

Childers Park Master Plan

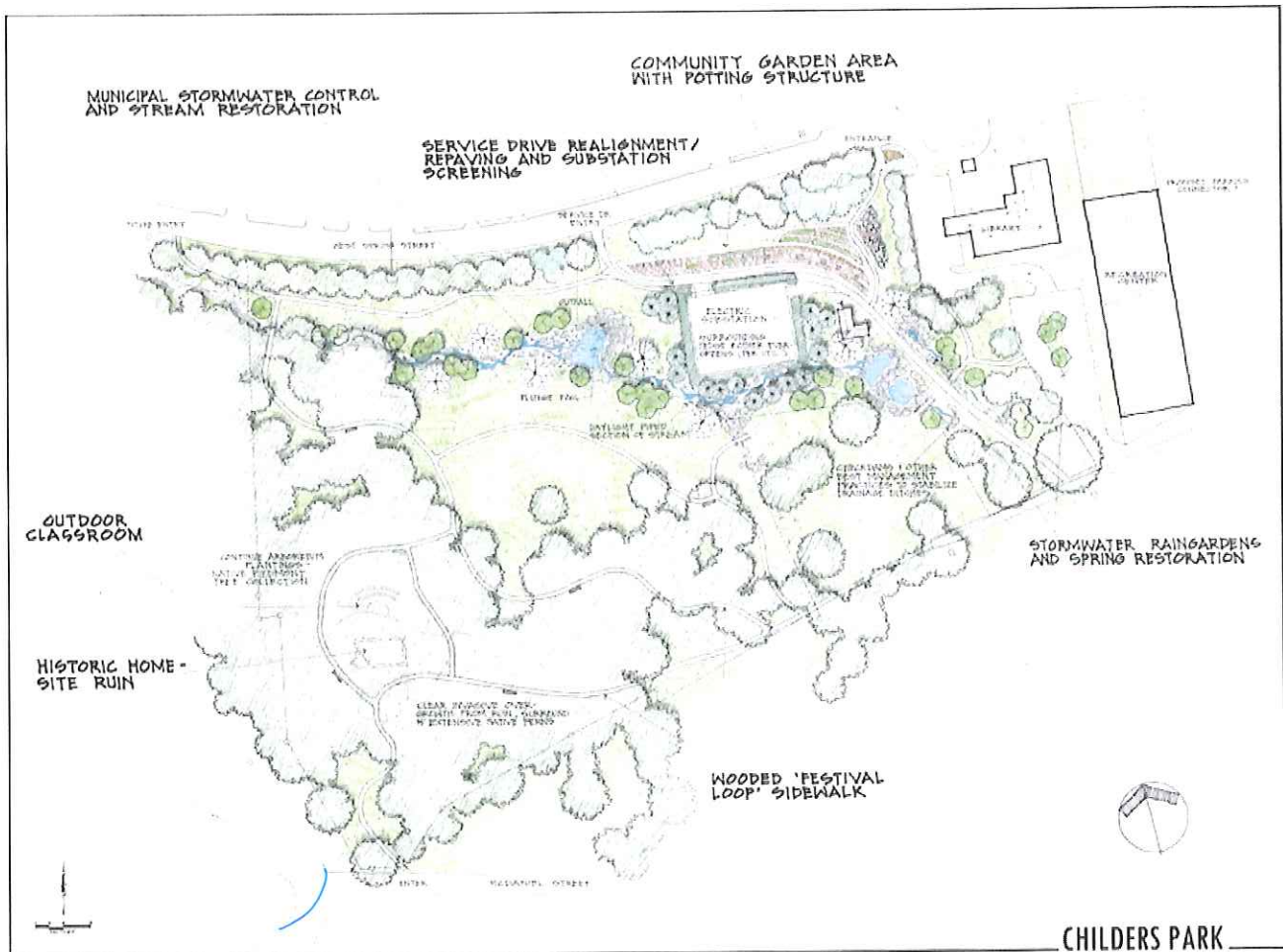


Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to display to the public the proposed improvements for Childers Park. This plan will be used as a guide and tool to show potential changes and budget costs.

Childers Park has potential to be developed into an environmental interpretive site of the natural landscape, observing and valuing the native plants of Georgia. Landscape architect, Dexter Adams, has prepared a beautiful sketch which shows a lot of the improvements the city is looking to bring to the park.

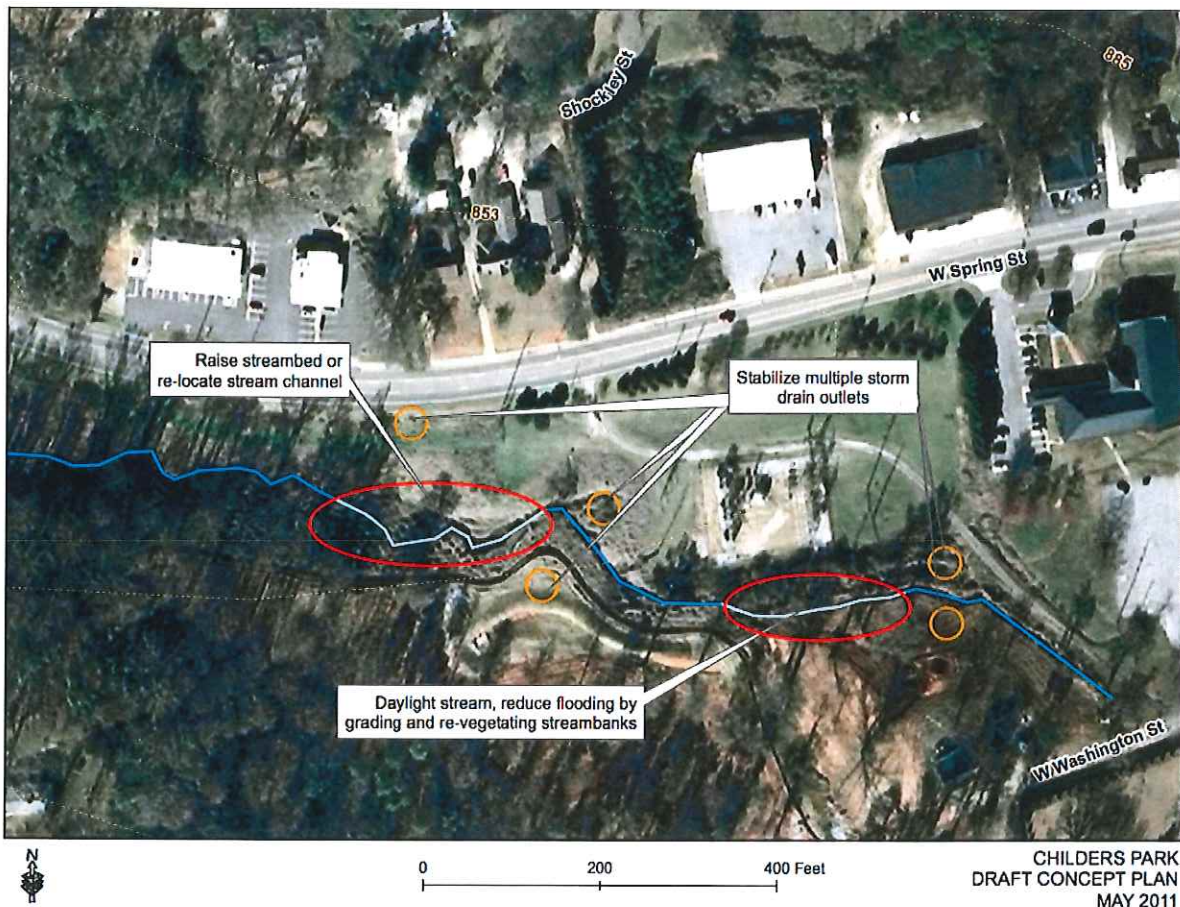
The Childers Park Master Plan has detailed information on the stream restoration, playground equipment, and the dog park. Dexter Adams sketch also includes: community gardens, a pavillion and picnic area, and hedges to surround and beautify the electric substation.



Stream Restoration

The complete stream restoration project costs approximately \$1 million. This would remove kudzo and overgrown vegetation within the stream bed and Childers Park. This stream restoration process is complicated due to a massive ditch located within the stream bed. Childers Park is home to the site of the original town spring. This rich piece of history could be included in the "interpretive walk" through the environment and history of the park.

The quote to just clear stream overgrowth is approximately \$8,800.



Overview

Childers Park is a new recreation and natural area resource for the City of Monroe and Walton County. However, the approximately 1,200 linear feet of stream within the Park is negatively impacted by severe erosion, which cause very steep and unsafe areas running through the middle of the Park. The deeply incised stream leads to water quality and aquatic habitat problems as well as a potential safety hazard for users of the park.

Background

The Park was privately developed and turned over to the City of Monroe for the use and enjoyment of the citizens. It provides an attractive in-town area for walking, nature study, and other recreation. A partnership with the City of Monroe has led to new resource for the local community immediately adjacent to the City library and the County recreation center. Educational opportunities could be developed in the future in partnership with the library and recreation center. The Park is an asset to the community.

Restoration of the stream is a critical part of the continued development of the Park. Currently, the stream is inaccessible due to overgrowth of invasive vegetation, partial piping of a small section of the stream, and very steep stream banks. The stream is partially spring fed but receives a great deal of stormwater runoff from the developed area of downtown Monroe. As such, flows during storm events are very high and water quality is poor with runoff from parking lots, roads, and other impervious areas draining directly to the stream.

Existing Conditions

The stream at Childers Park is approximately 1,200 feet long and has several stormwater pipe inlets. Water quality and hydrology issues are evident. For example, excessive algae can be found in the stream which is an indicator of high nutrient levels. Typically, water runoff from urban areas include metals, grit from road runoff, bacteria, nutrients, possibly herbicides and/or pesticides and other pollutants. Other changes in streams which receive urban runoff include increased temperature and high flows which can cause erosion.

There are numerous educational opportunities as part of the Park development. One of several stormwater pipes that drain into the stream at Childers Park. There are very steep, ten to twelve foot vertical banks in some sections of the stream. This poses a safety issue for visitors to the Park as well as a water quality issue as sediment is actively eroding into the stream. One small section of the stream is piped and some areas of the electrical sub--station experience minor flooding.

Also, the stream is a tributary to the Alcovy River, which is listed as not meeting water quality standards due to fecal coliform by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

Proposed Conditions

There are many opportunities to improve the conditions of the stream at Childers Park. For example, slowing down and infiltrating the stormwater flows from the numerous stormwater inlets would decrease erosion and improve water quality. Grading the stream channel to allow stormflows during both small and large rain events would stabilize the streambanks. It may be possible to raise the stream bed in some sections and reconnect the stream to the adjacent floodplain, which has numerous benefits including water quality, temperature, habitat, and recreation benefits. Engineering design plans are needed to finalize restoration options. Please see the attached photos of example stream restoration projects.

Estimated Costs

The cost of restoration is approximately \$400,000--\$500,000. This includes engineering design, permits from local, state, and federal agencies, construction of the project, and construction management.

Potential Funding Sources

Options for funding include private donations, public commitment of funds, and grants. One option under consideration is a USEPA Section 319 (h) grant. This grant provides 60% of the project cost, with a 40% match. This option is actively being pursued.

For More Information please contact:

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Examples of Stormwater Treatment and Stream Restoration

Collins Hill Park, pond treats stormwater runoff from parking lot

Ronald Reagan Park, rock steps slow stormwater and control erosion

Ronald Reagan Park, steep banks before restoration

Ronald Reagan Park, same location after restoration with stable channel

Tributary to Yellow River before restoration with poor habitat and water quality

Tributary to Yellow River after restoration with good habitat, stable banks, and improved water quality.

Park Playground

Alternative play equipment has been suggested to provide local children with new and exciting things to explore and play on at the park.

Ideal playground equipment includes:

Regulus, GXY939012



Spica 1, GXY8014



Zip Line Sloped M87201
120' line, 90' ride



Estimated cost of equipment (with discounts which may vary):

- i. Regulus: ~\$17,000
- ii. Spica: ~\$2,000
- iii. Zip Line: ~\$11,000

Estimated total cost without freight:

- iv. ~\$53,000 (discounted)
- v. ~\$17,000 in installation

vi. All together looking ~\$80,000

Dog Park

The Childers Dog Park will be a fenced in, off-leash play area for owners and their pets complete with benches and clean-up stations. The area for the dog park has already been cleared and is ready for fencing. To fund the dog park project the City of Monroe is selling memorial bricks \$75/brick. Bricks can be purchased at: <http://www.polarengraving.com/ChildersPark>



A local sculptor will create a dog statue to mark the front of dog park entrance, possible example includes:



The dog park budget is ~\$5,000.

Estimated cost of benches (4) - potential sponsorships of \$250: \$750



Estimated cost of clean up stations: \$1000 (5 stations)



Estimated cost of fencing: \$3,250 (black coated chain link fencing with 2 gates)

Signage

Contact original sign sculptor (Matt Zbornik, local woodwork artist Mattz.com; 706.425.0225) to make another Childers Park sign to go on other side of library to indicate rear entrance into park from Washington Street. Additional concrete curbs will be poured for vegetation around sign.





Parking improvements

The master plan includes resurfacing current parking lot behind library to connect the two library parking areas. This is create a large parking space and easier entrance into Childers Park.

