

Reimagine Ida Cotten Park

Ida Cotten Park Concepts

Community Engagement Summary

12/05/2024



Project Promotion Ida Cotten Park

Concepts Engagement

General Outreach

Mailers

500 sent within quarter mile radius of park

Yard Signs

5 yard signs

Open House and Tabling

Ida Cotten Open House/Jar Voting Activity

Ida Cotten Park

October 26th, 2024

49 people

Ida Cotten Halloween Tabling

Ida Cotten Park

October 31, 2024

4 people

Total Participation

53 people

Survey

Survey Open

October 23rd - July 15th, 2024

Participation

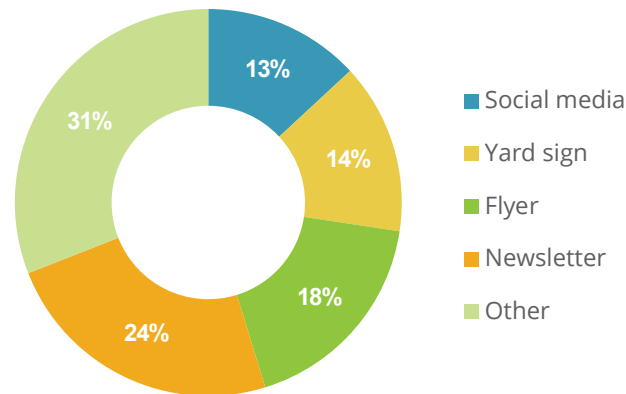
81 people

Total Participation

134 people

Survey Access

How did you find out about this survey?



General Outreach

The city distributed 500 mailers within a quarter mile of Ida Cotten Park posted throughout the neighborhood. Mailers and yard signs provided a description of the project, links to more information online, and a QR code to take survey.

In-Person Outreach

In-person outreach included an open house for Ida Cotten Park and in-person tabling at Ida Cotten Park. At the open house designers and city staff connected with the public to share and obtain feedback on three concept designs for the park. The event included an interactive jar voting activity where the public could vote for their preferred design.

Online Outreach

An online survey provided residents the opportunity to view three concepts for Ida Cotten Park select their preferred park design .

Project Summary Ida Cotten Park

Concepts Engagement

Key Findings

The following are key findings from the Ida Cotten Park community engagement process for the park's concept design phase:

1. Preference for Concept 3

Concept 3 is the preferred design according to the community engagement survey and in-person voting activity at Ida Cotten Park.

2. Maximizing Play Area

Survey takers found Concepts 1 and 2 less appealing because of the smaller play area presented. Park users expressed concern over the amount of space features like the looped walkway in Concept 1 or the contemplative area in Concept 2 would take away from the play area. Comments questioning the future utility of the existing grass as a grass hill as opposed to more play space further reflected this sentiment.

3. Interest in a Fenced Playground

While some survey takers disliked the addition of a fence for Concept 3 because they felt it would limit movement in such a small park, other survey takers expressed interest in the fence due to safety with the road. Parents at the in-person engagement event at Ida Cotten Park expressed similar interest in a fence.

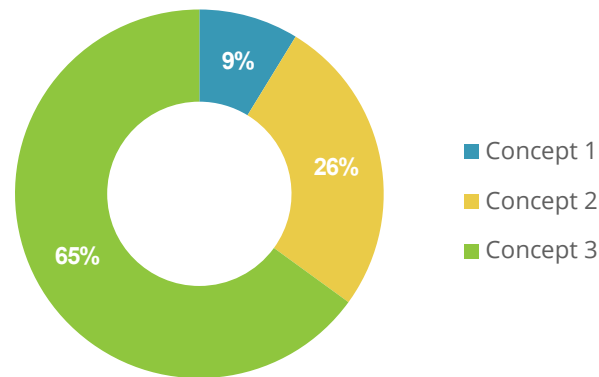
4. Mixed Views on Existing Grass Hill

Some survey takers noted that the existing grass hill is rarely used. The majority of the concerns about retaining the grass hill were linked to the limited play area in Concepts 1 and 2.

5. Concerns Over Safety

Some survey takers expressed concern over whether vegetation additions such as waterwise plantings and a vegetation screen and built elements such as the pavilion in Concept 3 attract people experiencing homelessness.

What is your preferred concept?



Jar Voting Activity Count

Ida Cotten Open House

Concept 1: 8 votes
Concept 2: 11 votes
Concept 3: 17 votes

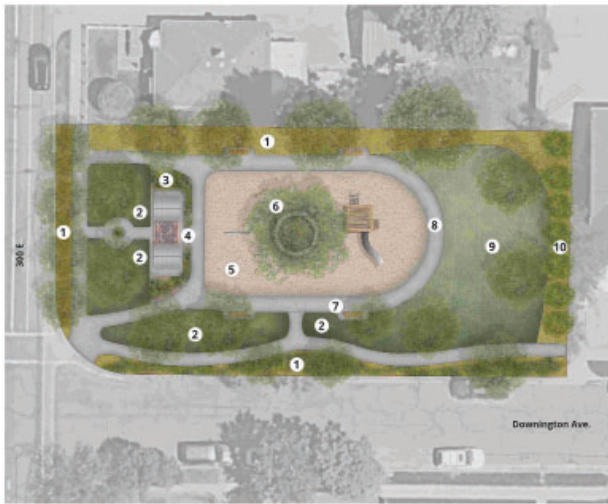
Halloween Tabling

Concept 1: 1 vote
Concept 2: 0 votes
Concept 3: 2 votes

Survey Results Ida Cotten Park

Concept 1

Ida Cotten Park Concept 1 Formal 1 - Minimal Change



- Legend**
- 1. Waterwise plantings
 - 2. Lawn
 - 3. Enhanced entry plantings
 - 4. Overhead trellis connecting existing pavilions
 - 5. Playground
 - 6. Seatwall around existing tree
 - 7. Benches
 - 8. Looped pathway
 - 9. Existing grass hill
 - 10. Vegetation screen (row of trees and/or shrubs between park and neighboring property)

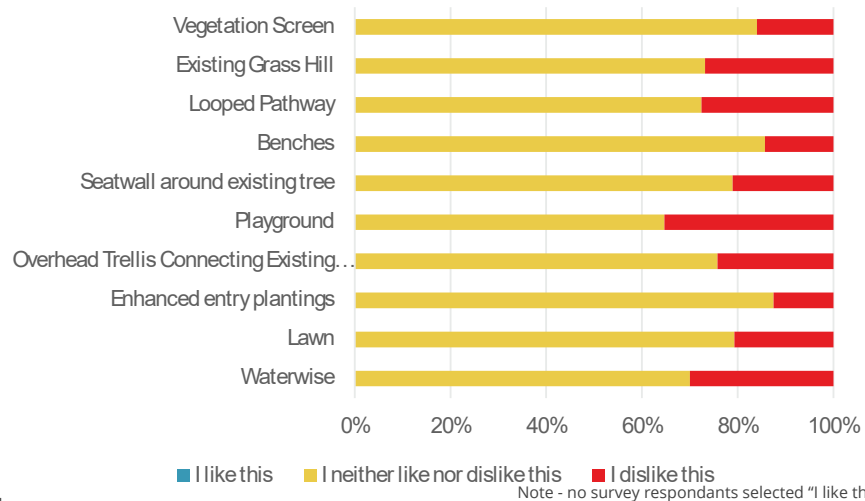
Feature Ranking

Ranked from Most to Least Important

1. Playground
2. Benches
3. Waterwise plantings
4. Seatwall around existing tree
5. Looped pathway
6. Vegetation screen
7. Lawn
8. Enhanced entry plantings
9. Existing grass hill
10. Overhead trellis connecting existing pavilions

Feature Ranking

Like, Neither Like nor Dislike, Dislike



Survey Results Ida Cotten Park

Concept 1

Comments Summary for Concept 1

The following is a summary of findings from the prompt *"If you selected "I dislike this" on any of the above, please provide more information."* A complete list of comments can be found in the Appendix.

Some survey takers are concerned that...

The concept will not include swings.

The swings are the best part of the park!!! Don't get rid of those.

A vegetation screen and waterwise plantings would provide hiding places for people experiencing homelessness.

Waterwise planting would reduce the amount of playable area in an already small park. A vegetation screen will incentivize homeless people to hang out.

A pathway will take up already limited space.

Worry that a concrete loop will take up real estate in a park with a small footprint.

Some survey participants dislike...

Existing pavilions

I don't like the existing pavilions.

Some survey takers noted that...

Existing hill is not used much

The hill is rarely used.

Survey Results Ida Cotten Park

Concept 2

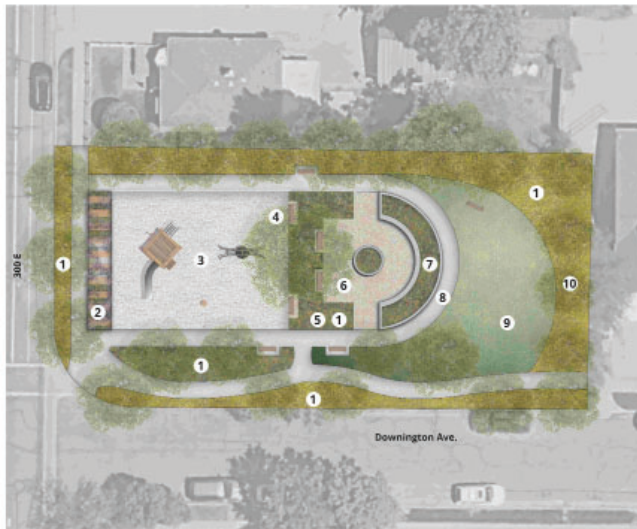
Ida Cotten Park Concept 2 Formal 2 - Moderate Change



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC LANDS



PARKS, TRAILS &
OPEN SPACE BOND



Legend

- 1. Waterwise plantings
- 2. Linear entry pergola
- 3. Playground
- 4. Benches
- 5. Planting bed around existing tree
- 6. Contemplative area
- 7. Raised planter/seatwall
- 8. Looped pathway
- 9. Existing grass hill
- 10. Vegetation screen (row of trees and/or shrubs between park and neighboring property)

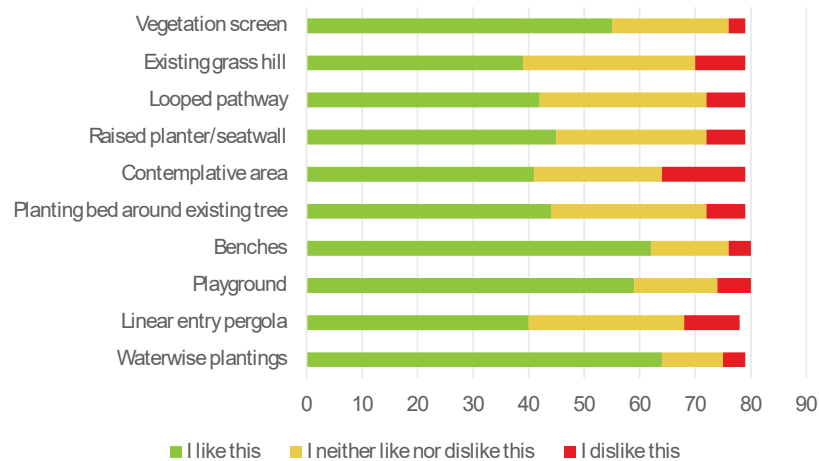
Feature Ranking

Most to least important

1. Playground
2. Benches
3. Waterwise plantings
4. Contemplative area
5. Raised planter/seatwall
6. Planting bed around existing tree
7. Vegetation screen
8. Looped pathway
9. Existing grass hill
10. Linear entry pergola

Feature Ranking

Like, Neither Like nor Dislike, Dislike



Survey Results Ida Cotten Park

Concept 2

Comments Summary for Concept 2

The following is a summary of findings from the prompt *"If you selected "I dislike this" on any of the above, please provide more information."* A complete list of comments can be found in the Appendix.

Some survey takers are concerned...

That vegetation screens and privacy elements would attract people experiencing homelessness.

Too much privacy will encourage homeless people to hang around.

About linear entry pergola due to maintenance issues, shade availability, park visibility issues, and a preference for current pavilions.

Linear entry pergola doesn't provide enough shade for summer.

The contemplative area takes away from play space.

I don't think we need space for a contemplative area in such a small space.

Some survey takers dislike...

The planting bed around the tree because they prefer to sit under it or allow children to touch the tree.

If the planting bed prevents people from touching the tree then I do not like its inclusion. Kids should be able to touch and play with the tree.

Some park users want...

More seating/benches

More shade

Survey Results Ida Cotten Park

Concept 3

Ida Cotten Park Concept 3 Organic - High Level Change



- Legend**
- 1. Waterwise plantings
 - 2. Fenced playground
 - 3. Shade sails
 - 4. Vegetation screen (row of trees and/or shrubs between park and neighboring property)
 - 5. Gathering area
 - 6. Seatwall around existing tree
 - 7. Pavilion
 - 8. Curved seatwall
 - 9. Existing grass hill

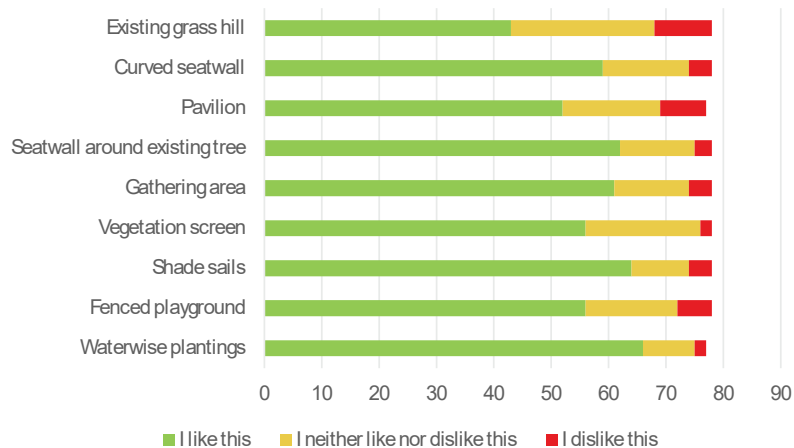
Feature Ranking

Most to least important

1. Fenced playground
2. Shade sails
3. Waterwise plantings
4. Pavilion
5. Gathering area
6. Seatwall around existing tree
7. Curved seatwall
8. Vegetation screen
9. Existing grass hill

Feature Ranking

Like, Neither Like nor Dislike, Dislike



Survey Results Ida Cotten Park

Concept 3

Comments Summary for Concept 3

The following is a summary of findings from the prompt *"If you selected "I dislike this" on any of the above, please provide more information."* A complete list of comments can be found in the Appendix.

Some survey takers are concerned...

About the pavilion

*I see this structure as becoming a place for people to sleep.
I feel like a pavilion would attract more people than the park can handle.*

Some survey takers dislike...

The idea of a fenced playground

Prefer this concept, I just don't care for the playground being fenced. It's such a small park, I hate limiting movement within it even further.

The existing grass hill

I rarely see anyone on it.

Some survey takers are not sure...

Shade sails are necessary

If the trees remain there will be enough shade without installing sails that will need maintenance and replacement.

Survey Results Ida Cotten Park

All Concepts - Missing Elements

Comments Summary

The following is a summary of findings from the prompt *“Is there anything specific you think the concept designs are missing?”* A complete list of comments can be found in the Appendix:

Some survey takers are concerned...

About homelessness

Unfortunately I believe any measure will need to have some homeless/camping deterrents.

Some survey takers are interested in...

Utilizing the existing grass hill for play equipment.

The existing grass hill is unused. It's too small for anything of use. Please maximize the playground space so that it covers the widest ranges of kids.

The added fence around the playground and want to see it in the other concepts.

I like the fenced playground since it borders a busy road.

Shade for the summertime.

Providing shade over the playground is very important if this is to be useful in the summer.

Seeing Concept 2 with shade sails.

I think #2 would be improved with shade sails.

A priority for survey takers are

Swings

Swings are a crucial component of a kids playground.

Project Conclusion

Preferred Concept

Concept 3

Concept 3 is the preferred concept for Ida Cotten Park. Overall, feedback from the survey and during in-person community engagement revealed that community members prefer Concept 3 primarily because of the design's capacity to maximize play area. Survey takers overwhelmingly voted for Concept 3 as the preferred concept. The in-person Open House at Ida Cotten Park reinforced the survey's outcome. Concept 3 received the most votes during an interactive voting activity.

Ida Cotten Park Concept 3 Organic - High Level Change



- Legend**
- 1. Waterwise plantings
 - 2. Fenced playground
 - 3. Shade sails
 - 4. Vegetation screen (row of trees and/or shrubs between park and neighboring property)
 - 5. Gathering area
 - 6. Seatwall around existing tree
 - 7. Pavilion
 - 8. Curved seatwall
 - 9. Existing grass hill

Addressing Interests & Concerns

The design team will incorporate feedback from the community engagement process into the final design of Concept 3. Considerations will be taken to:

- Preserve existing trees
- Ensure shade
- Maintain visibility and clear site lines throughout the park
- Include a fence where appropriate around the newly built playground
- Provide swings

Appendix Verbatim Public Comments

Survey Question: If you selected "I dislike this" on any of the above, please provide more information.

Concept 1

I like a playground, the photo just doesn't seem to have any slides or swings, which is what my kids like best

The playground looks dismal. The existing pavilions need more improvement than this. Overall this will not bring revitalization to this park.

Don't get rid of the swings!!

That is not a playground. It's a pile of wood I feel like the backside of the grass hill is a place where people might try to camp at night because it's screened from the road

I would like the pavilions to be updated and facing the playground. Also, I feel like we could do more with the grass hill.

The swings are the best part of the park!!! Don't get rid of those.

I do not like the pavilion with a trellis. It does not have tables to sit at, and it's difficult to see the playground from the pavilions.

You can already sit at the tree and I don't think we need more path, and I don't know if we need more things that may or may not be maintained.

We currently use the park with our 3 year old and newborn. It's the perfect distance from

our home. Waterwise planting would reduce the amount of playable area in an already small park. A vegetation screen will incentivize homeless people to hang out.

We are all trying to get rid of our grass, we live in a constant drought. Get rid of it.

*Could put another play item
The grass hill doesn't offer anything. I'd prefer expanded playground offerings to include more kids of more ages.*

The hill is rarely used. The looped pathway seems pointless.

I think we should transition away from grass because of water conservation needs.

We have grass on the other side. This spot is too small to be of use. I would rather shift everything west so the lawn on the east side is larger, or do more decorative plants with walking paths here.

I don't like the existing pavilions

This park needs more playground equipment, tables to eat at and benches to sit at. It doesn't need a loop.

Vegetation screen would be good to reduce noise and protect privacy of personal property, but should not create a hiding place for vandalism

Waterwise bushes and shrubs provide hiding places and become unmaintained. The hill allows sight into private yards

While we really like the natural look of this proposed playground, we really love the old school metal slides and swings of the existing playground.

The parcel is relatively small for a looped pathway and would take up a large percentage of the park space. A strategic pathway through the park could complement other features.

Seatwall around the tree should be removed to better protect and feature it

It feels too empty, and not worthy of spending more than 15 minutes in. You need the park to attract a wide variety of different types of users.

Would rather see more playground space or have this be water wise plantings, not grass. Worry that a concrete loop will take up real estate in a park with a small footprint

It would be cool to use the hill for more playground equipment

Minimal change is not a solution

Play structure is too small. Current "pavilions" are almost useless.

Appendix Verbatim Public Comments

Survey Question: If you selected "I dislike this" on any of the above, please provide more information.

Concept 2

Linear entry pergola doesn't provide enough shade for summer. Contemplative area remove play space from kids. This park is heavily used by kids and dog owners.

The extra space for the playground is great, along with the slide and swings, but it needs more shade.

Don't change the entrance too much I like the mid century look of the current entry. Especially the font.

I prefer a little more seating

The playground is small and seemingly a bit lame. I don't think we need space for a contemplative area in such a small space. Similar space in the current park just attracts vagrants.

Improve the design so it doesn't feel as segmented (the playground and the grassy hill need a better relationship between each other) Concept 2 is no, I only want bond money used for concept 1.

I feel like we could do more with the hill. Also a fence for kids.

I don't like the playground being closer to 3rd-cars already go pretty fast on that street and its nice to have more separation, don't really

get the 'contemplative' area, don't want more things that are going to fall into disrepair-seatwall, looped path

I want the park to encourage play for children. Not for loitering. Too much privacy will encourage homeless people to hang around. It already has that issue some times.

No more grass

The existing grass hill offers nothing to the park and is unused. I'd prefer that any option includes more playground space for a wider range of kids to use the park.

It looks like the Contemplative Area has replaced the current swing-set. I want the swings to stay. I also don't want the planting bed to interfere with the ability to sit on the existing concrete bench/curb around the tree. grass hill is not used.

If the planting bed prevents people from touching the tree then I do not like its inclusion. Kids should be able to touch and play with the tree.

I think the linear entry may keep people from seeing the park and what's going on in it. I don't like the plant bed around the tree because it's a nice shaded place to sit. Ponds get gross in the heat of the month

A pergola is not a good replacement for the current pavilions

This is a neighborhood park. It needs more benches, tables, seating and play ground equipment.

See this area used by skaters and isn't very suitable for the use of families with young kids as much as the previous design. I don't think a water feature is necessary

I feel like this takes up valuable space that would be better used for more playground area or grassy area.

We do like the benches - just hoping more benches closer to the playground could be added? Really like this design!

Same as previous response. I worry the vegetation screen would allow for people to "hideout" and engage in unwanted behavior I doubt you will want to add the water feature at such a small secluded park -- too likely to be misused.

Having a hard time visualizing an "entry pergola" and seems necessary but probably nice as long as it doesn't need much maintenance

Linear entry pergola: I like the existing entry structures and think they should be preserved, if possible.

These first two designs are pretty unimpressive That playground looks pathetic

Appendix Verbatim Public Comments

Survey Question: If you selected "I dislike this" on any of the above, please provide more information.

Not enough benches?

Concept 2

One challenge with any inner city park is making it attractive for residents but not create too many "screens" to attract overnight camping

Concept 3

The grass hill allows patrons to see into our backyard.

None- this is great

Concept 3 is no, I only want bond money used for concept 1.

Still concerned about the potential for campers behind the grass hill

I don't really love pavilions at parks - they tend to make it more likely for unhoused people to make it a sleeping shelter... Also, seems like a waste of space in such a small park.

We could do more with the hill.

This one is way too complicated- solving non-existent problems and creating more problems than it solves

Like I've said before. "Screens" will encourage the wrong people to loiter around the park instead of encourage play for children

If the trees remain there will be enough

shade without installing sails that will need maintenance and replacement. Fenced playground is not open and welcoming and seems unnecessary for a small park.

No more grass

This is the best option. The existing grass hill is worthless, but this design is the best.

I guess we're stuck with the grass hill, but I rarely see anyone on it.

Having lived in that neighborhood for many years, I see this structure as becoming a place for people to sleep- there are no restrooms, so that creates a health hazard.

I think homeless will hang out under this pavillion

I feel like a pavilion would attract more people than the park can handle.

If you encompass a good playground, this concept is my favorite

Same as previous answer. Regarding shade sails, with the existing tree cover the playground never seemed to sunny. Not sure they would be needed.

By far the best iteration so far. Especially love the playground is fenced and shaded

Please get rid of that "seat" wall (It's just going

to be a wall! whether there's a "seat" or not) and let the grass connect for play and picnics, don't divide it! Otherwise, this is a great design to me as a mom of young kids.

The area is already small fencing doesn't seem that necessary.

The pavilion and gathering area is going be a magnet for homeless encampments. Add additional playground equipment or an active use instead.

There is no point in having a tiny grass hill. Make a big playground. Kids need a place to play. Start now. You received several million dollars and you're dragging your feet.

Prefer this concept, I just don't care for the playground being fenced. It's such a small park, I hate limiting movement within it even further. Possible places for unsheltered people to congregate. Do not want a fenced playground.

Appendix Verbatim Public Comments

Survey Question: *Is there anything specific you think the concept designs are missing?*

All Concepts

Playground shading is important. I like the vegetation barriers next to properties, but may make it hard to see spaces where people may use drugs or camp. Sleeping in the park and drug use happens, but it is too populated for people to stay long.

Please keep some grass for animals

Bathroom!

Bocce court

The swings are highly used pieces of equipment (I live next door) and think they would be a great thing to keep

I like the fenced playground since it borders a busy road.

Concept 3 is the crown jewel, and this park really needs a gathering space. As a resident in liberty wells, please move forward with this one! Some other things to consider could be bike racks, water feature for wildlife, and prioritize native plants!

Each element in Concept 1 ranks equally high Concept 1 playground sucks

I really like the spinner and the net swing, I would enjoy this being included in any design. I think #2 would be improved with shade sails.

I would like a contemplative area for all of them as well as a fence.

Swings!

I think most of them over complicate everything, we just want the equipment upgraded (of which there was no detail beyond 'playground'). Some waterwise plants would be nice, but overall the less is done/the simpler it is, the better.

A playground should be included for every option

I think it helps emphasize that the park is for bringing your children to play and not to hang around and loiter.

Providing shade over the playground is very important if this is to be useful in the summer

Unfortunately I believe any measure will need to have some homeless/camping deterrents. That is my largest concern with adding a comfortable and beautiful new space, especially with bringing my children there

Pickleball courts! Come on please!!!

The existing grass hill is unused. It's too small for anything of use. Please maximize the playground space so that it covers the widest ranges of kids. Include shade.

Water fountains. Small splashpad. Swing are a

crucial component of a kids playground. I would love to see some swings remain. A small area to park bikes and scooters I couldn't tell, are there water fountains or filling stations? Not sure why the grass hill is in every design. Is that because it's expensive to change? I'd like to see less grass given water resources but also don't want it to be hardscaped.

We use this park all summer with our toddler because the shade is great even in the middle of the summer. Could Concept 2 get Shade Sails? Anything to maximize shade.

No, they all look great. Thank you!!

I can't see details of the playground—it needs to have both swings and slides in all designs. All designs should include shade sails.

Bathroom

More consideration of need for shade in the summer and safety with lighting

Designs needs to include swings Baby swings or stuff for littler kids

Do you need the existing grass hill? If not, could part of it make the playground bigger?

Drinking fountain

I like the continuation of trellis in Concept 2, as well as the raised bed seatwall

Appendix Verbatim Public Comments

Survey Question: Is there anything specific you think the concept designs are missing?

Concept 2 with shade sails

Just comments on Concept 3 - love the fenced in play area, love the gathering area and pavilion, love the shade! Still love those metal slides and swings!

Change the city zoning code so you can open a small cafe or corner store across the street

I love the idea of having a fenced playground for all concepts

#3 or #1 - either spruce it up nice #1, or really go #3! tier #2 is just half-assed so please don't. If shade sails: pls make designer run solar summer modeling and place them to actually shade the equipment! parents w multiples love fence/safety barriers!

Would be nice if fence were around whole park area, so that kids could move between playground, gathering/contemplative space and the grass hill.

No I don't think so.....

*Active uses. More playground equipment and active uses
A bigger playground with lots of features.*

Some table space - though it appears #3 may contain that.

Appendix Comment Cards

Open House: Comment Cards for All Concepts

Comment Card 1

Combo of 1 and 3

- Passive play elements
- Passive adult exercise elements
- Trellis + pavillion
- Dog elements
- Loops of different groundscap elements

Comment Card 2

Love keeping the simple spirit of the park keeping the trees and adding their fences playground and waterwise plants

Comment Card 3

Design 3 looks great but it would be awesome to keep as much of the grass hill as possible with lawn and not encroach on it as much with the waterwise plants. The current design seems to replace a large chunk of the grass hill with waterwise plants. Keep that part of the grass as much as possible!

Comment Card 4

I like concept 3. Is it possible to reverse the pavillion and the playground, putting the pavillion closer to 300E and the playground at the center of the park?

Comment Card 5

Concept 1: Orient seat to playground. Expand existing pavillion.

Comment Card 6

Love that this is happening.

From Concept 2 like the waterwise plants, tower/slide and contemplative area

From Concept 3, I like the fence and pavillion.

Comment Card 7

Love new basket swing, spinner/rope structure, shade sails, fence around park, sitting area, flowers, Thank you!

Water fountain

Comment Card 8

Fence is brilliant
Absolutely no need for contemplative area or picnic table

Keep multiple level of slides to accommodate different ages

Shade- yes!

Attach a strap to swing by chain to allow multiple ages of kids to swing.

Tower of 2 different slides off of it to accomodate different ages to slide. Separate sandbox!

Comment Card 9

We love the fence
Shade above playground

Comment Card 10

Think about multiple swing types (i.e vertical)

Comment Card 11

I vote concept 3. Make it happen! A pavillion would be great for parties.

Comment Card 12

I think the fence of 3 because 3rd is so dangerous - is there a way to make the fence more flower (like # 2 pergola) but still be floral green/green?

Picnic table area also beautiful useful.

Exercise area incorp into playground
Homelessness + pavillion

Comment Card 13

It would be nice to have a fence and shade sails for option 2.

Please decide on construction duration and try to minimize.

Comment Card 14

Shade on all of them.

A fence on 3rd would be good.