

KLEITMAN WOODS DESIGN WORKSHOP RECAP



Thank you to all who participated in the Kleitman Woods design workshop on May 20th, 2014. This document will serve as the basis for decision making as the design begins to move forward.

A special thank you to the Feldmans for being so hospitable and helpful in the process.

We will continue to update the community as progress is made over the next few months.

Looking forward to continue working with all of you,

Michael Ticker & Phil Abramson
Topology : Urban Planning Solutions
& the Morristown Division of Planning

I. SITE IDENTITY/CHARACTER

- a. Residents put an emphasis on distinguishing the property from Burnham Park with unique improvements, identity and character.
- b. Improvements should communicate that this is not a playground, but something different.
- c. Residents wish to keep it quiet and peaceful, as the serene space it is, as well as hidden from the rest of town.
- d. There is a potential for a block party tradition to begin—this is a setting where social connections could be made and continue to grow.
- e. Outdoor exploration is one potential theme that the surrounding residents found a particular interest in. Since this is the ‘woods,’ *Kleitman Woods*, after all. That being said, a memorial to the Kleitman family is something to incorporate.

II. SITE PROGRAMMING

- a. Local children cannot play ball without losing it down the street based on the steep topography—it would be great if there was a semi-enclosed area to keep balls from rolling down the hill. This opens the potential for a flat area to play ball in, with an enclosure either planted or man-made.
- b. Jungle gym fitness stations that wouldn’t change the atmosphere of the natural setting too much, and are adaptable for all ages could be a potential point to point activity to incorporate.
- c. Cross walk across Hillcrest to Wallace is an idea relished by residents and a stairway up from the main point of access is an improvement, especially one that continues up from the crosswalk up.
- d. There is a desire for picnic benches or similar surfaces upon which people can eat—BBQ might be a nice addition. With that, seating for places to read—Adirondack chair aesthetic.
- e. More natural type of play areas are of interest to the community; rather than one that is constructed and placed onto the site, something that works with the site instead.
- f. A nature trail around the border leading up to the viewshed in the winter and the same space where the fireworks can be seen. adhs22@gmail.com
- g. Eagle Scouts/County VoTech (volunteer work) to construct benches/seating.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL & VEGETATIVE

- a. Residents enjoy the forested setting that exists currently, and would like to see all native vegetation kept, and worked with/around.
- b. Strong opposition to a chain link fence, instead there is a preference for a naturally planted (evergreen) screen.
- c. Residents would like to see more flowering trees, potentially where the house used to be if the soil and topography agree.
- d. If any pavers or pathways are to be implemented, there is a preference to use pervious surfaces as to not disturb the surrounding drainage.
- e. Wildflower plantings as well as native grass plantings are of interest to the community, and could be a way to tie in birding and other wildlife observation such as a butterfly garden.

IV. TRAFFIC & SAFETY CONCERNS

- a. Residents agree that walking is the primary mode of transportation to the site.
- b. Be careful about the lines of sight—maybe a cool entrance feature that is not *too* celebrated to attract people, but states the property's name and purpose.
- c. Speeding is a big concern along Hillcrest especially around the bend. Speed sign, speed table were things promised to residents years ago—think about bringing these ideas back up.
- e. Residents requested a 'Dusk to Dawn' sign so that there are no users after dark as a safety concern. Similarly, the residents felt the same about an overhead structure and safety lighting.
- f. Fencing should also be introduced as perimeter control for both security and safety around steep sloped areas.
- g. ADA accessibility is a concern—can there be a parking area or driveway, and would it be necessary? Residents agree that there should be maybe one handicapped space.

PRECEDENTS & INSPIRATION



