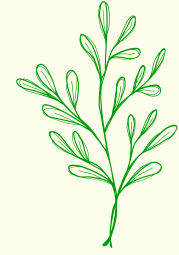


AUTHOR'S PARK



If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.
-Marcus Tullius Cicero



History

Commerce Public Library and the Literacy Program coordinated the work on the lot next to the library for the Big Event project, an annual one-day event to beautify Commerce, from 1999-2001. The first year, the group added simple landscaping to the area. The second year the park was given its name

“Authors’ Park” and the group devised an

elaborate landscaping plan that included the installation of a sprinkler system and the fourteen-foot gazebo. In 2001, bricks were installed to create walkways in Authors’ Park.

In 2004, the idea to honor local authors and artists during the Big Event was developed. Almost 50 local artists and authors have been honored with their names engraved in bricks and placed in front of the gazebo.

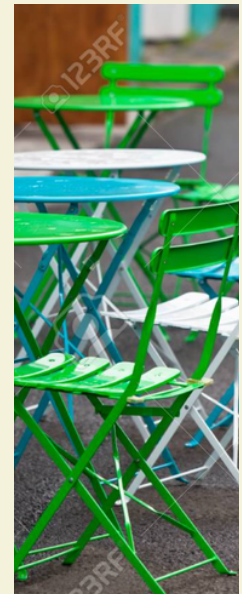
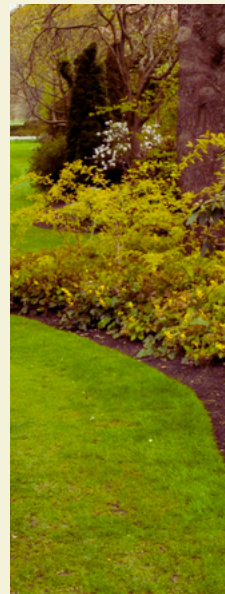
In 2018, two plastic benches were added that were made from plastic lids and caps donated by citizens of Commerce.

In 2022 Girl Scout Troop 8060 added the pollinator-friendly garden to the front of the park.



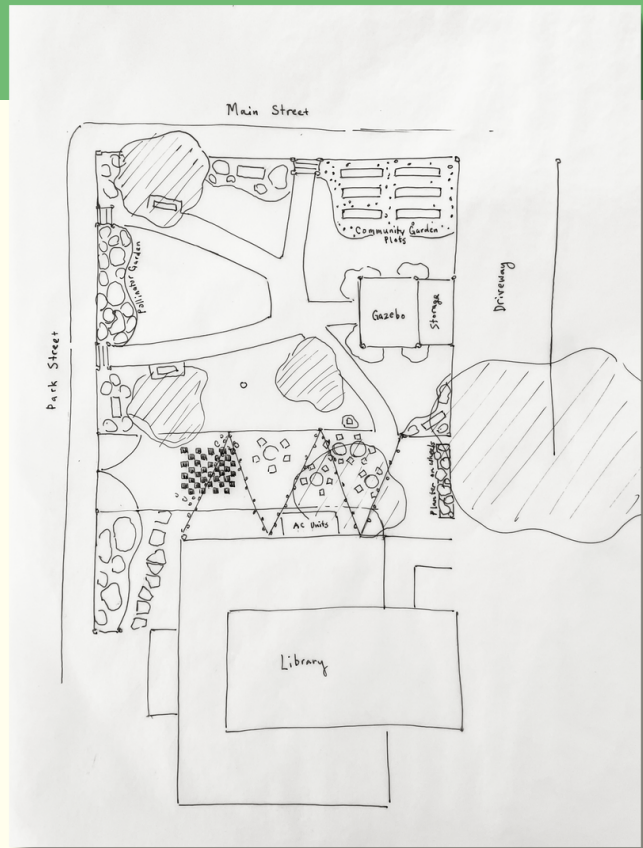
Revitalizing Authors’ Park

At the heart of this proposal lies a vision of creating a welcoming and inclusive outdoor environment that complements the mission of our public library. The park and garden will serve as a multi-functional space, offering opportunities for relaxation, recreation, education, and community gatherings. By integrating nature into our urban landscape, we aim to promote well-being, foster environmental stewardship, and cultivate a sense of pride and belonging among residents of all ages and backgrounds.



Design Concepts

- Green Spaces: The park will retain its lawn and shaded groves, providing ample space for picnics, outdoor reading, and strolls.
- Botanical Gardens: A diverse array of plantings, including native species and seasonal blooms, curated in garden beds and naturalistic landscapes will create a tapestry of color and fragrance throughout the year.
- Fencing: will be welcoming and attractive inside and out, ensuring the safety of our little library patrons
- Gazebo: An upgraded gazebo will replace the existing one to offer more all-weather seating.
- Interactive Features: Interactive exhibits and play areas will offer hands-on learning experiences for all ages, fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world and its wonders.
- Courtyard: Flexible event space can accommodate story time, outdoor performances, art installations, community gatherings, cultural festivals, and maybe even a farmers market venue!
- Community Garden: Plots will be assigned to community members each season to provide space to grow food and be an extension of our seed library program.



Benefits and Impact



The creation of a park and garden outside our public library holds numerous benefits for our community:

- Enhanced Quality of Life: Access to green spaces has been shown to improve mental and physical health, reduce stress, and foster a sense of belonging and connectedness.
- Educational Opportunities: The park will serve as an outdoor classroom, providing opportunities for environmental education and plein-air learning experiences for all ages.
- Community Building: By providing a space for gatherings, events, and shared experiences, the park will strengthen social bonds, promote cultural exchange, and create a sense of pride and ownership among residents.
- Economic Development: A well-designed park and garden can attract visitors, stimulate local business activity, and increase property values, contributing to the economic vitality of our community.