

Neighborhood Park System Evaluation

Methodology and Results

Conducted March, 2021-August, 2021

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Danville Parks and Recreation

This section is included to provide transparency about the process of data collection that is used in decision making and to provide a blueprint for consistency in future data collection.

Statement of intention and position:

Danville Parks and Recreation department researched current neighborhood parks and evaluated them based on their use, accessibility, and sustainability (in terms of environmental health, social equity, and economic viability). We then used that knowledge to develop a master plan for Danville's parks. During this process, we built internal and external capacity to install a system of citizen advisory and stakeholder cooperation for future parks and greenway development.

Of note, this research took place in 2021, and we were still in the middle of the COVID 19 health crisis. We acknowledge that it was more difficult to reach residents and that there are some who we could not reach using methods we typically depend on. However, we did our best to account for these limitations and to reach residents and other stakeholders in safe and creative ways.

Research methods:

Research Questions:

1. In what ways have neighborhood parks fit into the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of Danville communities in the past? (participant observation, document review)
2. In what ways do neighborhood parks currently function in the context of social, environmental, and economic sustainability for Danville communities? (participant observation, document review, division surveys, neighborhood surveys)
3. In what ways do communities want neighborhood parks to accommodate social, environmental, and economic sustainability? (participant observation, document review, division surveys, neighborhood surveys, follow up stakeholder interviews)
4. In what ways can Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with other departments in the city, fulfill community wants and sustainability needs through its parks and greenways? (participant observation, document review)

Participant Observation: Parks and Recreation employees intentionally observe neighborhood parks and the Riverwalk looking for specific signs of use, accessibility, and sustainability (see Pages 73-78). They write field notes and keep a log of subsequent visits and changes they see with time of day, year, etc. This includes but is not limited to environmental conditions, wildlife presence, park user activity, our own maintenance activity, and our interactions with park users. Parks and Recreation employees also take into account personal knowledge of budgets, city projects, organization and department meetings, and relationships and capacities of partnering city departments and leadership who need to be involved in projects for their completion.

Informal stakeholder Interviews: Parks and Recreation employees will talk with residents about what they currently like about parks, which parks they do and do not visit, and what infrastructure and/or activities they would like in the future. Interviews were unstructured and worked to mirror resident survey questions. Participants were park visitors, participants of park events, and attendees of community events, such as block parties or local organization events.

Neighborhood Surveys: The Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services division sent paper surveys to a random sample of residents who lived within .5 miles of each park, assessing their current use and desired features of the parks in Danville (See Page 5). Online surveys were also available to convenience samples of participants through print ads and promotion at park events. Surveys consisted of questions about use, perception, and sustainability, and complement the interviews. Surveys were anonymous with an option of providing contact information for further information. Data Collection took place from March 2021 to August 2021.

Parks and Recreation Division Collective Document Creation: Danville Parks and Recreation Department shared a document that was open to editing from all divisions. The document contained space for sharing internal knowledge about each park. Each week, 2-3 parks were highlighted by researchers, and each division contributed knowledge about these spaces, including information about the communities who live near and use the space, about division use or potential use of the park, about unique characteristics of the park, and other characteristics of note. Contributions were linked to divisions, not people. They could be shared with all people in the shared document or sent to the researcher privately.

Document Review: Past surveys and forums, former individual park plans, former park master plans, and other park investigation material will be used in planning or in understanding the historical context of a park and its surrounding community, depending on their dates of completion. Ongoing surveys and forums, current individual park plans, current park master plans, and other park investigation material will be used in planning or in understanding the logistics and feasibility of future park development and connection plans.

Evaluation Process:

Parks and Recreation are continuing long-provided services of greenspace provision and recreational programming, and are following up on previous assessments, specifically to determine next steps for utilizing, maintaining, and further developing neighborhood parks and greenways in Danville. The overall long-term goal is to provide quality, connected greenspace across all sections of Danville and to link relevant and accessible programming with those spaces. However, because this involves built infrastructure and outreach to communities in engaging them with that infrastructure, these goals take time to implement, and results take time to appear. In an attempt to better understand where to focus resources for our long-term goals, we need to know where the need lies for park improvement and development. We also need to assess where the opportunity lies for us to meet needs with limited resources most efficiently. Our short-term goal is to provide well maintained, quality greenspace in neighborhood parks that is used by residents and that represents the needs and uses of residents.

We employed pragmatic, developmental, value forward evaluation with a framework for social, environmental, and economic goals. Because we are providing park services, which depend most closely on social and environmental needs being fulfilled, we focus on evaluating parks for their fulfillment of recreation, social justice and equity, and environmental health. Economic viability evaluation is based primarily on the parks' abilities to remain financially feasible to maintain. Secondly, economic value is attributed to their ability to generate revenue for parks and on their provision of services that uplift microeconomic goals, like affordable cost of living, as well as macroeconomic goals, like increasing property values, tourism, and business development. Our logic model is presented in this document on pages 79-80 and was developed with input from divisions in Parks and Recreation and inspiration from community feedback in surveys.

The methods used in our evaluation process were designed with three primary goals:

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

1. To gather information from stakeholders about how the park functions and how they would like it to function. This is to be used to inform future park development.
2. To develop positive, lasting relationships with residents and community organizations that promote trust and improve systems of communication.
3. To improve organizational knowledge of the evaluation process and its utility, and to improve intra-departmental communication within Parks and Recreation and inter-organizational communications with city departments and organizations.

The planning phase is directly linked to the outcomes of the evaluation. The evaluation should lay the foundation of cooperation and communication between divisions and should increase the capacity of staff to utilize evaluation findings for planning. It should establish lines of communication with residents and park stakeholders through discourse and partnerships throughout the data collection process.

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

Number	Question	Selection options	Construct testing	Construct number
1	People in my household use our neighborhood park for exercise, play, or sports and athletics.	1-Very often 2- Somewhat often 3- Not very often 4- Never	Current usefulness	1/3
2	People in my household use the park as a place to relax or reflect	1-Very often 2- Somewhat often 3- Not very often 4- Never	Current usefulness	2/3
3	My community gathers at our neighborhood park	1-Very often 2- Somewhat often 3- Not very often 4- Never	Current usefulness	3/3
4	I can easily access my neighborhood park.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Accessibility	1/2
5	If my neighborhood park were improved, I would use it for exercise, play, or sports and athletics.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Future usefulness	1/3
6	If my neighborhood park were improved, I would use it to relax or reflect.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Future usefulness	2/3
7	If my neighborhood park were improved, my community would use it for gatherings or events.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Future usefulness	3/3
8	My neighborhood park has features that other parks in Danville do not have.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Uniqueness	1/2
9	I feel safe in my neighborhood park.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Accessibility	2/2
10	Events and recreational activities take place at my neighborhood park that do not take place at other parks in Danville	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Uniqueness	2/2
11	My neighborhood park is an important place in my community.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Community Identity	1/2
12	My neighborhood park represents me and my neighbors.	1. Very much agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Very much disagree	Community Identity	2/2

Codes for qualitative data entries

ACC	Accessibility	Ability to get to park, ability to move about the park, ability to use features within the park, welcomeness of park to populations.
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	Parking for facilities, speed of traffic surrounding park, amount of traffic surrounding park, bus transportation, noise from cars, or noise and other impacts of traffic.
SYS	City System	Aspects of the park or the area surrounding the park that represent the larger city system or that represent a view of the entire park system as a connected entity. Examples include greenspace throughout the city, housing, recycling and waste disposal, and water cleanliness.
COM	Communication	Parks and Recreation’s communication of events, parks, and other aspects of facilities and services. Relationships and representation fostered through media communication.
FAC	Facilities	Physical infrastructure of parks and park facilities. Examples include shelters, pathways, play equipment, fences, restrooms, and parking lots.
FUN	Function	The role a park or program plays in a community, the type of activity that a park or program supports, or the outcomes that they foster.
GWT	Greenway/Trails	Places to walk within a park, natural or paved trails, off road walking to a park, linked pathways between parks, off road walking in general, the Riverwalk.
MAI	Maintenance	Upkeep of a park facility and its amenities. Examples include mowing, paving, trimming, and condition of play equipment, shelters, restrooms, fields, and fences.
NAT	Nature	Aspects of parks and park programming that relate to the outdoor environment. Trees, views, plantings, animals, insects, and other wildlife.
PET	Pets	Parks and programming that include space or interaction with domestic animals. Interaction with other park users’ pets.
PRO	Programming	Past, present, and potential Parks and Recreation programs and events.
SAF	Safety	Aspects of parks and programming that relate to safety of park infrastructure, activity within park, and interactions within and around park. Examples are visibility, structural stability, wildlife interactions, and crime or violence.
SOC	Social/race dynamics	Interaction of communities within the park, interaction of park or program with surrounding communities, history of the park or program and how it was used, perception of who the park or programs are or are not for.

Park System:

Summary:

The following data represents responses to Parks and Recreation’s 2021 Neighborhood Park Evaluation, including paper and online surveys from random and convenience sampling, and in-person informal, unstructured interviews at parks, park events and programs, and community events from convenience samples. There was a total of 579 responses, 339 from surveys and the remaining 240 from interviews.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	293
PRO	Programming	64
FUN	Function	64
GWT	Greenway/Trails	54
SOC	Social/race dynamics	44
NAT	Nature	38
SAF	Safety	37
ACC	Accessibility	32
MAI	Maintenance	26
PET	Pets	19
SYS	City System	19
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	9
COM	Communication	3

Contacts: A total of 119 participants submitted their contact information in order to be contacted for park planning efforts for their neighborhood park or for parks in general.

Common Themes:

These themes were present in one or more of our parks but were not necessarily in all parks. Specific examples of each of these may be found in individual park reports.

Play, adventure, and water.

Participants often seemed to view parks and playgrounds synonymously, often requesting play elements for playgrounds in parks that would suit the needs of children. Swings and slides were the most common infrastructure requested for playgrounds, and ziplines, merry go rounds, and climbing structures were consistent requests across the city.

At times, desired park improvements were described in the terms of what type of play they would support. For instance, sports were often listed as activities people wanted to be able to do in parks. Those specifically mentioned were basketball, soccer, football, tennis, kickball, and disc golf. Participants also suggested obstacle or adventure courses for youth and adults.

Often, desired park activities involved some form of adventure or exploration. As part of their parks, participants wanted places to pretend, to run around, to put on shows, to write with chalk, to access and explore the creek, and to play games. Climbing trees and rocks was sometimes related to this kind of comment.

Creek access was not the only way residents wanted to interact and play with water. Participants wanted splashpads, other spray elements, and swimming pools as part of neighborhood parks.

Social connection, community building, community function.

Participants saw their neighborhood parks as a part of their community. Survey comments reflected this in a few ways. First, and most directly, the participants requested infrastructure that supports large and small community gatherings. This includes picnic shelters with tables and grills; areas for music concerts; and specific community-oriented seating and tables, lawn games, or recreation programming.

Second, participants commented on what type of social and cultural programming and infrastructure they would like to see in parks. This includes events like Juneteenth and events specifically for specific neighborhoods, like Druid Hills and Green Street. This category also includes artifacts like historical markers, community representative art, and connections with black-owned businesses.

Third, participants commented on how the park represented their neighborhood, and dynamics happening within and around the park were representative of the city's functioning. Examples of this include perceptions of crime and safety within different parks and areas of town; perceptions of whose parks should be cared for and funded; perceptions of which parts of the city's parks are being cared for and not; how greenspace should fit into and function within the city; and how parks should be valued within the city.

Walking, biking, and healthy living.

Participants expressed a need for places in parks that facilitated various aspects of fitness. These were comments left on surveys and in person. Examples of this include multiuse trails in and between parks, nature paths, exercise facilities, and spaces that allow for safe exercising of any modality.

A notable instance where this theme repeatedly arose was with participants who did not have young children or who were pressed to communicate what would make the park relevant and useful to them personally, or if participants with children were asked about what they would like for their own use.

Safety and maintenance.

Participants noticed aspects of their park that made it more or less comfortable, usable, accessible, and safe. Maintenance issues ranged from mowing space and schedule to fallen fences to geese presence. Sometimes these overlapped with safety concerns, such as with the issue of visibility throughout the park and holes in entrance drives. Other times, safety stood alone, as in the case of lighting, call box, and patrolling requests. Safety also sometimes intersected with social issues, with some lower income areas having more perceived crime in and around parks, though this was not often true (for instance Pumpkin Creek and Doyle Thomas).

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure.

Some participants wanted places to enjoy parks more passively, or to have places to rest and relax in active places. Places to read, benches along paths to sit and rest, chess tables, picnic shelters and tables, shade of all sorts, and concerts were all part of how participants imagined certain parks functioning as places of leisure and comfort. This theme sometimes crossed over with both "Social connection, community building, community function" and "connection to nature and natural beauty" themes.

Examples of this are gardens, benches and tables for potlucks and book clubs, and stages or concert venues.

Who are parks for?

Participants had a clear idea of who intended park users are and for whom parks are useful. Very often, this was simply tied to age. It was not uncommon for park staff to ask participants about their neighborhood park and receive the reply, 'I'm too old for parks' or 'all my kids are grown.' Often the first thought of how a park could be improved was in how children's play areas and playgrounds could be enhanced.

Another way that park users indicated assumptions of who parks are for was in the context of physical ability. Again, it seems that the base assumption for parks is that they are for able bodied individuals. Participants specified that parks should also be for those with mental and physical disabilities.

This theme also crosses over into social, geographic, and race issues. Participants commented on properties around houses that should be torn down, parks they perceived not being worth investing in (low-income areas), parks they perceived not currently being invested in (historically Black communities), and areas of town that received more attention than others (downtown and Averett areas).

Connection to nature and natural beauty.

Participants identified ways that parks are valued because of aspects of the natural environment, as well as ways in which parks may be enhanced through interaction with or manipulation of the natural environment. Examples include landscaping, flowers, gardens of various sorts, tree plantings, interaction with/viewing wildlife and birds, and access to and observation of rivers and creeks. There were also aspects of nature that made a space undesirable or diminished its value. Examples include fallen trees, overgrown grass, and geese droppings.

Pets.

Pets, namely dogs, were a part of how participants saw parks being useful and enjoyable. Many participants who referenced this function currently use their neighborhood parks as dog parks, whether in a fenced in ball field, in a designated dog park, or off leash. Other residents requested a designated dog park with dog amenities. Specific examples included dog obstacles and play equipment, dog fountains, and separate areas for big dogs and little dogs. Interestingly, two residents requested a cat park.

Some participants did not have positive encounters with other peoples' dogs or with dog owner behavior. This included the elderly population and parents with small children who were concerned with the safety issues of large, off leash dogs or off leash dogs in general. Other issues were related to dog owners not picking up dog waste. Some of these participants and participants with dogs requested more dog waste stations.

Missing parks and greenspace in the City.

Participants who did not live near a city park requested accessible parks. Specific areas requesting these parks included North Danville (NorDan), Westover, and the Goodyear Blvd area. Barriers to existing

parks included distance, busy roads, or disinvestment and abandonment of previous parks (i.e., Sandy Shores, Woodberry, Glenwood).

Some participants did not necessarily say they needed a park for their neighborhood specifically, but they wished to see more maintained greenspace throughout the city. Examples of how participants imagined this include greenways along creek beds and pocket parks.

Parks representative of City-Community relationship.

Participants at times commented on areas that were distinctly not Parks and Recreation jurisdiction or that equated Parks and Recreation actions to those of the City as a whole. These issues related to allocation of funding, housing, policing and safety, and city-wide planning. In some of these instances, participants saw their park as representative of their neighborhood or community and the care for their park as representative of the City’s care for their community.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Of 345 respondents, 66% use their park for active recreation at least somewhat often. 57% of participants use their park for passive recreation at least somewhat often. 52% of participants say that their community gathers at their park at least somewhat often.

If their park were improved, 88% of residents say their community would gather at least somewhat often at their park, 89% would use it for active recreation at least somewhat often, and 85% would use it for passive recreation at least somewhat often.

Only 12% of participants did not agree that they could easily access their park. Participants were divided over whether or not their park had special features or programming. 78% of participants at least somewhat agreed that they felt safe in their park. 85% of participants at least somewhat agreed that their park is important in their community, 84% at least somewhat agreed that they felt welcome in their park, and 71% felt that the park represented them and their neighbors.

Summary of internal data:

Community Recreation	Commented on spaces that would allow for rec mobile, fun wagon, and pop up programming to be successful. Commented on areas for clean ups and environmental programming. Commented on areas for after school program pick up and activities.
Special Recreation	Commented on accessible areas and equipment for play and gathering. Commented on outdoor gathering areas for program attendees. Commented on possible event space and facilities.
Sports and Athletics	Commented on practice, game, and tournament sites. Commented on sport fields and courts to support informal play.
Administration	Commented on frequency of rentals. Commented on barriers for rental use or reasons for low demand. Commented on types of rentals currently and previously used in a space.
Library	Commented on places for crafts and reading. Commented on places to post and share information for library. Commented on Storywalk and Little Library locations. Commented on Library Mobile site possibilities.

Maintenance	Commented on time required to drive to and access a location. Commented on tasks performed at park (i.e., mowing, inspections). Commented on environmental dynamics at park (i.e., flooding, wildlife).
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Recommendations:

Recommendations for parks include 3 levels of meeting community needs. These are to be taken into consideration alongside individual park recommendations.

The first level are features and amenities that need to be available at each park, when at all possible. These are aspects of parks that are in high demand, are needed to ensure safety and cleanliness of park, and/or necessary to meet sustainability standards.

The second level are features and amenities that should be available at least in one park within each park planning region. These are aspects of parks that are in demand but are not feasible or necessary at every park.

The third level are features or amenities that should be available at least somewhere within our park system. These are features or amenities that are very expensive, special, and/or specialized that set one park apart from others. They are not necessary or sustainable at many parks.

These recommendations are detailed in the chart on the following pages (Pages 12-14).

Recommended infrastructure includes the following:

	AMENITY	DESCRIPTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS
EACH PARK	Adequate, defined parking.	Parking spaces, parking lot, and nearby walking access from there. Bicycle parking may be a part of this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness for park size. • On street parking availability. • Bicycle/Pedestrian access options and comfort
	Signage	Park identification, rules, & information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform style • Uniform content • Site/context specific info
	Address	Assigned address tied to park name and findable on online maps (city website, google, apple, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our webpage • City GIS • Search engines
	Active play recreation amenity	An amenity that facilitates active play, such as a playground, sport facility,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, swings. • Consider amenities that support specific active play (i.e., water fountains, benches)
	Community, socialization, gathering amenity	A facility that supports desired community-identified social needs/desires. Examples include picnic shelters, concert venues, circle-seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-led decision making
	Maintenance access	Access into park for mowing, emptying trash, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid driving on grass or otherwise inconvenient/difficult/harmful routes of maintenance.
	Fixed trash & recycling	Installed waste and recycling receptacles, with clear labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection schedules • Ease of collection
EACH GROUP OF PARKS	Multi-use trail or walking track	A walking loop that facilitates safe, healthy exercise. A multiuse trail that facilitates travel from one point to another within a community and can be used for walking, biking, or other recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size to accommodate users in group region • Interest and engagement for promoting exercise
	Pet facility	Dog park with pet waste station.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodate safety of dogs and park users

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to be integrated into park identity/experience
	Programming space	A space for Parks and Recreation to hold events, programs, or meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power • Parking & other access • Space
	Built water feature	An amenity that facilitates interaction with water, such as a splash pad, fountain, pool, mister, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider terrain, history of water features in area
	Unique play feature	A play feature that is special, or unique to a park. Examples of these may include a round/tire swing, small zipline, large climbing structure, big slide, themed playground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does amenity fit into group identity and park design?
	Education feature	Family-oriented educational feature. Examples include Storywalk, interpretive nature trail, interactive creek access, STEAM activity infrastructure, art creation station, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of diverse types/topics of education • Consistent & accurate messaging throughout parks
PARK SYSTEM	Large scale water feature	Pool, large splashpad, or combination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrain • Access & parking

Possibilities for infrastructure include the following:

	AMENITY	DESCRIPTION
EACH PARK	Water access	If applicable to site, access for people to creek, stream, pond, or other water feature in park. Include education about safety and proenvironmental behavior as it applies to water interaction at site (i.e. litter, dog waste, flooding)
	Environmental education	Education about care for environment and its implications, and/or about environmental function/value in community.
	Swings	Where possible, include swings commensurate with park size and access. Diverse type of swings
	Space for reflection	Contemplative areas intentionally separated from active areas of park. Quieter seating areas, areas with vegetation, areas with views, or other areas that promote connection with nature, emotional/psychological healing, or mindfulness.

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EACH GROUP OF PARKS	Unique fitness feature	A fitness resource that provides a functionality or special type of fitness training not found in other areas of the group and/or serves a population not served with other facilities.
	Unique leisure feature	Unique park space for relaxation, leisurely recreation
	Kiosk	Place for parks and recreation to communicate with park users and for communities/neighborhoods to post local info
PARK SYSTEM	Trans-Danville Greenway	Network of greenways, bike lanes, and other pedestrian friendly infrastructure that links residential areas of the city to one another and to destinations, including parks.
	Foot golf	9 or 18 hole foot golf course, or golf played with soccer ball and bucket-sized holes. Traverses field, diverse and interesting terrain, and possibly tree covered areas.
	Pickle ball	Designated areas on tennis courts or specific pickle ball courts.
	Adventure/obstacle course	Fitness or play equipment set up in a way that encourages park goers to use physical activity to complete obstacles or challenges that promote agility and/or exploration.

Parks in General

Summary:

Some participants in our park evaluation surveys and informal interviews did not have a neighborhood park, did not know their neighborhood park, or chose to comment about the park system as a whole. For this subset of park users, there were 165 contributions. Of these, 70 came in the form of a survey with or without comments, and 95 were obtained from conversations with park users and residents at community or Parks and Recreation events, programs, or data collection park pop ups.

Frequency of codes:

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	96
GWT	Greenway/Trails	22
PRO	Programming	19
FUN	Function	17
NAT	Nature	9
SOC	Social/race dynamics	8
SAF	Safety	7
SYS	City System	7
ACC	Accessibility	5
PET	Pets	4
MAI	Maintenance	3
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	1
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning involvement: 18

Common Themes:

1. Play, adventure, and water. Facility requests predominately revolved around their connection to play. This included specific play equipment, sport field and kinds of play that would be supported in parks. Examples of this type of survey and interview response show different degrees of interest or imagery for parks:

“Add a water play area and basketball goal, volleyball or tennis net area. Swings.”

“I mostly like slides and swings.”

“Playgrounds connected with bridges, half dome climbing thing, bigger climbing rock, rock wall, twisty slide, music.”

Sometimes, often in the case of young participants, we heard about types of play or pretend that they want supported at parks. These sometimes had a feeling of adventure to them.

“Stage with laughing challenges on stage, huge bridge with cave underneath to explore...treasure hunt; bridges from tree to tree.”

“Swimming and the creek crawl.”

Water elements were often intertwined in these play elements. Sprinklers, pools, creeks, and misters were all connected to park facilitation of play.

“Splashpad or anything with water for kids.”

“Water, splashpad, pool.”

These type of comment expresses the type of parks and park amenities that park users value. The overwhelming frequency of this theme also tells us about what people see as the purpose of parks: active, playground-oriented areas for children. This may be in part because this is the primary service most neighborhood parks in Danville currently provide.

2. Walking, biking, and healthy living. Outside of play, walking paths and trails were the most common type of infrastructure requested. Comments ranged from specific observations of the Riverwalk and requests for its upkeep to desires for walkable parks and places near where residents live.

“It would improve if we had a sidewalk along the park.”

“Areas for walking”

“...need updates/expansion of the Riverwalk; need ‘community walkways’- like the Riverwalk”

“biking trail going through like all the parks. I would like a big circle, bigger than Anglers because after a while it gets boring.”

Some walking-related ideas crossed over into a related theme of missing parks and greenspace throughout Danville.

3. Missing parks and greenspace in the City. Participants expressed a need for more greenspace and more walkability in greenspaces throughout the city. Some participants commented that there are no parks where they live so they will drive to the Riverwalk to go walking or biking. Some of these commenters live in Danville, and some live in the County or in North Carolina.

“I believe strongly that additional pocket parks, throughout the city, could be a very strong amenity... (another city’s trail has) low-maintenance walkways, with inexpensive seating and landscaped sections providing cozy nooks. There are several places in the River District where this could occur, for example the area running parallel to and between both Craghead and Bridge, behind the DRF/Averett building running to the Community Garden plots. This whole area could be a wonderful walkway and provide seating and, in essence, an urban mini-park. Such sophisticated yet low-maintenance walkways would rival anything Lynchburg has done as it creates its new downtown infrastructure.”

“Please put a park in the Mt. Hermon area! We desperately need one here. Thank you.”

“Please find a place for a park in Shadowood!”

“I grew up and now live in North Danville. As a child, GLH JOHNSON was the only playground, IT STILL IS. I now live and raised my son in Shadow Wood. STILL NO PARK EVEN WITHIN BIKING DISTANCE. Piney Forest road is quite a barrier!”

4. *Relaxing space, seating, and leisure.* Places to sit, rest, and relax were on the minds of participants too. These were mentioned in connection with accessibility, community, and leisure.

“We live across from Green Street. There are only two places to sit. Two picnic tables.”

“Water fountains, picnic tables, lounge chairs, and Wi-Fi.”

They were also mentioned in conjunction with certain activities.

“Walking area, water, picnic area, shade”

“Shaded areas and seating, pool, benches, umbrellas”

5. *Social connection, community building, community function.* Just like participants saw play equipment as a function for a certain kind of play, some participants saw infrastructure and programming as a means to build or support community.

“More picnic tables, benches, places to sit. Moms like to sit in group and chat while kids play. Not enough seating.”

“...Overall, I feel that Danville has done an excellent job of maintaining its parks, and created different personalities among them. I visit many of them, and often, and often think how lucky we are to have such well-maintained green spaces.”

“...historical markers, something to show support for the Black-owned businesses and the Black community.”

Some comments give us insight into how residents have noticed social issues and discrimination in our current and past operations.

“Juneteenth should be held on the actual holiday when it’s on a weekend.”

“Danville need public swimming pools for one and all.”

Another person commented on her mixed feelings about Parks and Recreation’s use of labor from the Adult Detention Center. This was echoed by a participant in another area of town. Comments like these give a glimpse into how Parks and Recreation is a representative of the City system and its social structure.

“Police presence! Thugs and druggies hang out!”

“To better serve the neighborhoods and parks these abandon homes needs to be torn down. Abandon homes make the city look disgraceful. To make Danville a more beautiful city, residents should be forced to tear down their homes or fix it up and make up to date improvements. If you are going to bring a casino here homes in the city need to be torn down.”

6. *Connection to nature and natural beauty.* Participants tied the aesthetics of Danville’s parks to the ways in which they display natural elements and allow for park user connection to nature.

“Gardens, nature, trails, nature, ponds, scenery, connect mind-body.”

“More picnic tables, shade trees, beautiful plantings. Walkways and paths. An arboretum.”

“Keep the Riverwalk Trail natural. The sculpture and knit projects detract from the natural beauty.”

Connection to nature was also identified in aspects of play for children. Conversations and comments that centered on creeks, the river, trees, and interaction with wildlife reflect the role the outdoor environment plays in the park user experience.

“Place with magnifying glass and bug ID.”

“Climbing trees”

“Tree houses.”

7. *Who are parks for?* Perspectives of residents of what parks are and who they serve came through directly and indirectly in resident comments. Most directly, participants asked for improvements and expansion of accessibility for differently abled park users.

“Update play equipment and include children with special needs”

“Handicap accessible parks, paths, and fitness parks.”

“Something for amputees, programming, exercise equipment or obstacle course with ADA accessibility that would encourage amputees to keep moving...”

Less overtly, residents communicated that Danville parks are most suited for a specific age range: young children. We heard from several adults who said that they weren’t the right people to ask because they were too old for parks and they didn’t have children.

“I am a senior citizen and do not use neighborhood parks.”

This assumes that if you are an adult, a park wouldn’t have much for you. Others specified that parks should include different age ranges.

“Mixed age group parks.”

“I think it would be nice to have some sort of climbing structure for adults.”

“More places for seniors, more things for seniors to do.”

This type of comment shows that the park system and individuals have a narrow appeal or lack diversity of options for park. Some comments further indicate that some parks or park policies are not friendly for the elderly population.

“Looking out for senior park issues, issues like bikes and dogs on trails.”

“Better skatepark (too slippery. Need place for beginners).”

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Ballou

Summary:

Some participants in our park evaluation surveys and informal interviews consider Ballou Park their neighborhood park, either because it is the closest park to them, because it is the closest park to them with amenities, or because they use it the most. For this subset of park users, there were 43 contributions. Of these, 40 came in the form of a survey with or without comments, and 3 were obtained from conversations with park users and residents at community or Parks and Recreation events, programs, or data collection park pop ups.

It should be noted that we did not send out surveys to residents who live within a quarter mile of Ballou, but many of the surveys returned to us were filled out for Ballou. Also, in conversations with participants who commented on parks in general, many said that a park they visited most often was Ballou, along with Dan Daniel.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	14
PRO	Programming	6
SAF	Safety	5
MAI	Maintenance	4
GWT	Greenway/Trails	4
NAT	Nature	4
FUN	Function	3
ACC	Accessibility	3
COM	Communication	2
SOC	Social/race dynamics	1
PET	Pets	1
SYS	City System	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0

Contacts for planning involvement: 9

Common Themes:

1. Walking, biking, and healthy living. Participants see Ballou as a place they would like to walk or bike to and within. Walkable access to Ballou is a hope of Forest Hills residents whose property does not back up to the park. Others note the entrance and trails are not comfortable for non-vehicular access, including the current sidewalks. One participant wanted a clear, bike friendly path off the road. Another commented on natural trails in the park.

“More pedestrian friendly entrances would be nice, especially with more access from West Main and Park Avenue (sidewalks, more apparent street parking, paths into Ballou Park, etc.)”

“Better marked hiking paths.”

Some participants saw trails as a part of healthy living and exercise, and some had specific amenities in mind that would address fitness.

“More trails/disk golf, bike course”

“I'd like an exercise station”

2. *Play, adventure, and water.* Participants had a wide range of ideas for the kinds of activities and infrastructure that could be or should be present in Ballou. Among those mentioned were a skatepark, a pool, more disc golf, tennis, ballpark, a new see saw, and senior-specific activities.

“Some more swing set would be nice!! Other than that, the park is nice to visit!!”

Aside from improvements to existing infrastructure, many residents expressed satisfaction with Ballou's play amenities. Often residents said that they would drive from across town, bypassing smaller neighborhood parks to visit Ballou because of its playground.

3. *Connection to nature and natural beauty.* More than any other individual park, participants noticed natural elements in Ballou as an important feature and expressed ideas for nature-centric amenities. Gardens, botanical gardens, trees, and environmental education were a part of discussions and comments about Ballou.

“I would like to see more plantings of native flowers and shrubs and labels to identify them. More info on the natural world would be fun and educational.”

One resident's comments showcase how healthy and natural environment connect with community building and can act as a foundation for programming and amenities that foster its current aesthetic.

“Plant hardwood trees to replace fallen trees. More trash bins. Highlight the fountain. A park and walk-up community outdoor meal area. The community meal area could double as a reading area for P&R sponsored book clubs and readings. Install sculptures near buildings... leave natural areas natural.”

4. *Social connection, community building, community function.* Participants noted that they would like to see expansion of events hosted at Ballou, or at least increased advertisement of current events.

“... Ballou does great events at the Senior Center and no one I know ever seems to hear about them except after the fact. And they would attend!”

“More promotions for events. More events at local park.”

“The community yard sale was good, I'd like to see more/see it grow...”

5. *Safety and maintenance.* Some participants were concerned about how safe the park is. While one resident specifically mentioned drugs, others related to unspecified sources of danger.

“I might use it for walking if I felt better about safety.”

“I worry about drug needles being found on the playgrounds and how the space is used at night.”

Ballou at times seemed to represent all City parks, and this came through in comments related to safety and maintenance. As one of Danville's first and most notable parks, it may be a torch bearer for how all of our parks are perceived to be performing.

"I think that all the area parks should have telephones in all parts of the park, so that you can have for an emergency. Everybody doesn't have a cell phone."

"As the city keeps adding parks, we must be able to maintain the parks that we already have."

6. *Who is the park for?* Again, residents specified improvements they would like to see for Ballou in terms of who could use them. Age was notable here, with many senior activities appreciated and/or desired. Also, residents noted that this playground had more diversity of age ranges who could play, though this is still related to varying ages of young children.

"The parks need to have more activities for kids. Not just small kids, teens as well."

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Surveys were not sent out targeting residents living near Ballou Park. However, we received 47 surveys indicating Ballou as residents' neighborhood park. 11 of these were random sample returns, and the others were from a mix of online and convenience samples.

Of these participants, 35 said they used the park at least somewhat often for active recreation, and 26 said they used it for passive recreation. 20 said their community gathers at the park.

35 said their community would use the park more if it were improved. 41 would use it for active recreation and 37 would use it for passive recreation if it were improved.

21 at least somewhat agree that Ballou has amenities that are unique. 38 at least somewhat agree that they feel safe in the park. 32 at least somewhat agree that Ballou has unique planning. 36 at least somewhat agree that Ballou is an important place in their community and 30 at least somewhat agree that the park represents them and their neighbors. Only 4 participants somewhat disagreed that they feel welcome in Ballou.

Camilla Williams, MC Martin, & Westmoreland

Summary:

Camilla Williams and MC Martin are directly across the street from one another. MC Martin is much smaller and has few amenities, so for this evaluation, we combined the parks into one entity. Residents within ¼ of a mile from these parks included only residents south of the river. There were three respondents who answered for the upcoming park, Westmoreland, which is still maintained and in control of residents of the Westmoreland Neighborhood Association. The future Westmoreland Park is across the street on the opposite end of MC Martin Park as Camilla Williams. All of this data is combined here, with understanding that comments specifically for the space in Westmoreland need not apply to Camilla Williams or MC Martin.

For this subset of park users, there were 26 contributions. Of these, 13 came in the form of a survey with or without comments, and 13 were obtained from conversations with park users and residents at community or Parks and Recreation events, programs, or data collection park pop ups.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	12
ACC	Accessibility	4
NAT	Nature	4
SAF	Safety	3
PRO	Programming	3
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	2
SOC	Social/race dynamics	2
GWT	Greenway/Trails	1
FUN	Function	0
SYS	City System	0
PET	Pets	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 7

Common Themes:

Play. Participants identified specific play infrastructure that they would like added to Camilla Williams park. These included predominately swings and slides, but monkey bars and places to climb were also suggested. Two residents also mentioned programming and activities. Cedar Terrace apartments which are across the street have their own lawn space and fenced in playground. Children commented that it was their favorite park to go to.

Walking and healthy living. Pedestrian travel to Camilla Williams and around the park space were topics of discussion. This overlapped with the accessibility theme, as some people did not go to the park or take their kids to the park because of the traffic between their neighborhood and the park on Memorial Drive. Access to and from one of Camilla William Park’s parking lots is also limited because of a fallen bridge, and three participants noted that they would like this

repaired. One participant requested a walking track around the park and two commented that they would like exercise equipment.

Connection to nature and natural beauty. Participants desired changes in the natural environment in a few different ways. First and most prevalently, residents want a solution to the problem of too many geese and geese droppings. Other participant-identified issues were downed trees, visibility throughout park, and a need for more flowers.

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure. Participants desired improved picnic tables and places for parents to sit. They also wanted a place for music (concerts), more shelters and rest areas, out of the sun places, places for playing cards and water fountains. Programming requests also revolved around leisure, including cookouts and community activities.

Safety and maintenance. Geese droppings, the missing bridge, and unmarked and unsafe road crossings were barriers to access for participants.

Who is the park for? Again, comments seemed to be directed mostly toward parks with the view that they are places for children.

“I am a 84 year old lady and the park is a great way for children to stop the violence.”

“Too much of the older males with no respect for the park.”

People also commented on Camilla Williams Park in a way that reflected social and racial dynamics. One participant discussed his hope for parks like Camilla Williams to be a place of support for the Black community and specifically for Black owned businesses. They wanted historical signage as one part of that. Another participant commented on the allocation of park resources through events and programming.

“...community activities instead of putting everything in big parks.”

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Of twelve participants, all at least somewhat agreed that their park was accessible. All but 1 agreed that they felt welcome in their park. 10 felt safe in the park.

9 agreed that the park is an important place in the community, that the community gathers at the park, that they would use the park at least somewhat often for active and passive recreation if improved, that their community would use it at least somewhat often if it were improved, and that they currently use the park for active recreation at least somewhat often. 8 at least somewhat agreed that their park represents them and their neighbors and that they use it for passive recreation.

Participants were divided on whether their park had unique features.

Summary of internal data:

All internal feedback related to Camilla Williams and MC Martin Parks, because Westmoreland is not yet our property and has not been used by the department yet.

At Camilla Williams, Parks and Recreation staff are aware of issues the park has had regarding human-geese conflict (i.e. intruding in space, prevalence of droppings). Also, there is an issue with delinquent

park users littering, drinking alcohol, and using drugs in shelter 1. In 2017, we replaced a swing set and in 2020 a playground. The bridge was removed in 2019 and has not been replaced.

Currently, outdoor recreation kayak trips launch from Camilla, special recreation holds team building activities under the shelter near KFC, and Danville residents rent the shelters and use the banks for fishing. The park has been used for church and community events.

Strengths for MC Martin include its water access to a small creek and its namesake. Weaknesses include its steep and hilly terrain, its small size, lack of parking, and use by residents as a dumping area.

Possibilities staff see for this park are the addition of swings or a picnic shelter, exercise equipment, community events, walking path along east side of park, environmental education activity or signage, creek clean up, recycling bins, and historical marker/signage/cultural representation.

Strengths for Camilla include its size, its view of the river, its access to the river, Weaknesses include its propensity to flood and water drainage issues, cooption by geese and delinquent park users, and overgrown, undefined areas.

For Camilla Williams & MC Martin

Transportation: A bus route passes by the park and stops across the street from Camilla and less than 1 block from MC Martin.

Maintenance: 2 river birch recently lost due to beaver activity. Willow and oak failed along the shoreline in the last 2 years. In peak season: 2 crew members maintain 1 day/week maintenance and 1 day tech to check shelter, clean litter, empty trash, and mow and trim grass. Shelter needs or recommendations are to repair the concrete pad on shelter 2, install trash and recycle bins at shelter 2, replace grills at shelter 2, replace rusted roof panels on shelter 2 (or replace to match shelter 1), and to strip, sand, and retreat wood at shelter 1.

City & Organizational partners: DPW is planning a sidewalk improvement project along Memorial that may influence the ways in which residents are able to access the park. A sidewalk would be added along the Memorial Road side of the park, and that would connect to a crosswalk near God's Storehouse that crosses Memorial to the south side of the road near Cedar Place.

Recommendations:

These recommendations are geared toward making the park more usable and representative of nearby residents. Because of the low number of respondents, more information is needed from residents to direct specific design elements. However, the known use, history, and projected future connections these parks have give guidance on necessary modifications that give us a base scope of work.

Recommended infrastructure for the parks includes the following:

Camilla:

1. Clear park entrance from East parking lot, possibly with bridge replacement. Create accessible and welcoming path from parking lot to park. This may entail replacement of bridge from parking lot and clear up area for visibility around it. It may include sidewalk addition along Memorial Road. This is both for safe access from parking lot and overall park appeal.

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2. Park visibility and drainage with interpretive environmental signage. Thin out small growth trees on reforested side of park. More numerous small trees that have grown between original plantings are limiting growth potential/stormwater drainage of trees. They also make creek cleanup efforts challenging and decrease perceived size and access to the park. Tend to monarch garden. Add environmental education signage (why it's there, what to look for, etc.) that fit with the overall design of the park.
3. Walking path throughout. Extend walking path to picnic areas to form a loop around the park. This provides accessibility to picnic areas and seating areas near the river. Also provides access to recreation/health for park neighbors.
4. Updated shelter. Shelter #2 maintenance recommendations and perhaps replacement to match #1.
5. More swings. Kids requested more swings. They often come in groups with similarly aged children.
6. Clear river viewing/fishing/small craft boating access

Possibilities for park infrastructure:

Camilla:

1. Small performing arts stage. In homage to the park's namesake and to support communities across the Memorial Drive, a small stage with electric hookup can support existing and prospective user groups. In coordination with Riverfront park, the fountain plaza, Carrington Pavilion, the series of event spaces gives more room for music festivals and linear park experiences.
2. Historical markers. A walking tour of Camilla Williams career/arts in Danville/etc. along path. Art that represents Camilla and her career or community in Danville.
3. Additional playground with older age group. The current playground is new and very specific to one population. A complimentary play structure (climbing, playground, or other) for an older group allows engagement for a wider range of youth.
4. Shoreline plantings and humane spraying for geese habitat deterrents.
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/keep-geese-away-changing-habitat>
5. Deliberate place of reflection and updated seating. Design spaces for older park users, to enjoy views, nature, outdoors.

MC Martin:

1. Creek bed clean up. Clear debris, dumped trash, small growth trees and shrubs along path side. Environmental education program and signage to increase waterway knowledge/proenvironmental behavior.
2. Bridge across creek. Take unpaved walking path along east side of park only to end of where mowed area ends on opposite side of creek. Add bridge and unpaved path on opposite side to make a small loop.
3. Historical marker, walking tour of civil rights/ civil rights law in Danville.
4. Connection to Camilla and MC. Physical connection with crosswalk or trail, or painted sidewalks between crosswalks and parks. Symbolic connection with same design concepts, amenity choices, etc. in all parks.

Campbell

Summary:

At the time of data collection, just over 300 address points were recorded in the .25 miles surrounding Campbell Avenue Park. We obtained 12 responses for Campbell: 10 surveys and 2 conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	13
SOC	Social/race dynamics	4
PRO	Programming	3
FUN	Function	3
SAF	Safety	3
GWT	Greenway/Trails	3
MAI	Maintenance	2
ACC	Accessibility	1
PET	Pets	1
NAT	Nature	1
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	1
SYS	City System	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 6

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants remembered Campbell Avenue Park (and a school playground down the street) for the thriving play environment that they once had. They want those features restored and improved upon. Participants requested swings, slides, a playground, a jungle gym, a swimming pool, and a full basketball court. They also remembered and wanted again visits from Parks and Recreation mobile activities for children and spring rides.

Social connection, community building, community function. Participants recognized that their park had significance for their neighborhood and communities. Most simply, they wanted infrastructure that would facilitate social gatherings, like picnic shelters and seating for birthday parties and cook outs. Two participants wanted the park to have something for kids to do but did not specify by which avenue. Participants also connected the lack of care and downhill slide of their parks to that of their community.

“Over the years I saw it dwindle, the swings got taken up, and no summer visits from the activity truck. There were also planned fights taking place as well as drug activity (at the school park down the street)...this area is downtrodden, and people need reassurance that we who live in the community are important and that our children are as well. I have no place to take my 5-year-old granddaughter.”

Safety and maintenance. Some participants felt that the park was safe and said that residents near the park felt safe going there. Others felt that there was drug activity took place at Campbell park. Though one resident’s park viewing camera provides a sense of security to some, others would like to see

practical measures be taken to address perceived crime at the park. Suggestions include lighting, fencing, and cameras. Participants also, for various reasons, wanted the grass to be cut more often and to have more of the field maintained and utilized.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Participants were divided in their use of the park, perceptions of safety, community use of their park, and uniqueness of the park.

9 of 11 participants reported having easy access to Campbell Street Park and felt that the park represents them and their neighbors. 8 participants felt welcome in the park.

All participants agreed that the park was an important place in their community and that if it were improved, they and their community would use it at least somewhat often.

Summary of internal data:

Currently, Parks and Recreation staff are not too familiar with the park and its history with the community, except that the playground was removed 4-5 years ago. There is a perception that the park is not used much and that the park is difficult to find. No one uses the park at this time.

Staff see potential for this site to be used for a fun/field day, as a community garden site (with partnerships from Grace and Main), to have a full basketball court, to have a playground, to be a baseball field, to have more shelters and picnic areas, to be used for a swimming pool, to have a walking track, to have reading space and/or outdoor craft station, to connect with the birding community, and to connect to the Riverwalk. Possibilities for park maintenance and planning include mowing the field space beyond the courts and planting fruit trees

Transportation: A bus stop passes 2 blocks from the park, and so a trail through the park may be able to play a part in alternative transportation routes.

Maintenance: No immediate tree repair/removal/replacement. In peak season: 1 adult detention crew, 1/5 of a day/week to check shelter, clean litter, empty trash, and mow and trim grass. No immediate shelter needs or recommendations.

City & Organizational partners: No plans for this park. DPD heard from residents that they would like a playground again in the park space.

Recommendations:

With the information we have, we know that residents had a park with a playground, basketball court, and field that they used. They don't have much of that now, and it is less used but remembered and missed. Crime and safety are not a concern for everyone, but are noteworthy issues for some residents and other stakeholders in the city.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Improved parking lot. Paved drive into park from Campbell Street with spaces for park access
2. Upgraded picnic shelter. Additional tables, space for community meetings.
3. Play structure. Play equipment accessible and engaging for various age groups.

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4. Parks and Recreation signage with formal entrances/direction. Add entrance point, focal points from streets parallel to Campbell.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Variety of slides. Residents have memories of a variety of fun slides in this park
2. Environmental education. Including waterways/quality education, creek access, bird/pollinator info.
3. Dog park. North Main area does not currently have a dog park and some residents currently use this area as an off leash dog park. Include education about responsible dog owner behavior.
4. Basketball. Connect half courts and add seating with shade.
5. Multiuse trail around park. Space for park users to walk with trees and benches around perimeter.
6. Multiuse trail connection. Including connection from the Riverwalk to Campbell park with lighting and an emergency call station can expand transportation options for residents and may connect with bus routes as part of an extensive trans-Danville alternative transportation network. If so, a bike station near the bus stop is recommended and/or bike repair station in the park.

Carrington/Downtown

Summary:

Though only 9 respondents specifically labeled the Carrington Pavilion area as their neighborhood park, it was a topic of conversation for others and was one of the places most frequently noted as the park that people use most. Though this park often functions as a regional park, it is helpful to remember that it is also a neighborhood park for those living in lofts and apartments downtown. For these residents, the Crossing and Riverwalk act as their yards.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	3
PRO	Programming	3
ACC	Accessibility	2
PET	Pets	1
GWT	Greenway/Trails	1
NAT	Nature	0
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SOC	Social/race dynamics	0
FUN	Function	0
SYS	City System	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 4

Themes:

Safety. For those with disabilities, access points in the Carrington Pavilion need to be thought out and clearly identified. Walking long distances is not feasible for some event goers. Another park user with a visual impairment suggested reflective paint or tape on steps of Riverwalk in this area (Wilson Street, Newton’s Landing, bridge, etc. Walking and biking were popular amenities for other residents.

Play, adventure, and water. Residents requested mini water area for kids and family activities. They appreciated places to bicycle.

Social connection, community building, community function. Residents requested picnic areas, more concerts, and more stuff to do in the community.

Pets. More dog waste stations were requested.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

All participants used the Carrington for active and passive recreation. They felt safe, represented, and welcome; considered it an important place in their community; and thought that they and their community would use it more if improved. They were divided in whether their community currently gathers at the park.

Cedar Brook

Summary:

Cedar Brook is a park site that is surrounded by nearly 300 residences within .25 miles and is the only park that serves most of the Schoolfield community. However, now it has just a ballfield that has been seeded over. It is not surprising that many of those targeted with mailed surveys filled out their surveys for another park. We obtained 8 responses for Cedar Brook: 6 surveys and 2 conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	6
GWT	Greenway/Trails	3
PET	Pets	2
FUN	Function	2
ACC	Accessibility	1
PRO	Programming	0
NAT	Nature	0
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SOC	Social/race dynamics	0
SYS	City System	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 2

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants wanted swings, space for bike riding out of the street, see saws, soccer fields, space for tag, and a playground.

Walking and healthy living. A track for walking and biking was identified as a need for the community. This is related to the lack of sidewalks and the high speed of traffic that travels along the park’s entrance on Cedar Brook Road.

Dogs. Two participants had heard from a Parks and Recreation employee that Cedar Brook Park was in the process of being transitioned into a dog park. They had a dog and were excited to hear that.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Six participants agreed that their park is accessible, they feel welcome and safe in their park, and they and their community would use it at least somewhat often if it were improved. Other responses were mixed.

Summary of internal data:

The space was used as a practice site for softball, football, and kickball, and a game site for kickball and ultimate frisbee. It used to have outdoor basketball courts and the school used to have a playground.

The park, in tandem with the school was a community hub before the school closed. Currently, it is used by residents for golf driving and hang outs at the dugouts. The community has many different age groups as residents near the park.

Strengths include a large, flat area with okay drainage and a lighted, fenced in ballfield. Weaknesses include lack of parking, outdated lighting, and distance from maintenance headquarters.

Possibilities Parks and Recreation staff see for this site include a dog park, soccer practice site, events in the outfield, softball tournament field, kickball, a walking track, a zipline, outdoor learning space, event specific infrastructure, large or small shelter, and an accessible playground.

Recommendations:

These recommendations consider the limited data we have from residents, along with the park's situation as the only park in the heart of Schoolfield. The community lacks most park amenities, other than those at Abreu Grogan, and Ballou is the closest park with amenities for most residents. More conversations with community members can shed some light on the specifics of specific aim for the park, but a few basic park amenities at this site would provide a quality park resource for the Schoolfield community.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Parking. Defined parking spaces and entry to park.
2. Signage. Signage for park and indication of direction of park entry/travel.
3. Multiuse trail. Accessible for walking, biking, ADA loop across property. With no sidewalks, an interesting/engaging course on the park site could provide a place for residents to walk and bike out of the busy street.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Play equipment. Play structures that accommodate big and little kids and includes swings. The site is large and flat enough to include universal play design and/or a playground-scale zipline.
2. Fitness park. A dynamic fitness park with opportunities for various skill and ability levels would fit well in this space and terrain and fulfill a city-wide need.
3. Dog park. Residents in Schoolfield do not have a dog park and this could be a site for a partially wooded/partial field set up or a straight field set up. The design would include signage for responsible pet owner behavior and education about dog waste.
4. Nature trail. Some of the property is a wooded buffer between residential areas which could be used as a natural trail area with interactive environmental education/exploration components.
5. Picnic shelter(s). Given that Schoolfield communities currently do not have park meeting spaces, and that Cedar Brook is its largest and most accessible park, large picnic shelters with amenities will go a long way in meeting base line community gathering needs.
6. Native trees and shrubs along hilly slopes. There is little shade and little diversity of landscape at Cedar Brook in the maintained area of the park. Adding low-maintenance native plantings to the southeast area of the park may help with stormwater drainage, may provide some direction and interest in the park, and would likely improve park user experience.
7. Splash pad. The large, flat, open terrain and accessible location make this an ideal site for a large- or small-scale splash pad.

Coates Recreation Center and Park

Summary: As the only true park in the Westover area, Coates serves a large population of residents as “closest park.” HB Moorefield and Coates have significant crossover of populations within .25 miles. However, when speaking to residents about their parks, they often said that their neighborhood park was Ballou, because their parks were either unknown to them or lacked interesting or useful amenities. 21 responses were from 10 surveys and 11 conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	18
PET	Pets	8
FUN	Function	4
PRO	Programming	3
NAT	Nature	3
GWT	Greenway/Trails	1
SAF	Safety	1
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	1
SOC	Social/race dynamics	1
SYS	City System	1
MAI	Maintenance	1
ACC	Accessibility	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 2

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants largely commented on the park’s role to support children’s activities and play experience. Swings are by far the most frequently expressed need for the play area. Other amenities requested included slides, a splash pad, rock climbing, a zipline, a skatepark, an adventure course, a merry go round, a tire swing, a water slide, things to climb on, a see saw, and a bigger play structure. Participants also wanted certain kinds of play to be supported in the park or by the set up of the park. They wanted to play pretend pirates, play with toys and dolls, and to run around in the grass. Painting, drawing, and pretending were themes that came up intermixed with play opportunities.

Pets. Participants highly valued their own pets and the opportunity to interact with others’ pets. Participants expressed using the dog park, wanting to interact with therapy dogs, and wanting new interactive amenities for the dogs at the dog park. One participant also requested a cat park. Safety was an issue for one participant who would take her dog to the park before an “uncomfortable” encounter with another person at the park.

Social connection, community building, community function. Participants noted the special place Coates has in the community as the only park in the Westover area and as a park with a recreation center. For young participants, seeing friends and playing with friends was an important function of the space. A participant spoke about her young children walking to Coates after school. One participant saw Coates as the only place Westover area residents had to go but didn’t feel like it was useful to him. One

participant did not recognize Coates as a neighborhood park and wrote about the need that any park would fulfill in the area.

“There needs to be a neighborhood park in the Westover area. We are getting more children in our area.”

Who is the park for? Participants interpreted the park being for kids and people with dogs. Much of the programming and facilities requests and comments centered on the park’s function of providing space for those two populations.

“The Coates Community Center is worthless since it is closed except when having after school and summer camp for kids. It is a worthless building for adults.”

Connection to nature and natural beauty. Nature was a theme tied into play for children. Participants wanted to see festivals that revolved around art and nature, help with the garden, and places to draw nature and wildlife.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

10 participants responded to this survey for Coates. There was little agreement across items between residents. However, they all agreed that if it were improved, they would use it for exercise and for community gatherings.

Summary of internal data:

Currently, inside the recreation center, the library has just started offering resources and community programming is ending afterschool programming. They do still offer various camps for youth from the center, and it is available for rentals. Outdoors, picnic shelter #22 is occasionally rented for family gatherings, however, the lack of restroom and electricity deters potential renters.

There is a garden that is used with youth programming but is currently empty. Staff have noted needing some help in that area. Staff see that kids use the park to play and that dog owners use the bark park.

Staff have noted that the condition of the parking lot is a deterrent to using the facility and that it needs to be repaired. Its strengths are its proximity to the recreation center, its lack of flooding, and the dog park.

In the future, Community Resources will be working out of this facility (possibly starting in July of 2022), and there may be an addition to the building to better accommodate library facilities.

Recommendations:

A few important factors go into recommendations for this park. First, it is essentially the only park in the Westover area of Danville. Second, it has special meaning because of the programming that occurs in the recreation center. Third, this programming is in flux, and it is unclear what future uses for the center will entail. Recommendations center on providing a wide range of amenities while keeping its special identity and relationship with center users intact.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Tree plantings. Native tree plants throughout park.

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2. Trees and seating in dog park. For comfort for dog owners, interest for dogs. Include education about cleaning up after dogs and off leash area etiquette.
3. Swings. Add at least 4 more swings for older kids.
4. Walking path. Provide area for exercise with easy to moderate terrain, distance information, and points of interest throughout (i.e garden/pollinator info; art; playground; dog park; Westover historical signage; story walk, etc.)
5. Splashpad. Neighborhood park sized splashpad, perhaps in section of current parking lot.
6. Outdoor classroom/ educational space. An outdoor presentation area with shaded seating to be used by Community Resources, Coates Camp Staff, Outdoor Recreation, etc.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Creativity/imagination/exploration area. Space for youth that invites creation of art, pretend play, STEAM etc.
2. Garden as a part of garden/farmers market system. Enhanced and managed garden space. Perhaps in partnership with local gardening, food security, and/or horticulture organizations.
3. Renovations to recreation center to house more diverse youth programming and resident support services.

Doyle Thomas

Summary:

Data consisted of 22 total pieces of feedback, 19 from surveys and 3 from conversations. Participants often referred to this park as Green Street Park.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	5
SOC	Social/race dynamics	5
SYS	City System	3
SAF	Safety	3
PRO	Programming	2
FUN	Function	2
NAT	Nature	1
PET	Pets	1
ACC	Accessibility	0
GWT	Greenway/Trails	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 6

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants identified some changes in the park that represented play for children and adults. These included swings, tree houses, games to play inside and outside, slides, water, splashpad, small pools, and miniature golf. Participants also valued and wanted more programming for kids in the park.

Social connection, community building, community function. Participants wanted to see additions in the park that would support community gatherings. These included a place for cookouts, more tables and benches, dog park, a place to read, and neighborhood-oriented events. Some participants saw the park currently being an unsafe place in their community because of gang activity and drug use. They wanted Parks and Recreation and Police to change that. They wanted Parks to give the kids something to do, and they wanted the Police to be in the precinct to patrol the park.

Who is the park for? The comments about community and crime were noticeably divided and loaded with underlying beliefs and values. So, the first aspect of who the park is for is which social groups and geographic locations is the park for?

“1. I do not use the park as there is gang activity. 2. I do use the Riverwalk and Anglers Park daily. I’d suggest future investments spent at those locations.”

“The neighborhood that surrounds the park needs improvement. I am glad that they police precinct is at the park.”

“The presence of a police precinct can be as intimidating as it is reassuring.”

“...Doyle Thomas is in the middle of two rather segregated areas by race and SES status. This is not a unique problem but also not an easy one to fix.”

Again, another aspect of the park is what age group is the park for, or could it be for. Participants seemed to see it as a service for kids, and this was sometimes linked to social issues.

“Only use some for grandchildren.”

“More programming. Lots of children, lots of single parents in the community.”

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Participants agreed that their community gathers at Doyle Thomas Park and that if it were improved, the community would gather more. 21 of the 23 participants felt that the park was easily accessible, and 20 agreed that it was an important place in the community.

However, participants were divided on whether they personally used the park or would use the park, and about how safe and welcome they feel in the park.

These findings are notable when compared to other parks because this, along with the qualitative data, indicate that some residents currently don't use the park and are not open to using the park in the future. At the same time, other residents do use the park and can imagine using it even more in the future as it is improved. This split is reflective of what we know of the social and economic rift between the park's bordering neighborhoods.

Summary of internal data:

Parks and recreation currently use the park for neighborhood events, basketball programming and tournaments, walking and socialization activities, rec mobile, fun wagon, and rentals for programs and events. There is one of our newest and largest neighborhood play structures at the park, adult exercise stations, and a little library. The little library has been vandalized in the past.

Staff understand that the community use the park as a short cut to walk to different parts of the community, that the park is used frequently by nearby residents, and that it is an important part of the fabric of the tight-knit neighborhood that meets in the park space. They also understand that there is a divide between the community that regularly uses the park and the wealthy residents who live in the Old West End. Staff have seen residents and programmers pulling onto the grass lawn from Green Street to have closer access to the basketball courts and to the picnic tables.

The park is unique because it has one of the only full basketball courts in the city and has hosted the Hoop Don't Shoot program. It is also special because of its old trees, is one of the oldest parks in the city, and is on land that was specifically set aside for a park by urban planners. Parks and Recreation previously had a community center at the park but lost control of the facility with loss of funding. The police took over the facility as a precinct and are in the process of turning it into a police community outreach center.

Staff see potential to use the park for bike programming, cornhole programming, basketball contests, and partnerships with police programming. There is also a need to monitor the health of current trees and replace 5 lost oak trees. There is one dead tree still standing in the park. Park staff have noted that a

shelter in the current picnic area would likely be a popular amenity to facilitate community gatherings. There is also an opportunity to connect the park physically and symbolically to the Riverwalk and/or downtown parks. This may include a linear park from Five Forks area to Newton's Landing, lawn activities and games that match the ambience of both community activities and the hammock/farmer's market area.

Recommendations:

Clearly, this park needs community directed park design and careful mediation of resident needs. Results of this data collection give us more of a starting point for conversations, but there are a few modifications that are needed immediately and are a safe bet for the future of the park.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Repair pavement. Repair sidewalks that go through park, increase width to accommodate multiple users, bikes, and wheelchairs.
2. Tree replacement. Replace lost trees with appropriate, native shade trees.
3. Parking spaces along southern park edge off park street.
4. Short fencing along Green Street to prevent cars from pulling on lawn.
5. Consistent signage. Update signage and rules.
6. Swings. Standard or variety of swings near playground. This is a request from participants at this site and across the city. A set of 6 swings here could be an asset to residents and people walking from the Riverwalk, Downtown, or other nearby areas that have access to the park.
7. Community-representative art, historical markers (Doyle Thomas), and reflective/healing space. Community-guided creation of a landscape that represents park users, lifting up resident voices who have been overlooked or discriminated against, and allowing room for multiple user groups to come together. This would be a great project for Virginia Tech's Landscape Architecture Community Design Lab or for its CDAC.
8. Community-run flower garden. Renewal of partnership with community members for garden at the front of Doyle Thomas Park. Could possibly be replanted as a pollinator garden.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Picnic shelter. This is simple community-oriented structure. A fitting design and community-oriented function (i.e. grills, multiple tables, electricity) could enhance how the community uses.

Druid Hills

Summary:

Druid Hills Park feedback come from 24 surveys and 15 conversations. The response rate was higher for this park than almost any other.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	18
PRO	Programming	3
MAI	Maintenance	3
SAF	Safety	3
FUN	Function	3
ACC	Accessibility	2
GWT	Greenway/Trails	2
NAT	Nature	1
SOC	Social/race dynamics	1
SYS	City System	1
COM	Communication	1
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
PET	Pets	0

Contacts for planning: 10

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants requested that Druid Hills be more functional for different age groups to play in, specifically older age groups. More swings were applicable across different age groups. Specific items mentioned were swings, a tire swing, monkey bars, bigger slides and stuff to hang on, zip line, merry go round, water fountain, and programming for young children. Participants also requested a small soccer field, a pool, and basketball goal. One participant specifically requested no basketball goals. Children and teens are known to play in the creek and would like better access and views.

“Safer equipment for kids”

“A new park... the park is mostly for small-young kids”

Walking and healthy living. Participants wanted a path to walk on in the park that was accessible to different ages and abilities. One person specifically requested a nature walk that incorporated some kind of environmental education. There were also requests for exercise equipment or area in general, and specifically, a pull up bar.

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure. Participants asked for an improved picnic area, including a grill. Aside from the children’s play areas, one resident wanted an area that was more specifically geared toward adults. Another requested seating in the shade.

Social connection, community building, community function. Aside from picnicking and cooking out, some participants saw the event as a space for social events. They wanted city-hosted neighborhood events and publicized kids programming at their park. According to one participant, there is some

healing that needs to happen before Druid Hills Park will feel open to all members of the community. He shared memories of being turned away from the park by white residents in the 1970's and 80's because of his race. He, along with other participants, remembered that basketball used to be in Druid Hills Park, and he felt that the City took away their court because Black residents were predominately the ones using the facility. He also felt that when the City left the only full courts in the area at Taylor Drive that they were setting Black residents aside, hiding them away from view and interaction with white residents.

Safety and maintenance. Though small, Druid Hills is loaded with meaning for some participants, especially those who have been long-time residents of Danville and of Druid Hills. Residents felt like the park needed attention, specifically in the form of updated play equipment, reinstated and improved picnic shelter amenities, safety features, and maintenance of trees, bushes, and fences. These were related to feelings about the aesthetics of the park.

“Trees falling down, safety is an issue... now its not inviting... looks like unkept space right now.”

“Fix fence, clean up trees in creek and bordering the creek, bushes need trimming, more swings (kids wait in line now), replace woodchips under swings.”

“It's very dark at the park and somewhat secluded as well.”

Safety features requested were lighting, a sanitizing station, and walkways that are easily navigable by people with different abilities.

“Brighter lights so people doing illegal things won't have a place to hide...”

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Druid Hills data collection came from a combination of returned mailed surveys, in person surveys, and online surveys.

Unlike participants from many other neighborhood parks that have existing infrastructure, many reported not using the park. Of 23 surveys, 14 reported never or not very often using the park for active recreation. More reported using it for passive recreation, but 11 reported never or not often using it for that purpose.

Participants also responded that the community does not often use the park. However, most agreed that their park was accessible to them. 7 participants did not feel represented, 5 did not feel safe, and 5 did not feel welcome.

Summary of internal data:

In the past, Parks and Recreation removed basketball courts at the request of neighborhood residents.

Currently, no division is using the park. Maintenance cares for the lawn, empties and does inspections on built infrastructure. Parks and Recreation staff see this location as unique because of its peaceful, shady environment. Its weaknesses are that the land around the creek is eroding and trees fall into the creek. There are no requests from residents or community members for use of the park or shelter.

Possibilities include picnics, nature programs, horseshoes, neighborhood special events, more grills for community events, reading/reflection areas, and a small basketball court or pickleball court.

Recommendations:

Recommendations are aimed at addressing the role of the park in the neighborhood, and how we as a department communicate our support for smaller communities and populations who have been excluded socially from the park space. This location is one where residents are explicitly asking for recognition and attention and where we have limited capacity to offer programs and infrastructure because of the terrain of the park and because of the potential to have enough program attendees.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Path across length of park. Multiuse trail across long side of park with a turn around area for wheelchairs and walkers.
2. Improved shelter. Add table and grill to make shelter more usable for community gatherings.
3. Fence repair. Replace/repair broken fence rungs.
4. Tree removal. Remove down trees that are on maintained portion of park and clear a safe path to creek, if possible.
5. History of Druid Hills signage or other recognition. We know residents have tracked and researched the history of the neighborhood and its park. Bringing together this local knowledge and showcasing it in an engaging way in the park could help to sort through and heal some hard memories from this community's past.
6. Community amenity.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Environmental education. With creek views or access, educate about water quality, water system, and proenvironmental behavior.
2. More swings and unique swings. Add tire/round swings and more big kid swings.

GLH Johnson

Summary: Though we did not specifically target residents at Johnson, we had 35 responses: 11 surveys and 24 conversations. Like Woodbury and Bonner, Parks and Recreation does not manage and control much of the park space. At all of these, our responsibilities are in the fields or courts, but not the area that is typically thought of as the park. Through this process, it became clear that Johnson is an important park space for a community that has no other.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	20
FUN	Function	7
PRO	Programming	3
NAT	Nature	3
ACC	Accessibility	0
PET	Pets	0
GWT	Greenway/Trails	0
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SOC	Social/race dynamics	0
SYS	City System	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 7

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Amenities requested often related to play opportunities available for children in the park, these tended to reflect the school’s current park infrastructure. Participants requested water play, more swings, things for toddlers, slides, monkey bars, rock climbing, an obstacle course, a jungle gym, and a merry go round. Participants also wanted to use the space for sports, specifically basketball, soccer, biking, football, and Parks and Recreation league kickball. Participants also talked about the kind of play they would like the park to support. They wanted space for writing with chalk, playing hide and seek, and hanging out.

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure. Participants used and wanted to use the space for relaxing and enjoying nature. They requested more benches and picnic tables, benches near the playground, and pretty views and environment.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Of 11 survey responses, 10 were obtained at Johnson Park or at other park data collection events. Like the other school properties that Parks and Recreation maintains only partially, we did not send surveys to Johnson. Unsurprisingly, most of survey participants used the park and felt it was important. Those who did not feel welcome, safe, or did not use the park mentioned their desire for seating near playgrounds, more tables, and water.

Summary of internal data:

In the past, Parks and Recreation has visited Johnson as a part of Rec Mobile programming. Now, Parks and Recreation Programmers are preparing to do after school programming in Johnson, possibly utilizing the outdoor area as well as the indoor area. Currently, the site is recognized as exceptional because of its high amount of use, especially the basketball courts, and because of its large, open, and flat greenspace. There are plans for putting goals on the pad next to the existing court.

Possibilities for this site identified by Parks and Recreation staff include events (especially if electricity is added), a sidewalk and clear direction to travel in park (clear entrances, walkways, etc.), shade trees near basketball courts, more seating, a fence around park property, grills, pollinator garden with outdoor education, outdoor learning space, trees and seating near playground, story walk, and stage for events, updated shelter and remove shelter.

Recommendations:

Johnson emerged as an important park space through the data collection process. As a shared property with the elementary school, the ballfield, shelter, and basketball courts that Parks and Recreation maintained were not evaluated. However, whether or not we are fully invested in the park space, it is clear that residents see the park as a Parks and Recreation facility and want more out of it.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Updated shelter with ADA accessible path from entrance. This path is near the road already. For short term accommodation of community gatherings and Parks and Recreation programming, additional tables and a pathway from the road should be added.
2. Benches and trees near courts. To accommodate current park users and basketball community.
3. Multiuse trail. A walking path around the perimeter of park with seating can make the space applicable and accessible to a wider range of participants.
4. Sport field renovation. Discussion with school and athletics about how to use the field space to meet current needs. Soccer, football, and kickball are all sports that park users identified playing and wanting to play at the park.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Place for creation/art.
2. Outdoor classroom area.
3. Story Walk.

These three recommendations allow Parks and Recreation to make meaningful connections with young park users, the neighboring elementary school, and families who visit the park.

4. Swings, slides, and a merry go round. Though the elementary school park is adjacent on land that is hardly discernible from Parks and Recreation property, most of the feedback we received were for updated and additional play equipment. Working with the school to update or incorporated additional desired play experiences could enhance residents' perceptions of this park.

Grove Park

Summary:

Grove Park had 327 address points within .25 miles of the park at the time of data collection. Some of this area overlapped with the Pumpkin Creek Park sample, but we kept these overlapping residences in the sample (many of which were across Main Street, because of potential future trail connections between the areas. The data reported here comes from 46 responses: 36 surveys and 10 conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	39
GWT	Greenway/Trails	12
FUN	Function	9
NAT	Nature	6
MAI	Maintenance	6
SOC	Social/race dynamics	6
ACC	Accessibility	5
SAF	Safety	4
PET	Pets	3
PRO	Programming	3
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	2
SYS	City System	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts: 10

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants had a variety of suggestions for how Grove Park could be improved for the purposes of play. They wanted a better playground for kids, new and more swings, slides, climbing structures, tunnels, a round swing, a four-square area, monkey bars, and play equipment in general that would accommodate older and younger age groups. Participants also tied Grove Park to potential for playing sports. Participants commented about how often the basketball court was utilized. They suggested full basketball courts, soccer fields and nets, volleyball nets, a tennis net, and disc golf. They also wanted amenities to support these activities, such as more benches around courts, bathrooms, maintenance of bathrooms, water fountains, and lighting. Participants also noted that children like to play through exploring in the creek and other natural areas.

Walking, biking, and healthy living. Participants consistently wanted better options for traversing the park. They suggested bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA accessible trails around park, both for the purposes of exercise and access to the park. Some participants wanted other Parks and Recreation support for healthy living at Grove Park, including yoga programming, a variety of sports (mentioned above), and workout equipment.

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure. Walking or riding through the park and along the creek was seen as a form of leisure for some participants. They also wanted areas specifically for leisure activities.

Amenities they requested included more benches, more picnic shelters with more tables, and a garden area for sitting and relaxing. Some participants wanted yoga and Tai Chi in the park.

Connection to nature and natural beauty. Participants noted that the creek area was enjoyable because of its natural scenic beauty and its potential to be explored. Renewed access to the creek and a creek clean up were requested.

“Pumpkin Creek was wrecked during the last flood (i.e.) fallen trees and trash has never been cleaned up. We used to go look for tadpoles, frogs, etc. in years past, but now it’s too hazardous to do that. We miss Pumpkin Creek activities, would love to see that water way clean again next to the park. We are older with grown children now. In years past we used to take our water-loving lab down to run up and down in the creek! Too many fallen trees and trash there now for that. Our children’s best memories are of wading and catching tadpoles there. But my grandchildren are missing out on that these days. To me, the best part of our wonderful park was always Pumpkin Creek.”

Who is the park for? For Grove Park, participants are limited. Through participant comments, we see limitations in the context of age, ability, and race and ethnicity. Young children are the assumed park user, and participants expressly noted that they wanted infrastructure that would welcome older children, active adults, and elderly. Participants linked the lack of walking path to lack of accessibility for people with limited physical abilities. Finally, amenities at Grove Park that were known to be used by people of color were limited or taken away. These included basketball courts, soccer fields, and volleyball nets.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

From the Grove Park area, 36 Participants who took mailed, online, and in person surveys. 28 of these reported using the park at least somewhat often for active recreation, passive recreation, or both. This was notably more than other parks and parks in general. Everyone responded that they would use it at least somewhat often for active recreation if it were improved. All but 2 participants said they would use it for passive recreation at least somewhat often.

Though most participants felt welcome, safe, and able to access the park, some did not. Looking at qualitative answers for clarity, participants who did not agree on these points mentioned the need for a dog park, walking/ biking/ADA path throughout park, benches, and another picnic shelter. They also reported cars driving into the park.

Summary of internal data:

Previously, Parks and Recreation has held soccer practice on the southwest side of the park. Maintenance has removed dead trees and stumps in the park over the last 10 years. One new tree was planted this year.

Currently, maintenance maintains playground, shelter, basketball courts, and fields. Occasionally, community events like National Night Out are held here.

Opportunities include replacing 2 existing tables with 4 6’ tables under shelter. There is a perception that upgrades of electricity in shelter and restrooms on premises would increase rentals. The addition of a walking path could provide opportunities for healthy living and for reaching all amenities in park. Tree

plantings near ends of property would enhance storm drainage and increase shaded areas. Football and soccer practices could be held on southwest side of park.

Recommendations:

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Additional picnic shelter. Add Picnic shelter on southwest side of park.
2. Picnic shelter tables. Replace tables in existing shelter with four 6' tables.
3. Dog Park. On the northeast side of park, a fenced in dog park with dog amenities like water fountain, obstacles, and pet waste stations could provide resources for dog owners and discourage irresponsible pet owner behavior and park user conflicts. Shaded seating and a walking path view provide points of relaxation and interest for park users.
4. Multiuse trail. A walking and biking trail loop around park is important for park safety, as now residents walk in the street along the perimeter of park, including those in wheelchairs.
5. Clear entrance points. Currently there is a lack of direction in the park. Directing pathways and entrance points toward amenities will improve park experience. Placing a short but non-intrusive barrier around the perimeter of the park can assist with this and deter vehicles from driving into park.
6. Play area evaluation and update, including more swings: climbing, swings, and slides are staple play amenities across the park system and are specifically requested at this site. A tire swing or round swing of some sort was requested repeatedly in parks in this region and could be implemented here. Another unique amenity that might fit well at this location is a small, playground sized zipline.
7. Use for sports. Mow and maintain southwest lawn for sport practices. Hold seasonal practices and clinics. Set up volleyball net.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Soccer goals & volleyball net. These amenities were used and valued by Parks and Recreation and residents. These are immediate changes can provide increased recreational opportunities with minimal cost and maintenance time requirements for maintenance.
2. Additional shelter and shelter updates. Addition of restrooms and electricity can make this site more versatile for community events and convenient for parents coming with young children.
3. Creek access point. We know that park users are already finding their way to the creek, making a clear, safe entrance point with signage for environmental education about creeks and rivers and caring for waterways could enhance human/nature connections and promote proenvironmental behaviors.

HB Moorefield

Summary:

The area served by HB Moorefield significantly overlaps with that served by Coates Park and Recreation center. We only had 5 responses for HB Moorefield, and these spoke more of how the park functions currently. Of two comments related to the park, we heard that 1. the park is only good for cookouts, not for kids, and 2. the park is a place for one participant’s kids to walk around in nature.

Code	Description	Frequency
FUN	Function	2
FAC	Facilities	0
PRO	Programming	0
ACC	Accessibility	0
PET	Pets	0
GWT	Greenway/Trails	0
NAT	Nature	0
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SOC	Social/race dynamics	0
SYS	City System	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts: 0

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Four survey responses were divided on every question except that if the park were improved, all participants said they would use it for exercise.

Summary of internal data:

There is little known use of this site by residents or parks and Recreation. Some people like to eat there, but there is a perception that most people don’t know about the park and that its very isolated. One strength is that it does not flood.

Recommendations:

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Paved trail connecting one side of neighborhood to the other. To provide a resource for active living, a paved trail along the outer edge of the park (in figure 8). The path could be just over .6 miles long, with visibility from cleared areas on neighborhood and business owned sides.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Trail connection to Coates or Riverwalk. Eventually, finding a route that connects greenspace resources for disparate regions of Westover.

Hylton

Summary: A total of 9 participants from the Hylton area responded about Hylton Park. It was not uncommon for us to identify residents who lived within .25 mile of the park but did not consider it their park. Instead, they would fill out surveys and/or comment on Ballou Park. One resident who I asked about Hylton after hearing where he lived said, ‘that’s just a little league baseball field. Why would I go there?’ Results presented are those who sent back surveys that were labeled as Hylton address points but did not have any name written in for their neighborhood park (2) or those who we met at the park and had conversations with (7), some of whom also took a survey (5).

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	9
PET	Pets	4
SOC	Social/race dynamics	2
PRO	Programming	1
ACC	Accessibility	1
GWT	Greenway/Trails	1
NAT	Nature	0
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
FUN	Function	0
SYS	City System	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 2

Themes:

Play. More swings, climbing, rock climbing, see saws, a generally bigger and more interesting playground, and sports fields were identified as desired play amenities for Hylton.

Dogs. Many people used the old ball field as a dog park for their pets. Participants talked about not having big yards of their own and needing that space for their dogs. They were not happy that the fence had come down and that they no longer had that function available. They requested a dog park with space for big dogs to run a lot and for small dogs to be kept separate and safe from larger dogs.

Social connection, community building, community function. Residents spoke about the current and desired community function of the park. Residents were in consensus that the ballfield brought out members of the community as both a dog park and as a place for families to come and teach their kids sports. The pavilion was identified as a common birthday party locale for nearby residents. One resident commented about missing Movies in the Park, which used to be held at Ballou Park.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Of these 6 participants, 5 were people who took the survey while in the park. They all reported that they used the park and their community regularly used the park. Therefore, we did not reach people who may not have felt welcomed and safe in the park, known about the park, or uninterested in the park. All

residents said the park was accessible, safe, and that it represented their community. They all agreed that it is an important place in their community.

Summary of internal data:

Strengths of this site include parking, lighting, flat area, new playground, quiet atmosphere, and picnic shelter. Weaknesses included its lack of hand railing on stairs entering park, limited walking access, hidden location, and access from two parallel streets.

Currently, Parks and Recreation does not do any programming here and maintains the field up to the forest line. A longstanding ballfield was seeded over and the fence taken out this year.

Opportunities that Parks and Recreation staff identified for this park are soccer practice site, sand volleyball courts, neighborhood event site, more picnic sites, a skate park, a splash pad, a dog park, and a stage.

Recommendations:

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Dog park. Residents have identified the need for a dog park that accommodates large and small dogs. A section of the park dedicated to canine recreation and play could offer a space for residents with limited to no fenced in yard space to bring their pets while connecting with neighbors.
2. Walking trail loop. A walking loop around the trail gives pet owners a chance to recreate with their dogs or by themselves. With hilly terrain surrounding the park, this is an opportunity for residents with physical limitations to exercise on level ground with interesting surroundings.
3. Mill community recognition/celebration. The mill house neighborhoods are certainly going through a transition. First with the mills leaving and now with the casinos coming, the community is in flux. Making this space a celebration of the residents and of the mill house community history can be both interesting to outsiders and healing for residents. Community led design of art infrastructures, mill-style playhouses, historical signage, or other artifacts in the space can help make the space more clearly relevant to neighborhood residents.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. More play amenities. Additional swings, a zipline, an obstacle course, or other exciting and unique play infrastructure could make this spot special to young park users.
2. Areas for community gathering. A larger shelter, a small stage, or a shaded circle of park benches are possibilities for community-oriented amenities that would fit in with the landscape and provide a foundation with which regular community programming and events might take place.

Market Garden

Summary: Market Garden Park is surrounded by over 500 address points, and surveys were sent to 160 residents. Of those, 6 were returned. We had one conversation with a resident about this park as well. These are all the comments for that location.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	5
PRO	Programming	3
ACC	Accessibility	2
PET	Pets	1
GWT	Greenway/Trails	1
NAT	Nature	0
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SOC	Social/race dynamics	0
FUN	Function	0
SYS	City System	0
MAI	Maintenance	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 5

Themes:

Play. Zipline, swings, a tennis court, and a basketball court were play-oriented amenities suggested. Improved facilities and Parks and Recreation programming were also mentioned.

“The park could be improved by adding equipment for children to play on... and maybe bring back the fun wagon...”

Social connection, community building, community function. Improving the safety of the park and surrounding neighborhood was a part of one resident’s perception of how the park might work within the community. Another wanted grills to be used for cookouts.

“ ...Putting up fencing to keep drug dealers out at night, cameras for surveillance...”

Walking and healthy living. One participant requested a walking track.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Of seven respondents, 5 reported using the park at least somewhat often and their community using the park very often.

All participants agreed that Market Garden was an important place in their community and that they and their community would use the park very often if it were improved.

Six felt safe in Market Garden. Two respondents disagreed that they felt welcomed and represented in the park.

Summary of internal data:

In the past, Parks and Recreation has regularly used this field for baseball games and valued it because of its lighted field, concession stand, restrooms, and changing room facilities. It is one of only a few regulation-sized fields. In the past its outfield was a site for soccer practices and ultimate frisbee games. For the community residents and Parks and Recreation Department, Market Garden holds a lot of significance.

Currently, Parks and Recreation uses the space for baseball rentals for practices and games. It replaced the play equipment in 2018 and added two adult workout stations. A basketball court and new shelter are slated to be added back in the near future.

Weaknesses for the site are its lack of drainage and tendency to flood, its lack of access and visibility, lack of picnic tables and grills, difficulty to find and isolated feeling. Strengths are the stadium seating, available parking areas, diverse age groups of surrounding population, and new equipment. The number 3 NorDan bus passes nearby but not right by Market Garden.

Transportation: One bus route (#3 Danville Estates) passes near Market Garden.

Maintenance: Some tree removal and clean up along perimeter of property is needed. Possibility to add trees with future park design. The shelter and its pad need attention. Roof panels need replacing (11), new tables and trash receptacles needed.

City & Organizational partners: No known uses, involvement, or plans.

Demographics: [health equity report](#)

Recommendations:

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Improved drive, walking access from drive, and parking in lower park area. Repaired paving and bridge, addition of steps or ramp from upper parking. ADA parking below.
2. Multimodal trail. From Washington along creek in park. Connection to White Rock trail end (north) and Riverwalk trail (to the south).
3. Addition of tables and grills. Upgrades to shelter to make it desirable for renting and programming.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Repaired concessions, restroom facilities. With proper access and scheduling of programs and events, the demand for Market Garden may justify a reinvestment in the infrastructure of Market Garden. If not, consideration of how the space can be memorialized and reimagined with respect for the history is in order. This would necessarily need to take place in conjunction with thorough and organized community conversations.
2. Multimodal trail. From 1st Street to Market Garden along creek. Connecting Market Garden to White Rock park and/or the Riverwalk will increase transportation opportunities for residents and increase the usability of the park for walking and biking. If this is accomplished all park facilities involved will become more relevant and, with a mindful approach to space activation, can increase residents' perceptions of safety and strengthen community ties.

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3. Community art, culture, and design. Community-led design of historical signage or local art could tie the North Main region together, if done in conjunction with 3rd Ave, White Rock, and Stonewall.
4. Hillside slide, nature exploration, climbing. The terrain of the environment lends itself well to unique and interactive play elements. Slides and climbing structures may be built into the side of the hill in a way that more intimately connects the play experience with environmental exploration.

Pumpkin Creek

Summary: Pumpkin Creek Park is surrounded by over 200 address points, and surveys were sent to 63 residents. This data represents seven surveys and eight conversations. Of note, most park users do not know this property as Pumpkin Creek Park. It is more commonly called Taylor Drive Park.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	13
SOC	Social/race dynamics	4
PRO	Programming	2
NAT	Nature	2
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	2
MAI	Maintenance	1
ACC	Accessibility	0
PET	Pets	1
GWT	Greenway/Trails	1
SAF	Safety	1
FUN	Function	1
SYS	City System	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 8

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants had suggestions for how to enhance the capacity of the park for play opportunities. They recommended the addition or improvement of swings, slides, a merry go round, sprinklers to play in, a splash pad, “play areas”, and a swimming pool. Updated and improved basketball courts, as well as sports fields or lawns were also identified as desired changes for the park.

Social connection, community building, community function. While talking about Pumpkin Creek Park, participants referenced community context, history, functioning, and potential functioning. The context of who uses the park and identifies with it consistently centers on many communities having Pumpkin creek as a common space. As one participant noted, “this area is not just Cardinal Village!”

History of the park and how it fit with communities in Danville revolved around basketball and a former pool. The basketball community at Pumpkin Creek used to draw and still draws from geographic locations across Danville. The community used to be very large, and they would park all along the outside border of Pumpkin Creek Park on Taylor Drive, and sometimes up toward DCC. Then, the City put up no parking signs in these areas, and when police enforced parking tickets to basketball players, much of that community was lost. There still is a strong group of players who still meet at the courts many days of the week but not as many as there used to be. There is a perception among these players that parking is enforced during basketball games and gatherings, but not for baseball and kickball. The former nearby neighborhood swimming pool was mentioned and described with historical context by two participants. The memory of the pool is noticeable in the number of requests for a pool at this location.

Current use centers on the basketball community, but participants identified potential for this park to act as more of a community hub with more diverse uses and amenities.

“We could include a small dog area and grilling area...Have live music events or outdoor movies on the lawn.”

“It is a large area and a great place for shade trees, splash pad, play areas, and perfect for neighborhood events. Not much traffic on the road and it is a shame not to make it more.”

“Place to walk, place to walk with kids.”

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure. Pool tables, a community pool, tables, sitting areas, benches, shade, and seating were all identified by participants as amenities that they would like to see at Pumpkin Creek.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Seven people marked Pumpkin Creek as their neighborhood park. Some participants used the park for exercise, play sports and athletics and to relax and reflect at least sometimes. Some said their community gathered at the park (5/7), and every participant said their community would use it for gatherings or events if it were improved. They also said they would use the park more often for all purposes if it were improved. These participants were notable in that they all reported some degree of use and potential use of the park.

All participants said the park was accessible to them. Two participants did not feel safe in the park. Participants were divided on whether their park had unique features or programming, whether they felt welcome in the park, and whether the park represented them and their neighbors. Five of the seven participants felt that the park was an important place in the community.

Summary of internal data:

Parks and Recreation staff feel that the strengths of Pumpkin Creek Park are the lighted field, existing shelters, acreage (including wooded area), the lack of flooding, and large flat space. It is unique in that it is across the street from the health department and a bus stop, near DCC, near a mental health facility, and near several different neighborhoods.

Its weaknesses are the existing parking lot and lack of on street parking, poor drainage by playground, layout that makes homerun balls difficult to find, lack of walkability from nearby neighborhoods, small number of picnic tables and grills for size of shelter, lack of electricity, and lack of restrooms.

Currently, Parks and Recreation uses this park for softball practices and games, kickball practices and games, basketball contests. Staff see this area as unique because of the wooded property in back, the presence of deer and wild turkeys, the lighted field, and the basketball courts. It is noteworthy because of the basketball community that uses the courts and because of the annual Rock Da Block event.

Parks and Recreation staff see potential for this site to contain a football or soccer field, sand volleyball courts, an outdoor education area, parking near shelters, more tables within shelters, electricity at the shelters, restrooms, and events centered around athletics and/or community. With a bus stop across the street and Pumpkin Creek running across the park property, this location has great potential to be a trail head for a trans-Danville greenway.

Recommendations:

With existing feedback, we know for sure that athletics, basketball in particular, is a defining feature of the park. Recommendations build on that identity and foster a sense of community, acting as a hub for connection through active recreation.

We also know that this park has the potential for a large, diverse usership in Danville and in neighboring cities. Danville Community College is within a half of a mile, as is its student housing. The Cardinal Village neighborhood and its new community center is even closer. Grove Park Preschool and several community churches are also less than a half mile away. Southwyk Farms and Grove Park Neighborhoods are within a half mile of the current park entrance. In the future, multimodal trails, sidewalk, and bike lanes could make a quality park with many services accessible to these user groups. Community-directed design is crucial for success.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Full courts. To support a safe and thriving basketball community, 1-2 full basketball courts with lights are recommended. These are in addition to the smaller courts that remain and would be in an area of the park designated for children. Importantly, the basketball courts would have visibility to the children's area. Shade trees, benches, waste and recycling bins should be near all courts.
2. Additional parking. To enhance the relevancy of the shelters and to provide more parking, an additional lot should be placed on the north side of the park. This lot should be connected to a walkway that goes to the shelters, courts, restrooms, and splashpad. It should have
3. Multimodal trail. A trail around the park connecting to amenities can connect park users with different areas of the park and with one another. It also provides accessibility to a wider base of users. Long term, this can connect to a larger Pumpkin Creek-following greenway trail that runs to Druid Hills Park and Grove Park.
4. Shade in managed area. Shade structures and trees should be added throughout the park near amenities.
5. More tables in shelters. Rearranging existing tables and addition of 3 tables per shelter will allow for more community gatherings and generate more shelter rentals.
6. Unique play feature. A play feature that acts as a landmark, a special reason to note or visit the park.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Electricity in shelters. Adding electricity to shelters can increase rentals and diverse use of facilities.
2. Small stage/outdoor classroom. Finding space in the park for community groups to gather and have neighborhood events that matches the active energy in the park can add unique amenity to Pumpkin Creek. It expands the utility of the park to better accommodate park programming, community group usage, and already existing community events.
3. Swings. Additional 4-6 swings should be added to accommodate influx of young park users.
4. Splash pad or other interactive water play feature. A splash pad on the children's side of the park would serve as a unique feature that would be accessible to many nearby neighborhoods. This feature communicates that the park is for families and recreation that doesn't center around sports too. It speaks to investment in communities that have previously felt forgotten or disenfranchised and to the remembrance of and desire for a pool.

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5. Restrooms. To support the active play and allow parents with young children to feel comfortable in the park, permanent restrooms should be installed near the splashpad.

Stonewall

Summary:

Stonewall Recreation Center and Park is unique in that it houses our special populations programming and an active youth community center. We actively pursued opinions about the park from these groups as well as from neighbors surrounding the recreation center and park space. Comments are drawn from 13 surveys and 14 conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	13
FUN	Function	7
PRO	Programming	6
GWT	Greenway/Trails	4
NAT	Nature	3
SOC	Social/race dynamics	2
MAI	Maintenance	1
ACC	Accessibility	1
PET	Pets	1
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SYS	City System	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 5

Themes:

Play. Participants wanted specific play-oriented programs and specific play infrastructure- mostly swings, slides, and climbing structures like monkey bars. Participants valued use of the field for baseball, soccer, football, kickball, and other games.

Walking and healthy living. Participants observed people from their community walking around the small, paved track next to Stonewall. One participant specifically enjoyed being able to walk to parks rather than riding to them in a car or van.

Social connection, community building, community function. Community events and programs were a big part of what participants appreciated and wanted more of in Stonewall’s upper park space. Food at events and grills for cookouts were a part of this function. Also, an underlying theme of making the park work for the surrounding community was present most clearly in the observation of its name.

“Move or change the name of Stonewall.”

Connection to nature and natural beauty. An appreciation of nature is a part of participants perception of Stonewall. Participants wanted to see more of and to interact with birds, flowers, and the once-active garden. This was in reference to physical infrastructure and programming.

Safety and Maintenance. Lack of shade and seating around the park was noted as a barrier for elderly residents. A dog in a fenced in area near the track was another deterrent. Affordability was noted as a need for using the park and recreation center for personal and community events.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

12 participants responded to the survey with Stonewall as their neighborhood park. Of these, 8 reported never or not very often using the park. 4 reported using it for active recreation and 3 for passive recreation at least somewhat often. If the park were improved, participants thought they would use it at least somewhat often for active recreation (8) and passive recreation (7), and they thought their community would use it at least somewhat often for events and gathering (9).

All but one participant agreed that they could easily access the park. 7 at least somewhat agreed that they felt safe and that Stonewall had unique features, 8 agreed that the park was important place in their community, 9 felt welcome in the park, and 10 felt that the park represented them and their neighbors.

Summary of internal data:

Parks and Recreation staff note that there is a lot of potential for Stonewall Park because of the large field with space for parking, access to water and electricity at minimal cost, the close-knit surrounding community, the lack of flooding, and the unique jungle gym in front of the park.

Currently, Parks and Recreation Community Programming uses the lower field for football practice. Special Programming regularly uses the track and inner field for games and activities with the therapeutic community. Also, after school programming at Stonewall uses the playground, shady spots under the trees, track, and inner field regularly.

Community members use the track frequently, notably older residents and parents with strollers. They also use it for sitting and looking at the scenery. People used to play basketball there on Saturdays and Sundays.

Possibilities Parks and Recreation staff see for the Stonewall Park areas include multiple shelters, repurposed lower fields, improved walking track, improved basketball courts, swimming pool, playground equipment for people with physical impairments, sensory stations for individuals with Autism or other sensory impairments, wheelchair accessible playground area, wheelchair accessible wing, small events, work out stations, and an outdoor learning classroom.

Transportation: One bus route (#1 North Main) passes by Stonewall but does not stop there.

Maintenance: No immediate tree repair/removal/replacement. However, trees on the inside perimeter of the track are recommended. Specifically, redbud, crabapple, serviceberry, and dogwood are native selections well-suited for the space. No shelter is present. A 30x30 shelter with 4 picnic tables is recommended near the rear parking lot. In peak season: 1 crew, of a day/week to mow and trim grass and pick up trash. A specialized crew member goes to Stonewall two days/week to inspect a playground.

City & Organizational partners: DPD has used the space in and around the track to host community outreach events.

Demographics: health equity report

Recommendations:

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Shaded seating around track. Park benches under shady trees are needed around the outer perimeter of the track. For existing elderly users and parents with very young children, the heat and distance without rest is an accessibility issue. These benches may be a way to connect with existing community if local businesses donate them.
2. Sensory trail, Universal design playground or play features. Stonewall is a resource for families and individuals across the region who have disabilities. We are missing an opportunity to reach and connect with those and other users by not having a play space that is accessible to that population.
3. Swings. The afterschool staff and attendees overwhelmingly identified a desire for swings at Stonewall. Swings for all abilities should be available here.
4. Name change. The name Stonewall is not representative of Parks and Recreation's values, and it may discourage people from using the park or make them feel unwelcome. A new name that is non racist and non exclusionary should take its place.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Picnic shelter. A 30x30 picnic shelter with four picnic tables is recommended because of the park's close proximity to and relationship with surrounding neighborhoods.
2. Outdoor classroom. The stonewall special recreation and afterschool program groups already use the outdoors to sit, talk, interact with nature, and do activities. An outdoor classroom would provide a loosely structured and comfortable environment to expand those opportunities.
3. Restored, improved garden plots. Community members and Recreation Center users liked the gardens but needed help with the upkeep. If possible, linking them with the community garden program downtown or partnering with God's Storehouse and providing additional beds that are raised higher for elderly could be a part of increasing food security in this known food desert.

Swain Acres

Summary: Though Swain Acres serves a broader number of address points than many other parks (over 500), only 13 participants provided feedback of Swain Acres. Of these, 10 were in the form of surveys and 3 were through conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	5
SAF	Safety	3
FUN	Function	2
PRO	Programming	1
MAI	Maintenance	1
ACC	Accessibility	1
GWT	Greenway/Trails	0
NAT	Nature	0
SOC	Social/race dynamics	0
PET	Pets	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SYS	City System	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 4

Themes:

Safety and maintenance. Swain Acres participants did not think of the park as a community space or a space that they had personal investment in. They attributed their lack of use of the park to its ambience. It seems the unpleasant atmosphere stemmed from maintenance and playground infrastructure issues.

“It’s a park on Springfield but it’s nothing to do there. It’s actually a uncomfortable, unsecure park in my opinion. Small park with a few playground equipment for small kids.”

“Keep clean and grass cut.”

“Make the playground feel more safe and welcoming. Add a swing set. Redo the play set.”

Who is park for? Participants wanted more options for play and accessibility for different age ranges and abilities. They requested a design of the park with things to do for residents of all ages.

“I feel like the park would be visited more if it had more age variety activities. Like a space for picnics and more swings, etc.”

“Something for adults with a lot of water to splash like fun wagon/fire hydrant”

“We are retired and Handicapped! Many yrs. Ago we used it with our sons and grandchildren.”

Play, adventure, and water. Playground equipment was the means of recognizing Swain Acres as a park. It was also recognized as the aspect of the park that needed improvement.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

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Seven of the nine survey participants did not use the park currently for any reason. It seems that the community may use the park on occasion, but it is not often.

Participants agreed that Swain Acres is not unique nor does it have special programming that takes place there. 5 participants felt unsafe in the park.

Participants agreed that they and their community would use the park if it were improved. They were split on accessibility of the park, safety of the park, representativeness of the community, and importance of the park.

Summary of internal data:

Parks and Recreation employees noticed that Swain Acres is difficult to find, does not have a readily accessible address, is not listed on the website, and does not have signage.

The picnic shelter is almost never rented, and reports of outreach from the park were that it was ineffective. However, some maintenance workers report seeing members of the community at the park.

Events at this park would be difficult because of its rather hidden location and because it lacks electricity and off-street parking, and its terrain is hilly and wooded.

The playground is in good condition. The 2017 shelter assessment noted that there is room to add a second picnic table if we rearrange the existing table. There also is a possible additional shelter site on the north end of the playground, and it has a closer path to the street.

Recommendations:

Though Swain Acres is not an ideal spot for a large, community park, it is a great neighborhood park that can offer respite from a vehicle-laden landscape for residents living one of the many of the 500 addresses within .25 miles of this park. By playing to the strengths of neighborhood parks, this park can become relevant and can serve as a community-strengthening hub.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Additional table in shelter. Birthday parties, cookouts, and small gatherings can be facilitated with the addition of a second table. This addition can be done at relatively low cost but make an immediate input. Signs for information about how to rent the space should accompany this change.
2. Signage. A sign marking Swain Acres Park as a Parks and Recreation facility should face the street near the playground. The address should be listed on the sign and included in online maps and information.
3. Walking path. There are no sidewalks leading to the park or in the neighborhoods and apartment complexes surrounding the park. Knowing that walking and exercise is important to Danville residents and to health equity, a walking path should extend from end to end, with shaded benches or other seating as resting points. It should also connect with the play ground and picnic shelter to provide access to a wider range of populations.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

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1. Swings. Swain Acres has no swings at all. A four-person swing set with one baby swing would invite a wider range of park users.
2. Second shelter. After the first shelter is modified and advertised, if there is demand for a second shelter, we have possible space for one.
3. Traffic calming and pedestrian access. Springfield Road is wide and has fast-moving traffic, which likely influences the park user's experience, sense of safety, and ability to access the park by foot or bicycle. Parks and Recreation should work with Public Works for a solution, one that might include road narrowing, a bike lane, a sidewalk, or designated parking spaces.

Third Avenue

Summary: Third Avenue is a unique location in this data collection process because Parks and Recreation had recently begun outreach efforts in its surrounding neighborhoods to solicit feedback on a design for a proposed splashpad in the park. Surveys were halted to avoid replication of previous outreach efforts and to avoid confusion about future developments. However, responses were recorded during the splashpad outreach effort, and these comments and responses were combined with online and in person responses to neighborhood parks outreach surveys and events. Presented here are 47 responses: 4 surveys and 43 conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	26
GWT	Greenway/Trails	12
SOC	Social/race dynamics	9
SAF	Safety	6
NAT	Nature	6
PET	Pets	6
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	6
ACC	Accessibility	5
PRO	Programming	3
FUN	Function	1
MAI	Maintenance	1
SYS	City System	1
COM	Communication	1

Contacts for planning: 9

Common Themes:

Play, adventure, and water. Participants wanted new and restored play-oriented infrastructure. Among their suggestions were slides, swings, a merry go round, an obstacle course, the splashpad, and a new playground with space for older and younger children. Many participants explicitly stated that they did not want a basketball court, but two requested a court. Participants wanted the park to support a variety of play activities that could keep the interest of a variety of different children. Long-time residents wanted to see the reinstatement of the park’s former tennis court. Programming requests involved dance and crafts.

Social connection, community building, community function. Participants remembered their former park facilitating community interactions, events, and programs. They noted the impact of the park’s removal on their personal lives and on the community. Some observations included increased delinquent behavior in the space, feelings of not having a safe place to walk, decreased/discontinued community events (like cookouts, birthday parties, and park programming), and decreased opportunity to meet and get to know neighbors. Participants would like to see amenities designed in a way that promote gatherings as well as community-oriented events and programs. Participants also hoped the park could resolve littering issues, ongoing noise pollution, criminal activity, and perceptions of unsafety.

Walking, biking, and healthy living. Participants wanted a walking path throughout the park. Specifically, they wanted a continuous path with lighting and multiple exit points. Participants observed that young children often ride bicycles and tricycles up and down the sidewalks of Third Avenue.

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure. Participants requested a variety of amenities that would facilitate comfortable leisure activity at 3rd Avenue. These include restrooms, water fountains, grills, shelters, drink machines, places to sit, chess tables under a shelter, a band/music area, paths for walking with kids or friends, and a garden.

Safety and maintenance. According to participants, the safety of the park needs to be addressed as the new park infrastructure is installed. Multiple participants are convinced that drug selling and sexual activity takes place in the park. Traffic is another big concern among residents. Traffic along all sides of the park moves quick, and it is often heavy. Residents reported having their parked cars hit by traffic. Additionally, crossing the road on any side of the street may lack visibility when cars are parked on the street. Maintenance issues include cleaning the park of litter and dog waste, both of which are current problems at Third Avenue Park.

Dogs. Currently, the park site is used as an off-leash dog park for dogs of multiple sizes. There is some conflict between park users because big dogs are not controlled when small dogs are present. Also, some people do not pick up their dogs' waste. For the future, residents would like a fenced in area for dogs with separate space for big dogs and little dogs.

Who is the park for? Participants noted that residents living nearest to Third Avenue are from an older population and would not have a direct use of a splashpad park. Though they may have grandchildren, these adults would not be served with the existing park design alone. Several people requested infrastructure specifically for older residents, like shaded seating and chess tables. Most adult participants who live across the street from the site mentioned that a walking path would make the space relevant to them. Many of these participants were excited to take their grandchildren to the park and wanted to see kids in the community playing there. The park is assumed to be for young children, and many of participants requests centered on playground features. Some participants requested infrastructure and park design for older youth. One resident commented that she thinks this important because we should give this population "something to do rather than something not to do," and thought a park for younger kids would be just another place they were not meant to go. For young kids, participants requested design for children with different abilities, including ADHD.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Third Avenue quantitative responses are unsurprisingly low, given that right now, the park does not have any park amenities or infrastructure in it. There were 4 responses, and two of those respondents did not know where the park was.

However, during outreach for the Third Avenue Splashpad, we did a survey of preferred play elements that tell us what kind of play residents may be looking for. 26 residents of the 3rd avenue neighborhood voted.

1. Colors: Participants could choose between 4 color schemes: spring, earth, Wendell (which was a nod to Wendell Scott, a local celebrity from a nearby neighborhood), and bright. Spring and bright color schemes were the two front runners by far and were tied in the end.

2. Pour element: Participants chose between two soaker elements and voted for the option that had a bit more action to it by pouring onto a plate that splashed water over a wider area.
3. Playground style: Participants chose between our traditional playground model, a more obstacle course designed set, or a rope climbing structure. Participants overwhelmingly chose the obstacle course design.
4. Squirt element: Participants chose between two frog bronze statues and a squishy bug, all of which sprayed water. Participants overwhelmingly chose the squishy bug.

While these answers don't tell us everything residents feel about the park space, they indicate that residents want a lively, forward looking park.

Summary of internal data:

In the past, this park had many park amenities. They were taken out in 201 because they needed repair, were being vandalized, and were perceived by Parks and Recreation as being unused by the community. Currently, Parks and Recreation activity here includes lawn mowing maintenance. Since the development of the splashpad proposal for Third Avenue, Parks and Recreation has held a community appreciation event, an open house for the proposed park design, and pop-up giveaways and informational outreach. Use of this site is currently rented for events like National Night Out.

Potential Parks and Recreation use includes festivals, events, and sports programming, depending on future park infrastructure.

Transportation: Two different bus routes pass NEAR the park, and one of these has a bus stop less than one block away from the park.

Maintenance: No immediate tree repair/removal/replacement. No shelter is present. In peak season: 1 crew, of a day/week to mow and trim grass, to inspect for hazards, and pick up trash.

City & Organizational partners: DPD uses this park occasionally for National Night Out.

Demographics: [health equity report](#)

Recommendations:

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Walking path. Participants clearly communicated and need for safe walking space and a remembrance and desire for walking spaces where neighbors would meet and interact. Parks and Recreation has observed a worn walking path across the park where people are currently crossing. Including a path that facilitates exercise and mobility needs while providing interest in and access to the park is necessary to make the space relevant and valuable to residents. Benches spaced strategically around the path will encourage use and increase accessibility.
2. Unique play structure. The splashpad will make Third Avenue Park stand out, and the rest of the park should match this energy. Residents indicated that they want a park that is different and more versatile than the park they had previously. From a design standpoint, it is helpful to have multiple amenities that are attractive to children so that visitors are not overwhelming one amenity.

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3. Pet waste stations, waste bins, and recycling bins. Littering and environmental disregard are issues identified by residents. Conveniently placed waste disposal amenities should be available in appropriate locations.
4. Community-driven gathering space. The park was a hub that has been missed since its built infrastructure was removed. As we design, we want to actively work to repair and rebuild a sense of community through the park. This includes following the lead of residents when designing the park outside of the splashpad. We have already heard that they would like shaded seating, picnic shelters with tables and grills, chess tables, and an area for small concerts. Though not all of these will work together in the design, 2 shelters with tables and shaded seating throughout the park are basic amenities that should be included in plans.
5. Traffic calming. Residents communicated a need for traffic calming on all surrounding streets. Traffic speed, collisions, and unsafe drivers that are not in the practice of watching for pedestrians are known issues at this site. Parks and Recreation needs to partner with Public Works to find workable solutions before the opening of the park.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Active elderly amenities. Pickle ball, lawn games, and yoga/tai chi spaces could be interesting and useful additions to the park.
2. Artistic elements. The North Main Hill community was once interested in fostering a local art scene. With Stonewall's mural down the street, Third Ave could have its own identifiable piece of artwork that ties into what has already been started and speaks to the local community.

White Rock

Summary: With a total of 17 responses (16 survey and 1 conversation), residents expressed some powerful feelings and complex issues through park feedback. Though some residents within a quarter mile were unaware that the park exists, those who use the park had close ties to it.

Code	Description	Frequency
SYS	City System	7
FAC	Facilities	5
ACC	Accessibility	5
SOC	Social/race dynamics	4
SAF	Safety	4
MAI	Maintenance	3
GWT	Greenway/Trails	2
PRO	Programming	1
FUN	Function	0
NAT	Nature	0
PET	Pets	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 5

Common Themes:

Parks representative of City-Community relationship. More than any other park, participants reflected on the park as a placeholder for their neighborhood or their community, and the care and upkeep of the park as representative of the City. For White Rock residents, the park is tied to their neighborhood’s identity.

“it is a beautiful piece of land. It is one of the parks built during segregation so that Black (AA) could have a place to gather and play.”

“This park is a central part of our community and neighborhood identity.”

Participants also felt that White Rock Park was not cared for or noticed enough, and this showed that the City as a whole was disregarding their community.

“It used to be a true neighborhood park but funds were shifted to other endeavors (Riverwalk, downtown, Dan Daniel...) and White Rock was neglected. It speaks volumes to our neighborhood residents when things like this are neglected by our elected officials.”

“More participation in youth programs that are offered elsewhere in the city would let the families know that someone cares about the welfare of their children.”

Some residents saw the park as an avenue to be reached with resources. Participants suggested Wi-Fi, a medical office and business center, and police regulation of traffic on streets near the park.

Residents had ideas about how their park compared to others in the city and commented about the meaning and implications of the different resources allocated to them.

“The city doesn't seem to pay much attention to our park. It's upkeep lags far behind what I've seen at other parks around town. “

Safety and maintenance. Accessibility, safety, and maintenance were tied inseparably together through vehicle access into the park. Potholes, street width, and parking area were all barriers to entry for those coming with vehicular access.

“...it's very hard to get in or out the park due to the rocks and slope. It's dangerous, I get stuck every time.”

“Makes no sense to have to drive to a neighborhood park because there are no sidewalks. People walk in the street along Arnett all the time and it's so dangerous.”

Other maintenance issues related to upgrades of the park, some of which residents saw as necessary for ensuring safety of park users.

“Need new entry way, up to date equipment, landscaping, fix holes in the street asphalt, a water fountain, more lighting...”

Safety issues also pointed up park user's fear of crime in this park. Several residents commented on the need for police monitoring and lighting of the space to reduce crime. One participant noted that she would not use the park because there is no where to escape if a violent person came to the park, that there was only one entrance and exit that was hard to navigate.

Social connection, community building, community function. Requested amenities for the park were mentioned in conjunction with community function. These included picnic tables, improved basketball court, and improved playground, typically mentioned with the object of attracting and supporting large amounts of usage.

“Improved basketball court. Kids from all over the city utilize the basketball court.”

“Better utilization of the large amount of space will make it more inviting and user friendly.”

Walking, biking, and healthy living. Walking tracks, walking access, and greenway trail systems were mentioned as helpful additions to White Rock Park for White Rock residents.

“In No. Virginia, they built parks/trails behind the houses along the storm drain/creek system and used those areas to connect to the larger parks. It's an even better system than sidewalks but Danville doesn't have either one. That's what we need.”

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

Responses to this survey perhaps gave insight into who responded to our survey as much as it informed current use and potential use. Fourteen of the seventeen participants reported using the park to some extent, nine of whom felt that their community gathered there at least somewhat often. Notably, *all* survey participants answered that White Rock Park was an important place in their community, and that if it were improved, their community would use it either very often or somewhat often.

Another interesting quality about this group of survey participants is that over half of them agreed that they could easily access their neighborhood park, which runs contradictory to long answers to the survey's open-ended item.

Looking at the themes that arose from the qualitative data, the item, "My neighborhood park represents me and my neighbors" becomes more interesting. There may be a few different ways this comment was interpreted. Most directly, the park had a sign that matched the sign of the White Rock Neighborhood sign, and responses may be reflective of this connection. However, many of these participants are not residents of the White Rock Neighborhood. Given the history of White Rock Park as a segregated park for Black Danville residents, it is likely that some participants answered this item with the park's symbolic representation of the Black community in this area of the city in mind.

Park using participants' reported feelings of safety and welcomeness in White Rock are positive, conversations with residents in other parks who lived near White Rock but didn't use the park reported feeling unsafe in its isolated environment.

Summary of internal data:

The close community ties are noteworthy in White Rock, and its current use for pickup basketball and other community activity are a strength for increasing security and relevancy of the space and for having a base of participants for neighborhood park programming. Full basketball courts, scenic creek views and access, and large open field space are all positive qualities of the park.

Across divisions, there is a consensus that access to the park and its isolated setting are significant barriers for utilization of the space. Also identified as weaknesses are that it has poor walking/biking/ADA accessibility, that many people do not know it is there, and that it is hard to find because it has poor signage for getting to the park and no address that shows up on Apple maps.

There are differing ideas of the characteristics of the population who lives near and uses the park.

Transportation: White Rock is part of the North Main Hill park planning region. It is near, but not on the #3 NorDan bus route. A creek connects it from the north to 3rd Avenue and from the south to Market Garden.

Maintenance: No immediate tree repair/removal/replacement. No shelter is present. In peak season: 1 crew, 1/3 of a day/week to mow and trim grass and pick up trash. The playground is inspected once weekly by a specialized crew member.

City & Organizational partners: DNDC has worked with White Rock community for the signage in the park that matches the neighborhood signage.

Demographics: [health equity report](#)

Recommendations:

Based on internal and external feedback received, White Rock Park needs some immediate attention to address safety and identity of the physical park and long-term investment to increase access from surrounding communities.

Communication with existing resident group and understanding of the relationship between this community and that of nearby 3rd Avenue and Market Garden Parks will be essential in developing meaningful spaces.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Improved entry and parking: The drive into White Rock Park is in immediate need of repair. It is a safety hazard and a substantial barrier to use. Parking should go along with this, including ADA spaces. The number of spaces should be appropriate for upcoming improvements in pedestrian and bicycle access and support neighborhood-scale access to the park.
2. Multimodal trail throughout park. In agreement with the 2018 Riverwalk Improvement Plan, a multimodal 10" pathway along the creek should extend across the backside of the park to 1st Street. Additionally, we should consider continuing that path north, across Midland and up to Third Avenue. The #2 NorDan and #3 Danville Estates bus routes cross here and could provide alternative transportation routes for communities across NorDan and North Main Hill. Additionally, a paved pathway loop should connect the multimodal trail with upper and lower portions of White Rock park, for the purpose of exercise and access.
3. Community-generated art and/or historic recognition. Given the significance of the park to its surrounding residents and to the city, there should be some representation of the culture and history that make this park special.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Places for leisure, relaxation, and reflection. All participants surveyed said they would use this park for these passive recreation activities. With the peaceful presence of the creek and quiet, natural surroundings, thoughtfully designed spaces that allow park users to relax, reflect, and perhaps take out a book and read would be appropriate here.
2. Updated playground- the playground was not mentioned by participants, but programming and resources for children were. The playground is still safe but is one of our oldest and should be replaced.
3. Environmental education infrastructure: In 2018, DRBA worked with White Rock residents on water quality education and water quality testing. A water testing station, environmental educational interactive elements, or just emphasis on the creek and its role in the park could be influential here.

Woodberry

Summary:

As one of three school parks that Parks and Recreation only partially maintains, we did not send out surveys to residents that targeted Woodberry. Even so, 8 participants identified Woodberry as their neighborhood park. Of those, 5 were surveys and 3 were conversations.

Code	Description	Frequency
FAC	Facilities	5
FUN	Function	4
PRO	Programming	1
MAI	Maintenance	1
ACC	Accessibility	0
PET	Pets	0
GWT	Greenway/Trails	0
NAT	Nature	0
SAF	Safety	0
CTV	Cars, traffic, vehicles	0
SOC	Social/race dynamics	0
SYS	City System	0
COM	Communication	0

Contacts for planning: 1

Themes:

Play and adventure. Notably, most participants seemed to talk about recreation that might suit older youth when they commented about Woodberry. Participants identified desired sports-related spaces like courts and fields and facilities for skateboarding and biking. Woodberry is also readily identified as a popular sledding spot in Danville.

Relaxing space, seating, and leisure. Keeping with the theme of a more mature recreation spot, users wished for places to relax and read. One participant imagined a facility where she could take her grandchildren to play but stay comfortable indoors.

Social connection, community building, community function. Woodberry is a place that participants identify with community. From being THE sledding spot, to cookouts, to seeing “kids out playing”, it seems the desire is for this park to facilitate community gatherings and activity.

Summary of multiple-choice survey responses:

With only four responses to the survey and no random sampling in the community surrounding Woodberry Park, these responses are to be taken as non-representative of the population. However, from this sample, we draw one conclusion: we do need to talk to this community and reassess our role in the park.

Participants responded that they feel safe in this space and that it is accessible. However, they agree that the park does not have features that other parks have, that it does not currently represent its

surrounding community, and that the community does not currently gather there. They do believe that with improvements, the community would use it for gatherings, and individuals would use it for active and passive recreation.

Summary of internal data:

Historically, Woodberry was a park with play equipment and picnic shelters, and the surrounding community identified the space as a community park. When the playground equipment became outdated and unsafe, it was removed without replacement for unknown reasons. Before the Covid-19 pandemic Parks and Recreation programming used Woodberry as a pickup location for children attending Coates after school services. Previously, parks and recreation maintained a playground

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division mows the upper baseball field at Woodberry. The existing infrastructure at the park that Parks and Recreation maintains is a baseball field that has been seeded over with grass just north of the school building, a 3 pull up bar station, and a cracked concrete pad (dimensions). The ballfield has one light that is out, the repair of which is estimated to cost \$2000. Remaining park infrastructure is below the school on the southside. It is currently maintained by the school and includes a shelter with no tables, 2 park benches, and a cracked (dimensions) blacktop. The spaces together make up (number of acres).

In the future, Woodberry could be a link in park offerings for the NorDan park planning region. With the lower park space, park programming might include (programmers...). With the upper space, potential programs include sports like kickball, soccer, or baseball. Maintenance time requirements for maintaining the upper space are (hours per week) and the lower space are (hours per week). Special care or equipment needed would be (...). Possible events at the park might include (possible events...slip and slide/sledding). Ways the space or events may be accessible or utilized by special populations include (...).

No other partnering organization or city department has plans for this space or in the community surrounding this space.

Recommendations:

Based on internal and external feedback we have received, Woodberry Park could be an important location for reaching residents with Parks and Recreation facilities and services. As one of 3 existing park properties in the NorDan park planning region, it can increase quality of life for residents in an area that currently is lacking park services. Responding to community needs with gathering spaces, places of connection, and local representation in the physical infrastructure and programming for the park is a starting point. Woodberry is remarkable among our parks because of its location near an elementary school, its reputation as a sledding hill, and the ongoing place it has in the community's memory as a community hub with a fun park.

The context of the park makes it an opportune space to develop into a multifaceted community park. The elementary school that is sandwiched between upper and lower portions of Woodberry's greenspace, along with the density and diversity of residents surrounding it, create a large user-base for the park who are likely to be personally invested in care of the park. The visibility of the park on almost all sides creates a safe environment that would need little policing.

Recommended infrastructure for the park includes the following:

1. Interesting walking areas, including an upper and lower loop that sit on easy to moderate terrain and a path connecting the two with one another and with the school. Interference with sledding routes should be avoided.
2. New and larger picnic shelter with 4 tables and a grill. This is meant to host birthday parties, cookouts, and possibly school groups who visit the park during school hours.
3. Play amenities. It is likely that an updated playground and 6 or more swings should go in this space, possibly within the walking track area. Out of the few conversations we have had, the former playground has been a salient takeaway of what made the park meaningful before. With the assured presence of elementary school children, many swings will be necessary to meet the demands of park users.
4. Repurpose upper field as multi-sport fields. Consider keeping lighting for possible sport programming.

Possibilities for infrastructure:

1. Kiosk: Again, related to the population within .25 miles of the park, including the elementary school, this could be an effective location for reaching a population that we don't reach with other communications. Like other Parks and Recreation kiosks, one face of the kiosk should be reserved for Parks and Recreation use. However, because of the location and the community-building service we hope to provide for parks, it is recommended that the other side be open for school and neighborhood organization use.
2. Revive old court: This did not come up in the conversations we have had thus far, but if the former basketball court is remembered as an important part of community and is desired for current park user population, reinstatement of this court is recommended. If not, there is opportunity to reimagine how the courts may facilitate a variety of populations, including the middle aged and elderly.
3. Giant slides. Going along with the park's recognition as a sledding site, slides built into the hill side are a unique attraction at relatively low cost that could increase the park value year round.

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

All communities deserve good design. All communities, in fact, should have a right to good design. -Tim Waterman.

Park Observations

Goal:

Observe each park at least twice per season, and at least one of those days with nice weather.

Seasons:

Spring: Mar-May; Summer: Jun-Aug; Fall: Sept-Nov; Winter: Dec-Jan

Method:

Spend 15-30 minutes in park and 10-15 minutes driving around the park and take notes. Engage with park users to better understand their experience and perceptions, if possible.

Reflect and report findings in a one page report.

Title the document Parkname_MonYEAR (ex. Coates_Dec2020), and file in folder labeled "Park Observation" under "Neighborhood Assessments".

Use:

- Inform conversations with community residents and local businesses and organizations.
- Update and inform environmental assessments and planning documents.

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

Park observation: *Name of park*

Date: *Date of visit*

Conditions: *Weather, time of day, day of week, etc.*

IN PARK	
Amenities	<i>Benches, pavilions, tables, grills, play equipment, restrooms, trails, tracks, courts, fields, specialty gardens, etc.</i>
Safety	<i>Lighting, condition of walkways, policing presence, visibility, call towers, etc.</i>
Accessibility	<i>Parking situation, ADA accessibility, pathways condition and connection with park features, cleanliness, etc.</i>
Vegetation	<i>Type and condition of vegetation, manicured/natural, placement, etc.</i>
Comfort/Aesthetics	<i>Shade, flow, overall feeling and impression</i>
Wildlife	<i>Presence and behavior of animal and insects</i>
Events & Activity	<i>Formal and informal activities, i.e. races, pavilion use, types of activities</i>
User behavior	<i>user movement through park, litter, pet waste, pets on or off leash, places of reflection/stillness, etc.</i>
History, culture, art	<i>Historical markers (what history), art (formal or informal), donated benches or trees, community projects (i.e. boyscout-built kiosk, community garden), languages, community advertisements, etc.</i>
Other	<i>Other observations of note.</i>
SURROUNDING AREA	

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

Churches, Social centers	<i>Social hubs and support centers within .25 miles of park, and their physical and symbolic connection to park</i>
Business, orgs, employment center	<i>Economic centers within .25 miles of park, and their physical and symbolic connection to park</i>
Vacancy	<i>Empty lots, fields or properties within .25 miles of park, and their physical and symbolic connection to park</i>
Greenspace	<i>Type and size of greenspace within .25 miles of park, and their physical and symbolic connection to park</i>
Bike lanes & sidewalks	<i>Bike lanes and sidewalks leading to park</i>
Street width & traffic	<i>Width of street and opportunity for bike lane and sidewalks, if non existent. Amount and speed of vehicular traffic.</i>
Other	<i>Other observations of note.</i>
FIT & CONNECTION	
Neighborhood-physical	<i>Ways that the surrounding neighborhood is or is not physically congruous with or tied to park (i.e. design features and amenities, environment and wildlife)</i>
Neighborhood-social	<i>Ways that the surrounding neighborhood is or is not socially congruous with or tied to park (i.e. park users, culture, art, history, language)</i>
Environment	<i>Ways that the surrounding neighborhood is or is not ecologically congruous with or tied to park (i.e. type of forestry, wildlife presence, stormwater drainage, litter and upkeep)</i>

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

Park observation:

Date:

Conditions:

IN PARK	
Amenities	
Safety	
Accessibility	
Vegetation	
Comfort/Aesthetics	
Wildlife	
Events & Activity	
User behavior	
History, culture, art	
Other	

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

SURROUNDING AREA	
Churches, Social centers	
Business, orgs, employment center	
Vacancy	
Greenspace	
Bike lanes & sidewalks	
Street width & traffic	
Other	
FIT & CONNECTION	
Neighborhood-physical	
Neighborhood-social	
Environment	

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short term outcome	Medium term outcome	Long term outcome
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance	Residential use of park	User count Record of park rentals	Exercise & sports Leisure Relaxation Connecting with nature Connecting with people Increased awareness of park activities More people reporting issues	Residents incorporate park into their lifestyle Residents value time outdoors Residents appreciate parks and rec Increased safety Quick maintenance response to issues	Residents become healthier Residents advocate for parks and greenway Residents take ownership of park Increased safety of area around park
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance Programming staff Program materials (TBD)	Park Programming use of park	User count Record of session/game/event Participants Hashtags/publicity counts Handouts/fliers	PR contact with community residents Exercise & sports Education Socializing	Residents incorporate park into their lifestyle Residents value time outdoors Residents appreciate parks and rec	Residents become healthier Residents advocate for parks and greenways Residents take ownership of park
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance	Unique use of park	User count Record of events	Residents go to park for special purpose Residents are connected to other park resources	Residents incorporate park into their lifestyle Residents develop sense of identity for park and area around it Events and groups form around unique use	Residents become healthier Residents advocate for parks and greenways Residents take ownership of park Identity of place is tied to park and surrounding area
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance Native plants Canopy cover Stormwater drainage design Connected greenspace and planting design	Park as node in ecological network	Wildlife sightings Record of plants Record of stormwater drainage Water quality measurements	Diverse plantings Increased birding Increased resident value of nature Habitats protected for existing wildlife Limited standing water in parks and on trails Visual and functional continuity of plantings throughout parks	Increased city and resident value of nature Riparian buffers fill in and are resilient in flood events Increased wildlife numbers and variety Increased water quality	Park system supports biodiversity Park system is characterized by its environmental health Erosion is slowed/limited City identity tied to outdoors and environmental quality

Evaluation Findings Spring and Summer 2021

Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance Signage	Park as node in recreation network	User counts Hashtags publicity counts	Exercise and sports Physical and mental health benefits to users	Positive identity for neighborhoods and residents Tourism Increased quality of life for resident Events and groups form around network of parks Residents develop sense of identity for park and area around it	Residents become healthier Residents advocate for parks and greenways Residents take ownership of park
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance Multimodal trail Signage Bicycle stations Connected destinations	Park as node in transportation network	User counts	Exercise and recreation Mental and physical health benefits	Increased accessibility to workplaces and groceries Increased accessibility	Creation of culture of alternative transportation Increased air quality Decreased noise pollution
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance Signage, art, cultural artifacts, beautification,	Park as place of significance and meaning	Record of events and reservations	Knowledge of place hx	Feelings of belonging and connection to place	Community appreciation and care for parks and greenways
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance Place for gathering and connection Park programming	Park as conduit for community building	Record of events and reservations Record of rentals Record of neighborhood/ community meetings	Contact/connection with neighbors	Better understanding of others and knowledge of own community, increased feelings of safety in parks	Better network of neighbors for communication, action Wider use of park for diverse community functions and needs
Park & its infrastructure Park maintenance Connected destinations Zoning policies Signage	Park as conduit for economic development	User counts	Businesses see increased business from park/trail users People want to live and gather at places near parks and trails	Increased property values	Industry moves near greenways and parks Businesses develop near parks Increased home sales near parks and greenway
Assumptions: Use is indicative of value for residents, increased investment in sustainability will lead to increased value for residents and city officials, and incremental progress toward long term goals will be noticeable and will show incremental outcomes toward long term goals.					