



In House Agenda

Bellfountain Park Community Meeting

August 17, 2019

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Bellfountain Park Shelter

12:00 – 12:30 Lunch

- Sign in, option to be on contact list
- Name tags with breakout group #s
- Agendas
- Please help yourself to food

12:30 – 1:00 Welcome, Introductions & Background

Laurie Starha, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Director

Sara Hartstein, Benton County Health Policy Specialist

Sara

- General welcome
- Review agenda
- Introduce staff
- Transition to Laurie

Laurie

- Official welcome and Background

The 10-acre Bellfountain Park was sold by the Trustees of the Bellfountain Park Association in 1970 to the County for sum of \$1.00. This past year, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks replaced the old shelter. In the 2019-2021 budget year, the Board of Commissioners and the Budget Committee have funded the replacement of the Bellfountain playground structure. The current play structure was built by Parks staff in the late 1970's or early 1980's. The structure is past due for replacement, does not meet playground safety or accessibility standards, and is incurring increased maintenance cost. The structure is located under very large fir trees, which have dropped limbs and branches, creating department safety concerns for the public.

Over the next 6-8 months, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks will be designing a new playground structure, looking at moving the structure to a different location in the park, evaluate and remove any hazard trees prior to construction and determine other improvements that should be added to the Department's maintenance program.

Transition to Adam

1:00 - 1:10

Hazard Tree Removal Plan

Adam Stebbins, Benton County Natural Resource Coordinator

Adam

Background and Update

We are experiencing Douglas Fir tree mortality in our lower elevation/valley parks throughout Benton County, but also the entire Northwest. After several years of drought conditions, Douglas Fir.

Have become stressed to the point that the entire stand of trees becomes susceptible to pest infestations (bark beetle, Ips Beetle mainly). This results in destruction of the tree cambium and eventually girdles the tree leading to tree mortality as water/nutrients cannot be conducted throughout the tree. We notice this once the top of the tree begins to die-off and then the rest of the lower branches. Once the tree begins to die, the entire tree becomes a hazard however the tree can be hazardous even before crown death is noticeable.

We are still updating an extensive tree inventory that was complete nearly 15 years ago, however staff estimates 2-3 log truck loads, which given the average size of the trees that should be approximately 50-60 trees. We estimate that the trees will be removed in Summer-Fall 2020.

Transition to Laurie

1:10 – 1:20

Play Structure Plan & Timeline

Laurie Starha, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Director

Laurie

Play Structure Plan and Timeline

The County will receive input provided during the July 31st and August 17th community meetings to create a replacement structure and location that aligns with the Community's desires, falls within the scope of available funding, and meets park safety and maintenance requirements. Three options of play structure are being consideration; nature play, traditional play or a hybrid of both. By January, 1 2020 the County will have determined which type of structure will be built along with a location. By June, 1, 2020 a conceptual design will be completed for the Community to view. Removal of existing structure and installation of new structure will occur in early Spring of 2021 with completion by June 30, 2021. As Adam mentioned, hazard tree removal could occur as soon as Fall of 2019 depending on assessment.

Transition to Sara

1:20 – 1:45

Play Structure Break Out Groups

Sara Hartstein, Benton County Health Policy Specialist

Sara

- 3 – 9 breakout groups with 3 transitions
 - o Conceptual examples 1, 2, 3,
- 6 minutes for each group, 1 minute transition
- Facilitator, Scribe on pre-populated flip chart (Facilitator scribes or ask for a community volunteer)
- 2 min for each question – positives, negatives, missing/change
- Sara - Hand out 6 dots to each participant during last rotation – They will need them to vote on conceptual play structure examples on their way out the door
- Stay in 3rd rotation for following 2 questions:
 - o **Where should the play structure be located?** Keep the following in mind:
 - Have to move out from under trees
 - Think about the play area removed from shelter so others not related to the shelter could use, but close enough to see
 - o **What are small things that could improve your experience at the park?**

Sara

- Transition back to larger group, please stay where you are
- Thank you for your input, transition to Laurie for Questions & Answers

1:45 – 1:55

Questions & Answers

Laurie and Adam

1:55 – 2:00

Wrap Up & Next Steps

Laurie

- Thank you again for your input tonight. We will take the information that you have provided and determine which type of structure will be built, the location in the park, and align it with available funding and meeting department requires for safety and accessibility. We will share with the Community by June 2020 a conceptual plan of the new structure and the determined location.

Transition to Sara

Sara

- Please make sure you signed in tonight and marked that you are interested in being added to our contact list – opportunity to review proposed Play Structure & Location
- Thank you/Voting
 - o You were all given dots, please place on your favorite conceptual play structure example on the way out
- Thank you again for your participation tonight.