



A Vision for Quarry Falls' Civic Area & Public Park

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Sudberry Properties, Inc.



PLACEMAKING WORKSHOP

May 12, 2007
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For more information on Quarry Falls
development, please visit:
<http://www.quarryfalls.com/>



PLACES TO WORK

Bryant Park City, New York, NY



COMMUNITY GARDENS

Battery Park City, New York, NY



WATER SPOTS TO GATHER

Minneapolis, MN

A Placemaking Process for Quarry Falls

A Placemaking Workshop was held in early May, 2007, in which participants described the potential future users of Quarry Falls Park and Civic Center, and the kinds of activities that they thought would attract people to use the area.

Project for Public Spaces, a New York based non-profit organization, facilitated the Placemaking Workshop to focus on opportunities at Quarry Falls. The workshop was attended by approximately 125 people, including San Diego area residents, business owners, city staff, people vested in the future of the quarry site, as well as the current landowners, the Grant Family. Workshop participants brainstormed ideas and crafted a vision for activities that could occur in the public spaces of the Quarry Falls development site.

This summary, and the larger report (available from Sudberry Properties), reflects the ideas and recommendations that emerged at that workshop and is intended to set the stage for the next step: the design of

the site plan for Quarry Falls Civic Area and Public Park (the working names). Although the workshop focused on the park and civic center, participants also considered the broader community that is being planned around the park - the streets, sidewalks, parks, buildings and other public spaces - and how together they could become the setting for interaction between people in the future community.

As part of the workshop, participants visited the site to get a feel for the size of the space that is being considered, as well as how the elevation and topography play a key role in the experience of the site. They discussed what they liked best about the site now and what challenges would need to be faced in creating a successful place there in the future.

Participants discussed the character and nature of various potential anchor destinations including the upper park, the finger parks, the civic center/lake area, the public park (Quarry Falls Park), the school, connections to retail, the bioswale, the library and other possible community-oriented spaces.

The purpose of the workshop was to:

- **Engage the public in the planning process for the public spaces.** People who live and work in an area already know what they value in their community and how to best highlight an area's natural and historical character. By understanding the ideas of various people in the community, Sudberry Properties will be more capable of setting the foundation for a very unique and appropriate concept for the site.
- **Develop an engaged constituency.** While no one lives, works or visits the Quarry Falls site today (other than the work related to the concrete plant), people can begin to think of ways to activate and program the spaces.
- **Identify innovative ideas for activities that could occur.** The value of getting ideas from over one hundred people in a compact amount of time is invaluable. In a group, people are inspired by something someone says and can come up with ideas they wouldn't have otherwise.



HIGHLIGHT VIEWS FROM THE MESA
Los Angeles, CA



HUMAN-SCALED WATER
Brooklyn, NY



SIDEWALK CAFES
Buenos Aires, Argentina

A Vision for a New Park

- **Understand the issues people are concerned about.** Discussions focused on participants' evaluations of the site along with the biggest assets and challenges to developing the park and the site, and the types of uses and activities that would attract users.

Ideas for highlighting the identity of the site and ways to make the space a comfortable space for everyone were discussed along with how the different areas of the park could be linked together and to the surrounding, existing neighborhoods and retail centers. People brainstormed ideas for local partnerships to help make their vision a reality and presented their ideas back to the larger group on their main ideas.

The vision is that the people who live, work, or visit Quarry Falls will have places to go right in the community. They won't need to get in their cars to find a place to go!

The vision for Quarry Falls that is described on the project's web site and in the Quarry Falls Specific Plan is for a "modern, walkable community" organized around a network of different types of public spaces. These public spaces, which include parks, trails, and civic and commercial spaces with public amenities are envisioned as the link between the residential, retail, office and civic uses.

This vision was greatly expanded in the Placemaking Workshop through the site evaluation, discussion among participants and by using images of other places for participants to use to describe their ideas for the site. Some spaces are viewed as more private and others as more public in nature. For example, the vision for Phyllis Place

Park, where Quarry Falls touches the Serra Mesa neighborhood was for a more private space geared toward neighborhood uses such as a walking path with overlooks, an area for children to play and families to picnic, and a positive and attractive border.

An example of a public space is the Civic Center area at the bottom of the site which would serve larger and more "public" community functions through a unique mix of civic and commercial spaces. Here people envisioned an interactive water feature as a focal point for the space, bordered by public amenities such as outdoor cafes, and retail activity such as a bookstore or newsstand. The right mix of neighborhood commercial services around the water feature, laid out so that they build off each other, can result in a neighborhood-scaled, yet publicly-oriented space. There are unique models for this type of space including the Third Place Commons in Seattle and Granville Island in Vancouver, BC.



INTERACTIVE SCULPTURE
Boston Public Gardens, Boston, MA



SHUTTLE TO TRANSIT AND RETAIL
Mobile, AL



WORKSHOP PLACE GAME BUS TOUR STOP
Quarry Falls, San Diego, CA

Overall Goals for Creating Great Places at Quarry Falls

Major recommendations were identified in the workshop that support the overall vision for the development of the public spaces at Quarry Falls:

PRESERVE THE HISTORY AND NATURAL LANDSCAPE

- **Preserve the history of the quarry site.** *Maintain a sense of the farming and quarry identity as the quarry evolves into new uses to help maintain a sense of place.*
- **Provide a variety of views and access points.** *Views of the park, lake and waterfall should be emphasized, with special amenities provided, such as small gazebos, sitting area and spyglasses.*
- **Develop a series of pedestrian paths and walkways around the pond, larger park and finger parks that extend out to the broader area.** *This circulation system should encourage people to leave their cars behind and walk around the site.*
- **Create opportunities for viewing wildlife, particularly birds.** *The park should feature an interpretive center and nature paths providing information on local ecology.*
- **Use the natural landscape as an attraction and a way for people in the community to get involved in the park.** *Participants emphasized the importance of re-vegetating the space with indigenous species—further supported by the succulent and sage plants given by Sudberry Properties.*

CREATE A RESPONSIBLE PROJECT

- **Create an environmentally responsible and friendly community.** *A community that utilizes the assets of the site, that recycles, does not waste energy and that is connected by public transit is an important part of the vision for Quarry Falls.*

PROVIDE A REGIONAL & LOCAL DRAW

- **Provide for locals as well as create a regional draw.** *Make the public spaces of the park and civic center comfortable and interesting enough for locals to use on a daily basis, programmed with movies, concerts and events that could also draw people from Mission Valley and the San Diego region.*

INTEGRATE THE DEVELOPMENT INTO ITS SURROUNDINGS

- **Integrate Quarry Falls into the surrounding neighborhoods.** *The park should “reach out like an octopus” into the adjacent community, creating a seamless transition between the park and the surrounding uses in Quarry Falls.*
- **Create strong pedestrian and bike connections.** *A network of pedestrian paths, bike trails and sidewalks should reach out from Quarry Falls Village into the surrounding neighborhoods, providing connections to nearby destinations.*
- **Calm traffic on streets around Quarry Falls Village.** *Pedestrians must have access across Friar’s Road and vehicles must be able to enter the site from the road—most clearly supported by a stoplight at the entrance to the town center. This section of Friar’s Road, along*

with roads inside Quarry Falls, should remain pedestrian-friendly, urban scaled and designed for slower traffic (not exceeding 30 mph).

- **Develop active edges around the park and civic center.** *For the park to become a center of community life, the buildings and streets facing the park should have ground floor activity—retail or restaurants that spill out onto the sidewalks; civic uses, such as the proposed school and museum, that have a presence on the sidewalk. People love to be by water; combining the retail with the proposed pond in a way that allows people to sit and have something to drink or eat near the water would be an asset to the area.*

CREATE A WALKING ENVIRONMENT

- **Create a walkable community and incentives to get people out of their cars.** *In the short term, bus routes could link Quarry Falls to other nearby destinations and the trolley stop, with clearly marked and conveniently located bus stops, and good sidewalks and walking paths.*
- **Provide pedestrian friendly streets around the park.** *Friar’s Road and the other streets within Quarry Falls that lead into the park and civic center should be pedestrian-friendly – narrow roadways with slow moving traffic and wide sidewalks buffered by on-street parking – to encourage residents and visitors to walk to the park. At major intersections, well- marked and safe pedestrian crossings should encourage entry into the park.*

DESIGN FOR FLEXIBILITY

- **Design the Civic Center so that it can be closed for events.** *The civic center should be a “programmable” space – closed to vehicular traffic for special events such as farmers markets and festivals.*