



North Siders laud Children's Museum plans

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Plans by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh to convert a sunken concrete pit with a broken fountain into a wooded park with a mist sculpture received a warm response from North Side residents.

"This whole design is really wonderful that you're doing," said Dennis McAndrew, 65, of the North Side. "And I love your sculpture."

He was one of about 20 people who attended a meeting Tuesday at the museum on plans to upgrade a site next to Allegheny Center. Over the years, the place had been called Diamond Park and Ober Park before it was transformed into a concrete square by urban renewal in the 1960s.

The museum has raised more than \$4 million for the \$6 million project. Designed by Andrea "Andie" Cochran of San Francisco, the project will demolish the concrete, fill in the hole and plant 78 trees.

The highlight will be a sculpture of 30-foot-tall stainless steel poles with fog nozzles in a 30- by 30-foot grid. The sculpture is designed by Ned Kahn of Sebastopol, Calif., who designed the wind art at the museum.

Plans to revitalize the park, along with a separate proposal by the Northside Leadership Conference to reconnect East Ohio Street, received an endorsement from the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

"It will help tie the neighborhoods back together, make Allegheny Center more inviting and the park much more humane and artistic," Arthur Ziegler, president of the foundation, said in a separate interview. He did not attend yesterday's meeting.

Museum officials expect the park to be completed in mid-2012.