

Eastern Market Metro Park Project
Written Questions Submitted at February 6 Community Meeting

The following questions were submitted in writing at the February 6, 2019 Community Meeting.

What is the status of the library project?

The Southeast Library improvements are being managed by District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL). Please visit the project website at <https://www.dclibrary.org/southeastlibraryrenovation> for updates.

DCPL is a part of the EMMP inter-agency team, and DGS is working with DCPL to make sure the park compliments the renovation of the library.

You mention nothing of rats (ubiquitous) and mosquitoes re: your water feature. Vandals will also wreck it.

The envisioned water feature is a splash pad, similar to the one at Canal Park. There will not be any standing water, as any moisture will immediately drain off the surface. The pad will be turned off during colder months so it can still be an assembly space. There will not be any exposed pipes so there will be little damaged that can be caused by outsiders.

Can pollinator gardens thrive with busy traffic on both sides of parcels 2 and 5?

Yes, pollinators can thrive in medians and on roadsides. Using interstitial spaces such as medians can help bridge gaps between otherwise isolated habitat areas, supplying more area for foraging and allowing species to travel farther. While not all species travel as well as others, the medians can benefit enough species to be a worthwhile use of the space. Planting the medians as pollinator habitat can also reduce the cost and environmental toll of maintenance for a typical lawn.

Can we keep a few of the crabapple trees since it is part of our history?

Crabapple trees provide a dense low canopy that poses challenges to visibility, interfering with wayfinding and safety. Because of this their use will be limited or restricted within the park. However, consideration is being given to planting crabapples in portions of the medians on Pennsylvania Avenue to complement those on the adjacent blocks.

Your questionnaire does not allow one to leave a choice or choices blank. It forces answers that seem positive but are not my desired choices.

All multiple choice questions, unless where mentioned, allowed as few or as many responses as the respondent wished. There was an initial error with Question #2 (“How many children do you have”) that did not allow a “none” choice. This was pointed out early in the survey (only approximately 70 responses had been received out of over 700 through the entire process) and the question was adjusted.

Please get DDOT involved internally. (1) There is no “bottle neck” at D + 8th Sts SE. (2) Indented pavement could work on 8th St for bus stops.

DDOT is a stakeholder agency and DGS has had multiple meetings with DDOT regarding not only traffic and busses but any other impacts of the project to the public right of way. DGS is carrying out a traffic

study to determine the impacts of any changes to traffic flow on surrounding streets and intersections. DDOT and DGS will review the data to determine if a change in the direction of traffic on the 800 block of D Street SE is warranted. Any bus stops built for this project will have a DDOT-standard concrete pad, unless DDOT advises differently.