# Twain Harte Meadows Park – Design Workshop #2

## **Description of Conceptual Design Schemes**

#### **Important Notes**

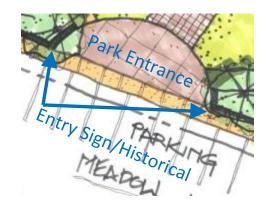
- **Design Schemes are** Conceptual The purpose of these design schemes is to take a step closer to the general, conceptual layout of the park. Design details, such as plant types, materials, colors, mounding, drainage, etc. will not be discussed or selected until the later stages of the design process.
- **Design Schemes are based on Community Input** Features shown in each scheme are based on the ideas that garnered the strongest community support, as expressed in survey responses and Design Workshop #1.
- **Design Features are Subject to Feasibility** Future feasibility analyses for cost and maintenance may exclude some of the features shown in these conceptual designs.
- Designs are Best Understood On-Site It is best to visit the site to become aware of space and surroundings
  when considering design scheme options. Color-coded stakes and markings from Design Workshop #2 will
  remain on site for a short time if you desire to visit the site to see location and size of the main design features.

#### **Essential Design Concepts Used in All Design Schemes**

- Visually Open For safety purposes, the entire park area will be open visually from Meadow Drive.
- Screening / Decorative Trees Evergreen trees will be placed at the perimeter of the park to help screen views of surrounding commercial buildings and to create a park environment. Decorative deciduous trees (with leaves that change color in the fall) will be placed on the interior areas of the park to provide shade and beauty. Trees are shown on drawings by the width of their canopy when full grown. Please note that the ground beneath tree canopies are usable, shaded spaces.
- **Outdoor Rooms** In order to maximize usable space for multiple groups of people and diverse activities, pathways, trees and boulders are used to create "outdoor rooms" or separated spaces.

#### Design Features Used in Design Schemes

- Parking & Large Park Entrance Every design scheme includes onstreet parking along the frontage of Meadow Drive. The front of the parking has a walkway that leads to a large off-centered park entrance, designed for visual appeal and to create a visually open and inviting point of entrance into the park.
- <u>Historical Monument/Entry Sign</u> Every design scheme includes an entry sign/historical monument on either side of the entry. The sign might include dedication to Bret Harte and Mark Twain, the Twain Harte Arch, Mi-Wuk Indians, etc.



• Large Meadow/Grass Areas - One of the conditions of the land donation required the park to be made up of at least 1/2-acre of open space. This idea was also highly supported by the community. Every design scheme has large grass/meadow areas; however, Schemes "C" and "D" include much larger meadow areas that Schemes "A" and "B" as a result of including less design features. Larger grass/meadow areas normally provide for activities that require a lot of space (Frisbee, football, etc.), but may not be used as regularly for other activities due to a lack of shade.

• Outdoor Pavilion — A large outdoor rustic mountain pavilion is included in each of the design schemes. This pavilion has been the most popular community idea and will serve as the main architectural feature of the park. It will be used as a shaded area for many outdoor activities, such as everyday picnics, community functions, weddings, parties and other social events. The mountain pavilion in each design scheme is 30'x40' with a 10-foot hardscape border around its perimeter. Instead of fire pits in the park area, the proposed pavilion includes a large stone fire place at its far end. The pavilion will likely be included in the final design, but its size, location and fire place is up for discussion.



Schemes "A" and "D" include a central mountain pavilion, while Schemes "B" and "C" show a mountain pavilion nestled to the side of the area to create more contiguous open meadow spaces.

- <u>Large Main Pathways</u> Every design scheme except Scheme "D" includes a large main path that leads from the entrance to the mountain pavilion. Scheme "A" has a central, straight path and Schemes "B" and "C" have a curved path. This path could be used to set up booths for craft fairs, chili cook-offs or other similar town events.
- Water Fountain Play Area A water fountain play area is included in Schemes "A" and "B" as a result of strong community support. This area will be hardscape with fountains that shoot water from the ground for children to play in on spring and summer days. The area will look like a mountain meadow area with boulders and sitting walls surrounding it. The water will be recycled and treated for sanitation. There will be no standing water. In the winter, the space could be used for other uses, such as a temporary town Christmas tree or small, temporary ice skating rink.



- <u>BBQ/Picnic Areas</u> All design schemes except Scheme "D" include large and small BBQ/picnic areas throughout the park. The idea is to enable multiple groups to picnic across the park at the same time. A large picnic area may be located near the mountain pavilion and include a large pit BBQ for large events. Picnic areas could also be made to be small grass areas suitable for picnicking with a picnic blanket.
- <u>Boulders and Pathways</u> Every design scheme includes boulders and small pathways to create a mountain meadow atmosphere. Boulders will likely be 5-6' in diameter and will likely be something that kids will play on.
- <u>Horse Shoe Pits</u> Although horse shoe pits only received moderate community support and could be located in other areas of the existing park, they are shown on Scheme "B" as an example of an area that could include another activity besides picnicking.

### Design Features that could be added to Conceptual Design Schemes

- <u>Town Christmas Tree</u> A temporary or permanent town Christmas tree could be placed anywhere in the park. If it is temporary, it could be placed in the water fountain area, the grass area or any other open area.
- <u>Outdoor Ice Rink</u> Preliminary staff research revealed that preliminary costs to bring a vendor in for 8 weeks in the winter (before ticket sales) could range from \$70,000 \$150,000 per year. The Park Committee decided this idea should continue to be considered, but not as a stand-alone design feature it could be placed in an area with another use, such as the water fountain play area or under the pavilion.





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