

Eastern Market Metro Park Project
Written Questions Submitted at the April 3 Community Meeting

The following questions were submitted in writing at the April 3, 2019 Community Meeting.

Q: If the playground is intended to displace negative activity in the park, can you just start with better lighting throughout the park instead of a playground? The playground will not be used at night when the negative activity (drugs) happens. Start with lighting and forget the playground.

A: The core purpose of the playground is not to displace negative activity. The playground, which was part of the 2015 Master Park Plan, is one of the foremost requests from the community. DGS and DPR believe that, by bringing more people to this area of the park, there will be less space and opportunity for people to engage in undesirable activities. Lighting details and options will be presented at subsequent community meetings as the project enters the schematic design phase.

Q: Will the playground have any covering/shade for the actual playground equipment space? Summer is so hot, it would be a nice addition (+rainy weather).

A: Aside from parts of the playground equipment that incidentally provide cover or shade, there is currently no plan for shade structures directly above the playground equipment itself. DGS is designing a great deal of tree cover around the playground and cover a good deal of the play surface. In addition, DGS is working on the feasibility of including shade structures along the edge of the playground to provide a refuge during hot or rainy days.

Q: Can you make Parcel 1 more stately and distinguished looking instead of an ugly playground? The SW waterfront park near the Titanic Memorial is an example of a new park that looks stately, allows for a variety of uses, and has shade structures.

A: DGS will work to make sure all parcels blend in to the surrounding neighborhood. DGS has no plans, however, to remove the playground from the design for Parcel 1.

Q: Is there a place for the concept of a vertical garden?

A: DGS and their design team are looking to allow natural elements to become a part of the built environment. This may, in some places, take the form of vertical plantings.

Q: Concerned that all of the trees will make the park more dangerous. Current open air plaza provides sight lines to police and fire station. More trees = less sight = more danger.

Most of the trees being planned for the parks will be high-canopy trees that preserve sight lines and prevent hiding spaces.