardening bed is proposed, with an area for exercise equipment nearby. The area adjacent to North Adams Street is enhanced with street tree plantings and removal of the chain link fence, possibly replaced with wrought iron or black metal fencing. In this plan the walking path is assumed to be perimeter of the park, with the addition of distance markers.

11x17 pullouts for Preliminary Design Concepts A and B can be found on the following pages.

Blow-ups of the plan elements, corresponding material proposals, and conceptual perspectives can be found in the appendix, pages 49-62.
In December, project coordinator Kim Steika attended the Historic Jackson Ward Association’s Christmas Social to present initial version of the Conceptual Master Plan to the community.

More significant changes to the plaza are proposed in this plan: the existing sycamore trees will be removed, replaced by two rows of American Elms and the addition of tree grates; the plaza paving is replaced with permeable brick paving; the gazebo will replaced with one more fitting with the historic nature of the area and moved closer to the corner of Clay Street and Brook Road. The new gazebo along with an informational kiosk and ground cover plantings of Pachysandra at the entrance to the playground create an inviting entry point on the south side of the park. A formal entrance into the park is also proposed from the plaza, with a gateway entrance resembling wrought iron and continuing the metal detail proposed for the wall of the playground. The paving for the entrance walk would be permeable brick.

The splash pad is located just outside the boundary of the playground. This is intended to further separate it from being too close to busy roads, as well as, allow it to be surrounded by soft grass for playing children. The playground is proposed to be resurfaced, but other than that will remain the same.

The existing tennis court is replaced with a multi-use court and the enclosing fence is removed completely to enhance openness and visibility. The path around the courts is replaced with permeable paving matching that of the plaza and the addition of Cherry trees is proposed.

The second formal entrance to the park is sited on Leigh Street; with an improved entrance sign. The path is paved in the same permeable brick paving. A new planting bed would provide separation between the entrance walk and the ACDC parking lot. At the end of the entrance path, a kiosk displaying community news and information is placed within a new grassed space, replacing the concrete previously in this area.

The practice field remains, its boundaries marked with a walking path of crushed stone and an edge of Yellowwood trees dividing it from the dog park area. The dog park occupies an area in the center of the park, bounded on one side by the existing retaining wall and on the other sides by a black metal fence. Exercise stations have been proposed along the walking path, near the multi-use court.

At the west end of the block, the grassed area at the edge of North Adams is enhanced with street trees and a low brick wall forming a small brick-paved area at the corner of Leigh and North Adams Streets. A marker memorializing the first African American Police Officers is proposed to move here from its current and less-visible location at the corner of Brook and Leigh Streets. The low brick wall continues along Leigh Street, replacing the chain link fence around the parking lot for ACDC.
In late March the CDAC Team presented the Final Conceptual Master Plan at a special meeting of the Historic Jackson Ward Association. The meeting was attended by many of the residents who had been involved in the project since its start in August of 2009. The team presented the updated Conceptual Master Plan, updated Planting Plan, and conceptual sketches of some of the important proposals in the plan. The Plan was well received but a few minor changes resulted from conversations with residents, involved organizations, and enforcement agencies.

The proposed addition of a seating wall and gathering space at the corner of North Adams and Leigh Street may be problematic if large groups of people begin to loiter on this highly-trafficked corner. It was also expressed by meeting attendants that the Police Officer’s Memorial would not likely be moved from its existing location so another type of Historic Marker should be decided upon. The plan was revised to retain the brick plaza and historic marker on this corner but the seat wall was removed to deter loitering. The brick wall and iron fence separating the ACDC parking lot along Leigh Street is now continued along the North Adams Street edge of the parking lot, set back from the road; a grassed area with Yellowwood trees is proposed between the parking lot edge and North Adams Street.

The corner of Brook Road and Leigh Street was also revised. In order to increase awareness and visibility of the historic marker here (identifying Richmond’s First African American Police Officers, Marker # SA65), a plaza of similar shape and materiality as that of the North Adams/Leigh Street plaza is proposed. The simple addition of permeable brick paving, seating, and a street tree, a Chinese Pistache, make this space more welcoming to visitors and those taking the Historic Jackson Ward Walking Tour.

Finally, the Master Plan proposed that the alley between the two main ACDC buildings and connecting the two existing parking lots be renovated according to the specifications of Richmond’s Green Alley Initiative (Appendix 63). In the original plan the drive was only for pull-up service, a grassed area and brick sidewalk prevented regular vehicular circulation between the two parking lots. The fact that the drive is used regularly by transportation services for the school and day care was expressed at the community meeting. The Plan was revised to create a permanent vehicular access between the two ACDC parking lots: the paving proposed is a cobble-like permeable surface, still in accordance with the Green Alley Initiative. A permeable brick sidewalk edges the cobble surface and a planting bed for low groundcovers was retained at the base of the main school building.

The proposed plantings changed little for the Final Presentation except for the specification of Japanese Zelkovas street trees along Leigh Street. As sidewalk improvements are implemented, street trees should be updated. Chinese Pistache trees are proposed along Leigh Street, replacing the existing Zelkovas and adding new plantings to maintain continuity. If it is possible to bury the powerlines as a part of the sidewalk enhancement process, a larger species, such as American Elm, could be implemented along Leigh Street.
Abner Clay Park: Conceptual Master Plan
Jackson Ward, Richmond, Va.
Leigh Street Entrance Path
with walking trail, exercise stations, and multi-use playing courts
Playground Entrance
with low brick wall, splash pad, and bronze statue
Main Plaza Space

with gazebo, kiosk, and entrance

community design
assistance center

College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Leigh Streetscape

with brick and iron lot fencing, new historic marker, and cobblestone crosswalk

Community Design
Assistance Center
College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

ACDC Parking

Brick Wall
Iron Fence

Historic Marker
Abner Clay Park: Proposed Trees
Jackson Ward, Richmond, Va.
Conclusion

The level of community involvement surrounding the proposal for the renovation of Abner Clay Park demonstrates the potential of the park to strengthen the Jackson Ward Community while providing needed community amenities and serving as a center for activity and interaction. Through active community participation, several needs were identified by the groups involved; these should be incorporated in any future proposal for renovation.

Abner Clay Park should be inviting and accessible to all members of the community. It should strive to incorporate sustainable materials and constructions methods, taking advantage of initiatives promoted by the City of Richmond. It should speak to the historical significance of the Jackson Ward neighborhood by reflecting traditional materials and details present in the surrounding community and creating opportunities for education and reference of historic figures and events.

Abner Clay Park has the potential to be a valuable community amenity and to serve many functions - as a place for children to play, adults to exercise, dog owners to mingle, students to relax, visitors to see and learn, and the entire community to gather for both large events and everyday activities.
Appendices

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Appendix A: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

“Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design. As of 2004, most implementations of CPTED occur solely within the built environment.

CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts. Research into criminal behavior shows that the decision to offend or not to offend is more influenced by cues to the perceived risk of being caught than by cues to reward or ease of entry. Consistent with this research, CPTED based strategies emphasise enhancing the perceived risk of detection and apprehension.

Consistent with the widespread implementation of defensible space guidelines in the 1970s, most implementations of CPTED as of 2004 are based solely upon the theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime, and improve the quality of life. Built environment implementations of CPTED seek to dissuade offenders from committing crimes by manipulating the built environment in which those crimes proceed from or occur. The three most common built environment strategies are natural surveillance, natural access control and natural territorial reinforcement.

Natural surveillance and access control strategies limit the opportunity for crime. Territorial reinforcement promotes social control through a variety of measures.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_prevention_through_environmental_design).

The CDAC team met with Kim Vann, Henrico County Planner and CPTED specialist, to walk the Abner Clay Park site and discuss issues and opportunities for park improvement as it relates to CPTED. Leighton Powell and Lt. Yvonne Baltz joined the meeting. Notes from the meeting can be found on the following page.
10/7/09 – Richmond Meeting with Lt. Yvonne Baltz, Kim Vann, and Billie Tebbins

Several spaces in the Abner Clay Park of not defined in terms of what their purpose is and who should be allowed in the space. Biggest problem area down by the tennis courts – undefined space, not visible from the street because of topography and vegetation and limited access. We discussed moving the access to the tennis courts to the side of the courts facing Leigh Street.

Look for opportunities to open up views into the site. Remove (phased plan) wood retaining walls and bollards and have consistent material for park and different (complementary) material for school quasi-public space – to help define who owns what.

Kim Vann liked idea of dog park and talked about opportunities for more programmed events.

The idea of a walking trail with exercise stations was discussed. During that discussion, a middle aged man came and started using the playground for his fitness training – pull ups - serving as an initial an anecdotal evidence of demand for exercise stations

- Met with City Police and Henrico Co. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) staff to walk the site and discuss design options and implications. CPTED principles include:
  - Increase visibility into the site (Natural Surveillance)
  - Promote a sense of ownership (Territoriality)
  - Foster community interaction (Activity Support)
  - Define and control access to site (Natural Access Control)
  - Address dilapidated elements (Maintenance)

Lighting: All city parks are sunrise to sunset. Lt. Baltz recommending lighting walkways only.
Appendix B: Historic Jackson Ward Association
Community Meeting Feedback

August 2009

The Community Design Assistance Center project team met with community residents on August 11th, 2009 at the monthly Historic Jackson Ward Association meeting. During this meeting, the CDAC team discussed the Abner Clay Park Conceptual Master Plan update project with those in attendance. The CDAC team talked with residents about their likes and dislikes related to Abner Clay Park. The CDAC team also distributed design preference and example booklets highlighting potential park enhancements related to water play elements, the idea of a dog park, improved site furnishings, and street conditions.

Overall comments, reduced revisions of the design preference and example booklets, and community feedback related to the booklets can be found on the following pages.
Meeting Comments

The CDAC team should get a copy of the Historic District Guidelines. Noted especially for paint color and signage but will likely be applicable for other possible design proposals for the park as well. Jim Hill from Commission for Architectural Review (CAR) would be a good resource for the CDAC team. Any plans will need to be approved by him.

The City also has planting guidelines that CDAC should look at too. HJWA has an agreement with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden – they could be a resource for us with plantings.

CDAC team should talk with Public Works (about water feature) and City Police as well about the site and design.

The design should include a phased approach to implementation that can be done over several years.

Wayfinding for the site/area – the City and the Convention of Visitors Bureau has done some work on it. Check into that.

Likes/Dislikes about the Current Park

- Likes the gazebo (or the idea/function of the gazebo)
- The trees by the tennis court are too overgrown – there needs to be clear visibility into the site
- Lighting needs to be considered as an option
- The park looks cold – no character, no color, drab
- There was a question about if the play equipment was right for the park – is it safe?; the sand lot is a mess.
- The playground (as a function) is an important feature to keep
  Kids can't play on anything higher than 6-7 feet
- Age range of kids using the playground: 18 months to 10 years old
- Issue to raise with City Parks and Recreation – the need for better upkeep of the park
- Would like to see new signage in the park
- Would like to see something that says who Abner Clay was
- Clear away places where people can "hide in plain sight"
- Would like more seating
- Issues: Maintenance and security – need for increased visibility
- Need signs about pet clean-up and pooper scooper stands – lots of people are walking their dogs; there are not lots of people cleaning up
- Expressed desire (by one person in particular) for restrooms – that could be locked at a certain time; should be ADA accessible
- CDAC team mentioned brick and cobblestone as possible materials; HJWA encouraged the team to think about ADA issues when thinking about using these materials as walking surfaces
- Consider not having or minimizing stairs
• Would like places to memorialize/pay tribute to individuals
• Current site uses: rugby and football
• Discussed the idea of a chalk wall
• Would like a shelter for picnic areas
• Wireless internet in the park; place for laptop plug in
• Need more electrical outlets in the park
• Place for other booths (during events) to plug in – maybe utilizing the lights on the around the field
• Would like historic lighting along paths and streetscape
• Would be nice to have water access
• Water fountains (drinking) desired
• More benches during events
• The park is not currently welcoming or inviting
• Plant palette – shouldn’t include overhanging plants (CPTED)
• How to secure the place at dark
• Dislikes: chain link fences
• Keep in mind when designing, if you specify something that can be stolen and sold, they’ll steal it
• The large field doesn’t drain mention (someone mentioning talking to VCU about covering the costs of improving drainage since they used it)
• One individual likes denser, shorter growing grass
• All site furnishings should be consistent with the historic nature of the area
• The proposed water feature doesn’t need to be too big (in terms of size or volume of water)
• Look at linking to Bojangles Park and improving that little space too
• Explore options for enhancing walking opportunities on the site (walking trail? Improving sidewalks, etc)
• Look for a place to site the Maggie Walker statue
• Dog park – explore several possible locations.
Small Residential Dog Park

The overall site includes a lot of green space and taking a small portion of this area for a Dog Park would be a nice way to add a component to the park that includes important members of the family.

Please record your thoughts within the pages of this booklet on the elements that you feel are important so that our designers can take your opinions and utilize them to the fullest extent.

Photo courtesy of Kim Steika

Photo courtesy of flickr.com
Water Play Feature and Fountain

The addition of this element to the park will add a dynamic site feature for kids of all ages to cool off on a hot summer day.

Please record your thoughts within the pages of this booklet on the elements that you feel are important so that our designers can take your opinions and utilize them to the fullest extent.
Site Furnishings and Other Elements

Seating, wayfinding, and providing information about this historic area are important elements that could be worked into the redesigned park. New play equipment and places for gathering and passing time will attract all kinds of people.

Please record your thoughts within the pages of this booklet on the elements that you feel are important so that our designers can take your opinions and utilize them to the fullest extent.
Better Street Conditions

Rethinking and redesigning the edges of the park is a good way to provide a pleasing and more appropriate entrance into the site. Safety and enclosure can be addressed in different ways that fit with the overall character of the Jackson Ward area.

Please record your thoughts within the pages of this booklet on the elements that you feel are important so that our designers can take your opinions and utilize them to the fullest.
Feedback from the Design Preference and Example Booklets

*Water Play Feature and Fountain*
- Brick was a favored material
- Would like something “playful”
- Would like something that fits historic character of neighborhood
- Would like something simple
- Should be well-draining, no standing water
- Low water height is preferred
- Not too much water, small feature
- Would like a water feature in the dog park as well
- Should be on a timer
- Water fountain should be low-pressure to target small children
- Water could drain into an underground cistern and be used for watering plants

*Idea of a water feature was generally very well received*

*Residential Dog Park*
- Dog park should be small
- Look at dog park in Rocket’s Landing
- Provide pooper bag holder
- Should be well-enclosed
- Fence should be tall enough to contain big jumping dogs
- Perhaps there should be a park for small dogs and one for big dogs
- Likes a rectangular shape
- Provide benches
- Fencing should be attractive
- Would like a drinking fountain for dogs as well as for people
- Would like gravel or packed dirt: would stay cleaner and no yellowing
- Provide garbage can for pooper bags
- Post signs to keep aggressive dogs on leash/muzzled
- Like the area proposed (on the old baseball diamond/retaining wall edge)
- Would like an absorbent ground cover if not grassed

*Generally agreed that park should be a small well-enclosed area with plenty of amenities*
Site Furnishings and Other

- Seating should fit the historic character, not too modern
- Liked the idea of public art (such as a statue) to break up benches and guard against loitering by homeless
- Statue or figures could be of historic nature or of African-American children
- Would like to see a soft man-made surface for the playground, not sand or mulch, to keep cats away
- Would be nice to have goal nets for the larger field
- Would like an informational sign or kiosk
- Like the idea of a multi-purpose court
- Some like the circular seating to deter people from sleeping in park
- Play equipment should be for small children
- Cushioned flooring, rubberized
- Possibly brick fencing around playground
- Shade structures would be nice for afternoon
- Like the idea of an informational kiosk but would it be locked? How would people access it?
- No more asphalt or cement, park has enough
- Keep tennis courts but make them multi-purpose
- Incorporate more brick for a warmer feeling than the concrete
- Like the seating "pods" or circles
- Park needs a more urban feel than it has now
- Don't think a multi-purpose court is a good idea- maybe adding a backboard on the tennis court for individual basketball play
- Light the courts on a timer
- Black metal benches would fit the area
- No very bright colors or materials

Better Street Conditions

- Replace chain-link with black metal or wrought-iron
- Hanging flowers are nice
- Like the idea of cobblestone/asphalt combined
- Hedges should be easily maintained
- Hedge could be easily hidden behind
- More trees would be nice
- Historic lampposts are nice
- Add street benches
- Brick would look very nice
- Liked the mixture of brick and concrete
- Liked a low brick wall
- Liked bench with wrought-iron details
- Wrought-iron fence would be nice around smaller areas such as dog park and playground
- Would like a formal entrance to the park
- Fences could be a mixture of brick and iron
- Need more trash cans
- Shrubs should not allow people to hide
- Widen sidewalks
- Add lighting, especially along park paths
- Cobblestone looks nice, perhaps for walkways
- Shrubs and hedges should not be too tall but not too low for people to step over
- Plantings should be very durable
- Incorporate Jackson Ward Gateway signage
- Not sure about crape myrtles
- Add some colorful plantings
- Brick fencing would be nice, with a wrought iron gateway or detail

Additional Ideas for Park Improvement:

- Graffiti art wall
- Public bathrooms
- Picnic shelter and benches
- Wi-fi
- More electrical outlets
- More shade
- Historic lampposts
- Water access
- Materials should be handicap accessible
- Be sure to have a ramp
- Improve drainage on the field
- Horse trough design for dog park
- Improve pedestrian circulation
- Add exercise stations connected with a walking path
- Dog park could be on Adams Street edge
- Secure all elements from theft
- Add seasonal interest and color
October 2009

The Community Design Assistance Center project team presented initial design concepts for Abner Clay Park to community members at the HJWA October meeting. Slides from the Powerpoint presentation and comments received from community members can be found on the following pages.
Progress Made to Date (since 8/09)

• Reviewed Historic District Guidelines and met with Jim Hill and Councilman Samuels to possible changes to the park. Specific areas of interest (for review) to CAR include:
  • Paving
  • Lighting
  • Structures (gazebos/shelters)
  • Kiosks

• Met with City Police and Henrico Co. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) staff to walk the site and discuss design options and implications. CPTED principles include:
  • Increase visibility into the site (Natural Surveillance)
  • Promote a sense of ownership (Territoriality)
  • Foster community interaction (Activity Support)
  • Define and control access to site (Natural Access Control)
  • Address dilapidated elements (Maintenance)

Lighting: All city parks are sunrise to sunset. Lt. Baltz recommending lighting walkways only.
• Met with ACDC Principal to introduce the projects, learn about the great things she is doing at ACDC and talk about opportunities to enhance the perimeter of the park on ACDC property.

• Met with Parks and Recreation City staff to discuss the project and ideas for the site.

• Met with CDAC Design Review Panel member Joshua Galloway (Architect/Landscape Architect with Community Housing Partners) to discuss design options

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**Elements discussed at Initial Meeting**

• Water play feature
  Comments included: make it playful, simple, something that fits historic character of neighborhood; keep it small with low water height and volume; make sure it drains well

• Dog park
  Comments: Keep it small; provide bags for waste clean up; ensure it is well enclosed; consider separate spaces for big and small dogs; provide benches and attractive fencing; provide drinking fountain for dogs
• Site furnishings
  Comments: Seating should fit the historic character of the area; idea of public art (sculpture/statues) was well received; consider adding kiosk or informational signage; no more asphalt or cement; change out cement for brick for a warmer, welcoming feeling;

• Improved Street Conditions
  Comments: replace chain link fence with black metal or wrought-iron; add hanging baskets, banners, pedestrian scale street lighting; more trees and less big hedges; add street benches; brick on sidewalk would be nice; would like formal entrance to the park; need more trash cans; widen sidewalks if possible; make sure character of elements fits with the historic neighborhood.

Concept A
Concept A - Gazebo and Plaza
Concept A - Entrance and Pedestrian Corridor
Concept A - Splash Pad and Kiosk

Concept B
Concept B - Plaza and Formal Entrance
Concept B - Community Garden
Concept B - Dog Park
Appendix C: City of Richmond’s Green Alley Initiative

Jim Hill, Richmond City Planner and Secretary to the Richmond Commission of Architectural Review shared with the CDAC team about the City’s Green Alley Initiative. This initiative looks to combine aesthetic and experiential improvements with effective stormwater management. Current areas of focus include 5th Street and 12th Street. Consideration for materials in historic districts have been made and materials specified accordingly. The CDAC team utilized design ideas and material precedents from this project in their approach to conceptual ideas for alleyways around Abner Clay Park. An overview of the Green Alley Initiative and design details can be found on the following pages.
Agenda

- Informal presentation and discussion
- Why care about stormwater quality?
- Low Impact Development/Green Alley Technologies
- Design
- Projects around the City
- Working together

Additional regulatory control of stormwater are needed

Traditional collect, convey and treat pollutant control won’t work

Do not meet standards:
- Broad Rock Creek
- Falling Creek Reservoir
- Gillies Creek
- Goode Creek
- James River
- Pocoshock Creek
- Powhatan Creek
- Reedy Creek
- Upham Brook
Additional regulatory control of stormwater are needed

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Low Impact Development

- Low Impact Development
  - Sustainable design that replicates the natural watershed functions

- What is a Green Alley?
  - Porous surface
  - Allows rainwater to infiltrate

- What are the Benefits?
  - Reduces the rate of stormwater runoff
  - Reduces stress on the combined sewer system
  - Filters silt and pollutants
  - Heat reduction
Flow Control is Key

“Stormwater control methods that harvest, infiltrate and evapotranspirate stormwater are critical to reducing the volume and pollutant loadings of small storms”

Chicago Green Alley Program

- Began in 2006
- Over 80 alleys completed

- Monitored regularly
- Withstands garbage truck use and snow plowing
Pervious Technology

- Porous Asphalt
  - Less tar and small aggregate than conventional asphalt
  - Conventional installation equipment used

- Pervious Concrete
  - No fine aggregates
  - Larger aggregate can be issue for snow plows

- Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavers
  - Freeze-thaw durability
  - Withstand heavy vehicles

Design Concept

- Surface Design
  - Pitch and grade alley to direct runoff to the center of the alley
  - Paver/Concrete Combination
  - Pavers will look similar to cobblestone
  - Revising to provide flatter slopes and smoother transitions for entrances
**Richmond Green Alley Project**

- **Alley Locations**

![5th Street Alley](image)
![12th Street Alley](image)

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Opportunity

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**5th Street Alley Existing Conditions**

- **5th Street Alley**
  - Steep slope
  - Several entrances
  - Primarily cobblestone w/ asphalt ramps
12th Street Alley Existing Conditions

- 12th Street Alley
  - Cobblestone covered w/ asphalt
  - Several utilities
  - Several roof drains

12th Street Alley Plan View
Typical Cross Section

- 16" total depth
- Storage capacity for 10-year storm
- No infiltration
- 6" under drain system

12th Street Alley Construction Status

NOTE: EXISTING 12" SEWER LINE TO BE REPLACED PRIOR TO GREEN ALLEY CONSTRUCTION
Partnering Projects Underway!

- Greening of the Capitol including 9th and 10th Streets (Department of Conservation and Recreation lead agency)
- Science Museum of Virginia LID Demonstration (SMV lead agency)
- Patrick Henry Charter School LID Demonstration (Patrick Henry Charter School lead agency)
- 2nd Presbyterian Church Rain Garden (2nd Presbyterian Church lead agency)
- Moseley Architects, LID in action
- Reedy Creek Monitoring Network (Reedy Creek Coalition lead agency)

Other LID Techniques

- Product Substitution,
- Watershed and Land-Use Planning,
- Conservation of Natural Areas,
- Impervious Cover Minimization,
- Earthwork Minimization,
- Reforestation and Soil Conservation,
- Runoff Volume Reduction—Rainwater Harvesting, Vegetated, and Subsurface,
- Aquatic Buffers and Managed Floodplains, and
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination.
Old World Kobble Stone by Xterior Pavers is the paver that is being used for the 12th Street Green Alley.
PERMEABLE PAVER SYSTEM

EXISTING SOIL SUBGRADE SLOPED TO DRAIN

UNDERGROUND 6" WATER LINE

UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE DUCT

UNDERGROUND POWER DUCT BANK

PROPOSED COMBINED SEWER

UNDERGROUND CABLE TV LINE

OUTFALL PIPE SLOPED TO STORM SEWER

4" PERFORATED PIPE WRAPPED IN GEOTEXTILE, SPACED AND SLOPED TO DRAIN ALL STORED WATER

EDGE RESTRAINT 8" CONCRETE PER VDOT AND CITY STANDARDS

CONCRETE APRON WIDTH VARIES

CONCRETE APRON WIDTH VARIES

CONCRETE PAVERS MIN. 3 1/2" THICK (TYP. #8 IN OPENINGS)

BEDDING COURSE 1 1/2 - 2" THICK (TYP. #8 AGGREGATE)

4" THICK #57 STONE OPEN-GRATED BASE

MIN. 6" THICK #2 AGGREGATE SUBBASE

IMPERMEABLE LINER ON BOTTOM AND SIDES OF OPEN-GRATED BASE MUST BE INSTALLED ON SMOOTH SURFACE

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
12TH STREET

NO SCALE
Luke McCall, Urban Forester for the City of Richmond discussed existing and potential plantings for Abner Clay Park with the CDAC team. The City of Richmond has an approved list of tree species, which the CDAC team worked from when selecting species to enhance the existing plant palette of Abner Clay Park. The list of approved species from the City of Richmond can be found on the following pages.

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