

# CARR PARK VISION PLAN

## DESIGN PROCESS AND FEEDBACK



### COMMUNITY TALKS AT CARR PARK

8/29/21, 8/30/21, 9/1/21, and 9/3/21

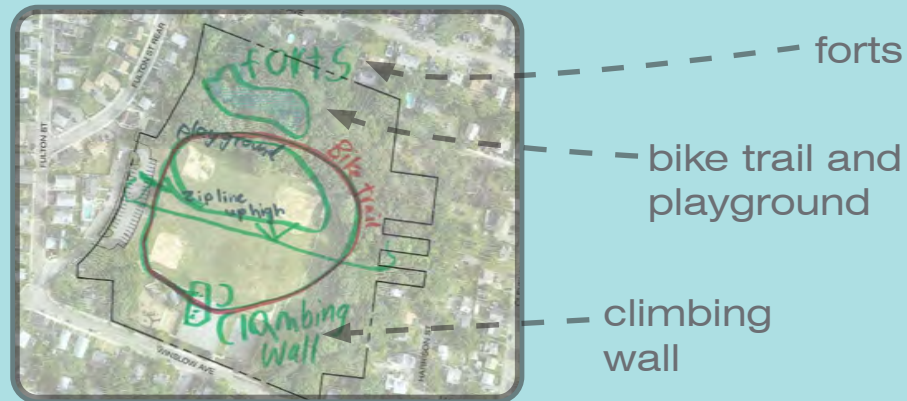
- We started the design process with conversations in the park to get community input about concerns, desires, how the park gets used, and ways people would like to use the park.
- People participated in a sticker voting exercise on boards showing different design ideas.



### SCHEMATIC DESIGN DISCUSSIONS AT THE PARK

9/29/21, 10/8/21, and 10/11/21

- We shared 3 schematic design concepts at Carr Park, at different times and on different days. We listened to people's ideas for the park, and got feedback about the design concepts.
- People participated in a drawing design activity for what they hoped for in Carr Park.
- At each event, we spoke to an average of 25-50 people of many ages and backgrounds.



### COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS

October-November 2021

- We got specific feedback from local community groups, including the Medford Family Network play group, the Medford Youth Center after school program at the Malden YMCA, a representative of Greater Boston New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA), and the Medford community pickleball group.
- We also spoke to representatives from Medford's Park Commission, Conservation Commission, the Commission for Persons With Disabilities, the Police Department, and the Department of Public Works.



### DESIGN REVEAL IN THE PARK

November 13, 2021

#### Today, you can:

- Review a preferred design that was generated in response to the community's feedback and concerns.
- Walk a rough layout of the site's proposed features. You can get a better idea of how the spaces relate to each other, how big they would be, and where proposed features would be located.
- Check out the illustrative perspectives, which give you a bird's eye view of the preferred plan.
- Interested in participating in stewardship or maintenance of the park now, or in the future? Sign up for some of the suggested ideas or propose your own!

### RENOVATING CARR PARK

2023 and Beyond

- The park's reconstruction may happen in phases to meet available funding.



### 1 ONLINE SURVEY #1

8/29/21-9/7/21

#### 297 SURVEY RESPONSES

- Many respondents live within walking distance of the park, and say they use it frequently.
- The loop path at the park was the most popular feature among all respondents.
- Many were concerned about nighttime safety and the current condition of the playground, the courts, and the walking path.
- Basketball is one of the most popular activities at the park.

"I would love to see community events [at the park]"

"It would be wonderful to take advantage of the woods..."

"Teenagers here need a place to be comfortable, to gather and hang out."

"I feel the most helpful would be shade and water!"

### 3

### SURVEYING EXISTING CONDITIONS

September-November 2021



- A full existing conditions survey was conducted to accurately map property lines, limits of the wetlands in the park, existing tree locations and sizes, utility infrastructure, built elements, and topography of the park
- Test pits were dug to examine the park's subsurface conditions, including soil type and classification, and depth to the water table. Much of the fields are built on about 8' of urban fill—large stones, assorted soil, and some debris like concrete slabs. In one pit there was peat from a historic wetland on the site.

### 5

### SCHEMATIC DESIGN DISCUSSIONS AT CITY-WIDE EVENTS

Mystic River Celebration (9/25/21), Oktoberfest (10/2/21), and Harvest Your Energy Festival (10/16/21)



- We shared the 3 schematic design concepts at City-wide events to get input from the community at large.
- Similar to the discussions at the park, we had sticker voting exercises, a design drawing activity, and engaged in many one-on-one conversations about the park design.

### 7

### ONLINE SURVEY #2

10/5-10/18

#### 382 SURVEY RESPONSES

- In addition to a new playground, there was strong support to include activities for teens like swings, skateboarding, obstacle course/parkour-style equipment, and a mountain bike pump track.
- Many survey respondents were enthusiastic about trails and active programming in the woodland areas.
- People supported both the idea of separated traditional and nature play, and the concept of a larger combined play area.
- Survey respondents commented in favor of 2 basketball courts, a covered basketball pavilion, and a half court for beginners and kids.
- Over 70% of people supported an off-leash dog area of some kind.

"A nature play area would be FANTASTIC for the kids."

"Sustainability is key!"

"Thank you for redesigning the park and being so receptive to feedback in the process!"



### 9

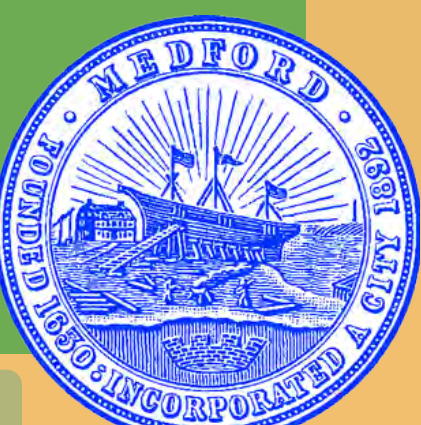
### NEXT STEPS FOR DESIGN

2021-2023

- CBA will finalize the Vision Plan and assemble a report that documents the Vision Plan process, the preferred Vision Plan, a preliminary cost estimate, permitting requirements, funding/grant opportunities and recommendations for construction.
- The City of Medford will work to secure grants and funding for construction.
- Once construction funding is secured for part or all of the project, the City will contract for construction phasing and/or documents. These documents will refine the design and detail how the park needs to be built to meet industry/regulatory standards and the City's maintenance capabilities.
- The project will undergo review and approval with local regulatory bodies, and then go out to public bid.

#### Follow Us Online!

- [medfordenergy.org/gogreen/carr-park-vision-plan/](https://medfordenergy.org/gogreen/carr-park-vision-plan/)
- Questions?**
- [ocd@medford-ma.gov](mailto:ocd@medford-ma.gov)
- 781-393-2480



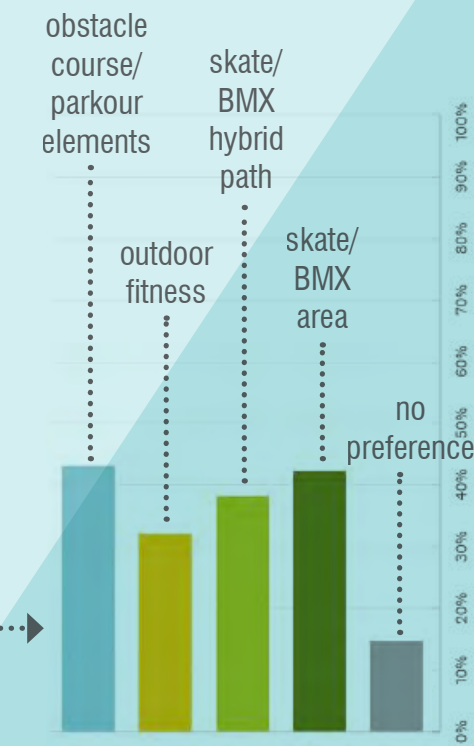
# CARR PARK VISION PLAN

## DESIGN PROCESS AND FEEDBACK

Check out how your feedback shaped the Carr Park Vision Plan!

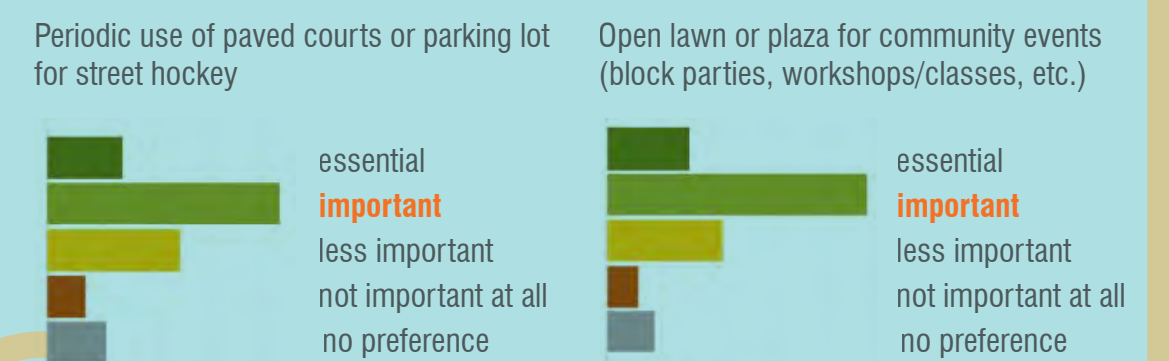


### FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY #2



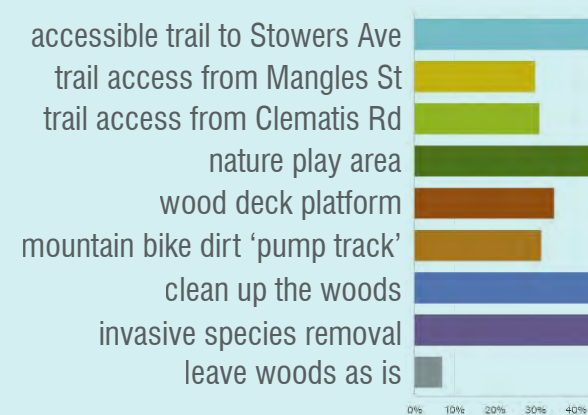
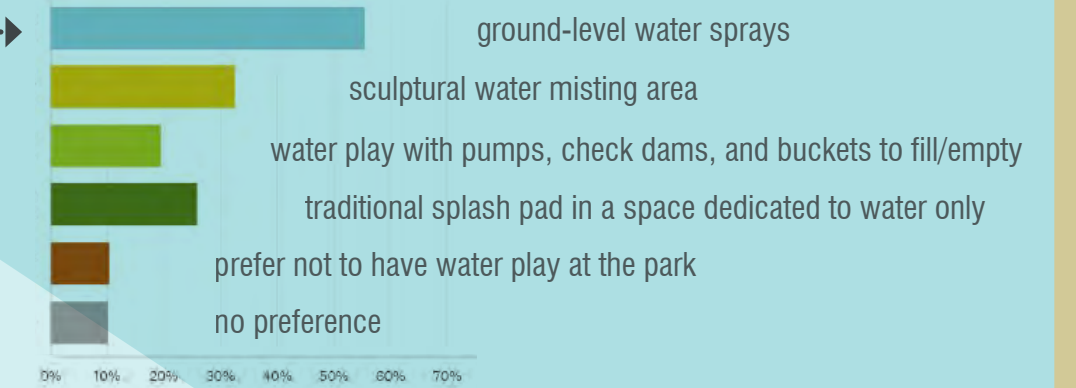
- There were 382 responses to the online survey
- 15% under the age of 20
- 7% ages 21-30
- 31% ages 31-40
- 25% ages 41-50
- 20% ages 51+
- People gave feedback on the most popular design elements and park programs, including: configurations for the courts and fields, considerations for the playground and nature play, the woodland area, water play, off-leash dogs, and teen-centered spaces

### People advocated for flexible open lawn or plaza space, and multi-use functions of paved court space



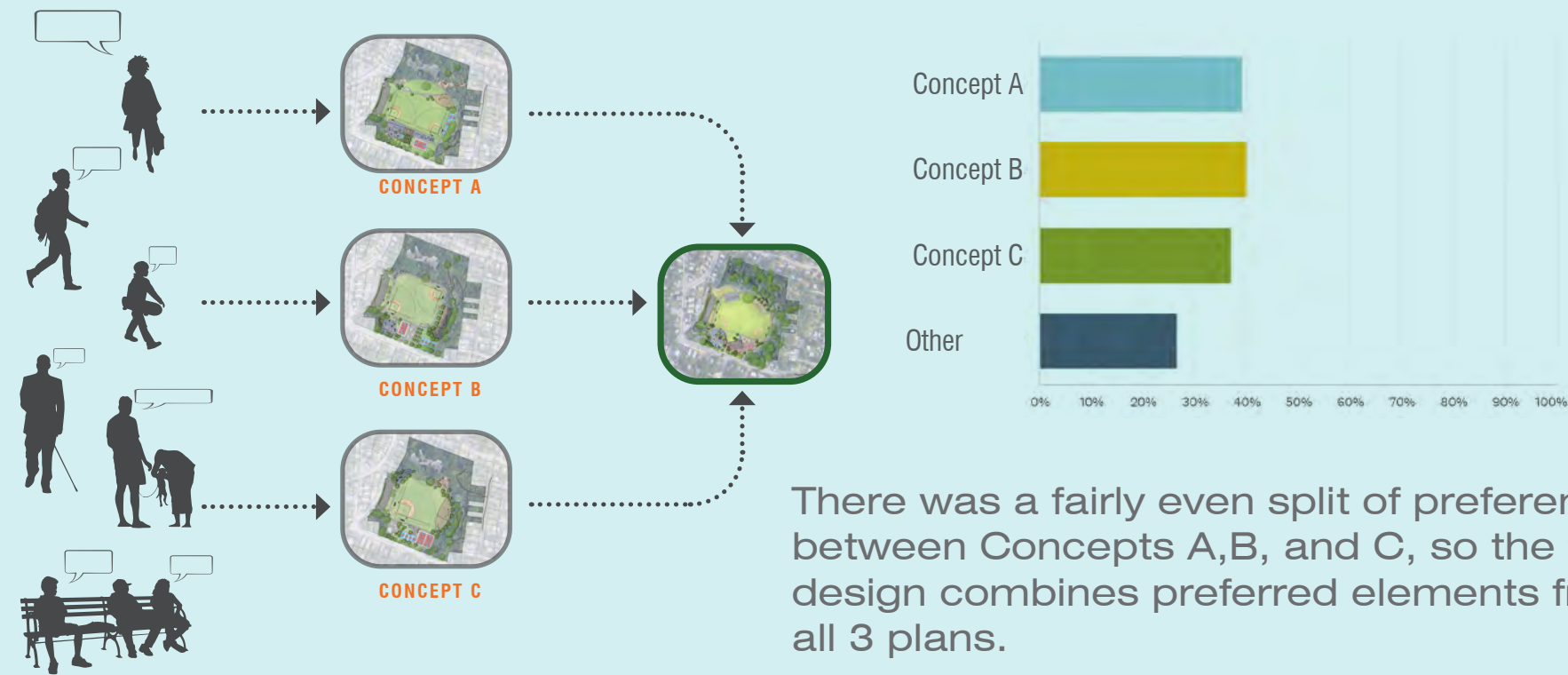
There was a strong preference for skateboarding and obstacle course/parkour activities to be incorporated into the plan, particularly among people under age 20

A large majority of people favored a water feature with ground-level water sprays in a plaza space that can be used for other purposes outside of the summer season



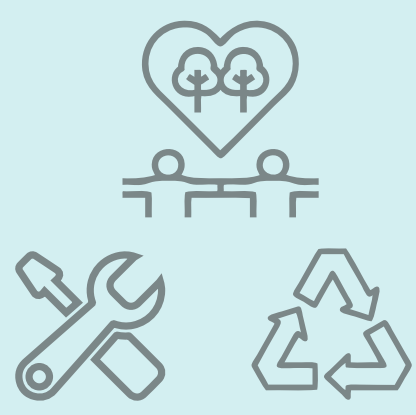
Highest response rates about programming the park's woodland area were in favor of trash and debris clean up and invasive species removal, nature play, and an accessible trail to Stowers Ave.

### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ROUND ONE → COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ROUND TWO → COMMUNITY PREFERRED DESIGN



There was a fairly even split of preference between Concepts A, B, and C, so the final design combines preferred elements from all 3 plans.

### FEEDBACK FROM IN PERSON EVENTS AND CONVERSATIONS



- An average of about 30-40 people per event turned out to meet with the design team and City staff to discuss their preferences and ideas.
- There was strong support to keep 2 Little League fields at the park, which was also supported by the Park Commission. Most people preferred to keep a large open lawn area for football practice, frisbee, and other open-ended uses.
- Keeping play areas combined for easy monitoring was preferred by many parents. There was a general preference for combined traditional and natural play. Keeping the play area close to Winslow Ave makes it more accessible and less likely to be buggy or attract vandalism.
- People strongly advocated for 2 basketball courts, including a covered court, and many suggested a half-court with adjustable hoop for younger children.
- Many people supported dedicated pickleball courts. Some preferred to keep a tennis court, some suggested reducing the number of pickleball courts, and some suggested combining the courts to have shared striping. There are 28 dedicated tennis courts in the city, but no dedicated pickleball courts. Four pickleball courts take up about the same amount of space as one tennis court.
- There was lots of support for the inclusion of shade trees, a shade structure, and a water play feature.
- People strongly supported universal accessibility and inclusivity throughout the park.



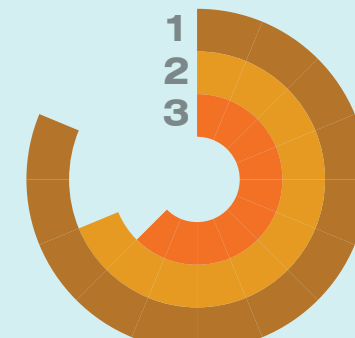
• Many people advocated for the park renovation to keep as many existing trees as possible.

• People were generally very vocal about environmental and climate concerns, expressing interest in sustainable park elements such as native plants, pollinator attractors, permeable surfacing, natural materials, rain gardens, and the development of forest management strategies.

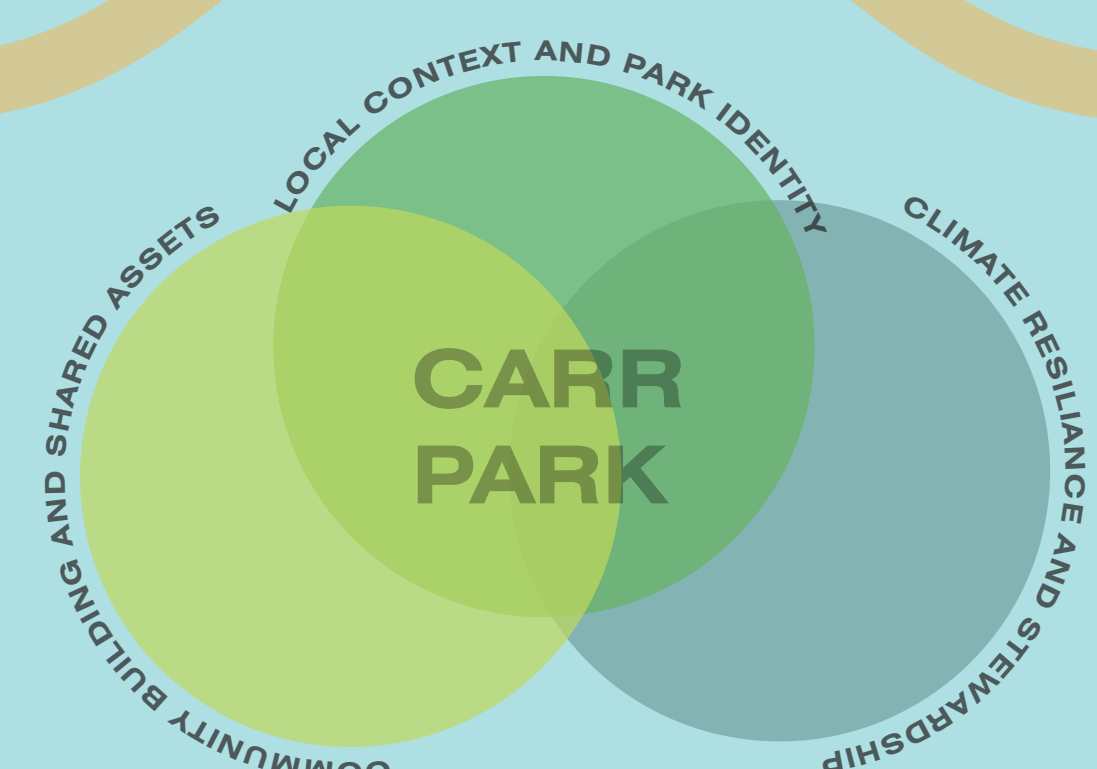
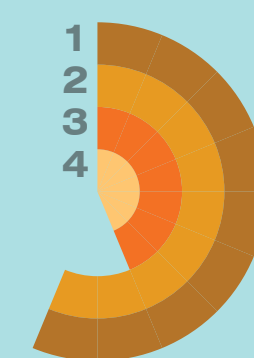
This word cloud organizes suggested features. The size of each word indicates the popularity of the suggestion.

### COMMON CONCERNS WE HEARD ABOUT PROPOSED SCHEMATIC DESIGN CONCEPTS A,B,C

#### TOP CONCERNS



#### SECONDARY CONCERNS



“The new Carr Park is going to be with us for many decades, let's make it awesome.”

-comment from online survey #2

#### Follow Us Online!

- [medfordenergy.org/gogreen/carr-park-vision-plan/](http://medfordenergy.org/gogreen/carr-park-vision-plan/)
- Questions?**
- [ocd@medford-ma.gov](mailto:ocd@medford-ma.gov)
- 781-393-2480

