

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 golf 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
 - 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
 - Look into setting “allowed” off-leash hours – 6-9am?
 - A “dog run” seems too small and people may not use it because it would not allow dogs to run as much
 - 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

