

Pomegranate Center and Tully's Coffee Gathering Grounds™ program partnership

Pomegranate Center, ARTS /A Reason To Survive, Olivewood Gardens, San Diego Foundation, and City of National City

Butterfly Park Gathering Place Project – Preliminary Design

Pomegranate Center visited National City January 10-16, 2013, to hear community ideas and develop preliminary designs for the Butterfly Park Gathering Place, to be built in April of 2013. This report presents the design elements that were guided by community-generated ideas. After two days of designing and researching materials and costs, a preliminary design for Butterfly Park was presented and embraced by the community on January 16th.



I. Site

Butterfly Park features a flat, circular space 70 ft in diameter, a sloping forested area to the East, a naturally sloping hillside with stairs and ADA accessible ramp (leading from the road to the West) connecting to Palm Ave near the intersection with E 20th St, and a 300+ ft meandering trail to the South. The site sits about 8 ft below street level at the Southern end of the park, and offers good street-side accessibility and proximity to a local golf course.

II. Jan 10 Steering Group Meeting: Project Criteria

The project Steering Group is comprised of nearly a dozen local residents, including neighbors of Butterfly Park, City officials, and representatives from partnering organizations, who help to connect community members to the project and ensure that all project criteria are met throughout the process. Meeting prior to engaging the community at large, the Steering Group developed the following criteria for the build:

- Serves the community
- \$20K for materials
- Build on time = 4 ‘barn raising’ days
- Adheres to ordinances and permits
- Locally-sourced & possibly salvaged materials
- Volunteer-friendly design
- Respect for neighbors & neighborhood
- Safe
- Easy to maintain
- Utilizes Pomegranate Center’s model

III. Ground Rules for Collaboration

Pomegranate Center’s methodology is rooted in a few basic ground rules to ensure that the process runs smoothly:

- Everyone participates
- Listen in order to discover together
- Serve the entire community
- Maintain positive atmosphere: respect, no accusations, no blaming
- Don't just say “no” – offer a better solution
- Be willing to hear new information and change your mind
- Look for solutions that meet many important goals

IV. Jan 14 Community Meeting: Summary of Ideas

On Monday, January 14th, Pomegranate Center convened a meeting to present an overview of the project and invite the community’s ideas for the site. 36 ideas were suggested by 45 participants. By the end of the evening the community prioritized these 36 diverse ideas into these key themes:

- Quiet, clean & safe
- A place for appreciation of nature
- A place of learning
- A space for all generations
- Celebrating butterflies
- Celebrating sun and moon journeys
- Mainly a passive space for quiet enjoyment
- A place for small gatherings such as learning and intimate performances (no amplification)

These themes, along with poster-size drawings created by groups of community-members, served as marching orders for Pomegranate Center’s design team.

V. Design

On January 15 and 16, a team of community members and staff from Pomegranate Center worked together to create a design for Butterfly Park. The design group included 8 members of the

Pomegranate Fellows Program, architects, designers, and artists as well as several community members and a number of city officials. In total, over 20 people participated in the design process. As with all Pomegranate Center projects, the design team developed concepts that are volunteer friendly, made largely from locally sourced and salvaged materials, are functional as well as beautiful, can be realized in a few days, and remain within the budget.

Proposed Gathering Place Design:



Watercolor by Milenko Matanovic

Proposed Gathering Place Amenities:

1. Concrete 'Butterfly wing' platform to serve as an outdoor classroom
2. Hillside terraces to accompany the Butterfly wing
3. Seating spiral with table for relaxation and small gatherings
4. Planters for interaction with natural environment and informal seating
5. Gateways to welcome visitors into the park
6. Stairway mosaic art to add to the butterfly theme of the park
7. Rocks strategically placed for seating and visual emphasis
8. Plants to attract butterflies and add beauty

1. Concrete 'Butterfly wing' platform to serve as an outdoor classroom



Size: 50' long, up to 15' wide

Location: spanning a large space at the bottom of the stairs leading into the gathering circle.

Materials: Carved and stained concrete

Volunteer Opportunities: carving, staining

2. Hillside terraces to accompany Butterfly wing



Size: two terraces, each approximately 50' long and 15" high; one wall, 20' long

Location: on the natural slope located on either side of the stairs leading into the park and on the SE side of the Butterfly Wing

Materials: Salvaged concrete pads, natural flat stone, rocks

Volunteer Opportunities: five teams of six people each day

3. Seating spiral with table for relaxation and small gatherings

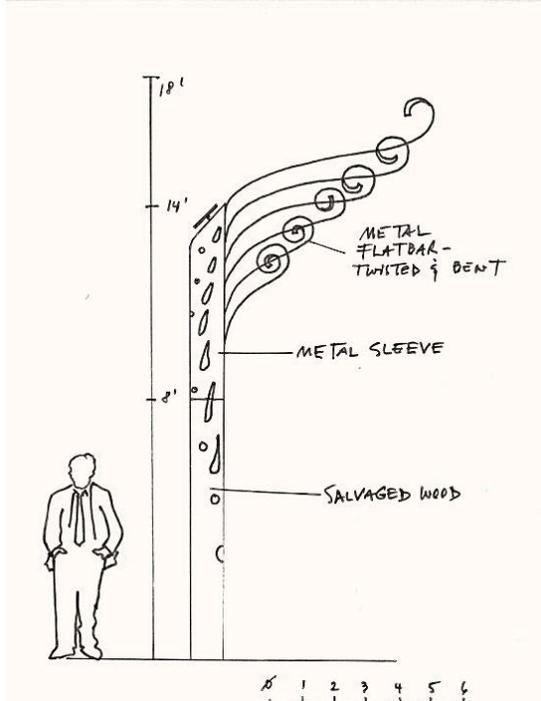


Size: 40' long, 5" to 3' high; metal art piece celebrating moon rising will be +/- 2.5' high
Location: East side of the circle.
Materials: Concrete, bent steel, mosaic
Volunteer Opportunities: dig footings, mosaic

4. Planters for interaction with natural environment and informal seating

Size: two planters appr. 25' long, 1.5' high
Location: North side of the circle.
Materials: Concrete, plants, soil
Volunteer Opportunities: dig footings, mosaic, deliver & install soil

5. Gateways to welcome visitors into the park



Size: 14' tall posts, with steel bars reaching up to 18'

Location: three or four strategically situated on the perimeter of the circular area in the park indicating cardinal directions

Materials: Carved and stained salvaged wooden beams as posts' bottoms, metal "sleeve" with cut-out design as posts tops, bent and twisted steel flat bars, solar string lighting within the metal sleeve - revealing cut-out designs

Volunteer Opportunities: carving and staining wood, installation

6. Stairway mosaic art to add to the butterfly theme of the park



Size: 20' long, up to 5' wide art piece placed on the vertical parts of the steps, forming an image

Location: West side of the park, leading from Palm Ave down to the gathering place.

Materials: Tiles, mosaic

Volunteer Opportunities: weekly workshops at ARTS, starting Saturday, February 23 at 1pm,

For more information please contact Rob Tobin: rtobin@areasonstosurvive.org

7. Rocks strategically placed for seating and visual emphasis

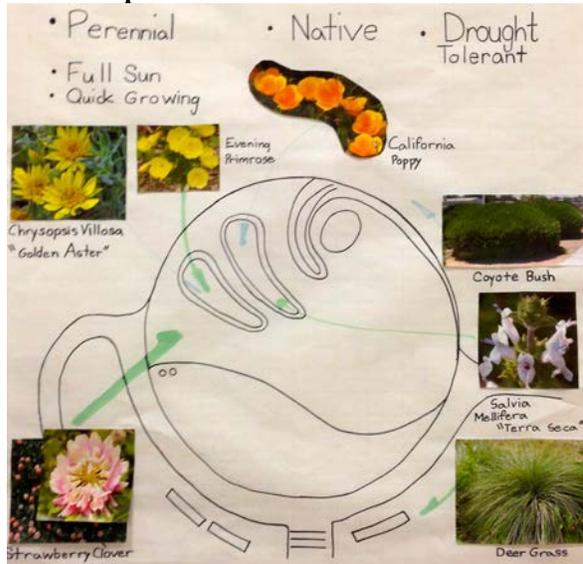
Size: 15-20 rocks, up to 3' high, 4' wide

Location: Scattered throughout the park for playing, seating, and structural support

Materials: Rocks

Volunteer Opportunities: digging, placing rocks (experienced individuals only)

8. Native plants and trees to attract butterflies and add beauty



The plant plan includes several trees as well as planting several varieties of perennial, native, drought-tolerant plants on and around the build site. Plant species are being selected with the intention of attracting more butterflies to the site.

Size: 5 trees, enough plants to fill the two planters

Location: Trees to round out the circle of trees around the build site, plants in planters and scattered throughout the park

Materials: a list of specific plants is being developed

Volunteer Opportunities: clearing the underbrush, digging, soil preparation, planting

VI. Next Steps

1. Refine design between now and February 23, 2013
2. Steering Group meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2013 6-8pm at City Hall
3. Mosaic / tile workshops: Saturday, February 23, 2013 1-5pm at ARTS (200 East 12 Street National City, CA 91950) and each Saturday up until April, 18th
4. Steering Group meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013 6-8pm at City Hall
5. Community meeting on Monday, March 25, 2013 6-8pm (location TBD)
6. Grading, concrete work in early April 2013
7. **Community build from Thursday, April 18 through Sunday, April 21 2013**

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