



MASON PARK EXPANSION + CHURCH/DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE Meeting #2

July 9, 2024 | Evanston Township High School | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

The purpose of the Community Open House was to present community feedback received from Public Meeting #1 (4/10/24), (3) Mason Park recreational design concepts and (2) Church Street / Dodge Avenue Intersection transportation concepts for community review and feedback.

Prior to the meeting, announcements were distributed via the following methods:

1. Project information and meeting announcements uploaded to the City of Evanston project website: www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge
2. Printed flyers were posted in Mason Park and Gibbs Morrison Cultural Center.
3. Emailed digital announcements were provided to Evanston Township High School (ETHS), Youth Opportunity United (Y.O.U.), the 2nd Ward Offices and to all survey respondents who provided email addresses (approximately 250 individuals).
4. Printed flyers were mailed to approximately 561 households surrounding Mason Park.

Approximately 50 people attended the Public Open House.

MASON PARK EXPANSION AND CHURCH/DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2



RECONNECTING WEST EVANSTON



Tuesday, July 9th

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Evanston Township High School (ETHS)

1600 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, Room N112

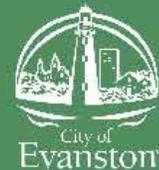
Enter the Building at Entrance #1, located in front of ETHS on Dodge Ave

Parking is available along Dodge Ave and in Parking Lot #1 (accessed from Dodge Ave)

**Join us at the public open house to review preliminary
concept plans and to provide your feedback.**

*For more information, please visit the
project webpage at the link below or
scan the QR code with your smart device*

www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge



Meeting announcement flyer

MEETING EXHIBITS

The exhibits presented existing conditions, summarized community survey results, summarized Public Meeting #1 feedback, (3) Mason Park recreational design concepts and (2) Church Street / Dodge Avenue Intersection transportation concepts for community review and feedback. Participants were provided post-it notes and stickers to vote on concept preferences and to provide comments about the concepts presented on the exhibit boards.

A list of meeting exhibits presented during the meeting follows below:

1. Project Introduction
2. Community Survey Summary of Responses (*Survey Dates 2/15 – 3/15, 2024*)
3. Public Meeting #1 Key Takeaways
4. Existing Conditions (*Map, Site Sections, Site Photos*)
5. Ecological Concept (*Site Plan, Visualization, Photo Imagery*)
6. Hillside and Adventure Concept (*Site Plan, Visualization, Photo Imagery*)
7. Open Green Space Concept (*Site Plan, Visualization, Photo Imagery*)
8. Connections to the Evanston Bike Network
9. Church-Dodge Intersection Improvements (*Existing Conditions, Minimum Concept, Maximum Concept*)
10. Input Activity Exhibits (*voting activities and open ended inputs*)

A summary of quantified and open-ended comments received are organized by exhibit board on the following pages:

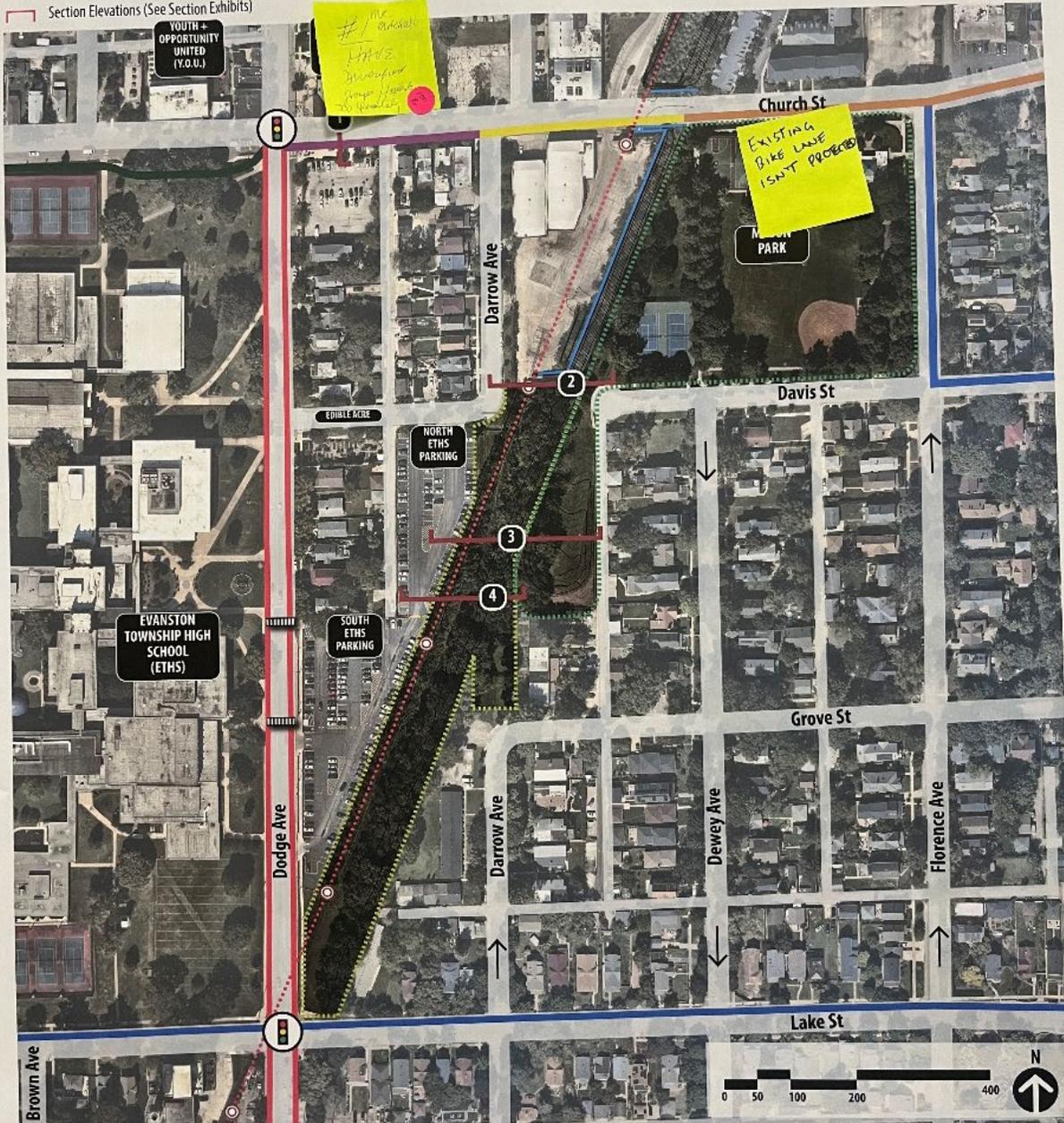
EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP

EXISTING CONDITIONS | MAP

- Existing Traffic Signal
- Existing Mid-Block Crossing
- Embankment Wall
- Mason Park Expansion Area
- Existing Mason Park
- ComEd High Tension Tower/ Overhead Wires
- Section Elevations (See Section Exhibits)

Bike Facilities

- Existing Signed Bike Route
- Existing Bike Lane
- Existing Protected Bike Lane
- Existing Off-Street Cycle Track (2-Way)
- Existing On-Street Cycle Track (2-Way)
- Existing Bike Path
- Existing Bike Route



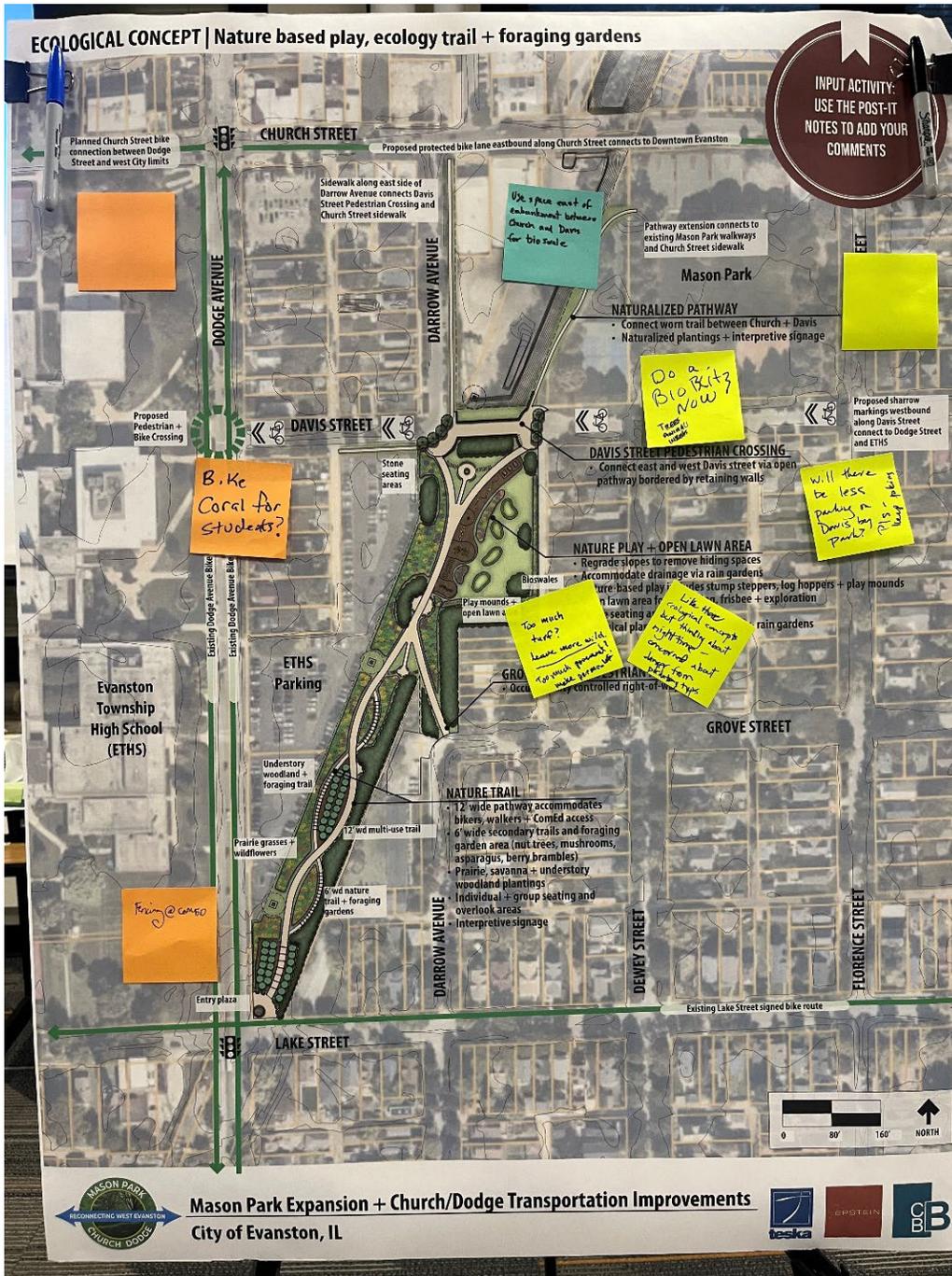
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City of Evanston, IL



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Invite diverse groups/ talent to become involved in the project
2. The existing bike lane isn't protected

ECOLOGICAL CONCEPT: Plan



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Will there be less parking on Davis by park? Please keep parking
2. Like these ecological concepts but thinking about nighttime - concerned about danger from predatory types.
3. Do a Bio-Blitz now (protect quality plantings and remove invasive species)
4. Too much turf? Leave more wild. Too much pavement? Make permeable
5. Use space east of embankment between Church and Davis for bioswale
6. Bike corral for students?
7. Fencing around ComEd towers

ECOLOGICAL CONCEPT: Imagery

ECOLOGICAL CONCEPT | Nature based play, ecology trail + foraging gardens

INPUT ACTIVITY:
USE THE POST-IT
NOTES TO ADD YOUR
COMMENTS



View looking from Davis Street west to Evanston Township High School



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

N/A

HILLSIDE + ADVENTURE CONCEPT: Imagery



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Stepped Seating
 - a. The stepped seating is very welcoming!
 - b. Love terraced seating for students after school
 - c. Could this be a small performance space?
2. Ping pong table
 - a. This will be stolen
 - b. Maybe concrete instead
3. Climbing wall:
 - a. Climbing things are overrated and never used much and winter!
4. Splash pad
5. If City doesn't dedicate money to maintain, less is definitely more! Keep it simple

OPEN GREEN SPACE CONCEPT: Imagery



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Fitness stations
 - a. I rarely see people using park exercise equipment for what it's intended for
 - b. No one uses these exercise stations
2. Steps
 - a. Way too much maintenance in the winter – shoveling, ice
 - b. Lose the stairs. Huge liability. No one will use

CHURCH – DODGE INTERSECTION, MINIMUM CONCEPT (NO CURB REALIGNMENTS)

MINIMUM CONCEPT (NO CURB REALIGNMENTS)

INPUT ACTIVITY: USE THE POST-IT NOTES TO ADD YOUR COMMENTS

How can we can reserve more parking spaces for the more car-centric option but not the people-oriented ones?

LEFT TURN LANES ARE GREAT FOR NB & SB BOUND TURNS FROM CHURCH

These parking spaces are rarely used outside of school hours

EXAMPLE IMAGERY

BUS BULB IMPROVEMENTS CONSIDERED FOR THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF CHURCH STREET + DODGE AVENUE (AT THE EXISTING BUS STOP)

These plastic posts are NOT protection. Recommended precast block

Ticket the bike riders riding the wrong way. A Davis St. bike lane all the way to ETHS is critical

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL

teska ROSTEIN CBB

COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. How come we can reserve more parking spaces for the more car-centric option but not the people-oriented ones?
2. Left turn lanes are great for north and southbound turns from Church.
3. These parking spaces (Dodge Ave) are rarely used outside of school hours.
4. Protected bike lanes:
 - a. These plastic posts are NOT protection. Recommended precast block
 - b. Ticket the bike riders riding the wrong way. A Davis St. bike lane all the way to ETHS is critical.

CHURCH – DODGE INTERSECTION, MAXIMUM CONCEPT (CURB REALIGNMENTS)

CHURCH-DODGE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS - MAXIMUM CONCEPT

MAXIMUM CONCEPT (CURB REALIGNMENTS)

Existing Parking by Side of Street

- 7 Spaces A, Loading Zone, 10 Spaces
- 8 Spaces, 8 Spaces

Mason Park Expansion and Church-Dodge Transportation Improvements

Existing Conditions

INPUT ACTIVITY
USE THE POST-IT NOTES TO ADD YOUR COMMENTS

EXAMPLE IMAGERY

PROTECTED EASTBOUND BIKE LANE CONSIDERED FOR CHURCH STREET, EAST OF DODGE AVENUE (SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

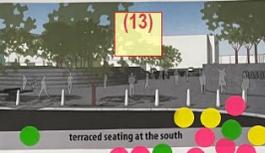
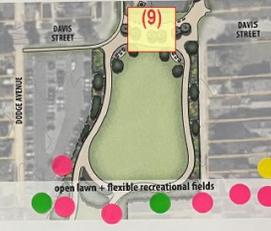
Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL

COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. This one is a better alternative even if lose a little sidewalk. I travel this intersection almost every day.
2. This east bound traffic is better!!! With left turn lane (along Dodge Avenue)
3. Worth spending money to make more efficient traffic flow Is worth it. Please do it.
4. On-Street Parking:
 - a. Remove 3 Parking spaces at pinch point (Dodge Ave, north of Church Street, east side of street)
 - b. Keep parking to support small black-owned businesses
5. Church Street Bike Lanes:
 - a. Road path or repaved bike route is good. Existing sidewalk path is too rough to ride on.
 - b. Cyclists shouldn't have to go around a bus it stops at Dodge. Add a raised island.
 - c. If there is room to add 10 parking spaces, there is room to add a WB bike lane (along Church Street)
 - d. This is not a protected bike lane (flexible delineators). Flex posts do nothing to protect cyclists

STICKER VOTING ACTIVITY: Use (1) sticker to select your preferred concept for each area below:

Participants were provided (4) stickers to select their preferred concepts. Votes are tallied below:

INPUT ACTIVITY: USE (1) STICKER TO SELECT YOUR PREFERRED CONCEPT FOR EACH AREA BELOW		
ECOLOGICAL CONCEPT	HILLSIDE + ADVENTURE CONCEPT	OPEN GREEN SPACE CONCEPT
AREA 1: DAVIS STREET PEDESTRIAN CROSSING		
 pathway bordered by retaining walls (8)	 terraced seating at the south (13)	 flat open green space at the south (7)
AREA 2: SOUTH MASON PARK GREEN SPACE (SOUTH OF DAVIS)		
 nature play + open lawn area (17)	 hillside play + adventure course (7)	 open lawn + flexible recreational fields (9)
AREA 3: TRAIL SYSTEM		
 nature trail + interpretation (26)	 adventure course (6)	 fitness trail (7)
AREA 4: LAKE STREET PUBLIC SPACE		
 nature trail + foraging gardens (11)	 relocated Edible Acre + community gardens (9)	 seating terrace + picnic area (10) <i>Who's mowing?</i>
 Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements City of Evanston, IL   		

AREA 1
 Terraced seating at the south: 13
 Pathway bordered by retaining walls: 8
 Flat open green space at the south: 7

AREA 2
 Nature play + open lawn area: 17
 Open lawn + flexible recreational fields: 9
 Hillside play + adventure course: 7

AREA 3
 Nature trail + interpretation: 26
 Fitness trail: 7
 Adventure course: 6

AREA 4
 Nature trail + foraging gardens: 11
 Seating terrace + picnic area: 10
 Relocated Edible Acre + community gardens: 9

COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Seated terrace & picnic area: who's mowing?

OPEN ENDED INPUT ACTIVITY

INPUT ACTIVITY: USE THE POST-IT NOTES TO ADD YOUR COMMENTS

Combine Dodge/Church Concepts for maximum safety & efficiency

Left turn arrow @ Church + Dodge

opportunity to reduce waste management + not make more trash along railroad line to make bike 5 into space/walk to school

Pedestrian + Bike only on Davis/Dodge Intersection No cars!

Open Davis to Dodge for vehicle traffic. (NO!) Davis 1-way west create more parking on church for businesses

Allow for Fire + Rec

Maintenance ability will need to determine choices

Kids + teens need a place to gather after school - seating helps that no one uses fitness trails along railroad

The more student that don't need a car to go to school, the better traffic will be

BIKES NEED TO MOVE FREELY IN A STRAIGHT LINE AT DAVIS
bicycle only bike way to a traffic jam - be done west side

Love the ideas of creating more public space! But Bikes + Rec stuffing should be considered!

Davis street pathway No retaining walls allow path to slope up and down

Like the open space multi-use space for a variety of activities & sports

Keep our green spaces!

Safety + visibility to + from the high school is important.

Follows CARP - use public spaces for stormwater management Use bioswales to reduce street flooding

No edible acre at lake & Dodge. Will attract vermin/rats

How will the city coordinate the Building construction that will happen on church at the same time?

topo lines not clear on Area 2 options - not evident that 2 options retain hill - less aware from public safety perspective

I really like that these designs are for pedestrians + bikers - not cars. This will be a special place!

Evening ISO - area of 10-15 mins uses using Mayfair alignment as walking cycling space to connect SW to NE parts of town

BE VIBRANT + SHOWCASE CULTURE!

create spaces for high school students to gather, perform, produce art

NEXT STEPS

Thank you for participating in the Second Open House Meeting!
Refined concepts will be presented at Public Meeting #3, anticipated Late Summer 2024.
Stay tuned to the project website for more information:



www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge
Scan the code with the camera app on your smart phone



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Culture and diversity:
 - a. Allow for fun and play
 - b. Be vibrant and showcase culture

2. Open space and recreation:
 - a. Keep our green spaces!
 - b. Maintenance ability will need to determine choices
 - c. Like the open space, multi-use space for a variety of activities and sports
 - d. Create spaces for high school students to gather, perform, produce art
 - e. Kids and teens need a place to gather after school and seating helps that.
 - f. No one uses fitness trails along lakefront
 - g. No Edible Acre at Lake and Dodge. Will attract vermin/rats

3. Church Street / Dodge Avenue improvements:
 - a. Combine Dodge / Church concepts for maximum safety and efficiency
 - b. Pedestrian and bike only for Davis/Dodge intersection. No cars!!
 - c. Create more parking on Church for businesses
 - d. Left turn arrow @ Church and Dodge
 - e. The more students that don't need a car to get to school, the better traffic will be

4. Bike and pedestrian connectivity:
 - a. Opportunity to relocate Waste Management and make more trails north along railroad space to invite Ward 5 into the space and walk to school.
 - b. I really like that these designs are for pedestrians and bikers – Not cars. This will be a special place!
 - c. Open Davis to Dodge for vehicle traffic. Davis 1 way west. Church 1 way east. (response indicates 'No!' to this comment)
 - d. Bikers need to move freely in a straight line at Davis
 - e. Lincoln Park bike way is a traffic jam - we don't want that
 - f. Davis Street pathway NO retaining walls allow path to slope up and down
 - g. Evanston 150: one of top 10 ideas was using Mayfair diagonal as walking/cycling space to connect SW to NE parts of town

5. Safety:
 - a. Safety and visibility to and from the high school is important
 - b. Topo lines not clear on Area 2 options - not evident that 2 options retain hill – less secure from public safety perspective

6. Sustainability:
 - a. Follow CARP - use public spaces for stormwater management. Use bioswales to reduce street flooding

The meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.

MEETING PHOTOS







SIGN-IN SHEETS

MASON PARK EXPANSION + CHURCH DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Sign-In Sheet

Event: PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING #2

Date: July 9, 2024, Evanston Township High School

Name	Email	Connection to Mason Park + Church/Dodge Area
DAD JOSEPH		
Charles Smith		NET NEIGHBOR
Greg Riber-Strahn		neighbor + ETHS teacher
Cory King		neighbor
JOER FREEMAN		
JOAN SAFFORD		neighbor
Tim Sonder		Neighbor + Edible Evanston/CAE leader
Ellie Sherick		Bike / Park user
Sara Levine		neighbor

MASON PARK EXPANSION + CHURCH DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Sign-In Sheet

Event: PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING #2

Date: July 9, 2024, Evanston Township High School

Name	Email	Connection to Mason Park + Church/Dodge Area
MARK MCKEOWN		Neighbor
Ann Kettikof		Evanston Round Table
Gimmie Campbell		neighbor
Gabriel Weiss		NEIGHBOR
Caryn Jacobs		
Bill WALLACE		neighbor
Barbara Miller		bike/drive regularly
Jim Mates		neighbor
MARY PAT MCKEOWN		neighbor
Rob Bush		resident
Lara Jackson Subitich		Lara Holland
Cynthia Jenkins		Cynthia Jenkins
Michael Kroll		across the street

MASON PARK EXPANSION + CHURCH DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Sign-In Sheet

Event: PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING #2

Date: July 9, 2024, Evanston Township High School

Name	Email	Connection to Mason Park + Church/Dodge Area
Simon Goldbrock		Neighbor
Shaun Waldron		neighbor
TINA KALIL		neighbor
Sara Schastel		"
Harst Schastel		
Maay Rosinski		Board
Rebecca Port		neighbor
Becca Waller / Joey Garfield		
CHRIS WALLACE		neighbor
Nicole & Leonard English		neighbor

COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

----- Forwarded message -----

Krissie and Stephanie, I am hoping that I have formulated Stephanie's email address correctly! I want to share with both of you a piece in the NYTimes that I happened upon this morning even though it is from Sunday's paper.

The designs for Mason Park and surrounding area are all interesting and admirable in their ambition! In addition to the public safety concerns that I reluctantly found myself having about some of the more imaginative plans for an urban oasis, I was also concerned about staffing the area to care for the natural elements. I have a natural-type garden myself and know how much care it takes as the plants change over time and with that change, how lighting conditions also change. I fear that the City will not be able to meet the maintenance and plant stewardship requirements!

When I came upon the article linked below, I wanted to share it with you both! It is a good and informative read about how to manage and care for spaces like Manhattan's High Line, a close analogy in some respects and a project that is now 15 years old. We can benefit from New York's hindsight.

Thank you for the opportunity to see the current thinking and to speak informally with staff and consultants. I hope you gained information for next steps.

Stephanie, re your comment to me and others about the possibility of securing outside funding for the project, I'd encourage you to revisit the Evanston150 project findings of a decade ago. Recreational use of the Mayfair spur attracted a great deal of community support so current ideas for the park can be seen as well grounded in the community.

Best to you both, Sara

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/26/realestate/high-line-nyc.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare&sgrp=c-cb>

----- Forwarded message -----



Stefanie, a little history to lighten your day.

[Guest essay: Mulford's Ditch, the Big Ditch and the North Shore Channel - Evanston RoundTable](#)



----- Forwarded message -----



Good morning, Stefanie. Opportunities like this come along too rarely. On page 9 of the CARP Report is the following goal: *Efficiently utilize public land to increase stormwater infiltration and detention while enhancing the primary use of the property.*

I submitted a comment on the project website about inclusion of the Mason Park conceptual green infrastructure proposal in the Mason Park Improvement Project. For your convenience, attached is a synopsis of the proposal with my added comments. I plan to attend the July 9 project meeting at ETHS. A good example of a bioswale can be found in Devonshire Park near the intersection of Greenwood and Kilbourne.



Council Member Burns comment received via email 7/11/24:

When buses turn right from Church Street onto northbound Dodge Avenue they often need to turn into the oncoming left hand turn lane on Dodge. If someone is in that left hand turn lane, they have to back up in order for the bus to complete the turn which creates a pretty chaotic situation. Please make sure the team at CBBEL and Epstein are aware of this issue (if they aren't already) and take that into consideration as they refine their design solutions.