

Six Springs Wetland, Dog Park, and Gardens

Six Springs Wetland supports the most diverse plant and animal life found in the Park and was enhanced during a 2008 Stream Restoration Project. The existing paths around the area will remain with some minor improvements, signage, and low path lighting where needed.

The area with the dog parks, community gardens, and paths under Park Drive bridge will get re-organized to better make use of the space. The large dog park will be trimmed at the southern edge, the community garden will be relocated to a sunnier space, and a few small play elements will be added under and near Park Drive bridge.

SIX SPRINGS, DOG PARK, AND GARDENS LEGEND

- 1 Enhanced Entrance From Evelyn Street, Sidewalk, and the Beltline
- 2 Open View Corridors to Six Springs at Peregrine Point and Other Overlooks
- 3 Interpretive Signage at Historic Wall From the Original Walker Farm
- 4 Repaired Wood Boardwalk With Minimal Low Path Lighting
- 5 Additional Educational Signage and Wayfinding on Existing Trails
- 6 Small Dog Park (Alternate Surfacing to be Studied)
- 7 Potential Beltline Access and Entrance
- 8 New Concessions Next to Enhanced Existing Restrooms (Potential for Beltline Rest Stop, Dog Treats Shop, Drinks, Dog Watching)
- 9 Large Dog Park to be Trimmed at Far Southern Edge (Alternate Surfacing to be Studied)
- 10 Existing Beltline Temporary Transit Trail
- 11 Additional Benches and Dog Play Features in Dog Parks
- 12 Relocated Community Garden
- 13 Play Elements Under Park Drive Bridge
- 14 Park Drive Plaza (Paint on Existing Road) with Opportunity for Movable Seating and Food Trucks
- 15 Existing Orchard and “Fruit Forest”
- 16 Ramp Access from Park Drive to Lower Level Amenities and the Beltline
- 17 Reforested Area



Six Springs Wetland

PATH LIGHTING

The areas around Six Springs Wetland can get very dark very quickly, making the trails feel unsafe at later hours. To create a safe and welcoming environment throughout these darker hours, additional path lighting will be explored. As these paths are in the wetland, the lighting will be considered in a way that minimizes impact to habitat and wildlife.

TRAIL AND OVERLOOK IMPROVEMENTS

The existing boardwalks and trails will remain but renovations will be conducted where necessary. The overlook points around Clear Creek and the Six Springs Wetlands, such as Peregrine Point, have become so overgrown with vegetation that they no longer provide views of the creek corridor. These views will be once again opened up through selective tree pruning and understory maintenance, enhancing sightlines and providing a better sense of directionality throughout the park.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

Creating connections to the Park, the plan includes additional educational signage around the existing trails to teach park visitors about the wildlife, vegetation, and ecosystem of underground springs in the area.

VEGETATION IMPROVEMENTS

Six Springs Wetland contains some of the oldest trees in Piedmont Park, with many trees over 100 years old. A comprehensive restoration effort is recommended to preserve these trees and manage the understory to ensure the continued health of this ecosystem for generations to come. Ongoing stewardship and regular monitoring will help to prevent the spread of invasives and ensure the health of native species.

Existing Riparian Vegetation to Remain



Existing Trails and Boardwalks at Six Springs Wetland to Remain

Repair Existing Signage and Add Additional Educational Signage



Existing Educational Signage



Educational Signage Examples (NBW)

Dog Park and Gardens

DOG PARKS

The current dog park contains a 20,000 square-foot small dog park and a 80,000 square-foot large dog park. Though having a larger dog park is necessary, the current size is perhaps too large. To better fit the Park and visitors’ needs, the southern section of this larger one will be trimmed down to 70,000 square feet.

The fences around the large dog park will be raised to 6’ tall to prevent larger dogs from scaling the fences, and alternate surfacing to replace mulch for a portion of the dog park should be studied, such as turf or engineered wood fiber.

Additional seating and dog fountains should be added in and near the dog parks.

CONCESSIONS AND BELTLINE REST STOP

With the construction of the Beltline, this area of the Park is expected to see a large increase in visitors. The junction of the dog park, Peregrine Point, Six Springs Wetland boardwalk, and the Beltline presents an opportunity for a new building serving all of the surrounding spaces.

Building amenities could include food and beverage, enclosed bike and scooter parking, dog treats, and outdoor seating for owners to watch their dogs and other dogs. The existing dog park restroom will remain but be renovated.

COMMUNITY GARDEN AND ORCHARD

The existing community garden is shrouded in trees and too much shade. The trimmed-off portion of the large dog park, with some selective tree removals, could be a sunnier space requiring minimal tree removals and disturbance. The space will be designed for 30 4’x8’ plots receiving 6-8 hours of daily sunlight, and surrounded by 4’ fencing. Picnic tables and seating will be added, and the shed serving the community garden and orchard will be rebuilt. Alternate locations meeting these conditions should continue to be studied.

The existing orchard plots can remain in their existing location, with potential to create an expanded “fruit forest” along the path. The fencing and signage will be replaced.

PARK DRIVE PLAY AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Between the community gardens under Park Drive bridge, a few whimsical play elements could be added and around the bridge, including swings attached to the bridge. The play elements could be used by the children of those using the adjacent community gardens, the Beltline, or dog parks.



Existing Park Drive Bridge



Beltline Entrance Near Dog Park



Existing Community Garden to be Relocated



New Concessions Next to Dog Park