

STATE OF ALABAMA)(
 :
COUNTY OF BALDWIN)(

The City Council met in a Work Session
at 4:30 p.m., Fairhope Municipal Complex Council Chamber,
161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532,
on Monday, 8 July 2019.

Present were Council President Jack Burrell, Councilmembers: Jay Robinson, Jimmy Conyers, Robert Brown, and Kevin Boone, Mayor Karin Wilson, City Attorney Marcus E. McDowell, and City Clerk Lisa A. Hanks.

Council President Burrell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- The Discussion of Ordinance to Establish and Adopt Policy and Procedure for “Sleeping in Vehicles, Out-of-Doors or in Nonresidential Zones” was first on the agenda. Chief Stephanie Hollinghead explained the need for the ordinance was to help enforce the issues and it can be revised as needed. Chief Hollinghead said the ordinance was mirrored after another City in Baldwin County. Council President Burrell questioned the homeless and fines and/or jail time. Chief Hollinghead stated this is the first step in the right direction. Council President Burrell asked City Clerk Lisa Hanks to add the ordinance to the next agenda.
- Public Works Director Richard Johnson addressed the City Council regarding the Discussion of Canadian Geese population on Fairhope Public Land. Mr. Johnson stated there is an issue with the geese at Fairhope Beaches and Quail Creek Golf Course. He explained the problems and issues in detail. (See attached handout) The following are the four recommendations: preventing public feeding, hazing – active and passive, mass relocation at time of molt, and lethally reducing the population. Mr. Johnson stated that relocation is the best idea and will remove the most geese. Councilmember Brown commented he was fine with all measures. The consensus of the City Council was to move forward with the first three recommendations; and to hold off on fourth recommendation and use as the last resort.
- The Young Street Community Park Plans Presentation by Christian Preus with CPLA was next on the agenda. (See attached handout) Mr. Preus said that these plans were developed with community engagement and an online survey. Mayor Wilson commented the features that will be used are not used anywhere else. Public Works Director Richard Johnson said the public component will be done first; and drainage being a main issue. The front playground and circulation would help make the community aware this is a public park. Council President Burrell suggested putting more in the RFP for playground equipment.
- Councilmember Boone announced a Harbor Board meeting on Wednesday; and the Personnel Board approved the Auburn Study.

Monday, 8 July 2019

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- Public Works Director Richard Johnson addressed the City Council regarding several agenda items; 2016 and 2017 TAP Grants; and the K-1 Center inspection services recommendation of Watermark Design with a no-to-exceed amount of \$15,000.00 for an assessment of what needs to be done.
- Development Services Manager Buford King addressed the City Council regarding the Greeno Road Corridor Ordinance which will be presented at a 4:00 p.m. Work Session and a 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing at the Planning Commission meeting on August 5, 2019.
- Operations Director Richard Peterson addressed the City Council regarding the following items: Fels Lift Station preconstruction meeting and temporary walkway; the Rock Creek twelve inch water main was replaced today; and the Nichols/Young Street substation will be on the July 15, 2019 Board of Adjustment and Appeals.
- Mr. Peterson brought up the Siemens regulators and breakers; and the Terms and Conditions issue. He said we should waive some informalities and approve. City Attorney Marcus McDowell disagreed that the Terms and Conditions were informalities. Councilmember Boone said he would address the issue first; and not after the bid awarded. Mr. Johnson commented we have one size fits all Terms and Conditions; and these should not be the same for vendor, services, etc.

Councilmember Robinson said we can not waive the Terms and Conditions; and said he offered to sit down to refine the process, but no one has contacted him.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Jack Burrell, Council President



Lisa A. Hanks, MMC
City Clerk



Memorandum

From: Richard D. Johnson, P.E., Public Works Director

To: Fairhope City Council

Thru: Honorable Karin Wilson, Mayor

CC: City Clerk; File

Date: July 1, 2019

Subject: Uncheck Canada Geese Population and the negative impact on Public Lands – Population Management Options and Plan

There is a concurrence that the Canada Geese population on Fairhope Public Lands have become untenable, obtrusive and a potential public health threat. At the request of the Mayor, I have been in discussion with several Wildlife Management entities and have garnered enough information provide options for managing the population of these resident waterfowl.

According to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2013 report, there are more than 5 million breeding Canada Geese in North America. But within that vast number are two distinct populations: migratory birds that breed in northern North America and winter in central and southern North America; and resident birds that live in and around towns year-round. Both migratory and resident numbers have increased, but most of the trouble has come from resident birds.

Most Canada Geese used to be migratory - those big vees of "honkers" that signal the change in seasons each year as they pass overhead. Though there are still several million migratory Canada Geese, for a period at the end of the nineteenth century they became scarce. (Overhunting, egg collecting, and development of wetlands were among the causes of the decline.) In the 1930s, efforts to restore their numbers led to government-sponsored releases of resident "giant" Canada Geese for hunting. Not long after, as lawns started to proliferate, many of these resident geese flocks began to thrive and expand their range. Though resident and migratory geese may mingle during winter, they retain separate breeding ranges and do not typically interbreed.

But most biologists believe there are far too many resident geese - more than can be sustained in urban-suburban areas. Resident Canada Geese have adjusted well to living near people, with few significant curbs on their numbers. Resident geese in cities and suburbs are safe from most predators, many people like to feed them, and they are less vulnerable to hunting because they tend to live in settled areas where firearm restrictions often apply. By contrast, migratory

Canada Goose populations are held in check by migration mortality, predation, late winter storms, and hunting. Resident geese begin nesting at a younger age and produce larger clutches than migratory geese. It's no wonder their numbers are rising so fast.

The City of Fairhope has a resident Canada Geese problem. Canada Geese are a protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This protection applies to both resident and migratory geese. Neither individuals nor governmental entities may launch lethal control efforts without the proper federal, state, and (if needed) local permits.

Experts warn that no single management technique is going to be effective in deterring Canada Geese, and it's vital to get buy-in from the community for whichever techniques are contemplated. The most commonly used techniques include preventing public feeding, altering the habitat to reduce its attractiveness to geese, hazing to scare geese away, using chemical repellents, hampering reproduction, mass relocation at time of molt to an area with predation and lethally removing the geese. It is the recommendation of local experts and staff to concentrate on four methodologies:

1. Preventing Public Feeding
2. Hazing – active and passive
3. Mass relocation at time of molt
4. Lethally reducing the population

Preventing Public Feeding – this is a known issue that unfortunately has been purposely overlooked. Law and Code enforcement, is understandably, reluctant to criminalize the feeding of the waterfowl in the parks. It is hard to punish individuals for an act they consider to be helpful to the wildlife and gives them satisfaction and pleasure for the perceived helping of nature. It seems like a nice thing to do, and it's fun to attract them closer and watch their antics, but in the long run it causes more harm than good for both bird and human.

Foods such as bread and popcorn are not ideal for waterfowl, and they can become weaker over time if they rely on these items. Regular feeding by humans causes the waterfowl stay close to their reliable food source. They are less likely to want to migrate as they should. But there are dangers to people as well. Human-dependent birds can become aggressive, and their population can increase to the point where it causes a strain on the ecosystem. In short, humans should not feed waterfowl. They can and will find their own food and increasing their dependence on people is detrimental to their well-being.

Signage is present, ordinances are on the books, we must insist on rigid enforcement. I would recommend a 90-day "Notice" and "Grace" period. During this time, we would publish to our citizens on all available platforms: press, bulletin boards, everbridge, website and social media the reason why feeding of the waterfowl is detrimental and that on the announced date rigid enforcement would begin. Then I would ensure a constant presence of Law and Code Enforcement and ticket every observed offender. After a short period of rigorous enforcement, illicit feeding would stop.

Hazing – active and passive: Goose ridding techniques known as hazing are more accurately described as harassment. You're creating a climate that's so unpleasant that the bird simply doesn't want to live there. The hazing/harassment must be continuous and concentrated. There are two types: Active and Passive. The leading active Hazing measure is the use of trained Border Collies used to harass the geese off the property. No barking dogs, no wildly running animals, but trained dogs that treat the geese as prey and 'stalk' them so the geese think they

are a predator and wish to be somewhere else making the geese fly away. We have a vendor in the area that we have requested a proposal from. The cost would be for the trained dogs and handler(s). The use of hazing dogs would be required each time the gaggle becomes too concentrated and/or numerous. Passive involves lights and/or noise. Pyrotechnics, air cannons, gunfire or loud music would be too intrusive in the public space. However, the rapid cycle, high-intensity LED beacons only effect low light times of the day when the public land is not in use by the citizenry. At night, geese sleep in or near water areas where they feel secure from predators. Placing a unit into these secure areas makes the geese anxious and they will no longer consider the area "safe" and will simply move to another suitable habitat within a few days. If the geese feel insecure in an area at night, they won't be back during the day, either.

From experience, we have found the lights have a decaying hazing effect. When first introduced we find the gaggle is displaced. In large areas they simply move to a location outside of the lights line-of-sight. Thus, additional lights must be placed, or the existing lights moved. Over time we have found the lights effectiveness in keeping the geese away diminishes. The lights are subject to routine theft and vandalism. Cost of maintaining the lights have run in excess of \$1,200.00 per year not including labor.

Mass relocation at time of molt: Canadian geese molt (rejuvenate their flight feathers) in mid-June throughout the month of July. Unlike other birds which will lose one feather at a time and still be able to fly, geese will lose all their flight feathers (or molt) and not be able to fly during this stage. This eclipse molt leaves the Canada Geese flightless for a three to four-week period. That is why you see high, immobile, populations during the early summer on our public lands, they cannot take flight and leave. During this time Geese are corralled, crated and transported by a Licensed Wildlife Management firm at the City's expense to distant property that has woods, water and natural predators. Permits are required from the State and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for translocation activities. While the flightless waterfowl reside in this appropriate habitat, natural selection occurs due to the existence of predators. This natural process reduces the population before they regain flight and return to their former homes. This process repeated over several years will significantly reduce resident Geese populations.

Lethally reducing the population: State and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services recognize the resident Canada Geese problem and will issue Permits to lethally reduce the population. The permitting process requires a count of the number of geese present in a given area. Sampling of population numbers may be performed over a period of time to establish a median baseline. Once an overall population number is determined and concurred with Fish and Wildlife, a permit to lethally take 25% of the gaggle can be issued. The City would contract with Licensed Wildlife Management firm to perform the culling. Humane measures would be used to euthanize the waterfowl. Some communities have had success to turn them into food for the needy. The byproduct of the culling would more than likely require involvement by USDA to oversee the culling help regulate whether the meat is suitable for human consumption. In our area the carcasses are used to feed captive wildlife in zoos or gator farms. This reuse ensures the culled meat is not wasted.

Recommendation and Plan of Action: I believe this problem may be only solved using a multiprong series of methodologies. The recommended plan of action is:

- Motion by Council to rigorously enforce the No Public Feeding of Wildlife and direct Law and Code Enforcement to patrol and issue citations after a declared grace period.

- Continue with Passive Hazing (Lights) and bring forth to Council a proposal for Active Hazing (harassment dogs) – Resolution to place under contract on an “As Needed” basis.
- Hire a Licensed Wildlife Management firm (require Council Resolution) and apply for a Permit to lethally reduce the current gaggle by 25% - immediately.
- Using the same Licensed Wildlife Management firm to plan for and request permit for a Mass relocation at time of the next molt (June/July 2020).
- Each of these contracts once approved by Council, would be planned for in subsequent budgets to ensure the populations stays within manageable numbers.

This is a difficult issue. These are God’s creatures and we pride ourselves in being environmentally and ecologically sensitive. We are the stewards of these resources. Sometimes, being a good steward requires tough and unpopular decisions. We must manage this resource in a pragmatic and humane manner. Our Canada Geese are intended to be a wild animal, because of our actions, or inaction, they have become nearly domesticated. By becoming dependent residents, the ecology is damaged, a nuisance is created, and a public health is threatened. Action is required.

Yours,

RDJ

Denver is rounding up its Canada geese -- to turn them into food for the needy

By Michelle Lou, CNN

Updated 9:28 PM EDT, Tue July 02, 2019

Denver capturing, killing geese for needy families (1:27)

(CNN) — The city of Denver apparently has a new motto: Geese are not friends. They're food.

Fed up with its growing goose problem, the city has implemented an initiative to round up its Canada geese and process them into food for "needy families," US Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Suzanne Bond said.

"The resident goose population in this area is too large, which will cause many problems including overgrazing of grass, ornamental plants and agricultural crops; accumulation of

droppings and feathers; disease, attacks on humans by aggressive birds; and the fouling of reservoirs, swimming areas, docks, lawns and recreational areas," Bond said.



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Average annual per household claim on a 2016 vehicle listed in State Farm's New Autoholders who insured through us within 90 days from

The USDA says goose meat is safe for human consumption.

There are an estimated 5,000 geese living in the city, which has been trying to manage its goose population for more than 15 years. The [city says](#) the birds have led to "increased human-wildlife conflicts in parks, vegetation destruction, sanitation concerns, poor water quality, and other maintenance challenges."

"We get so many complaints about people coming out here with a blanket to sit on the grass, and they cannot sit on the grass because there's so much goose poop in the parks," Scott Gilmore, deputy executive director of Denver Parks and Recreation, told CNN affiliate [KDVR](#).

The program started this month because the geese are at their most vulnerable: They molt around June and July and can't fly.

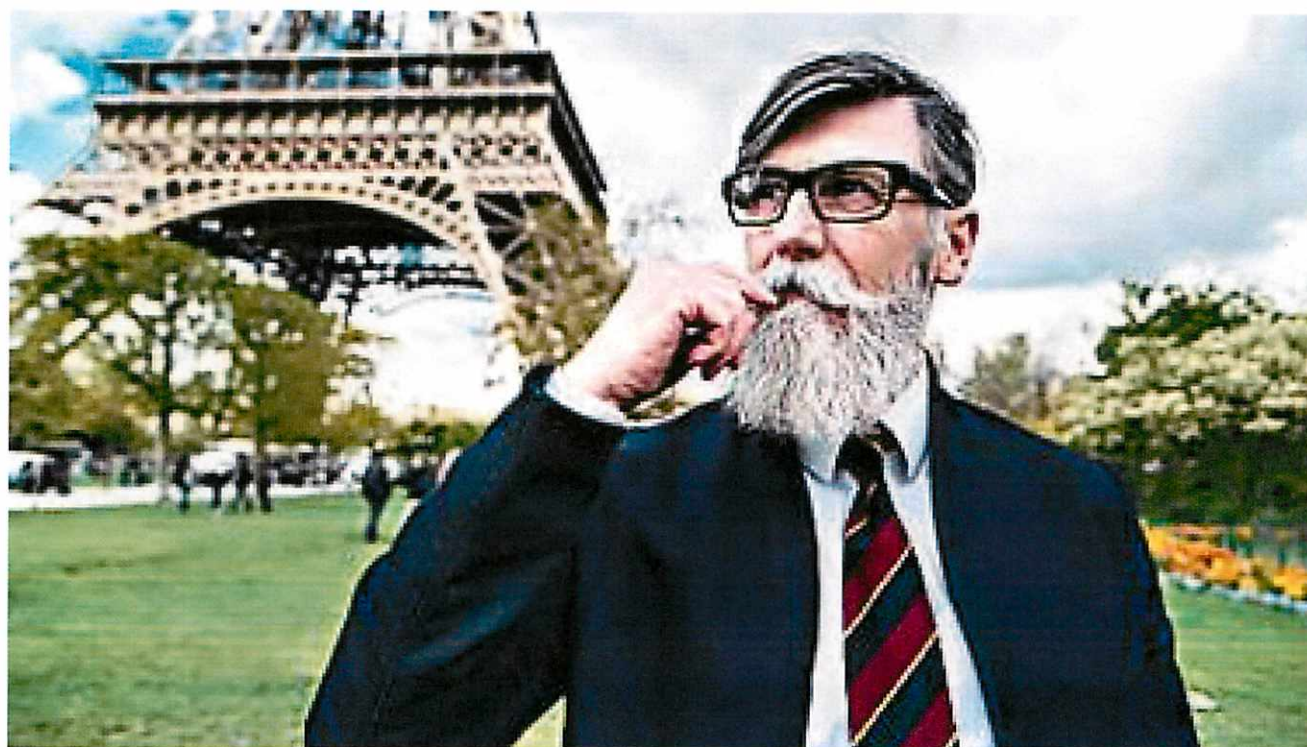
The USDA will conduct the roundups and help regulate whether the meat is suitable for human consumption, Denver Parks and Recreation said. The agencies hope to donate the meat to "charitable organizations and wildlife rehabilitation facilities."

Canada geese are protected under the [Migratory Bird Act](#), but Denver Parks and Recreation obtained authorization from both the state and federal governments to manage the population via roundups, according to its website.

Denver has tried other goose management tactics including oiling their eggs, spraying repellents and creating visual barriers to discourage geese from nesting.

[View on CNN](#)

PAID CONTENT



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Rotary Youth Park
 Preliminary Cost Estimate
 12-Mar-19



Overall

Item Description	Unit	Qty.	Price/Unit	Item Price
<i>Hardscape</i>				
Existing Conditions Survey	LS	1	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00
Mobilization	LS	1	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Demolition	LS	1	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Grading & Site Prep	CY	250	\$ 18.00	\$ 4,500.00
Parking	SY	2,205	\$ 30.00	\$ 66,150.00
Paved Playing Courts	SY	695	\$ 95.00	\$ 66,025.00
6' Wide Concrete Walkway	SY	1,928	\$ 55.00	\$ 106,040.00
6' Interpretive Boardwalk / Trail	SY	368	\$ 115.00	\$ 42,320.00
Playgrounds	SF	5,425	\$ 75.00	\$ 406,875.00
Fencing	LF	774	\$ 35.00	\$ 27,090.00
Lights	EA	20	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 70,000.00
Exercise Equipment	EA	5	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
Site Furnishings Allowance	LS	1	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Electrical & Special Outlets	LS	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Utilities	LS	1	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Entry & Park Signage	LS	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Educational Signage	LS	1	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00

Buildings & Structures

Building Addition - Front	SF	800	\$ 175.00	\$ 140,000.00
Building Addition - Rear	SF	400	\$ 175.00	\$ 70,000.00
Pavilion	SF	600	\$ 115.00	\$ 69,000.00
Pool House Upgrades - Museum	LS	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00

Landscape

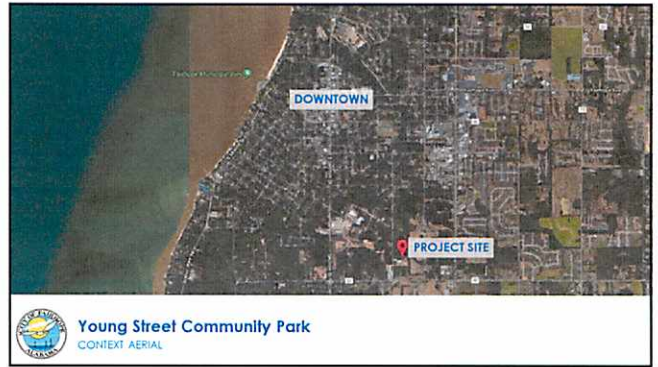
Shade Trees (45 Gal.)	EA	32	\$ 525.00	\$ 16,800.00
Flowering Trees (35Gal.)	EA	8	\$ 285.00	\$ 2,280.00
Sod (allowance for about 1/3 of site)	SY	5,500	\$ 4.50	\$ 24,750.00
Garden	SY	180	\$ 125.00	\$ 22,500.00
Pine Straw Mulch	BALE	1,200	\$ 6.50	\$ 7,800.00
6" Bed Prep Material	CY	100	\$ 42.00	\$ 4,200.00
Drainage	LS	1	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 18,500.00
Irrigation (Portion of the site)	LS	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00

Estimate Subtotal:	\$1,357,330.00
10% Contingency	\$135,733.00
A&E Fees	\$149,306.30
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,642,369.30

Color notes potential Phased Items
 Color notes potential in-kind opportunities



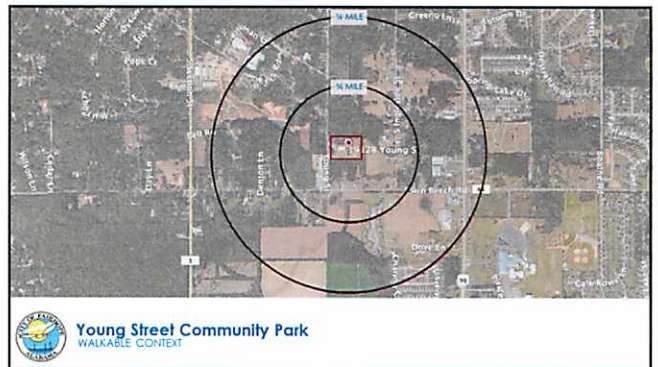
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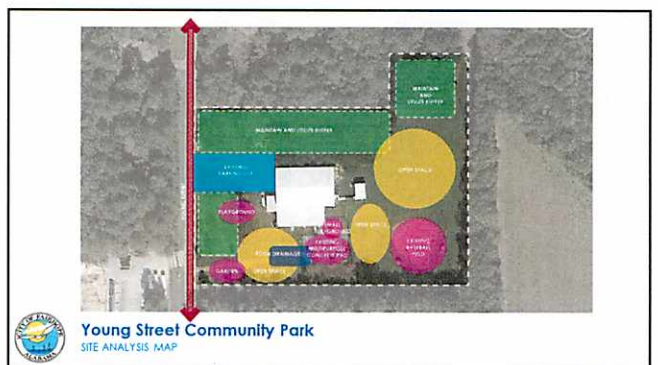
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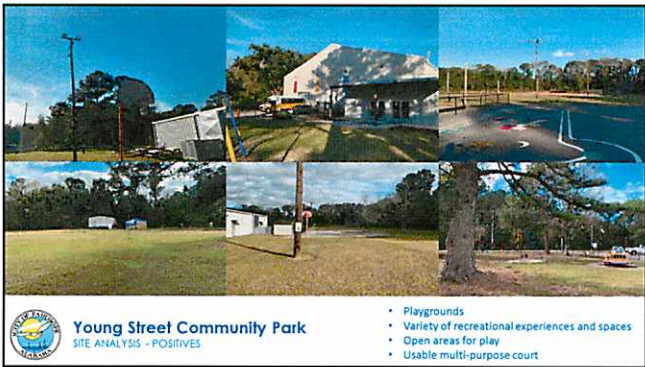
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6



Young Street Community Park
SITE ANALYSIS - POSITIVES

- Playgrounds
- Variety of recreational experiences and spaces
- Open areas for play
- Usable multi-purpose court

7



Young Street Community Park
SITE ANALYSIS - NEGATIVES

- Basketball hoops in need of repair
- Existing structures need softening
- Some drainage issues
- Power lines everywhere
- Lack of storage
- No walkable circulation
- Park feels like it is exclusive for the facility

8

TAKE AWAYS:

- SITE NEEDS BETTER ORGANIZATION
- BOTH VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION NEED TO BE ADDRESSED
- LIMIT POWER LINE PRESENCE WHERE POSSIBLE
- EVALUATE PLAYGROUND SAFETY AND FUNCTIONS FOR VARIOUS AGES
- IMPROVE SIGNAGE, LIGHTING, AND PARK IDENTITY
- PARK NEEDS TO FEEL LIKE PART OF THE COMMUNITY AGAIN (ACCESS)



Young Street Community Park
TAKE-AWAYS

9

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMMING:



Young Street Community Park
PROGRAMMING

10

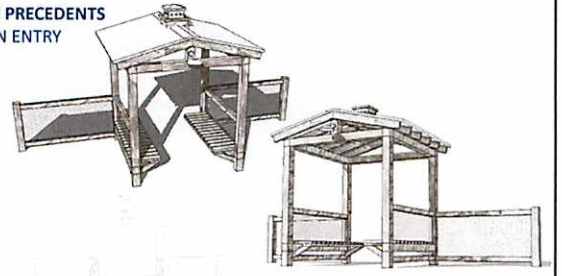
DESIGN PRECEDENTS
COMMUNITY GARDEN



Young Street Community Park
PRECEDENTS

11

DESIGN PRECEDENTS
GARDEN ENTRY



Young Street Community Park
PRECEDENTS

12



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14



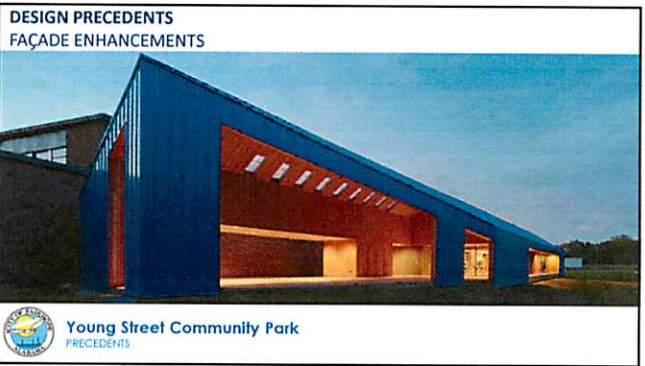
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