

## **Summary of First Community Open House:**

Over 84 individuals attended the first Pomona Parcel Open House, which was held at Little Elementary School on November 13, 2013. The meeting was held to gauge community desires and ultimately develop a vision for the future of the City-owned Pomona Parcel, which is adjacent to Lake Arbor Community Park. In order to generate a discussion about potential park improvements to the site, the following informational boards were on display:

*Existing Conditions*

*Site Opportunities and Constraints*

*Potential Park Elements*

*Range of Potential Park Improvements*

Attendees were given green dots to use to indicate their preferences for potential future development and the level of improvement or change that they would like to see on the site in the future. As they looked over the informational posters, people were encouraged to write comments on sticky notes and place them on the boards to share their thoughts about the site.

In addition to the boards, attendees had the opportunity to provide feedback through a survey, which consisted of six questions. The survey has also been available online since October. The comments received at the Open House #1, along with all comments received through the website, will be used to determine the concepts that will be presented at the next and final open house.

## **Summary of Feedback**

Many residents are very fond of the way the Pomona Parcel is today. A number of community members have requested that the City “leave it the way it is” or “leave it as natural as possible.” Other comments clarify what it is about the Pomona Parcel that people love so much. Three main points stand out: 1) It’s a successful rugged wild space serving as a refuge for a number of animals including “foxes, coyotes, raccoons, kestrels, hawks, owls and the occasional bald eagle”; 2) In its un-programmed and undeveloped state the property does not attract a lot of traffic from outside the immediate neighborhood, which means that it serves as a quiet oasis for nearby residents; 3) The bike jumps represent years of work by local kids, who have taken ownership of the project and have found “something to achieve and accomplish.”

Among those surveyed, there was moderate support for at least some level of improvement to the site. To see the informational boards that were on display, please click on the links to the right showing *Potential Park Elements* and the *Range of Potential Park Improvements*. At a minimum, some people supported the idea of adding soft trails, wildlife habitat, native grass, and places for quiet and solitude. They also liked the idea of picnic facilities. In terms of active park elements, some people liked the image of Valmont Bicycle Park, which has facilities for a range of bicycle uses. A number of people were also in favor of a dog park, playground spaces and a splash pad. On the other hand, though, other community members indicated that they have no interest in adding active park elements to the Pomona Parcel.

### **Next Steps**

Many neighborhood residents love the Pomona Parcel the way that it is today. They see no reason to change a place that already gives them so much joy. They look at the Pomona Parcel and see wildlife habitat, a quiet open space, and a place where their kids have run and played and ridden their bicycles for years. What became clear at the first Public Open House is that we need to prepare a master plan for this parcel that reflects the interests of the community based upon the discussions with neighbors and the survey data collected to date.