



Folwell Park

Phase II Improvements

Community Engagement Results Summary

This report summarizes insights on Folwell Park Phase II improvements and its community's needs collected from surveys and in-person events.



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board
www.minneapolisparke.org



Community Engagement Events

Online Survey - 17 April - 9 May 2023

Stakeholder Workshop - 16 May 2023

Open House Event - 26 May 2023

Final Open House - 19 September 2023

Final Online Survey - 19 Sept - 6 Oct 2023

There were around **350 total participants** reached throughout the engagement process that provided feedback for phase II of Folwell Park improvements.

Key Takeaways

- The community currently uses the park to **walk, jog, or bike** around the paths, enjoy the **natural open space**, use the kid-oriented features like the **playground and wading pool**, or **play sports** on the courts and fields.
- The community would like to see **improved lighting**, more **naturalized plantings and landscaping**, unique and **flexible play spaces**, and more **art in the park**.
- The community would like to see an additional **basketball court**, park **comfort elements** like benches and shade, and **gathering spaces** in future improvements.
- There is a need for **extended restroom availability** and **water fountains**.
- The community is **looking forward to the new all-wheel park**. They appreciate that it is designed for all skill-levels and offers a variety of skate features. They are concerned it will not be completed over time, and would like to see additional gathering spaces and comfort elements nearby.
- The community is **excited about future public art features**. During the visioning sessions, the two concepts by Juxtaposition Arts were well-received, but the "Wetland Returns" theme was the most popular.
- Overall, there is a desire for **improved connections and pathways** throughout the park, and other future phase elements like an additional basketball court, sports field improvements, a new wading pool, all-wheel park extension, mountain bike skills course, and gathering spaces.

Community Engagement

Online Survey

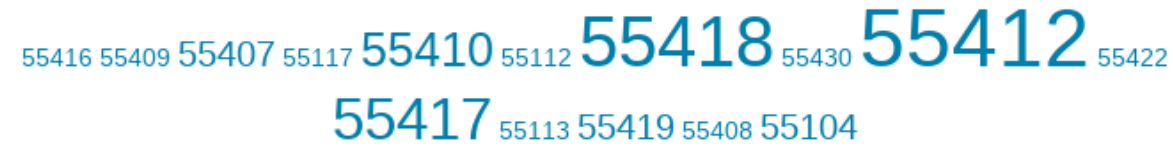
Date: 17 April 2023 - 9 May 2023

Participants: 216

The community-wide survey provided insight into where community preferences were trending for Folwell Park improvements, phases II and III.

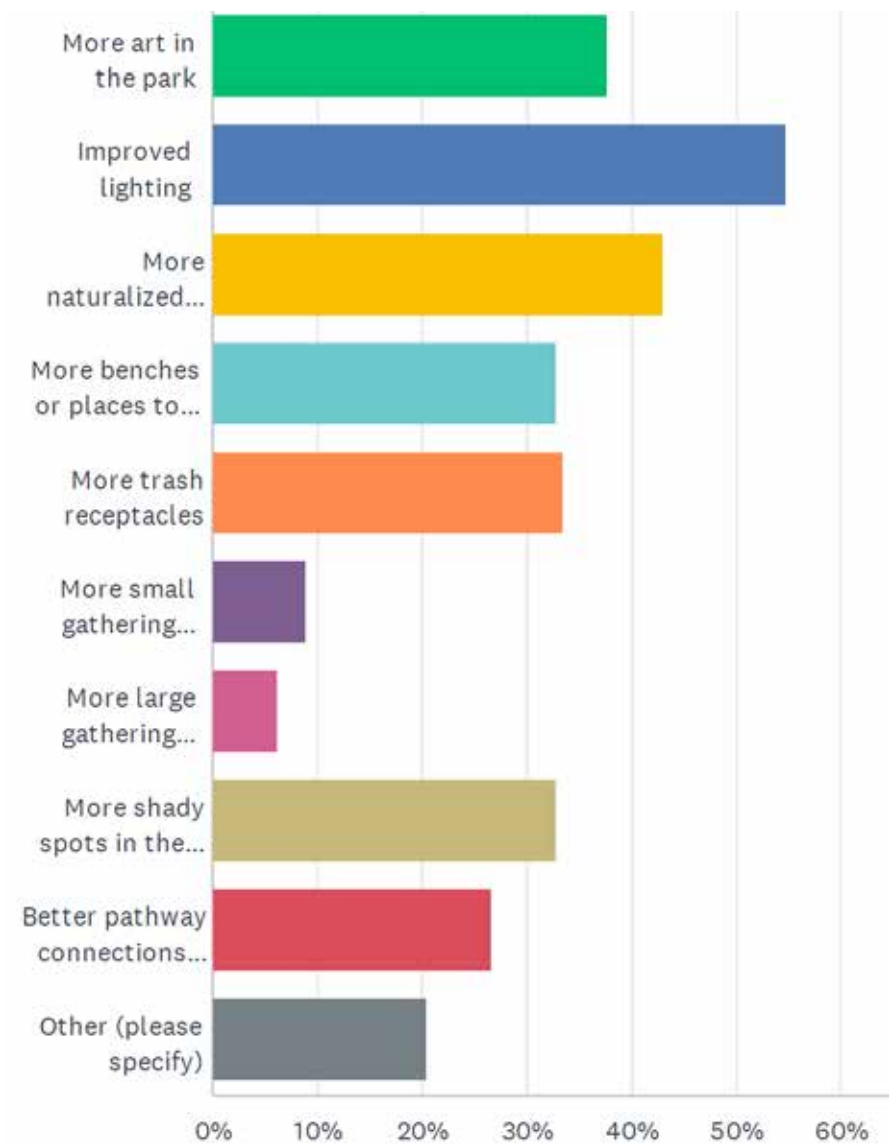
Key online survey results:

Reach of survey respondent locations by zip code *(self-reported)*



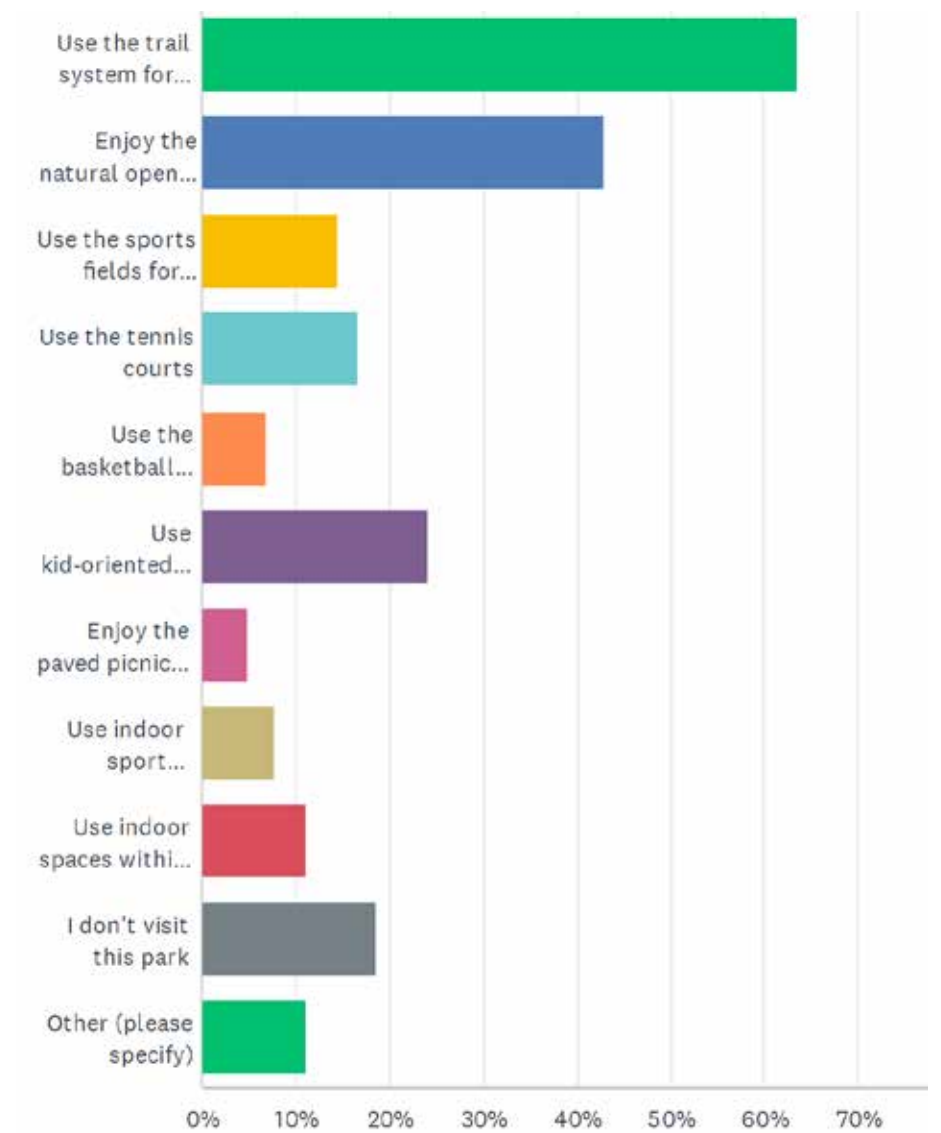
What features can be added to Folwell Park to improve how it serves the community?

(146 responses)



What do you do when you visit Folwell Park?

(145 responses)



- **A majority of the community think Folwell Park is accessible**, and 22.7% would like to see more accessible upgrades.

- **19% of respondents visit the park daily**, and 15% visit Folwell Park at least once a week

- Most of the community **walk, jog, or bike** around the paths, enjoy the **natural open space**, and use kid-oriented features like the **playground or wading pool** when they visit Folwell Park.

- The community preferred features like **improved lighting**, more **naturalized plantings and landscaping**, and more **art in the park**.

- **68% of respondents identified as a skater or rider** (bike, skateboard, scooter, skates)

- **49.4% preferred an all-wheel park with a creative feature layout and interpretive flow**, and 40.3% preferred a combination of creative and traditional flows.

Community Engagement

First Open House

Date: 25 May 2023

Participants: 60

The Open House event gave the community an opportunity to review high-level design concepts for phases II and III improvements, review and discuss all-wheel park concepts and precedents, and provided the project team with overall input for this phase and future phases of park improvements.

- The community preferred concept features like more **benches, drinking fountains, minor improvements to the existing plaza**, and a **new gathering space** near the all-wheel park.

- The community mostly uses the **rec building for indoor sports or activities**, the **sports fields, diamonds, and courts**, and the **playgrounds and wading pool**.

- **Improved lighting** was the most-wanted feature.

- In budgeting park improvements, an **additional basketball court, park comfort elements such as benches and drinking fountains**, and **gathering spaces** were the most allocated features.

- The community's preference for certain improvements and features showed an emergence of a theme, like **natural plantings and nature-inspired play, unique and flexible spaces**, and **integrated art**.



A young community member building-a-park



Reviewing and discussing all-wheel park features



Community members prioritizing park elements



Community members discussing design concepts

Community Engagement

Final Open House

Date: 19 September 2023

Participants: Approx. 20

The Final Open House was an opportunity to update the community on the next phases of the park improvements, which are focused primarily on the new all-wheel park feature.

Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA) shared two concepts for public art for future phases of park improvements. They were able to discuss the two concepts and get feedback on the most exciting elements.

- The community provided comments on the boards during the event and were looking forward to future improvements, beyond the addition of the all-wheel park. They suggested **keeping the water fountains on longer**, as temperatures allow, and **extending the bathroom hours**.



Improvement updates and design renderings on boards



The JXTA team sharing the public art concepts for feedback.



Young community members providing feedback on the public art concepts.

Community Engagement

Final Online Survey

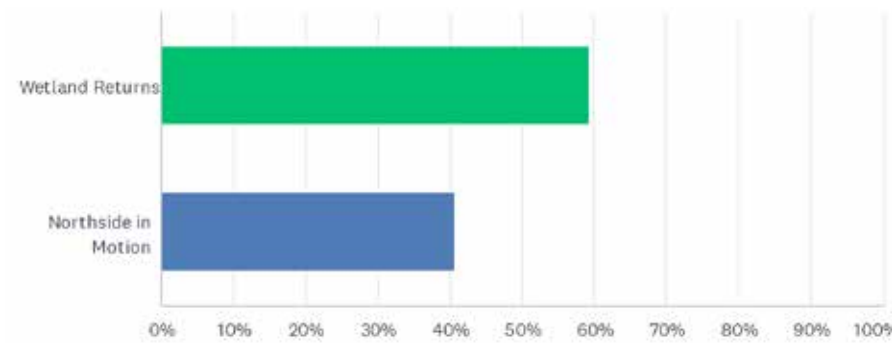
Date: 19 September 2023 - 6 October 2023

Participants: 56

The community-wide survey provided feedback on the next phase of improvements - the overall draft concept plan, the all-wheel park, and future public art at Folwell Park.

Key online survey results:

Which public art concept do you prefer for the all-wheel park? (54 responses)



Please provide any general feedback about the draft preferred concept plan for Folwell Park. (37 responses)

- There was a lot of support and excitement around the draft preferred concept plan for the next phases, especially the lighting improvements.
- The respondents are concerned about the accessibility of the paths throughout the park and other safety features like shade around the pool.
- One individual was concerned about the proximity of the all-wheel park to the wading pool, and suggested more of a sound barrier.

Please provide general feedback about the draft concept plan of the All-Wheel Park. (43 responses)

- The majority of respondents were very excited for the all-wheel park.
- There were a few concerns about safety and accessibility, especially consideration for those who use wheelchairs.
- The respondents really like the design of the all-wheel park and hope that both phases can be completed. There are concerns that the street area won't be added.
- There is a desire for a few more skate and grinding elements, specifically more stairs, rails, vertical elements.

Is there anything else you'd like to share or add about art for the All-Wheel park? (24 responses)

- There were a few suggestions for the future including more seating throughout the park, more pathways, including a sidewalk around the entire perimeter of the park.
- There is a lot of excitement around the incorporation of public art elements. One participant suggested the addition of a legal graffiti wall for local artists.
- There is some concern around the trees being removed for this phase and they would like to see newly planted trees to replace those removed.