

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Proposed “Hub” Structure for Pima Prickly Park

Conceptual Stage Document for Discussion and Contributions

INTRODUCTION

Pima Prickly Park sorely needs a central information and gathering area. One solution would be a small ramada structure with built in seating and educational signage. It would serve as a central park entrance type feature for a gathering point, information, displays, and other educational purposes. The topic of an entrance feature has been discussed for over four years. It is proposed the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society (TCSS) sponsor and manage the project, paying for materials and contract labor as needed. Pima County

Natural Resources-Parks and Recreation (NRPR) would hopefully participate where possible, own the facility once completed and perform future maintenance. Project cost is estimated to be \$18,000.



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

It presents one persons conceptual idea for discussion and idea building by TCSS members and NRPR staff. If this concept is to be progressed, a formal Proposal document would need to be developed with more details, including exact costs, materials, responsibilities, etc. The Proposal document would be used for formal approvals by the TCSS Board and NRPR Management.

BACKGROUND

The original Opuntia Garden Design Proposal was developed in December 2010 by Jessie Byrd, the Garden was later named Pima Prickly Park (PPP). It showed a Main Entrance area but no design drawings were prepared at that time due to other garden area priorities, see Attachment B for original park map. A few years later Jessie designed a conceptual drawing with lots of Palo Verde (yellow blossoms) and Santa Rita Prickly Pear (purple pads) making a colorful entrance area. This design was not pursued. Since that time a few changes have occurred which makes one formal entrance area more difficult. The original main entrance envisioned is probably not workable since there is several hundred feet of park perimeter where visitors can park and choose to enter from that point (we tend to take the shortest distance). The area where most people would now choose to park has changed dramatically due to recently installed solar collectors providing covered parking. These large structures also change the look of the park entrance areas so locating a “Hub” structure a hundred feet into the park avoids some of the visual conflicts with the collectors.

Reviewing the entrance areas, best described as “access paths” into the park are: office workers in the NRPR building, office visitor parking lot and PPP visitor parking lot. Considering there are currently three major access paths into the park it seems appropriate to have a very visible feature just inside PPP to draw people to it. The proposed ramada shade structure is referred to as the “Hub” in this document, meaningful and easy to remember.

“HUB” PURPOSE

The purpose is to serve as a very visible welcoming entrance feature to provide information about PPP and our flora and fauna. Also, it would serve as a gathering/meeting place for visitors and for discussions and workshops by any group wanting to use an outdoor learning environment.

“HUB” CONCEPT

The concept is a medium sized ramada structure called the “Hub”. It is envisioned that it would consist of a metal rain proof, slightly peaked, roof supported by large perimeter posts. The shape proposed is a hexagon roof about 24 feet across supported by 6 posts, see Attachment C for one manufacture’s photo.

A crushed granite rock floor is best since this is the existing park path material, much less cost than concrete and would prevent skate boarding. Spills from drinks or experiments may discolor a solid surface. The location would be in the site used for the PPP Grand Opening that is already cleared and visible from both of the main visitor parking lots, see attached Attachment D. The three main access paths would all lead directly to the “Hub” to encourage visitors to stop there. See Attachment A.

“HUB” FEATURES

- A visible attraction to get visitors to go to it first before exploring the park, especially first time visitors.
- Three laminated sign boards with metal posts. Signs for about PPP, plants, animals. See Attachment C for sign example.
- Dispenser for brochures and other handouts. A location out of the sun is desirable for signs and brochures. They would be located in the center of the “Hub”, items not be over 4 feet tall to allow the entire area under the structure to be used for one group (no blocked vision to all the benches).
- Six large benches to accommodate about 35 students for lectures and hands on outdoor classroom activities. These need to be long rectangular hard surfaces (each about 4 to 8 feet long) for sitting and serving as a student table/work surface for making drawings, etc., see Attachment E for layout.
- Open air sides to view the park and special plants around the perimeter with identification plaques.
- Four main paths would lead to the “Hub”

ESTIMATED COSTS (best estimates on all items except the structure which was quoted)

The major components and rough cost estimates are:

- Metal shade structure, 24 feet across, clearance 7'6" feet high, center roof peak 11 feet high \$13,000 (estimate is based on a Classic Recreation Systems quote, “Charleston” model, add \$1k if taxable)
- Installation of shade structure by contractor \$2,000, 2 yds. of concrete for 6 post footings \$200
- Six concrete benches requiring about 3 yards of concrete (about 16" x 16" x 7'), concrete only \$350
- Labor to form and pour concrete for the six benches \$750, (possibly TCSS could construct these)
- Three large free-standing weatherproof laminated display signs (about 20"x30"). Designed by NRPR, materials about \$800
- Installation for 3 laminated display signs by TCSS \$0
- Center brochure and material dispenser, made by TCSS, materials \$100
- Installation for brochure dispenser by TCSS \$0
- Crushed granite for floor area and paths to “Hub”, about 5 yds possibly provided by NRPR as path improvements over time, TCSS to install \$0
- Miscellaneous and unforeseen items \$800

Total estimated cost is: **\$18,000**

NEXT STEPS

Solicit comments and suggestions to improve and validate this concept. Update/revise this document, present to TCSS Board for approval to proceed or not to proceed. If approved, review with NRPR Management for their input so a formal proposal could be developed. This would require both TCSS and NRPR approvals before proceeding with any commitments, expenses or construction activities.

It is estimated that putting a formal proposal together, review and approval by NRPR would take about 3 months. Delivery of the structure and installation should take about 4 months. If TCSS fund raising is required before proceeding with construction, that time is unknown.

OTHER IDEAS/OPTIONS

If there are other ideas that are significantly different from this concept, it is suggested that a separate conceptual document(s) be prepared for consideration by the TCSS Board in addition to this “Hub” proposal.

Conceptual Drawing



Original Main Entrance Location

Drawing below from TCSS Opuntoid Garden Proposal Document by Jessie Byrd, Dec 2010
The full document is available on the TucsonCactus.org web site, click on Pima Prickly Park link then on Publications once on the park page or click on this link ([click to view](#)) or paste this address in your web browser:

http://tucsoncactus.org/html/pimapricklypark/pdf_files/Prickly%20Park%20Proposal.pdf



Note:

The proposed "Hub" location is right about where the ENTRANCE word is located (the X in the box)
Additional paths have been added since this drawing, see Attachment D

Basic Structure

This structure is from Classic Recreation Systems, “Charleston” model (www.ClassicRecreation.com)

Also, for all their products see <http://www.classicrecreation.com/products.html>

Roof and post colors can be selected from a variety of colors. Structure is bolted together, all bolts concealed, no on site welding required or allowed by manufacturer.



“Hub” Ramada Structure 24' x 24' x 7' 6" clearance, center peak is 11'



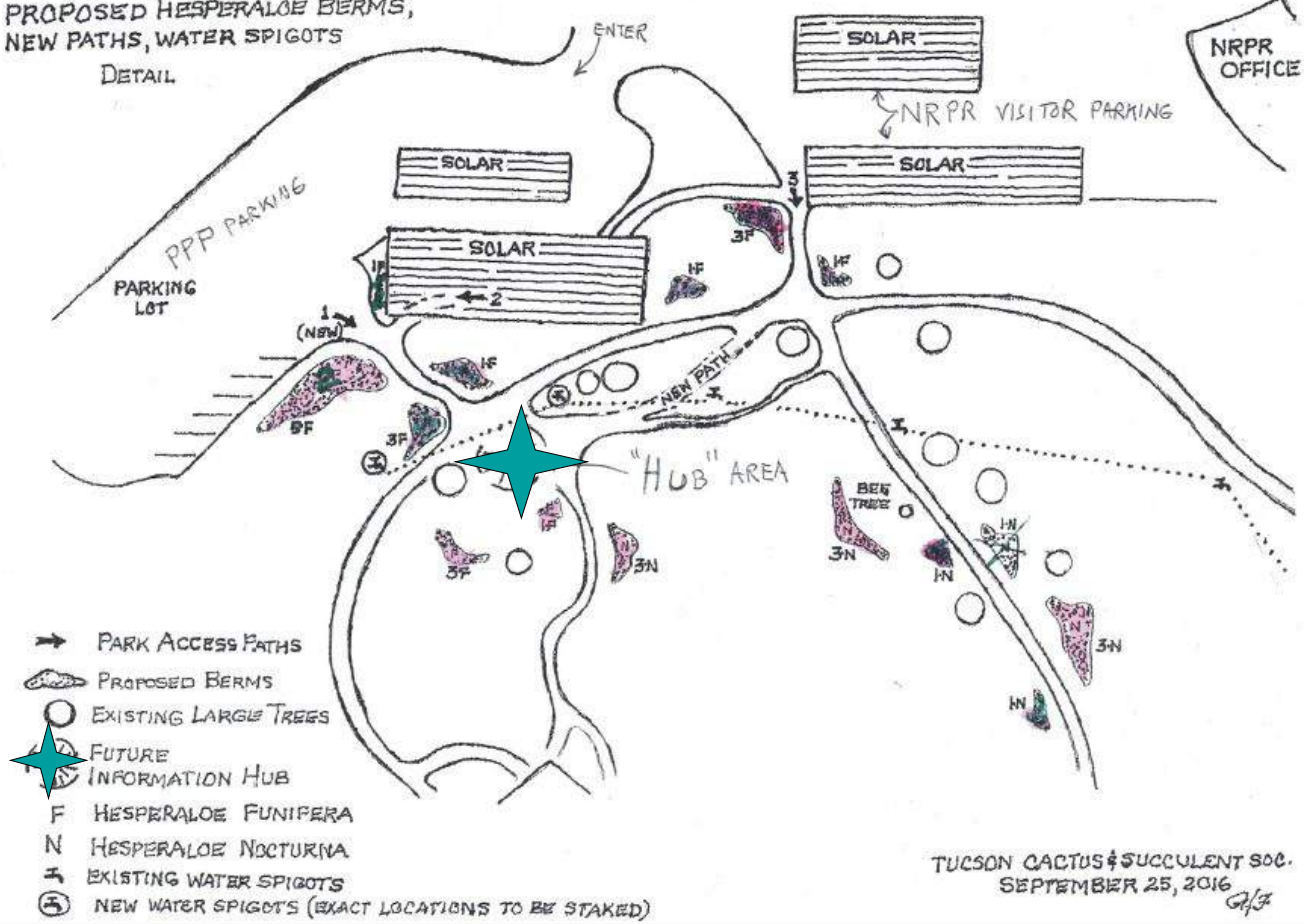
This sign and audio station are located at the Pima County Feliz Paseos Park in the Tucson Mountains

We will use NRPR’s design, standard materials, fonts, colors, etc. TCSS and NRPR to work jointly on sign content.

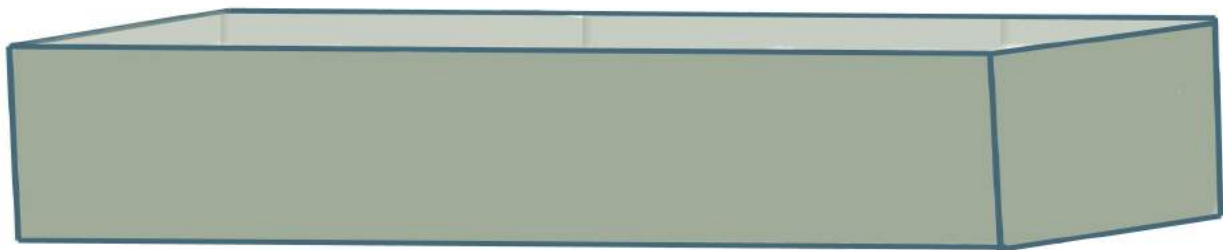
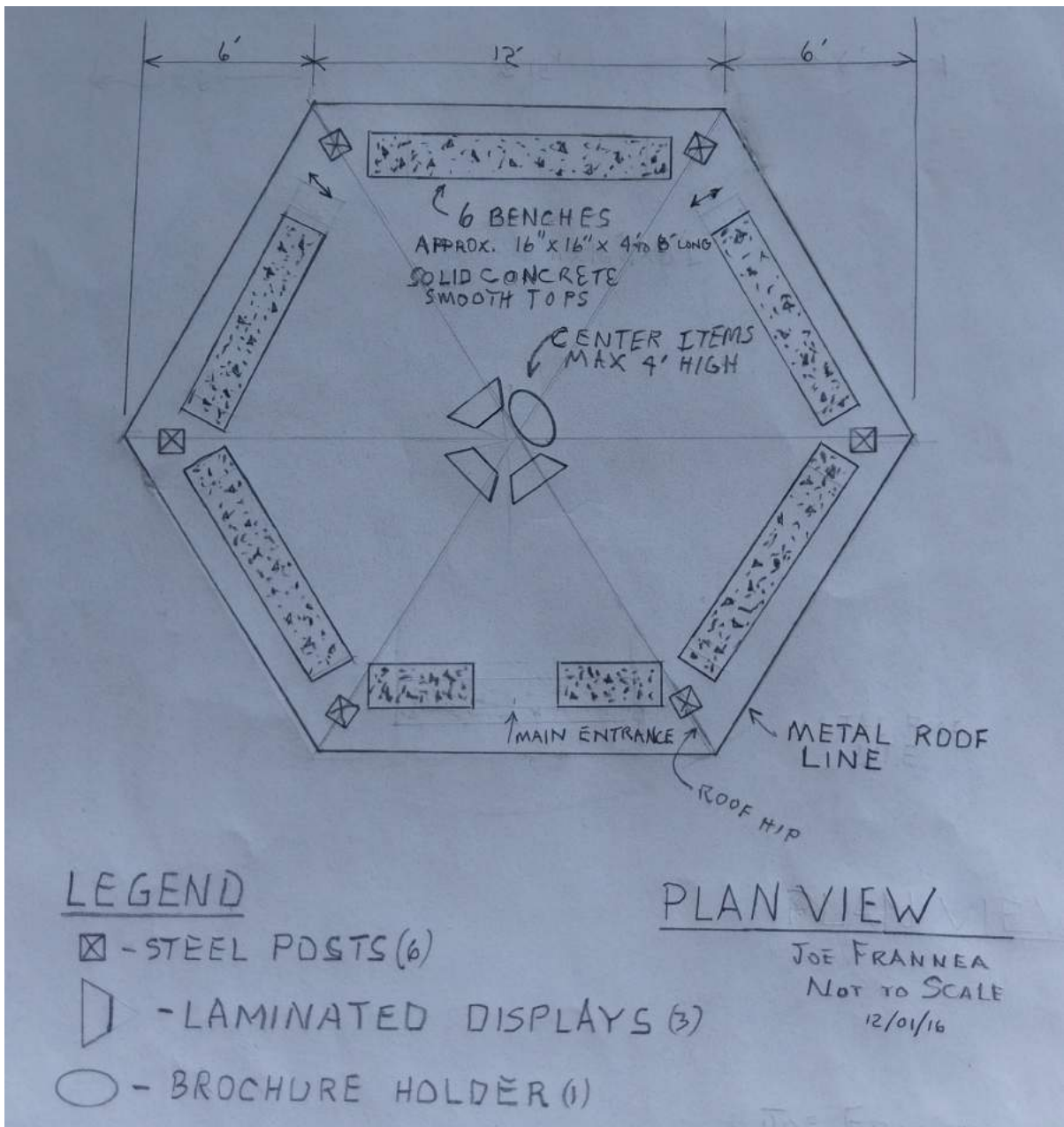
Example Outdoor Laminated Sign for inside the “Hub” (3)

"Hub" Location and Paths

PIMA PRICKLY PARK
 PROPOSED HESPERALOE BERMS,
 NEW PATHS, WATER SPIGOTS
 DETAIL



Plan View for "Hub"



Solid Concrete Bench with smooth top to serve as a writing surface (6) approximately 16" x 16" x various lengths (4' to 8')