

The second round of Carr Park design feedback and notes were collected in the following forums:

- 1) In-person tabling events held at Carr Park on 9/29/21 from 4pm-7pm, 10/08/21 from 10am-11am, and 10/11/21 from 4pm-5pm
- 2) In-person Medford city-wide public events including Mystic River Celebration on 9/25/21 from 12pm-4pm, and Harvest Your Energy Festival on 10/16/21 from 12pm-3pm
- 3) In-person conversations with local community groups including a 10/14/21 tabling session at the Medford Family Network playgroup from 9-10:30am, a 10/15/21 meeting with a representative of Greater Boston New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA), a 10/19/21 coordinated session with the Medford Youth Center (Malden YMCA) afterschool program comprising of 15 students ages 9-12, and a 10/20/21 site visit to Medford Pickleball practice at Victory Park

These notes have been consolidated for clarity.

Approximate Tallies of Common Threads Throughout Comments

Common Observations about Existing Conditions and Use Patterns

- [6] the park is perceived as a community anchor and important neighborhood asset by residents
- [6] older residents fondly remember playing in Carr Park's woodland as children
- [4] the paved courts currently serve multiple uses, as kids play street hockey on them, rollerblade, and learn to ride bikes
- [3] organized sports are an important piece of the park's neighborhood history
- [2] park is perceived as underutilized

Common Concerns about Existing Conditions

- [9] woodland safety concerns, such as drug use, vandalism, and trash
- [7] lack of trash and recycling
- [7] lack of bathrooms
- [6] poor condition of playground and hardscape
- [6] children fear off-leash dogs in the park
- [5] nighttime safety
- [4] lack of accessibility within the park
- [2] barriers to getting to the park (lack of sidewalks, lack of public transit)
- [1] flooding

Common Concerns About Proposed Designs

- [11] environmental concerns for use of wooded areas, such as mosquitoes, ticks, poison ivy, and coyotes
- [9] woodland programming has the potential to create issues for abutters
- [8] four pickleball courts would eliminate tennis and may be noisy
- [5] community garden plots may not get used
- [5] woodland trail connections may cause parking issues for residents on Harrison St. and Stowers Ave

- [4] maintenance of water play feature, sand and water play area, and/or sports fields
- [4] dog park may be dangerous or cause issues if it is close to playground or courts
- [4] often muddy, buggy state of wetland may not be conducive to wildlife viewing area or nature play
- [3] skateboarding area might go unused or undermaintained
- [2] woodland programming may facilitate unintentional trespassing for park users due to lack of signage
- [2] woodland pump track may be noisy for abutters

Common Desires for Overall Design and Specific Park Amenities

- [22] shade (shaded seating, shade structures, and shade trees distributed throughout the park)
- [12] natural materials like wood for play equipment
- [11] transparent and inclusive design process
- [10] preservation of existing trees
- [10] site furniture and spaces that are inviting to multiple generations
- [10] universally accessible elements, particularly play equipment and pathways
- [8] lots of swings for all ages (that are accessible, creative, etc.)
- [6] native plants and pollinators used in the final design
- [4] visual interest from the street
- [3] nighttime lighting
- [4] water fountains
- [4] signage about site use and environmental context (species info, etc.)
- [4] bike racks
- [4] trail connection to Stowers Ave
- [3] abstract design elements
- [2] accessible parking
- [2] non-wood materials like metal used for play equipment
- [1] trail connection to Harrison Street

Common Threads of Desire for Park Programming

- [19] paths and organized spaces in the woods (that don't disturb habitat)
- [15] dog park (separate from playground and ball courts)
- [15] opportunities for climbing and balancing on ropes and structures
- [14] skateboard and BMX space with multiple features
- [12] spaces for teens (distinct from playground)
- [11] two basketball courts
- [11] nature play and freeform exploratory play
- [10] community gardens
- [10] parkour elements/area
- [10] pump track for beginner mountain bike practice in the woods
- [9] pickleball courts that are easily accessible from the street
- [10] tennis courts
- [8] water feature
- [8] covered basketball court
- [6] separate play areas for young children and older children
- [6] sensory engaging design elements such as water, sand, and music
- [6] multiuse court or space for street hockey, etc.
- [5] loop trail surface upgrades for all ages to safely enjoy



- [4] skateboard and BMX hybrid path
- [4] zipline
- [3] wildlife viewing platform
- [3] performance space (stage or amphitheater)
- [2] field space for football and Ultimate Frisbee
- [2] full size baseball field
- [1] two Little League fields
- [1] putting green
- [1] volleyball
- [1] disc golf basket

Thematically Grouped Summary Comments

Park Context from Local Knowledge

- A number of long-time neighborhood residents spoke with great fondness towards and investment in Carr Park. One abutter described her son thinking that the park was 'his park' growing up. Many older residents described positive memories of exploring in the woods as children, and of baseball games and the annual bonfires that used to happen next to the park.
- Residents of all ages who lives close to the park stressed the anchoring sense of community vitality that Carr Park already provides to the neighborhood. For example, one resident said that she loves to hear the sounds from both the playground and the baseball fields when people are using the park.
- Neighborhood residents and abutters seemed to appreciate the chance to share their knowledge about the site's history, and about the park's current use patterns and wildlife habitat. For example, the design team learned that the park used to be a farm (Carr Farm), that the top of the rock outcropping/ledge hill is periodically struck by lightning, that the wetland used to have ice skating in the winter, that coyotes frequent the woodland, and that hawks nest in the large cottonwood tree.
- People generally seem excited about multi-use and flexible spaces that will accommodate the broadest range of community member interests. A lot of folks have also pointed out aspects of the existing spatial flexibility that has contributed to current use patterns (such as football and ultimate frisbee played on the baseball fields, roller skating and hockey happening on the tennis courts, biking around the loop).
- Frequent park users helped the design team contextualize Carr Park within the neighborhood landscape, including the identification of park use by local groups and patrons of Jim's Market, and peak activity hours which were cited as generally being before dinner time and during sports practices and games.
- Other local parks and features that were mentioned as being loved or frequented by community members included: Menotomy Rocks and Magnolia Park in Arlington, the loop paths used for cycling classes at Tufts Park and a park in Burlington, the Hastings Schoolyard in Arlington, the swinging rope with chains at the Winter Hill School in Somerville, and the net climber with a fort at Cambridge's Alden Playground

Community Inclusivity and Park Accessibility

- Many people strongly emphasized the need for wheelchair accessible swings and play equipment, as well as a playground that accommodates folks with wide-ranging mental and physical abilities. People also pointed out that accessibility needs to extend to seating near the parking area and the parking area itself.
- Some community members discussed strong feelings that the park should reflect the immediate



neighborhood and include welcoming spaces (like a performance space) that support diverse cultural forms of expression. Related suggestions were that the final design be spatially inviting to all, including transient and unhoused people.

- Many park users view Carr Park as a place for families and people of all ages. A number of people stressed wanting spaces and seating that are inviting to multiple generations.
- The specific needs of seniors came up in multiple conversations, with stated desires for wider walking paths, spaces that could potentially host off-site programming, and easy pickleball court access.
- Some concerns were voiced about access barriers in getting to Carr Park. These included lack of sidewalks on Winslow Ave. between Harrison and the park entrance, traffic speeding on Winslow Ave, lack of bike path connectivity between the Fells and the park, and current lack of public transit to the park due to the suspended 710 bus service to Fulton Heights.
- The continues to be strong resident support for portapotties or bathrooms at the park. Some people stressed that bathrooms would make the park more comfortable and accessible for more users.

Park Safety, Maintenance, and Hours

- Many folks continued to be adamant about the importance of park maintenance (particularly regarding trash, fields, equipment, and trees), and discussed hopes about trash cleanup in the woods and design strategies to discourage illegal activities in the park.
- Several people requested signage with codes of conduct or rules for use of the park, specifically in the potential dog park, skate park, and pump track spaces. Someone said they believe that people will self-police if clear rules are posted.
- A number of community members expressed wanting nighttime lighting to enhance evening use of the park, increase visibility and safety, and reduce/discourage unwanted activities. In particular, people wanted lights along pathways, near the pickleball and basketball courts, and on the fields. However, some neighbors are concerned about lights staying on too late into the night.
- To address safety concerns, several people suggested creating clearer sightlines across the park, particularly for the playground. Other community safety suggestions included increased signage for traffic around the park, the incorporation of street elements within the park's trail system for bike safety education, an emergency callbox, and security cameras.
- A number of abutters mentioned concerns due to past incidents of vandalism and trespassing on their properties. Vandalism in the park such as people breaking into the electrical cabinet/light control box has also happened on occasion. The design team will consider and further investigate these incidents to the greatest extent possible moving forward, particularly in the context of woodland area programming.
- Several people expressed concerns about mosquitoes. There was a suggestion to treat the wetland with BT, and to change the types of catch basins used to "intermediate holding" so they don't become a habitat for mosquitoes. Design attention should be given to the different kinds of mosquitoes and their life cycles.

Environmental and Climatic Concerns

- Shade came up a lot in conversations. Shady seating, especially along pathways and near the playground and court areas seems very important to most people. Discussions included both shade structures and shade trees. Many people care deeply about preserving as many of the park's trees as possible and advocated for both increasing and retaining shade in the park.
- Aside from shade, cooling mechanisms such as water fountains and a splash pad or other water feature continue to be very widely attractive ideas. Some people pointed out that a sculptural misting or water feature with seating could benefit more than just families with young children, and have year-round interest. Other residents were concerned about water use, and advocated



for the least water-intensive option.

- People generally seem excited about a low-impact design, with comments ranging from the potential of regrading to address flooding, to discussions about sustainable materials, existing tree care, and future forest management.
- There were several comments in support of incorporating perennial meadow planting within the park, both for visual interest and for contributing to pollinator and habitat corridors in the neighborhood. In general, there also appears to be widespread preference for any new plantings to be native species.
- There were several suggestions for environmentally educational park signage, including signs to identify poison ivy in the woods, and interpretive signage about the park's flora, fauna, and habitat context.

Abutter Concerns

- A number of park abutters spoke with the design team about concerns regarding possible trail connections through the woods. These concerns ranged from discussions of property damage and drug use to worries that people will park on Harrison Street (a short dead-end) to access the park entrance. There is already limited parking on Harrison. Abutters on Stowers shared similar concern about parking on the private way (although some of those folks wouldn't mind the trail access point)
- Some abutters voiced apprehension about the close proximity of a bike pump track or off-leash dog area to their house; their main concerns were noise and trespassing.
- One abutter loved the idea of a skate park and teen-centered space near Winslow Ave because they thought that this would provide an outlet for kids who might otherwise be drawn to illegal activities in the woods.
- There were several discussions around the currently lack of property line marking in the woods. Some abutters are concerned about people trespassing on their property, and some park users are equally concerned about not wanting to unwittingly trespass.
- One abutter is concerned about neighbors walking their dogs in the woods at night because of the presence of coyotes.
- Abutters on Cleveland Street expressed concerns about the feasibility of a trail along Harrison since there is exposed ledge, some utilities, and grade change. They believe a connection at Stowers Ave. will serve more people. Another abutter thought that a wide trail connection at Harrison would be nice for kids with bikes.

Spatial Organization

- Some commented that they liked that the plans "diversify the use of the space" and offer opportunities for multi-generational use.
- A number of people stated a preference for the separation of play areas, between younger and older children, and teens. This desire for separation was also discussed by multiple people in the context of a skateboarding/BMX space.
- People seem excited about a fenced off-leash dog area, but a number of people voiced concerns about a dog park near the playground, their houses, and the sports courts. A resident stated that enforcement of leash laws outside of the off-leash dog areas is critical.
- Some people stated preferences for curvilinear routes, and organic and abstract shapes in the design.
- There was strong support for improving the loop walking path surface and adding markers to indicate distance.



Playground and Nature Play

- *Materials*
 - Many supported a more natural aesthetic for the new playground (using wood materials or “woodland play” structures) versus a brightly-colored metal and plastic equipment palette. Others seem interested in something contemporary. Some people felt strongly about not wanting prefabricated play equipment.
 - Many parents would like the playground to have poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing (as opposed to engineered wood fiber “mulch”).
 - A group of kids ages 9-12 in the Medford Youth Center afterschool program were emphatic about not wanting woodchips in the playground, but liking the idea of sand
- *Play Features*
 - Many park users were enthusiastic about keeping and adding more swings. Some of the more specific types mentioned were tire swings, accessible swings, and swings for adults and teens.
 - Several were excited about the sand and water elements by Goric, referencing the features at a new park in Cambridge. They find this type of sensory and tactile play element much more engaging than musical instruments. However, there was also some vocal support for outdoor musical instruments.
 - A variety of play features and elements were requested by kids, including spinners, an “igloo” structure with ropes inside, a merry-go-round structure, a tower structure, ramps and bridges for little kids, monkey bars, a balance beam, a climbing wall, and a tall track ride or zip line.
 - Several of the design map activity sheets illustrated kids' desires for a treehouse, bike trails in/along the woodland, forts in the woods, and zip lines.
 - Lots of kids discussed wanting rocks, structures, etc. to climb and balance on.
 - Kids in the 10-13 age range talked about wanting physically active challenges, like things to climb and jump up and hit (i.e. such as jumping and hitting the top of a doorway inside a school or home).
 - Kids in the 11-12 range feel that the natural materials feel more inviting as a social space, such as groupings of varied stacks of granite block at different heights.
 - A group of ages 9-12 kids in the Medford Youth Center program were enthusiastic about the park including passive and intimate spaces where they could hang out with their friends.
- *Design Considerations for Caretakers*
 - Caretakers commonly expressed desires for places to sit by the playground. One mentioned moving the fitness area closer to the playground so they can keep an eye out on children while being able to exercise.
 - Some parents stressed that aside from the importance of well-maintained, challenging, and engaging play equipment, parents and caretakers also want the playground to include beautiful and comfortable spaces for them to spend time in.
 - Keeping the play space near Winslow Ave. was preferred by many. Some also stressed the importance of the playground being near the parking lot, and visible from the street for safety.
 - People, especially parents, cited examples of what they have enjoyed about other parks and playgrounds in neighboring communities, such as the spacing of play equipment at Harris Park, the wide range of ages designed for at Lincoln Park (Somerville), the natural aesthetics of Hoyt-Sullivan (Somerville), and the fence between play areas for different ages at Albion Park (Somerville).
- *Nature Play*
 - A number of parents favored the nature play ideas, stating that natural elements expand possibilities for unstructured, cooperative, creative, and exploratory play. One person said



they liked the nature play in Option A the best because they liked that it was in the woods and that it created a separate play space.

- There remains general support for a water feature of some kind, but also general concern that any water feature will not be properly maintained. These concerns included sand clogging spray features and broken glass ending up in the splash pad
- Some teens pointed out that after 4th or 5th grade, kids don't play on the official play structures. They also expressed excitement about destination areas in the forest that would need to be discovered.
- Children's suggestions for nature play elements included a treehouse, opportunities to build forts in the woods, and opportunities for climbing (structured and unstructured).

Woodland Area

- Opinions varied widely in terms of what to do in the wooded area of the park; some were excited about activating and formalizing it with new features, while others were concerned that such programming would invite more teens, foot traffic, and undesirable activities.
- There were both people who agreed and disagreed with pathways through the woods. Proponents stated that proper/accessible paths are important, but the paths should be formalized "without impacting trees or wildlife". Some suggestions for ecological health included tree assessment and the establishment of a forest management plan. People who disagreed with adding pathways in the woods were primarily concerned with safety (especially at night), the potential to invite undesirable activity and vandalism, trespassers onto abutters' properties, and reducing the privacy buffer between the neighbors' yards and the park.
- Park users seem aware of the invasive species problems along the woodland edge and are excited about the idea of strategies to manage invasive and make the woods more pedestrian-friendly.
- Those who supported activating the woodland emphasized the need to clean up the area and provide more nature walks as well as nature play elements. Other mentioned maintenance concerns beyond trash include road runoff, ticks, mosquitos, coyotes, and dead branches in many of the trees.
- There was some vocal support for a bench or small observation area by the wetland. However, a number of residents have recently observed the wetland as dry or muddy and are hesitant about the practicality of a viewing platform there.
- Several birdwatchers mentioned excitement about wildlife observation in the woods.
- Many responded positively about having a pump track in the woods. A person from JRA Cycles noted that dirt pump tracks are quieter, but that a "code of conduct" would need to be established (perhaps with the help of signage) to prevent people from trying to alter the tracks. It was also noted that a dirt track requires more maintenance than asphalt, but organizations such as NEMBA (North East Mountain Biking Association) are often willing to be stewards of a space like this.
 - Several people stated the pump track would be used by kids or adults with their kids, but serious mountain bikers will continue to visit more challenging venues with longer courses.
 - A representative of Greater Boston New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) discussed the proposed locations of a pump track in the three schematic design options, noting that flatter areas are better and that Carr Park's topography lends itself to a small scale pump track that would be suitable for children or riders who are learning. He also noted that ideal measurements are a loop about 150' long and at least 75' wide, with about 15' turn radii as the minimum.
- There was some support for a disc golf putting course in the wooded area. One resident referenced Simonds Park (Burlington, MA) and Amesbury Pines as good examples of disc golf courses.



Community Gardens

- Feedback on the community garden idea was split between enthusiastic supporters and people who worry about long wait lists or lack of use, citing other parks in the Metro area where community garden plots appear to remain unused.
 - Someone pointed out that for folks living in housing situations where they don't have any access to growing food or plants, a community garden would provide important educational opportunities.
 - Some residents stated they do not want a community garden because they don't think it will get used, since there are not a lot of renters in the area and most homeowners can use their yards if they want a garden.
- A couple of people involved with community gardens in Medford advocated for the involvement of a third-party group like the Community Garden Commission to organize and maintain potential plots.
- Someone from the Community Garden Commission stated that many residents support community gardens “in theory” but then neighbors oppose locating them at specific public parks. Another resident suggested putting community gardens in spaces where other park programming is not practical or likely.

Sports Courts

- *Pickleball*
 - Pickleball enthusiasts prefer to have courts located closer to the street and parking to allow for easier access for the many seniors who play but have mobility issues. Concern was expressed about courts being too close to the baseball foul line as shown in Option A. Another pickleball player prefers to have the courts grouped next to each other (as shown in options B and C) to allow players to easily rotate between the courts and reduce the incidence of stray balls interfering with other games.
 - In conversation with the pickleball group who play daily at Victory Park, many players emphasized the multigenerational nature of the sport, and the city's current lack of permanent courts and nets. Some also pointed out that high-quality court space could be a money-making opportunity for the city
 - A number of people described their concerns about including four pickleball courts in the park design. While concerns ranged from noise levels to the elimination of the tennis court at the park, others believe that pickleball advocates are a minority in terms of the community-at-large who would use the park. Some suggested it would be more equitable to include two pickleball courts and one tennis court or have the two games share one court.
 - Some residents felt that pickleball is loud/noisy and would prefer that the courts aren't located near homes. Noise concerns about pickleball were discussed with the group who plays daily at Victory Park. Posted hours, requirements for paddles and balls designed to reduce noise, and sound-absorbing panels are all potential solutions for community concerns.
- *Tennis*
 - Because pickleball was such a popular request from the community in the first round of feedback (particularly from seniors) and tennis was mentioned by only a few, the designs prioritized including pickleball courts over preserving one tennis court. While some mentioned that no one uses the tennis court, a number of residents have advocated to keep at least one tennis court at the park.
 - Park users observed that the tennis courts also get used for street hockey in the winter, roller skating, and by kids learning to ride their bikes.
 - Several people commented that there should be at least one tennis court, but they would be okay with having tennis and pickleball share a court. However, pickleball users prefer to have dedicated courts since shared court space means they have to bring their own nets



and set up them up every time they play (this is the current condition/situation at other parks such as Victory Park and the newly renovated courts at Duggar Park).

- **Basketball**
 - Strong support continues for basketball courts, especially for teens but for adults and younger children as well.
 - Many community members supported the idea of having a covered basketball court to allow users to continue to play through rainy days, the heat of summer, and during the winter. Someone pointed out that as rain speeds degradation of the court surface, the covered basketball pavilion might reduce future maintenance costs.
 - Many community members support two basketball courts to maximize both play space and other uses of the court space.
 - A number of people also responded positively to flexible court space that would reduce impervious surface and accommodate street hockey/learning to bike ride since the courts are paved and safe from care.
 - Other suggestions included lower basketball hoops and smaller courts for younger players, single rims, and courts with glass backboards
 - Other suggestions for the court area included nearby seating/picnic tables nearby and more tree cover to protect players from sun glare.

Sports Fields

- There was some support for one large baseball field instead of two smaller ones. A resident mentioned there should be a full-size field for the Babe Ruth league because there are only two other full-size fields in the City (at Playstead and Hickey).
- Some people supported the design options with two Little League fields, but concerns were also raised about field maintenance.
- The president of the Junior Mustangs football team uses the field for team practice. Because the fields are often closed and practices cancelled from the rain, he suggested having an artificial turf section, “making it like a mini Hormel Stadium.” Another person also suggested using turf since the fields get a lot of heavy use from junior football practice and playoffs; six divisions often practice at the same time and use the whole field. Football practice on the field was observed during one tabling event, and some participants came to review the park designs.
- A local resident mentioned that the Ultimate Frisbee club meets Monday nights at the field almost all year.
- Someone suggested water spigots at the field for teams to fill up water jugs and wash team benches.
- Others preferred to have less fields/field space at the park.

Parkour and Adult Fitness

- A number of people seem supportive of parkour elements and/or adult fitness equipment.
- Someone advocated for the parkour space being aligned the other active programming areas, as shown in Concept A.
- There was support for a parkour/workout area among a group of 14-year-old boys. Magazine Beach in Boston has a good fitness area that gets used frequently.
- Other adult fitness suggestions included a putting green, space for volleyball, and an enclosed multi-use court that could get used for hockey and maybe skating in the winter.
- Someone requested that the fitness equipment have no moving parts; another resident suggested siting fitness equipment near the playground so parents can use it while keeping an eye on their kids.



Teen-centered Spaces

- With comments about teens causing trouble throughout the park, it will be critical to help them feel empowered and heard during the design process to ensure that the new design provides a space for them to enjoy the park and discourage less desirable activities.
 - Some community members voiced that teens 'get a bad rap' and just need spaces to go where they can express themselves and spend time with their friends.
- A number of comments continue to emphasize the need for designated spaces and activities for teens, which the park currently lacks. Some type of swing structure, a zip line, spinners, skate areas, and climbing walls were suggested and supported by both teens and adults as possible elements.
- There continues to be a lot of support for teen-focused spaces that are separate from children's play areas.
 - Having teens closer to the street makes others walking in the park at night feel safer.

Skateable / BMX Elements

- A number of people seemed excited about skating elements, and the possibility of the park providing skateboarding opportunities for people who currently have to drive a distance to skateboarding areas.
- Another suggestion was made for a more dedicated space for skateboarding that's gated and perhaps for kids and teens only. Malden Skate Park was referenced a few times.
- There was support for the hybrid skateboard path shown in Option A. Some people thought a linear model would feel more accessible for younger kids on scooters.
- Several people referenced Smith Park in Allston (also pictured on the Option A Design Board) and Lincoln Park in Somerville as great examples of skate parks that integrate features that make them user-friendly for skateboarders of all ages and ability levels.
- Some people pushed for no skateboarding elements at all, feeling uncomfortable with skateboarders. Others were concerned that a skate park would go unused or unmaintained.
- Some middle school-aged kids suggested smaller ramps and features and "no adults allowed" in a new skateboarding area.
- A teenager expressed wanting a skate park/area to be physically separate from other spaces, suggesting that otherwise it could 'cause problems'.
- Someone stated that kids on scooters and bikes would also use a skateboarding area
- Someone asked about what the insurance costs would be for something like a BMX area.

Off-leash Dog Areas

- There was generally strong support for an off-leash dog area of some kind. Since there are a lot of dog owners in the neighborhood, many community members advocated for some type of off-leash dog area and/or off-leash hours (possibly during early morning or evening).
 - Some prefer one single area and some prefer separated large and small dog spaces.
 - Another person said that small dog areas get used less frequently.
 - One resident stated it was important to post signs that people are required to pick up after their dogs.
- There were some concerns that a dog park would be dangerous.
- Other suggestions included providing dog waste bag stations, play elements, a doggie pool, and enough space for dogs to run around and play (about 200' to throw a ball and play fetch).
- Several commented that a lot of kids are afraid of dogs and requested a fenced-in playground to keep kids from running out and to discourage people bringing their dogs in.
 - One person preferred for a dog park to be further from play areas since it would be better for kids who have allergies (to animals or to foods in dog treats, peanut butter for example).



- One person suggested putting the dog park in the City-owned parcels that are adjacent to the main park parcel so that the space is further away from the fields. Another suggested putting the dog park in the location the play area is shown in Option C (closer to the parking lot). A third person said there should be some shade in the dog area, wherever it ends up being.

Other Amenities / Programmatic Elements

- Bathrooms were frequently requested by many community members, especially for seniors and children. Some parents expressed frustration about having to leave the park and go home just to use the bathroom.
- Suggestions for activities and features currently not shown in the design concepts included a mountain bike skills area, climbing for adults, permanent horseshoe pits, bocce courts, corn hole, wiffle ball, gaga ball, and using the parking lot to host periodic “street hockey nights”.
- Site furniture comments included providing more trash receptacles wherever there is programming (or signage for a carry-in/carry-out policy), bike racks near seating, and no lounge chairs. Some teens also suggested having a lost-and-found box.
- One of the design map activity sheets suggested including a concessions stand, and another illustrated gardens and food forests at the southern edge of the park.
- Several people requested that bike racks be included in the design.

Feedback about the Design Process

- Many people asked about funding and the timeline for the project, as how the design team will decide which elements from which schemes will be decided upon for the final proposed plan.
- Several parents with kids in the 2-5 range are unsure about advocating for specific types of play spaces for young children, because they recognize their kids will be in a different age range by the time the park is built.
- Someone who works in construction pointed out that plans can be hard to read for the public and encouraged possible expanded means of communicating the design intentions.
- Several abutters expressed frustration that they were not explicitly notified about the park’s redesign during the first phase of public input.
- A few people expressed concerns that construction could exacerbate rat problems.

Miscellaneous Comments

- The park should look “inviting and engaging” as viewed from outside the park.
- One resident expressed the desire for the park to include 'photoworthy places' that would draw people in. Examples included vistas, natural features, and beautiful design elements.
- A resident responded to various abutter concerns by stating that abutters “should not be allowed to expropriate public land”. They stated that when regular residential neighbors change their property, one doesn't have any say, and it is unfair for abutters to expect “special treatment” when they own property next to a public park.
- Someone suggested dedicating a shady seating area to local residents who died of COVID-19.
- A group of 9-10 year-old boys said that solid picnic tables would be better for drawing so the pencil doesn't poke through the paper.
- A resident stated that they prefer to have less paving overall at the park, another stated that a 10' walkway is too wide and that 8' would be sufficient.
- While there seems to be a lot of support for play equipment made of wood, a couple of comments also mentioned the slipperiness of wet wood, such as wood chips being used as a playground surface and wood benches.

END OF NOTES

Prepared by Polly Sinclair for CBA Landscape Architects LLC, 10/29/2021

