

Compark Apartments: Project Narrative

Architectural Design

Proposed is a balance of the past and the future with a farmhouse modern style. The Architecture is refreshingly new- with hints to Parker's agricultural past. High pitched roofs, clean forms, gridded windows and mindful details are key characteristics within the design.

Envisioned is a quaint village neighborhood of buildings organized with the clubhouse at the center. This neighborhood village is comprised of four building types which are uniquely different but similar in Architectural language. A rich color palette and variety of materials, along with breaks in the horizontal and vertical building compositions define the design.

The clubhouse is the center of the community. It is a gathering place- a place for residents to dwell and pass time. Inspired by the agrarian barn, the building is shaped as a bar with a strong gable, broken down at many scales to define the rooms that sit behind it. Architectural features such as overhanging awnings and large openings embrace indoor/outdoor living. Structural details are expressed throughout the building from inside and out to embrace this idea. These details make their way into the breezeway that cuts through the building or the indoor/outdoor spaces off the lounge and fitness areas.

Landscape Design

The proposed landscape design plan intends to draw inspiration from the natural swales and arroyos on the property. With the Happy Canyon Trail converging with the Cherokee Trail, opportunity for rustic naturalistic design juxtaposed with pockets of formal landscape create an opportunity for visual interest and plant diversity that many can enjoy on a pedestrian scale. Furthermore, the landscape plan pays homage to the small village feel that comprises many of Parkers quaint neighborhoods which exist today.

Design Intent

The proposed landscape architectural design encourages many different pedestrian opportunities. Walking paths connect areas of active landscape and passive open space that foster an array of activities for residents. Nodes have been designed within the property where more formalized sitting gardens have been proposed. Aromatic plants and fragrant perennials give residents an opportunity to take pride in reaping the benefits of the landscape while creating a more meditative atmosphere.

Much of the vegetation proposed within the site will be colorful, with seasonal interest, stimulating the senses of sight and smell. Portions of the planting plan are intended to include drought tolerant native plant species, which will intentionally attract and encourage the livelihood of pollinators (bees and insects) along the periphery of the site. Pollinators, including some 20,000 species of wild bees, contribute to the growth of fruit, vegetables and many nuts,

as well as flowering plants. Extinction risk for insects is more prevalent as time progresses and high levels of threat for some bees and butterfly species have been identified with today's aggressive agricultural practices. This proposed vegetation will include perennials, grasses, flowering shrubs and trees along with ornamental grasses that are aesthetically pleasing while promoting the health of pollinator insects.

Other passive areas around the site also include amenities such as picnic shelters, benches, outdoor grills and gas firepits. All of these elements, including a small dog park area, have been situated to give residents and opportunity to congregate and foster community in which they reside. Trellis' with festoon lighting create a quiet night ambiance and give those an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors for three of the four seasons.

Other areas are programed to be used as active spaces, with amenities such as naturalistic slides taking advantage of the sites topography. Play equipment for children ranging from ages 5-12 host an array of playscape options. Rope climbers, log traverse and steppers, and even a massive hill side to sled or roll down create unique opportunities that are not typically found in conventional playgrounds. Taking inspiration from the topography provides opportunity for active areas around the site. This promotes children to use their imagination and create unique situations while having them develop their vestibular systems. These activities, housed within the landscape, create a healthier youth, making them modulate, balance, and better understand their movements to adapt to their environment. All of this will prepare them for the hikes they take in the future, wherever the Cherokee Trail ends, and a new adventure awaits.