The following feedback and notes were collected at in-person tabling events held at Carr Park on 8/29/21 from 10am-11:45pm, 8/30/21 from 6pm-8:30pm, 9/1/21 from 3pm-4:15pm, and 9/3/21 from 4pm-5:45pm. The notes have been consolidated for clarity; the numbers represent multiples of the same or substantially similar comments.

**Common Concerns in Tabling Comments**

- [5] poor condition of playground and hardscape
- [5] nighttime safety
- [2] lack of trash and recycling
- [2] poor condition of courts and fields
- [2] woodland safety concerns
- [2] flooding
- [1] needs of seniors
- [1] lack of bathrooms
- [1] lack of accessibility

**Common Desires in Tabling Comments**

- [10] water feature
- [8] shady seating areas
- [8] vertical climbing wall or rock climbing features
- [7] basketball pavilion/courts
- [6] pickleball courts
- [6] spaces for teens
- [6] imaginative, exciting, and safe play equipment for young children
- [5] dog park
- [4] sensory engaging design elements for all ages
- [4] skate park or skate features (BMX too)
- [3] paths and organized spaces in the woods (that don't disturb habitat)
- [3] pump track in the woods
- [3] nighttime lighting
- [3] nature play
- [3] water fountains
- [2] community gardens
- [2] exercise equipment for teens, adults, seniors
- [2] community art
- [2] football field
- [1] disc gulf basket
- [1] trail upgrades for all ages, safety
- [1] universally accessible play structures
- [1] bike racks
- [1] roller hockey rink
- [1] roller skating
- [1] visiting food trucks
- [1] driving range
- [1] ultimate frisbee
COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Teenagers use play equipment and parents with small children tell them to go somewhere else
- Drug dealing happens at back corner baseball field at Fulton St. Rear, and at Winslow St.
- Dog park
- JRA Cycles on Rt. 60 can design pump track and may donate money for construction
- NEMBA—greater Boston Chapter (New England Mountain Bike Association)
- NEMBA may be able to partially or fully fund construction of a pump track
- Russell Mill pump track in Chelmsford is a great example of a “woodland” pump track for mountain bikes
- Suggested space where food trucks can park for events. City Ordinance prevents food trucks at this time since they can compete with local businesses; Salem and other municipalities have done a permit system where local restaurants are given a first opportunity to set up carts/trucks and then permits open up to others.
- House for sale at corner
- Like community gardens but there should be more than a few beds (McNally has 4 and it’s not as much of a “community”)
- Baseball fields host Medford Little League and N Reading – fields are not well maintained
- Include swings for handicapped children
- Separate ages in play spaces
- “This is a basketball park. All the high schoolers come play.”
- Maybe an informal basketball league?
- 7 and 8th grade football practice happens on the back field
- Boardwalk would be an opportunity for children to observe wildlife and maybe for picnicking
- Community garden a hit
- Older kids use play equipment and they should have an area that is for them
- Build community involvement, stewardship of the park
- Medford Family Network would be a good resource
- People use the park every day
- Rotating art exhibits
- Teens get asked to leave play equipment and swings especially

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

- Solar lighting would be preferred
- Drinking fountain with foot activation and bottle filler
- Strong support for keeping the large cottonwood tree – hawk’s nest in it
- Boardwalks over/through wetland
- More shade in play and gathering areas
- Higher spaces – shade/gathering
- Splash pad with shaded benches
- Misting water
- Splash pad, lots of support for Harris Park splashpad
- Shorter cycles for splash pad would be better (i.e. 1-2 minutes instead of 4 minutes)
- Shade is essential, the playground is in direct sunlight from 10-12
• Solid roof is preferred vs trellis for shade, solid roof can be used in the rain
• Park needs shade and water
• Splash pad
• Snow clearing on the pathways and courts
• Shade over playgrounds
• End basketball court gets flooded
• Shade structure = blue thing
  o Solid roof and blue would be fun to have for a new shade structure
• Nature play

**SHARED ASSETS**

• Multiuse court – sport court surface (plastic tiles) would be great
• Dog park would be great; often people come to let their dogs off leash in the field in the morning
  o Look into setting “allowed” off-leash hours – 6-9am?
  o A “dog run” seems too small and people may not use it because it would not allow dogs to run as much
  o Dog waste is an issue – need more trash cans, at all access points to the park
• New play equipment
• Skateboarding space would get used but it shouldn’t be right near the playground
• Pickleball with tennis
• Cornhole/bocce
• Pickleball would be used more than current tennis
• Skate park; climbing
• Corner backstop by basketball is never used
• Benches?
• Swings—lots! So we don’t have to wait long
• Big slide
• Reorganize courts because “no one uses the fenced court”
• Half-court hoops don’t get used
• Climbing structures w/ ropes
• Pump track
• Football
• Doesn’t like McNally, likes Harris Park
• Small contained splash pad
• The concrete “slide” at Assembly Row is fun because the route down is not fixed
• Ultimate frisbee
• Rollerblading/street hockey
• Off-leash area for dogs
• Skateboarding
• Musical & sensory elements like musical instruments
• Lots of swings
• Permeable surfaces
• Places for teenagers
• Kid suggestion: Tire swing and regular swings, basket swings (lots of swings!)
• Skate park
• Climbing rocks
• Dog park
• Dog park space
• Kid suggestions for play equipment: Tunnel with window, climb up high, not tunnel slides, Paw patrol playground
• New basketball—2 courts with single rims
• Obstacle course and fitness equipment
• Whiffle ball
• New picnic tables
• Roller skating
• Driving range
• Splash pad
• Forts in the woods
• Rocks for jumping between climbing
• Places to perch
• Space for boxing training
• Single rims for all basketball hoops
• Dugger Park basketball
• Kids play whiffle ball in the tennis court space because it’s fenced in
• Lighting at basketball courts is important
• 10’ fence for pickleball would be best
• Permanent pickleball courts and nets (posts are shorter than tennis net posts)
• High contrast paint on pickleball courts

PARK IDENTITY
• “The park needs a new face”
• Visual interest
• Foot reflexology paths with natural stones (this is commonly done in parks in Singapore)
• Kid suggestion for play: put in a bridge between 2 play structures
• Kid suggestion for play: “Hole with water, sand, and foam”
• More color in the park!
• Sand where we can take off our shoes
• Sculptural water sprays (Assembly Row)
• Conflicting uses
• Climbing activities
• Piers Park in East Boston is a good example
• Borderland disc golf course is a good example
• splash pad @ Harris
• Duggar Park is a good example
• Medford history—ship building and rum distilleries
• Biggest wish for the park is that there is “something for everyone”

MAINTENANCE AND STEWARDSHIP
• Cost analysis of big belly vs. maintenance costs for regular trash
• Bathroom—self cleaning (such as Portland Loo)
• Should install cameras in parking lot
• Friends group – would there be City support (financial or otherwise)? Suggestions of purchasing materials or incentives like donuts for “park clean-up days”
• No mulch for playground surfacing
• Separate small hoop…would it get dunked on?
• Water fountain
• Electric cabinet gets sat on and kids climb storage container
• Wider walking path, paths get muddy and portions are in poor condition
• New asphalt at courts is necessary
• Space for bikes (riding and storage)
• Roof on the basketball court for all-weather play
• Better storage
• Current lighting is only on until 8, “lights at basketball were only turned on because I called a City councilor”
• People were interested in the construction budget
• No point in resurfacing the courts because they are in bad shape, need to be completely rebuilt
• City cut down the shrubs along the tennis courts
• Mark out private property so people don’t enter by accident
• Roots at paths are a problem and paths need to be reconfigured or repaved
• Rubber surfacing in play area
• Add lights towards back of park
• Pickleball group would be “thrilled” with 4 courts, lighting would be great so play can continue into the evening
• Fencing at all sides of the park
• Suggestion of 8-12 pm to keep the park lights on
• Drinking fountain
• Drugs/alcohol behind storage trailer

GENERAL COMMENT SUMMARIES
• The tabling sessions captured a wide net of park users on various days and at various times throughout the day.
• Many conversations touched on the park interface with the neighborhood and desires for engaging entrances into the park.
• Community members expressed the important role basketball currently plays in the park, along with support for teen centered spaces separate from the playground.
• Folks discussed desiring both passive and active recreation options for adults/seniors.
• Aligned with comments from the online survey, many people stress the need for more shade/cooling mechanisms throughout the park during hot weather. There appears to be lots of support for a water feature and more shady gathering, seating, and recreating areas.
• Many community members seem excited about the park design incorporating systems for encouraging neighborhood stewardship, specifically for park programming and maintenance. Ideas included spaces/city support for community art and food trucks, clean-up days in the park, and wildlife/habitat education opportunities.

End of Notes, prepared by Polly Sinclair, 09/08/2021