

City of Evanston, IL

Larimer Park Improvements

Community Open House #2

Nichols Middle School

Tuesday April 18, 2023 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Feedback
Summary



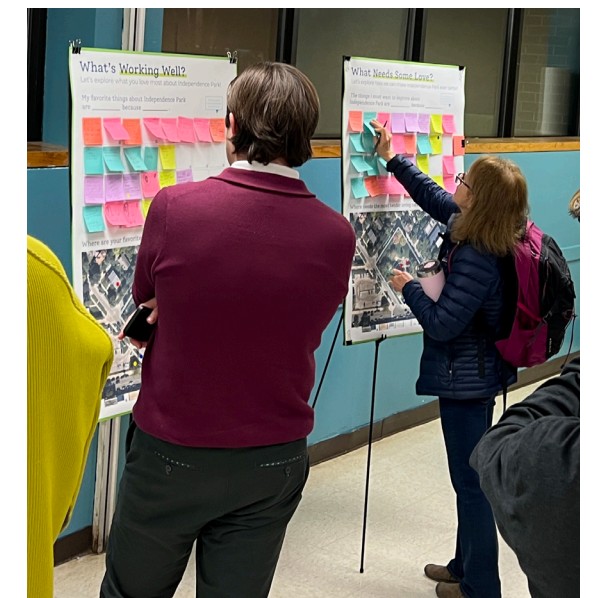
Community Open House #2

Nichols Middle School
Tuesday April 18, 2023 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Larimer Park | Concept Review

The planning team hosted an open house style meeting with the Evanston community at Nichols Middle School on Tuesday April 18, 2023. During the event, which ran from 6p-8p, attendees listened to a brief presentation outlining feedback from the last meeting as well as three conceptual design alternatives. Following the presentation and a Q&A, attendees were invited to provide their thoughts and feedback through interactive exercises and conversation with the Design Team and City representatives. This input, along with the planning team's continued analysis and field work, will form the foundation upon which a preferred design concept will be built.

The following pages document the input received during the event. This is the



Connection to Nature

Concept A | Larimer Park

What do you love most?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 04/18. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

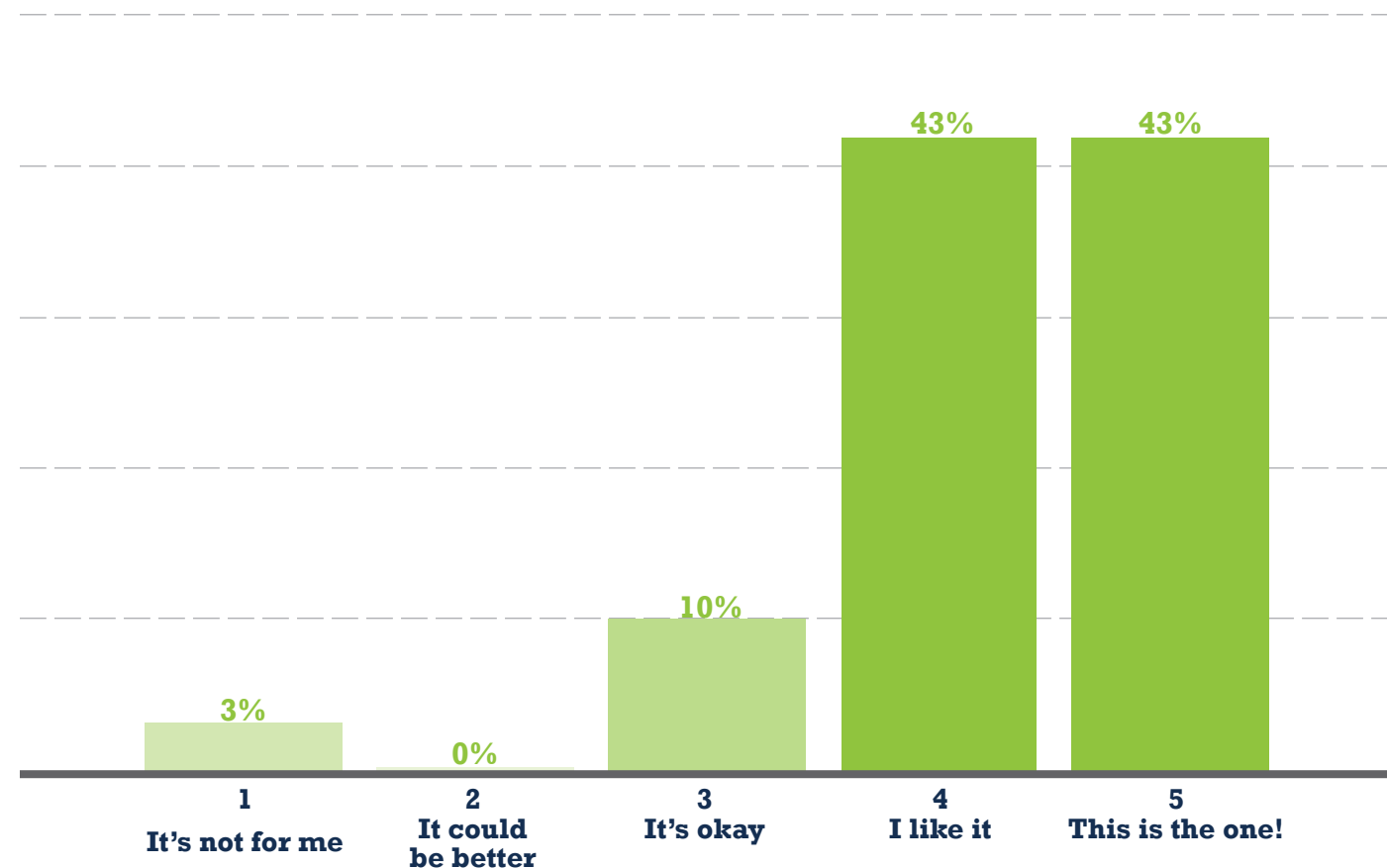
- “Pollinator gardens”
- “Love the garden area and the trees”
- “I like the designated area for dogs”

What could be better?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 04/18. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

- “Please add trees or other tall buffer at cul-de-sac to contain balls”
- “Dog area is too confined”
- “Open up the pavilion or replace - walls are tagged weekly. No walls”

Let us know how you feel about Concept A Below!



Concept A

Emphasis on Connection to Nature

VISION

LEGEND

- Path
- Soft Surface
- Basketball Court
- Play Surfacing
- Pavilion
- Lawn
- Buffer Planting
- Gardens (Proposed)
- Tree (Existing)
- Tree (Proposed)
- Ornamental Tree (Proposed)



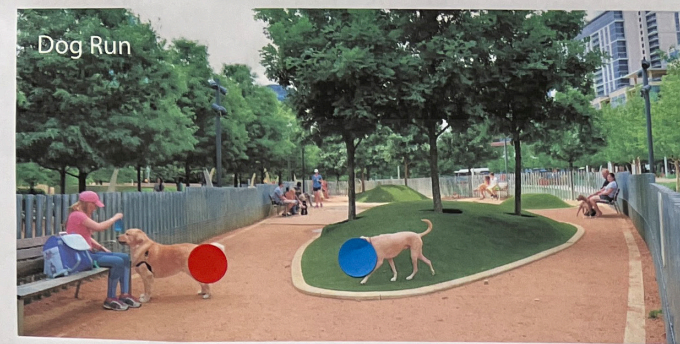
Let us know how you feel about Concept A Below!

Place a sticky dot in the appropriate box below to let us know how you feel about the concept.

1 - It's not for me	2 - It could be better	3 - It's ok	4 - I like it	5 - This is the one!
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sticky notes on the form include: "Dog run not sizeable enough to accommodate current use by dog/flowerers", "VISTA USED", and "I like the designated area for dogs".

Inspiration



What do you love most?

Write your answer on a post it note and post it below!

What could be better?

Write your answer on a post it note and post it below!

Sticky notes on the inspiration board include:

- "LOVE THE GARDEN AREA AND THE TREES!"
- "Option of dog run is great!"
- "Pollinator Gardens"
- "I like the designated area for dogs."
- "I love the perimeter walking path!!! My favorite element."
- "No Dog Run"
- "What about glass siding?"
- "What about a mural?"
- "Replace all fences with trees. attractive to birds, butterflies. People walking paths. Add more native plants. Add a permeable path where the permeable paths are. Use permeable paths for water runoff."
- "dot as good as bollards for looking space wall"
- "KEEP RETAINING WALL OR FIBS WILL RUN OUT"
- "We need a big slide"
- "Reuse wood from trees taken down for a natural playground?"
- "open up the pavilion or replace - walls are tagged weekly. No walls"
- "Rabbit habitat!"
- "dog area is too small could get rid of it bigger or really"
- "or ducks + other safe and easy to care for animal native & kids"
- "Eliminate dog area - doesn't need to be designated space - dogs will still use it."

Active Recreation

Concept B | Larimer Park

What do you love most?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 04/18. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

“Love the circular trail!”

“This playground looks the most fun!”

“Basketball court mural look cool”

What could be better?

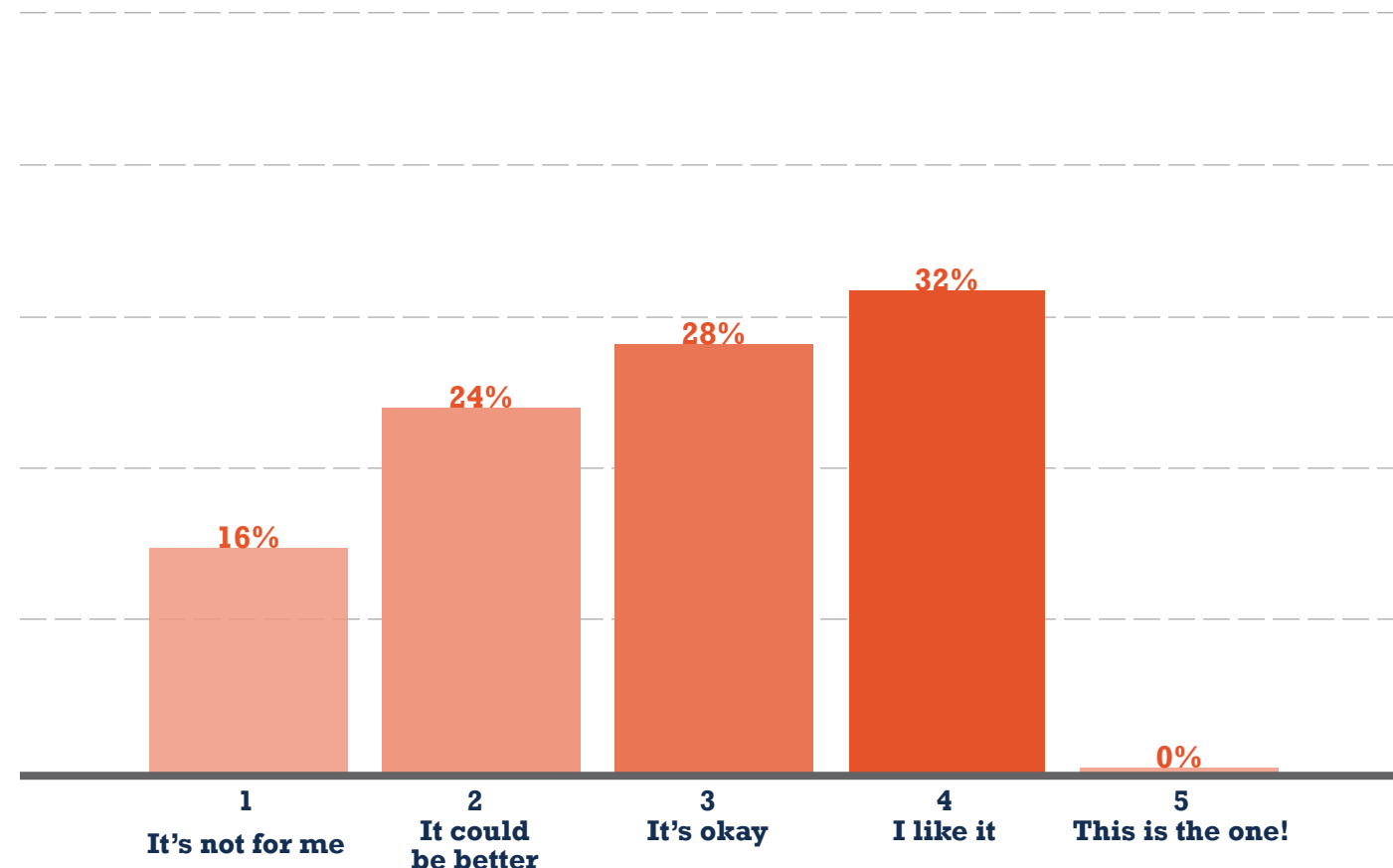
Select Quotes From Comments Received 04/18. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

“Get rid of the walls. Constantly tagged w/ spray paint ”

“Not crazy about bocce ball or court mural”

“No walls on pavilion”

Let us know how you feel about Concept B Below!



Concept B

Emphasis on Active Recreation



Let us know how you feel about Concept B below!

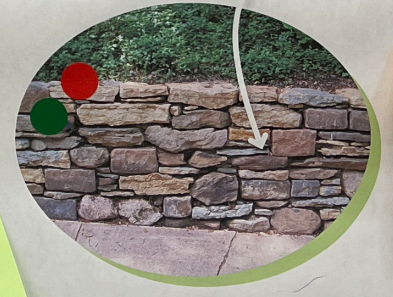
Place a sticky dot in the appropriate box below to let us know how you feel about the concept.

1 - It's not for me	2 - It could be better	3 - It's ok	4 - I like it	5 - This is the one!
●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
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○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Inspiration



Option: Dark Painted Wood with Panels Removed to create Open Air Structure



Option: Repair Existing Stone Wall

What do you love most? Write your answer in a post-it note and post it below!

What do you love most? Write your answer in a post-it note and post it below!

Handwritten notes on post-its:

- need panels in winter
- beautiful stone wall keep it
- love the walking path
- good graphics on basketball court
- path around park
- dedicated court mural looks cool
- love the circular trail! hikers, walkers, nature path!
- perimeter path
- perimeter walking path is so useful for kids, adults, everyone!
- NO WALLS - ALWAYS CAPABLE!
- THIS PLAYGROUND LOOKS THE MOST FUN!
- NO BALL COURT MURALS
- Don't like this plan except for the perimeter path. No walls or fences to prevent "topps" graffiti.
- NO WALLS - ALWAYS CAPABLE!
- boocce cement bags - cement table tennis
- Hand-drawn
- SET RID OF THE WALLS - PERIMETER WALKING PATH BY SHADY PART
- make some parts of path a nature walk interpretive plaques, pollinator gardens, bug houses?
- FEEL THE BOCCIE BALL WOULD BE UNDERUSED FOR HOW CENTRAL IT IS
- playground too small! where is sand box?

Community Gathering + Play

Concept C | Larimer Park

What do you love most?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 04/18. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

“The field and the park”

“Larger playground, but not in direct sun.”

“Lawn area is important for concerts in the park”

What could be better?

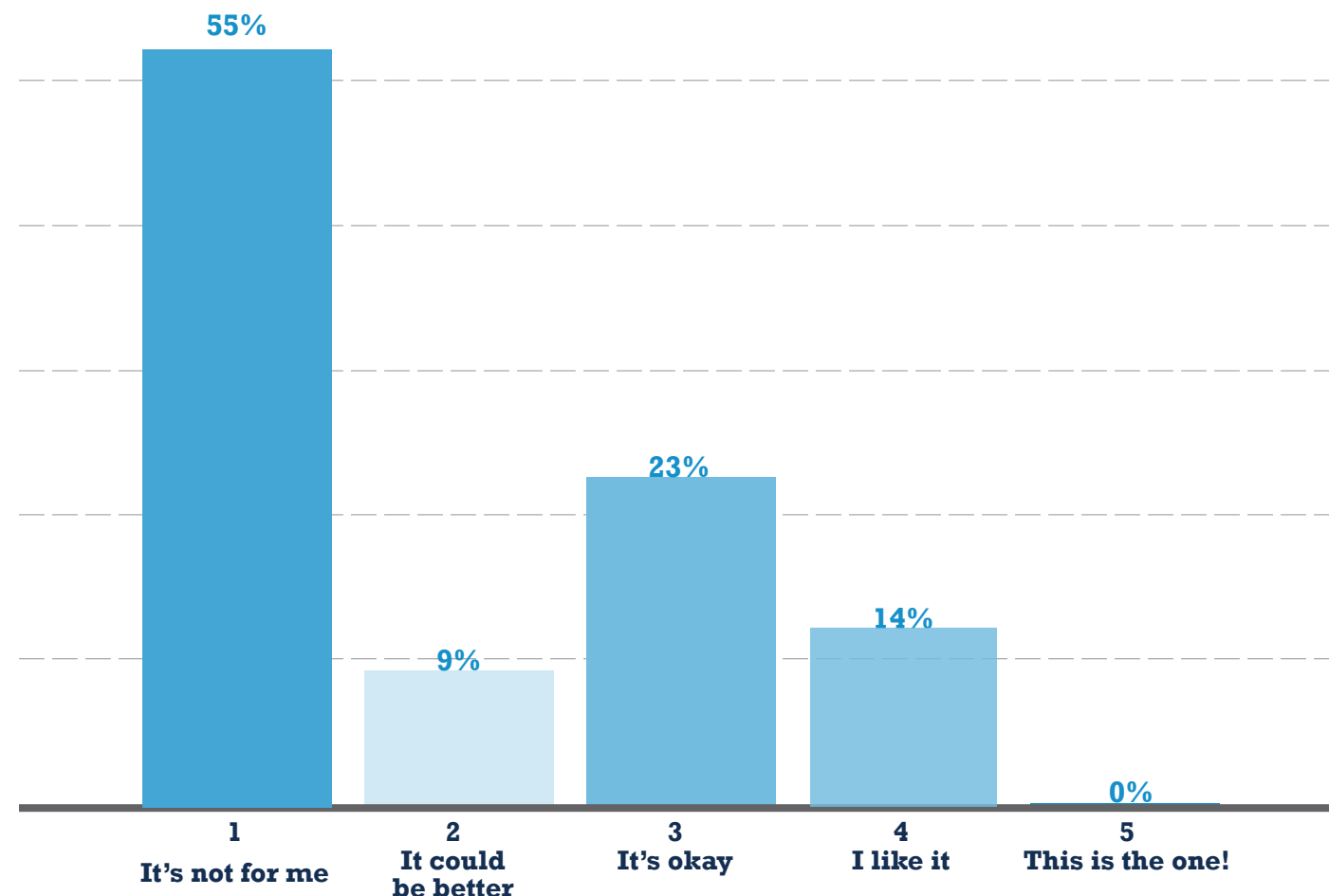
Select Quotes From Comments Received 04/18. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

“Keep playground in the shade!!!”

“More natural looking playground”

“The appeal of the current play ground is that it is shady and small - this playground is neither of these things”

Let us know how you feel about Concept C Below!



Concept C

Emphasis on Community Gathering + Play

VISION

LEGEND

- Path
- Basketball Court
- Play Surfacing
- Pavilion
- Lawn
- Buffer Planting
- Gardens (Proposed)
- Tree (Existing)
- Tree (Proposed)



big flex lawn area
no playground
-light

How do you feel about Concept C below?
Place a sticky dot in the appropriate box below to let us know how you feel about the concept.

<p>1 - It's not for me</p> <p>●●●●●●●●●●</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>2 - It could be better</p> <p>● ●</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>3 - It's ok</p> <p>● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>4 - I like it</p> <p>● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>5 - This is the one!</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p> <p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>
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Keep play area shaded

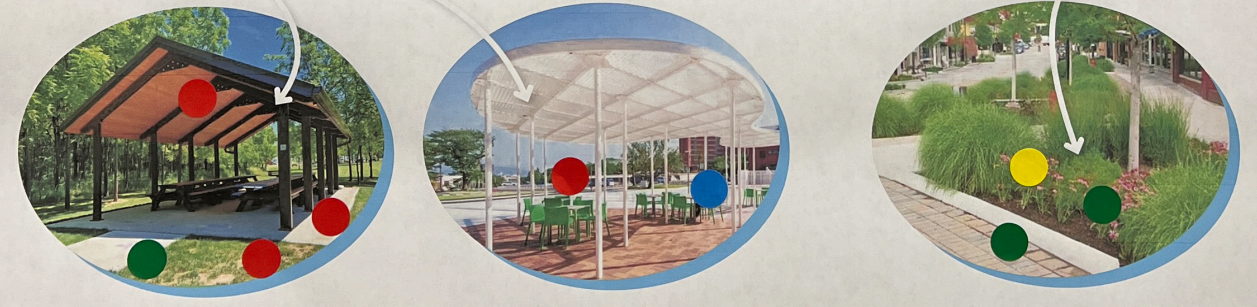
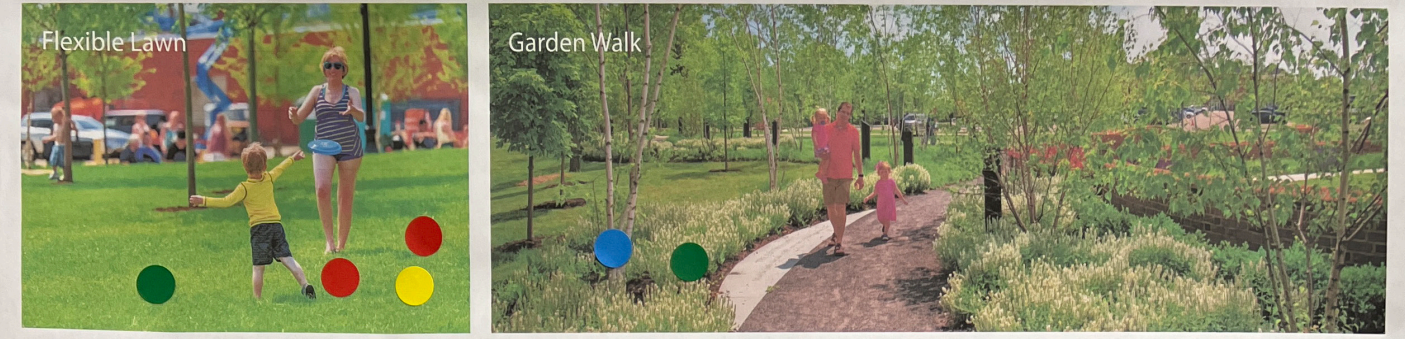
Dog owners have considered a community garden and use long spaces with fruit in flexible manner!

Consider dedicating dog (or both) use to east shaded area in Concept 2

Keep playground in shade!

zip line on any idea

Inspiration



New Open Air Pavilion Options

Curbed Planters with Trees

What do you love most?
Write your answer on a post it note and post it below!

What could be better?
Write your answer on a post it note and post it below!

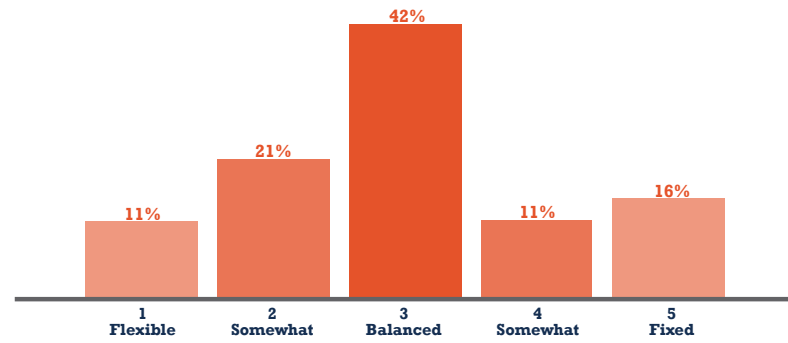
<p>Approved shade garden</p>	<p>larger playground good but not in direct sun</p>	<p>like the look and the</p>	<p>new pavilion as an informal stage with seating on a lawn is ideal (noise!!) maybe a bad idea</p>	<p>more natural-looking playground</p>	<p>Needs dog run</p>	<p>THE APPEAL OF THE CURRENT PLAYGROUND IS THAT IT IS SHADED AND SMALL - THIS PLAYGROUND IS NEITHER OF THESE THINGS</p>
<p>like the playground in the shade Do not move</p>	<p>splash pad in playground if in sun.</p>	<p>EXISTING PLAYGROUND IS ONLY SHADED PLAYGROUND IN THE AREA PLEASE DO NOT PUT</p>				

Pavilion Sentiment Summary

Comparison of Results from the "Let us Know How You Feel" Exercise

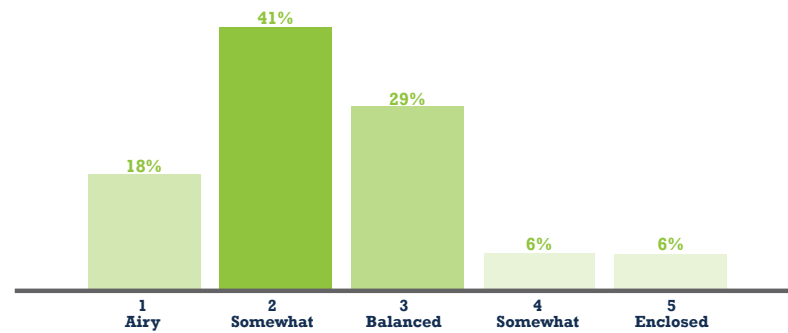
Flexible - Fixed

Sentiment Summary | Larimer Park



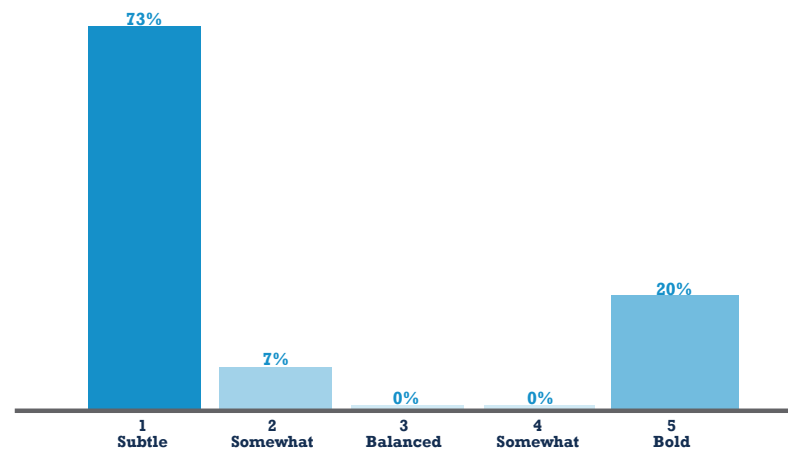
Airy - Solid

Sentiment Summary | Larimer Park



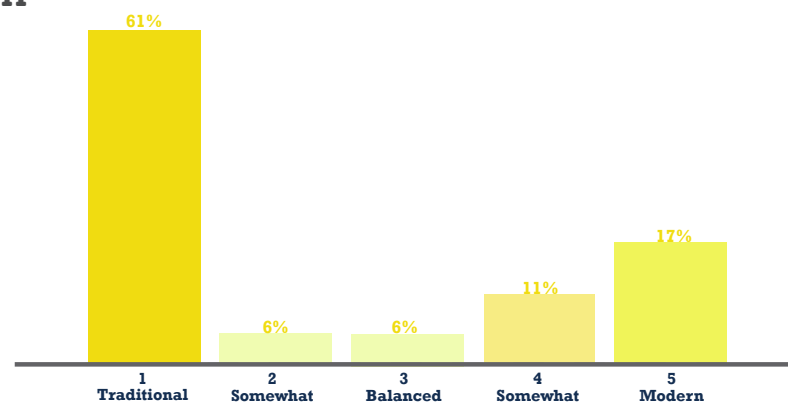
Subtle - Bold

Sentiment Summary | Larimer Park



Traditional - Modern

Sentiment Summary | Larimer Park



Share what you envision for the future of the Larimer Park Pavilion below!

Grab sticky dots and paste them on the board!

Flexible
I want movable / multifunctional furnishings & features!

Flexible Somewhat Balanced Somewhat Fixed

Fixed
I want it stationary / steadfast furnishings & features!

Airy
I want a pavilion that is open and light!

Airy Somewhat Balanced Somewhat Enclosed

Solid
I want a pavilion that is cozy and enclosed!

Subtle
I want the pavilion to blend in!

Subtle Somewhat Balanced Somewhat Bold

Bold
I want the pavilion to stand out!

Traditional
I want the pavilion to take inspiration from the past!

Traditional Somewhat Balanced Somewhat Modern

Modern
I want the pavilion to transport us to the future!

Other

Share any ideas you have that aren't captured above here!

Prefer more modern but maybe with a little rustic

Bathrooms please

Consider movable panels to make pavilion enclosure more flexible

More modern but some way to stay open

Online Feedback

Record of comments received from the project website

Online Comment #01:

A track around the park that people could run or walk on and kids could bicycle on. It could be marked off with meters and yards... have a little stop sign at the sidewalk...

Online Comment #02:

Concept A (which emphasizes connection with nature) is the best of the 3 alternatives (and Concept B, with its emphasis on active recreation, is the least appropriate for this location). We need access to nearby nature, including shade trees, in and near downtown Evanston. We live 3 blocks away.

It's also in keeping with CARP to minimize lawn and the need for turf care.

It's not clear what the bollards would be protecting, but they might be preferable to a poorly maintained hedge. If a repaired stone wall is an alternative, that might be more attractive, but maintenance seems to be a challenge in this park, so simplicity seems like a good idea.

In that spirit, an open air, simple wooden shelter seems most appropriate for the location.

Planters for trees or other plantings should be below grade to help manage stormwater. See Hey & Associates guidelines from several years ago.

If rain gardens are a possibility, community volunteers have demonstrated that they are capable of and willing to monitor and even maintain plantings (examples are the Civic Center Habitat Garden and rain gardens in Ingraham Park).

In general I'd be on the side of "subtle," "airy," and "fixed." I like the "traditional" look in the lakefront building and think it would blend in with nearby buildings, but am not sure how it would work in this more secluded park.

MKSK