

MINEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD'S NORTH SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR FINAL REPORTS

This document includes all the final reports submitted by Community Connectors, who were engaged by MPRB to provide community engagement services as part of the North Service Area Master Plan. These eleven individuals and organizations were selected from a pool of 32 submittals by the project's Community Advisory Committee.

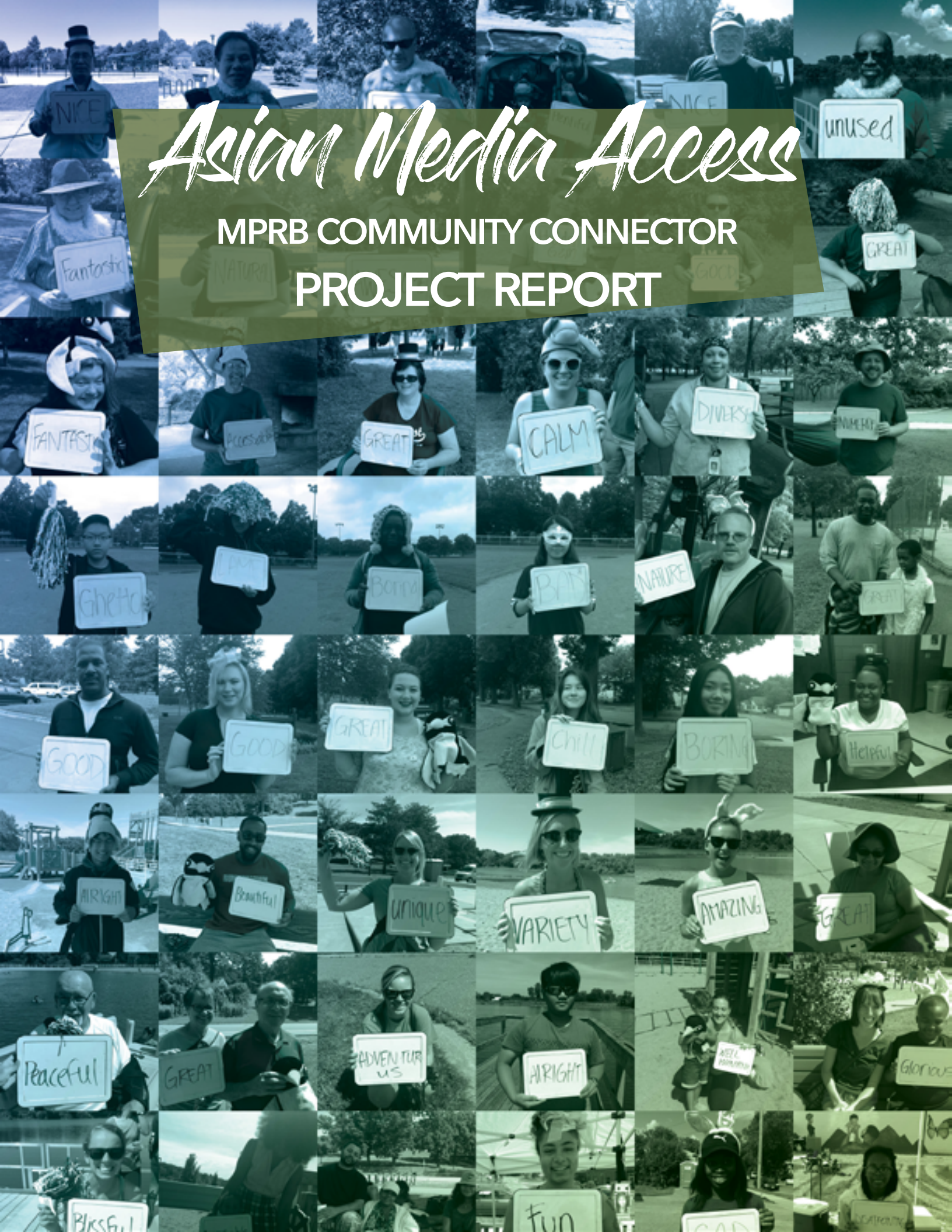
The first two pages provide a summary (in alphabetical order) of each connector's work, stipend, and final report status. Based on their proposals, some connectors provided all original data, while some promoted the project, and others created venues for MPRB to engage directly with the public. Therefore, final reports vary widely, but each connector accomplished their stated goals (with one exception). The submitted final reports are on the following pages.

- Asian Media Access: \$10,000 for a series of listening sessions and interviews, documented in a video available here: <https://youtu.be/wmJTvpope4o>. A brief project summary is provided in a final report. Full transcripts of all interviews have been received by MPRB and will be made available at a later date.
- Assata Brown Consulting: \$5,000 for "Your Parks Your Designs" conversations. Final report includes all data collected.
- C.E.O. Change Equals Opportunity: \$3,500 for youth engagement with outings and basketball league. Final report includes some data. Additional data included on standard MPRB input boards and included in overall project data collection.
- Cleveland Neighborhood Association: \$5,000 for door knocking, surveys, and events around Cleveland Park. Final report includes all data collected.
- ENRG Dance Team: \$4,500 to promote project through public street dance performances. Limited data collected due to nature of proposal. Final report includes all data collected.
- Juxtaposition Arts: \$4,500 for engagement associated with FLOW Arts festival. Final report includes all data collected.
- NoMi Roots: \$2,000 for lunches in the garden. Final report includes some data. Additional data included on standard MPRB input boards and included in overall project data collection.
- Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC): \$6,500 to organize three events in Farwell Park. All data included on standard MPRB input boards and included in overall project data collection.

- Redeemer Center for Life: \$4,500 to host MPRB at three community events. Final report includes some data. Additional data included on standard MPRB input boards and included in overall project data collection.
- Slow Roll Minneapolis: \$4,500 to organize three north side bike rides with focus on parks. Bike rides took place, but no final report has been submitted, and no request for payment has been made nor provided.
- Cathy Spann: \$5,000 to organize engagement/input events at Cottage and Glen Gale Parks. Final report includes some data. Additional data included on standard MPRB input boards and included in overall project data collection.

Asian Media Access

MPRB COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROJECT REPORT



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Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

This project is part the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Community Advisory Committee for the North Service Area Master Plan Community Connector Project—MPRB NSAMP Details Here

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ALL content (Wordcloud, Photo Booth Images, and Video Interview Series) is outlined within this document. Links are provided to full versions of the content within each section.

Introduction

Throughout 2017, as a contractor for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Asian Media Access conducted community engagement within Minneapolis Parks to gather the community's perspectives on the park and recreation system in Minneapolis. Asian Media Access took a nontraditional approach to data collection through the use of video interviews and a photo booth with whiteboard statements, the results of which we present here for you.

*background word cloud image composed of statements received from the Photobooth data collection portion of this project.



Photo Booth

The photo booth portion of our project involved Asian Media Access youth and interns canvassing Minneapolis park attendees to encourage them to participate in the Community Connector Project by providing their view of the park and recreation system in Minneapolis. For this portion of the project, participants wrote their responses on a whiteboard. We took the statements and performed a sentiment analysis with which we made a wordcloud. The background image on this page is a wordcloud made from their responses.

*background word cloud image composed of statements received from the Photobooth data collection portion of this project.



Click here to view all images full size

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsm9ALoui>



Videos

Asian Media Access youth and intern team visited Minneapolis parks on numerous occasions where they were able to capture the statements of the diverse communities of the Minneapolis. The community's statements were captured on video to create a series which will be shared on the internet. The intent is that you can gain some further insight into the community's views of the park and recreation system in Minneapolis. AMA's team was able to capture more than 70 interviews!

*background word cloud image composed of statements received from the Photobooth data collection portion of this project.

THANK YOU!



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

This project is part the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Community Advisory Committee for the North Service Area Master Plan Community Connector Project—MPRB NSAMP Details Here

Park Video Interview Log

Date	Time	Name	Location
07/28/17	4:11PM	FLOW 1	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:14PM	FLOW 2	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:18PM	FLOW 4	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:45PM	FLOW 5	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:03PM	FLOW 6	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:06PM	FLOW 7	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:09PM	FLOW 8	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:12PM	FLOW 9	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:14PM	FLOW 10	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:20PM	FLOW 11	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
07/28/17	4:21PM	FLOW 12	FARMERS MARKET: LOGAN/BROADWAY
08/07/17	11:09AM	PARK 1	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	11:23AM	PARK 2	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	1:54PM	PARK 3	Jordan Park
08/07/17	2:11PM	PARK 4	Webber Park
08/07/17	10:25AM	PARK 5	Harrison Park
08/07/17	10:29AM	PARK 6	Harrison Park
08/07/17	10:53AM	PARK 7	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	10:57AM	PARK 8	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	11:00AM	PARK 9	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	11:04AM	PARK 10	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	11:11AM	PARK 11	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	11:22AM	PARK 12	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	11:35AM	PARK 13	Theodor Wirth Park
08/07/17	2:15PM	PARK 14	Webber
08/08/17	2:02PM	PARK 15	Theodor Wirth Park
08/08/17	2:15PM	PARK 16	Theodor Wirth Park
08/08/17	2:22PM	PARK 17	North Mississippi Regional Park

Park Video Interview Log

Date	Time	Name	Location
08/08/17	2:27PM	PARK 18	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/08/17	2:30PM	PARK 19	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/08/17	2:33PM	PARK 20	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/08/17	1:34PM	PARK 21	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/08/17	1:53PM	PARK 22	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/08/17	1:57PM	PARK 23	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/08/17	2:09PM	PARK 24	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/08/17	2:13PM	PARK 25	North Mississippi Regional Park
08/14/17	2:05PM	PARK 26	Folwell Park
08/14/17	10:32AM	PARK 27	North Commons
08/14/17	10:35AM	PARK 28	North Commons
08/14/17	10:36AM	PARK 29	North Commons
08/14/17	10:42AM	PARK 30	North Commons
08/14/17	10:49AM	PARK 31	North Commons
08/14/17	10:56AM	PARK 32	North Commons
08/14/17	11:01AM	PARK 33	North Commons
08/14/17	11:03AM	PARK 34	North Commons
08/14/17	11:12AM	PARK 35	North Commons
08/14/17	11:13AM	PARK 36	North Commons
08/14/17	2:06PM	PARK 37	Jordan Park
08/14/17	2:14PM	PARK 38	Jordan Park
08/14/17	2:22PM	PARK 39	Jordan Park
08/15/17	1:10PM	PARK 40	Theodor Wirth Park
08/15/17	1:15PM	PARK 41	Theodor Wirth Park
08/15/17	1:18PPM	PARK 42	Theodor Wirth Park
08/15/17	1:19PM	PARK 43	Theodor Wirth Park
08/15/17	1:25PM	PARK 44	Theodor Wirth Park
08/15/17	1:14PM	PARK 45	Theodor Wirth Park
08/15/17	1:17PM	PARK 46	Theodor Wirth Park

Minneapolis Parks & Recreation

YOUR PARKS YOUR DESIGNS[®]

North Service Area Master Plan
Community Connector

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Assata Brown Consulting





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project and report would not have been possible without the kind support and help of the following individuals. My thanks and appreciation for willingly helping me to complete this project.

Hospitality House Youth Development—George Rowley

Hennepin County Sumner Library—Natalie Hart

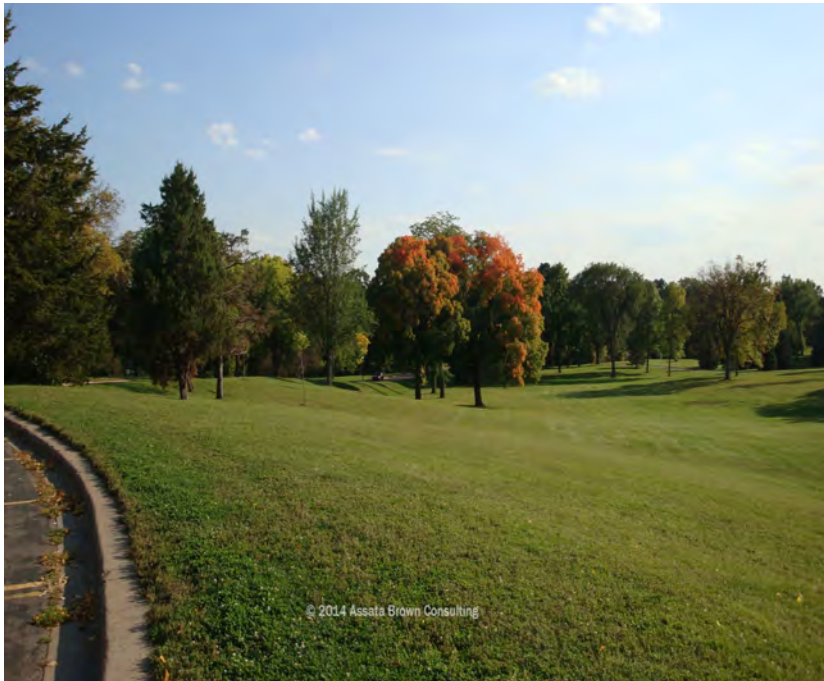
LocStarz Natural Hair Salon—Andre Jenkins

Hennepin County North Regional Library—Marlena Okechukwa



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) requested proposals for community engagement services to broaden community input on the North Service Area Master Plan (Master Plan) for neighborhood parks in North Minneapolis. Assata Brown Consulting was retained as a sub-contractor for Confluence to provide community engagement services for the African American community.



HOW DID WE DO IT

Assata Brown Consulting held a series of five conversations titled *Your Parks Your Designs* with the African American community in north Minneapolis, in spaces that community members were already gathered. This approach was chosen because where people are already comfortable they are more at ease which allows the facilitator to have open, relaxed conversations with them—this is especially true for youth—rather than inviting them to a meeting in a space where they may not feel welcomed.

Between late July and early August 2017, the conversations provided brief and creative ways for the north Minneapolis African American community to provide input for MPRB.

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HOW DID WE DO IT

During the five conversations held in north Minneapolis—at four different locations—participants were able to hear about the Master Plan process and give their input. Locations were selected based on the number of African Americans visiting or using the services of the organization and the permission of the staff from each organization. A variety of interactive activities were used for the conversations and adult participants self-selected an activity or activities to participate in.

The main activity selected by adults was the large dot facilities boards. Three people chose the individual park maps, six people chose the survey, and eight people chose the park planner questionnaire in addition to the large board exercises.

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HOW DID WE DO IT

For the youth conversations at the youth organization location, the consultant determined that the park planner board exercise and park amenities order exercise were the best methods to engage with them about parks and park design. This activity was also used at one library location due to the large number of youth at the location and the recommendation from the youth librarian after reviewing the activities.

A total of 33 youth and 30 adults participated in the conversations. Two youth conversations, one with 6th graders and one with 4th graders, were held at the youth organization, one adult conversation at the salon and a mixture of youth and adults at the library locations.



Conversation Activities

- one page survey
- one page park planner questionnaire
- park amenities order exercise
- park planner board exercise
- large park facility boards dot exercise
- individual park maps dot exercise

Conversation Locations

- Hospitality House Youth Development
- Hennepin County Sumner Library
- LocStarz Natural Hair Salon
- Hennepin County North Regional Library

HW Men's Room Barber Shop was approached but unable to find a time that worked for them and consultant.



WHAT WE LEARNED

*Your Parks Your Designs Survey**

The survey didn't generate as many responses as hoped for, however the ones that were completed are similar in their responses to the responses on the facilities dot exercise.

Respondents said that they currently use the playgrounds, walking paths and athletic fields in the parks that they visit. They also feel that a variety of activities and amenities are working well in the parks, especially the sports programs. At the same time they noted that the basketball courts and playgrounds were not working well.

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"Theo Wirth is amazing", it's fun, kept well clean."



WHAT WE LEARNED

When asked what age group parks should focus on, participants said parks should focus on youth. Some amenities or facilities that people identified as missing were a safe space for youth, cameras and security.

People said that the community should be involved in decision making yet they did not know how that should happen. In addition, they said that Park Board open houses should be held in the community rather than at park board offices.

Refer to Appendix A for a full summary of survey responses.

**As with any survey or questionnaire, participants may choose not to answer all questions.*

“I would like a public chess board.”



WHAT WE LEARNED

*Your Parks Your Designs Park Planner Questionnaire**

As with the survey, the questionnaire didn't produce as many responses as anticipated. Though there were only a few, they will help to inform the Master Plan about amenities/facilities that people would like to have in their parks. The questions put forward some of the tough decisions that park planners and their boards must make when building or improving parks.

A majority of the questionnaire respondents felt it was critical to gain support for parks from everyone: elected officials, residents, and businesses and to build a coalition of people to help fundraise and recruit park volunteers.

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WHAT WE LEARNED

As far as how to fund parks, five of the eight respondents said that combining funds from government, donations, fees and naming rights was the best way to provide funding for park facilities and amenities.

Most thought it was better to creating smaller spaces for all park activities rather than choosing any particular activity or a set of activities.

Almost everyone selected trees and benches as the top amenities to feature in a park. Interestingly, a parking lot was the next highest selection over a drinking fountain that tied with having a bike pump in the park.

continue next page

“This makes you think about using resources.”



WHAT WE LEARNED

It was an almost even split between allowing dogs on a leash in the park and creating an off-leash dog park. There was also a split among respondents on the selection of a playground and basketball/tennis/volleyball courts.

For the most part people thought that food carts or food trucks should be allowed in parks and that it made sense to hire staff to clean restrooms. They also felt a variety of methods should be used to respond to crime in the parks.

Refer to Appendix B for a full summary of questionnaire responses.

**As with any survey or questionnaire, participants may choose not to answer all questions.*



WHAT WE LEARNED

Dot Exercise

Individual Park Maps

Unfortunately, only three people chose the individual park map dot exercise. The two parks selected were North Commons Park and Farview Park. Participants chose the basketball court, football field and pool/water park as the facilities they liked the best. They also chose most of the same facilities including the playground as those facilities that need improvement. The facility not needing any improvement was the football field.

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WHAT WE LEARNED

Large Existing Dot Exercise

The top facility that participants identified that they currently use are the pools. Playgrounds were the next top facility along with the basketball courts. Walk/bike paths and the water parks were also top vote getters. Followed by sledding and grilling.

The least used facility identified was the tennis courts.

Though survey respondent numbers were small, their responses mirror many of the responses on this exercise.



WHAT WE LEARNED

Large What Would You Like to See Dot Exercise

As far as the facilities that people would like to see in their parks, the overwhelming majority wanted a rock climbing wall. A significant number would like to have archery available to use as well as updated playgrounds. Half of the respondents picked the water spouts play area as another facility they would like to have in the parks.

Only one person each chose the baseball fields and the enclosed field. All other facilities were selected by less than half of the people participating.

“Theme park like Como Park but bigger.”



WHAT WE LEARNED

Your Parks Your Designs Park Planner Board Exercise

This exercise was used with small groups of youth as well as individual youth. Groups had to work as a team to complete this exercise. A variety of magnetic amenities/facilities game pieces were created that could be placed on a magnetic blank park.

Each youth were able to choose a limited number of amenities/facilities game pieces without thinking or considering the cost. The goal of this exercise was to have participants build the park of their dreams. A total of 11 parks were created by the youth.

First, participants had to decide how to pay for the park. Some decided that a combination of sources would pay for their parks while others decided that the government would cover the costs.

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WHAT WE LEARNED

All but one planned park included a water facility, specifically a pool as the main park facility. This was followed by athletic fields and walking/biking paths. As far as the amenities for the park, the top two were benches and trees. It seems that the youth could not decide if dogs should be allowed or not in the parks. Only six parks had either a dog park or allowed dogs on leashes. When it came to the play spaces, 10 parks had a basketball or tennis court and playgrounds.

Every park created provided some space for people to have or get food. In many cases participants decided to have a picnic area along with places to purchase food.

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WHAT WE LEARNED

Your Parks Your Designs Amenities Order Exercise

This exercise followed the park planner board exercise. Each participant was given an order form and told they had 100 points to buy amenities/facilities for their park. On a board were pictures of a limited number of amenities/facilities that they could use to buy amenities/facilities for their park design. Some youth worked in groups while others completed the exercise alone.

The purpose of this exercise was to have youth identify the most important amenities/facilities for their park when faced with a limited budget. A total of 14 order forms were completed along with park maps by the youth.

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WHAT WE LEARNED

Participants found the exercise quite challenging. Those working in groups had in-depth conversations about which amenities/facilities would be best for the park and why.

The number one amenity/facility that was ordered by almost all of the youth, were benches. Benches were closely followed by a unisex restroom and walking/biking path. Lights and playground tied for the third most ordered amenities/facilities.

A good number of youth also ordered pools and trees for their park amenities/facilities. Only one youth selected park programs as an amenity for parks.

Refer to Appendix D for full photos of amenities order exercise.

“I don’t like budgets.”



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Written

“Reading Stations-cluster of 3-4 Adirondack chairs plus a Little Free Library. My dream would be to have reading stations at all parks. A park like Barnes Place, for example, could support two reading stations as described above. In order to accomplish this, the park could partner with a trade school (or schools) like Summit Academy. The students could form a nonprofit partner[ship] with the park board. Better to partner with the schools than the library, i.e., keep it local.”

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Written

“Concerned about safety, that police presence is healthy, at a grass roots level. Talking and communication in a positive way, constructive way and manner instead of defensive all the time. We all want to live and enjoy life in the community as much as possible.”

Verbal

“Have resource fairs at the parks, i.e. jobs, art, schools.”

“I built the park they way people want it not the way I would want it.” (comment made while playing the park planner board exercise).

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Verbal

“This makes you think about using resources.”

“Minneapolis has some awesome parks.”

“Keep parks clean.”

“I’m glad they’re doing this.”

“I don’t like budgets.” “People need somewhere to sit in the park.” “Trees help our air, so we need them.” “You need lights by the pool.” (comments by youth made while doing park amenities order exercise)



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR OBSERVATIONS

We found that the large facility boards attracted people to find out what they were about, which helped to facilitate conversations with them. This exercise took the least amount of time for participants to provide their input and they really appreciated the opportunity to give input and that MPRB was coming out to the community to hear their voices.

People are very interested in the parks in north Minneapolis and recognize the value of parks to the community, especially for youth. They also noted that the parks are very clean and well kept. The only complaint from several adults was the lack of benches in some of the smaller parks.

continue next page

“I’m glad they’re doing this.”



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR OBSERVATIONS

Youth were thoroughly engaged in building the park of their dreams and equally engaged in deciding what to put in the parks on a budget. There were many thoughtful discussions and analysis on what amenities and facilities should be in the parks and where in the park to place those amenities and facilities.

OUR TAKE AWAY

Give children the opportunity and it will surprise you where they will lead you and the information you will find out.

Go to where community members gather to get their input. This will engage people that may never attend a meeting.

Creating a variety of playful activities in comfortable spaces can raise people's aspirations for what is possible.

APPENDICES

Appendix A**YOUR PARKS YOUR DESIGNS SURVEY RESULTS****What is the name of your neighborhood park?**

- Farwell,
- North Commons (2)
- Theodore Wirth (2)
- Cleveland
- Willard-Hay
- Loring
- Farview
- MLK

How often do you visit your neighborhood park?

- Daily-0
- 1-3 times a week-1
- 1-3 times a month-3
- 1-3 times a year-2
- Never-0

If you never visit your neighborhood park, why not?

The closest one has no shade or seating.

Name three (3) activities you do or amenities you use when visiting your neighborhood park?

- Playground (3)
- Trails
- Biking
- Hiking
- Sports (3)
- Walk (3)
- Talk
- Read
- Pool (2)
- Green space
- Picnic
- Relax

Identify three (3) activities or amenities that ARE working in Minneapolis parks?

- Youth sports
- Music (2)
- Festivals
- Good community
- Paths for walking
- Benches to sit on
- Picnic areas (2)
- Green space
- Sports programs and events
- Event space for people
- Sports
- Computer programs
- Lunches
- Swimming
- Amusement activities
- Families

Identify three (3) activities or amenities that are NOT working in Minneapolis parks?

- Basketball court
- Need safer security
- Some of the playgrounds
- Playgrounds
- Non sports ongoing youth programs

What amenities/facilities are missing in your neighborhood park?

- I would like a public chess board
- Something I think should be there are outdoor privies
- Safe space for youth to go
- Afterschool programs
- Cameras, security service

*Appendix A***YOUR PARKS YOUR DESIGNS SURVEY RESULTS**

What age group should neighborhood parks focus on? Please select one. Youth-5 Adults-0 Seniors-0

What role does the community have in deciding how to use the neighborhood park project budget?

Not sure, but should!

What to do within the budget.

They should be closely involved.

Some community planning events and meetings

A major one—their role is critical.

Attend the park board meetings [to] be proactive [and] have a voice

Where should the Minneapolis Park Board hold open house meetings?

Four quadrants of Minneapolis—NE/North/SW/South

Somewhere on Broadway.

On a bus line and advertise in the area

Not in the park-community events.

At the parks.

Libraries/park buildings.

DEMOGRAPHICS

What is your zip code? 55411 (2), 55430, 55406, 55408

What is your age group? 10-17 years old-1
18-29 years old-0 30-49 years old-2 50 and over-1

What is your ethnicity? African American-4 Somali-0
Ethiopian-0

What is your gender? Female-3 Male 3

Adults Only

What is the highest level of education completed?

High school diploma/GED-2

Bachelor's degree-1

Master's degree-2

PhD/other advanced degree-0

Appendix B**YOUR PARKS YOUR DESIGNS PARK PLANNER
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

CIVIC SUPPORT—Which of the following is critical to the success of your park and design?

- Gain support from elected officials. - 1
- Gain support from neighborhood residents and businesses.
- Create a coalition to begin fundraising and recruiting volunteers.
- All of the above. – 6

MONEY—This is the most important element that determines the success of parks, though there is *NEVER* enough it. How are you going to pay for your park and its design?

- Rely on funding from local government.
- Use funds from fees, concessions and other park activities.
- Place donation boxes in park.
- Develop a non-profit park fundraising organization. - 1
- Allow naming rights for some or all of your park.
- Combine government money, commercial funds, donations and naming rights income. – 5

PARK ACTIVITIES—you decide how to best use the space of your park. Some will want bike or walking paths, some will want athletic fields, and still others, will want a recreation center. How will you plan your park?

- Create water activity spaces, i.e., beach, dock or pool.
- Build athletic fields. - 1
- Build bike/walk paths or trails. - 1
- Create performance spaces.
- Build recreation center. – 2
- Find the middle ground by creating smaller spaces for all of the above. – 5

PARK AMENITIES—what amenities will your park feature? Will you have trees with benches nearby, a drinking fountain, public art or perhaps a decorative fountain? You will need to decide what will bring people to your park. Don't forget to consider where will people park cars that don't walk or bike to your park. But as always, you must consider funding.

- Trees – 7
- Benches – 7
- Decorative Fountain – 2
- Garden – 3
- Public Art – 4
- Drinking Fountain – 5
- Bike Pump – 5
- Parking Lot – 6

Appendix B**YOUR PARKS YOUR DESIGNS PARK PLANNER QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

DOGS—Neighbors don't want them—they say dogs bark too much, can be dangerous and dog owners let their dogs poop everywhere. Dog owners want to walk and play with their dogs in your park. What do you do?

Build a off-leash dog park in an area of the park. – 3

Ban dogs altogether.

Allow and enforce dogs on leash only. – 4

Let dogs run free.

PLAY SPACES—Parents want a playground for their young children, teens want a place to skateboard, adults want basketball/tennis/volley ball courts and seniors want a bocce ball court. What do you do?

Build a playground. – 3

Build a skateboard area.

Build basketball/tennis/volley ball courts. – 3

Build bocce ball court.

FOOD AND/OR CONCESSIONS—Park users want food and eating areas. Which of the options below do you provide?

Build a sit-down restaurant that serves meals. - 1

Add a concession stand selling snacks and drinks. - 1

Allow food carts or food trucks. – 5

Provide grill and picnic area. – 3

RESTROOMS—Should you have restrooms in your park? You must decide. Restrooms can be covered with graffiti, have unusable stalls and get dirty. How do you manage this?

Put restroom in and try to maintain it.

Encourage a community group to sponsor a Porta Potty. – 2

Hire staff to clean restroom on a regular schedule. – 4

No restroom. – 1

CRIME—Wow, you've created a great park! Unfortunately, there have been some instances of crime that has neighbors a little nervous. How are you going to respond to crime in your park?

Tackle petty crimes like graffiti and vandalism that make people feel unsafe.

Trim bushes, improve lighting, install emergency call boxes. – 2

Work with police to increase patrols of the park. – 2

Plan activities that bring people into the park. – 2

All of the above. – 5

Appendix C



Appendix C



Appendix C



Appendix C



Appendix C



Appendix C



Appendix D



Appendix D



Appendix D



Appendix D



A photograph of a park with a green field, trees, and a city skyline in the background. The sky is clear and blue. In the foreground, there are several trees with vibrant orange and red autumn foliage. A group of people is playing soccer on the field. In the background, a city skyline with several tall buildings is visible under a clear blue sky.

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Your Parks Your Designs©
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

C.E.O

CHANGE EQUALS OPPORTUNITY



On Tuesday October 24th, 2017. C.E.O Change Equals Opportunity in partnership with MPRB North Service Area provided an opportunity for community youth to participate in a day of fun that consisted of Paintball, Food, Basketball and a facilitated conversation about what services they (community youth) use and/or would like to see added to their local parks.

We hosted over 45 youth at a paintballing event for the morning part of our day. Then youth were able to hang with community adults having fun, and authentically engaging each other as a way to break the ice for the deep discussion to follow. After about 4 hours playing in the fields, we loaded our bus to head back to Farview for food and conversation. Youth were feed Pizza and water with fruits cups and cookies as snacks. During with time a facilitated conversation was had about youth gun violence and how it affects our community and families as a whole. We also were able to have a candid conversation about the role our military plays in protecting us from harm abroad and what life might be like for them while in combat and once they return (PTSD).

Adding to the day was our Run and Shoot EBL (Elite Basketball League) in which we serve about 125 youth using sport as a carrot to expose them to College, Career ad Cultural experiences and opportunities. During this time we host C.E.O Sessions that are required for all participants. During this session we combined the two groups (Paint ballers and basketball players) to ask the direct questions about what facilities and equipment they frequently use and what if any changes

they would like to see happen at the parks they utilize. Below are some of the responses that will also be reflected on the boards used.

FARVIEW PARK:

- Replace outside single hoop with two full courts so community can use
- Add stationary workout equipment such as grab bars for pull ups, sit up bench, stationary bikes, mechanical weights, etc.
- Remove the baseball fields from within the football field to allow for full use for football, recreate baseball diamonds and soccer fields on the backside (26th Ave side of the park.)
- Turn the “Shed Building” into a concession stand where park youth can learn skills associated with operating the concession stand (Program)
- Add another room on the back of the multi purpose room to allow for more space for youth activities.
- Permanent lockers for use of all those using the park
- Weekly field trips to colleges and corporations for exposure]

NORTH COMMONS PARK:

- Official high school size gym for home games and more space to accommodate the amount of youth who utilize the space.
- A bigger computer lab with printing access
- A turf football field
- Expand the pool and add more free swim space
- Block off the street between Park and YMCA so youth can freely travel back and forth
- Add workout equipment
- Redo the tennis courts and add a tennis program for youth

FOLWELL PARK:

- Turf the football field
- Add a second outdoor basketball court for youth 14 and under
- Add turf to the baseball fields
- Add a swimming pool like what is at North Commons
- Make the park open on Sundays
- Add a bike and skateboard park
- Remove some of the trees and have open space for more play

These are some examples given that will also be on the boards provided. Total there were 78 youth (Under the age of 18) and 27 youth (between

the ages of 18-23) that participated in this survey.

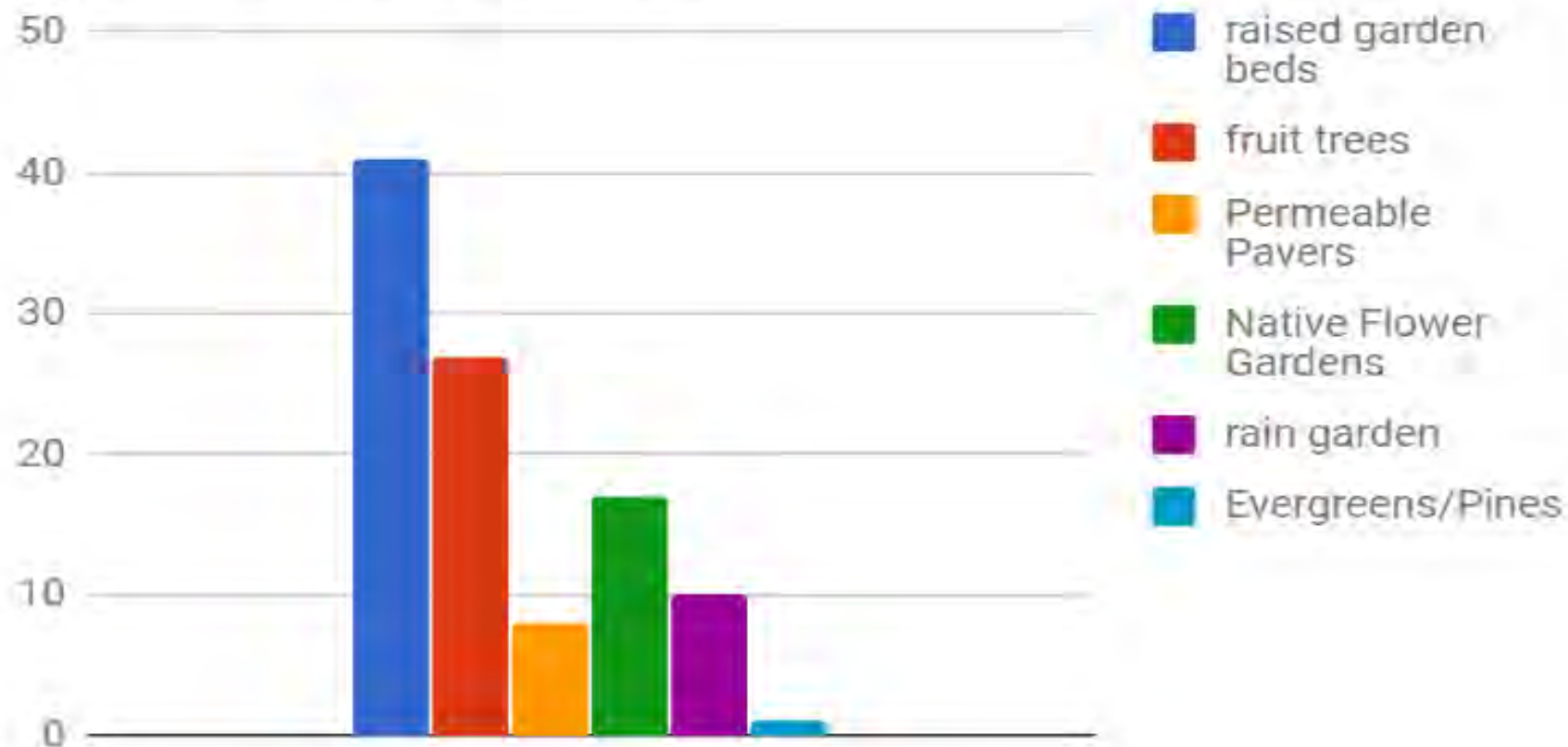
Cleveland Park



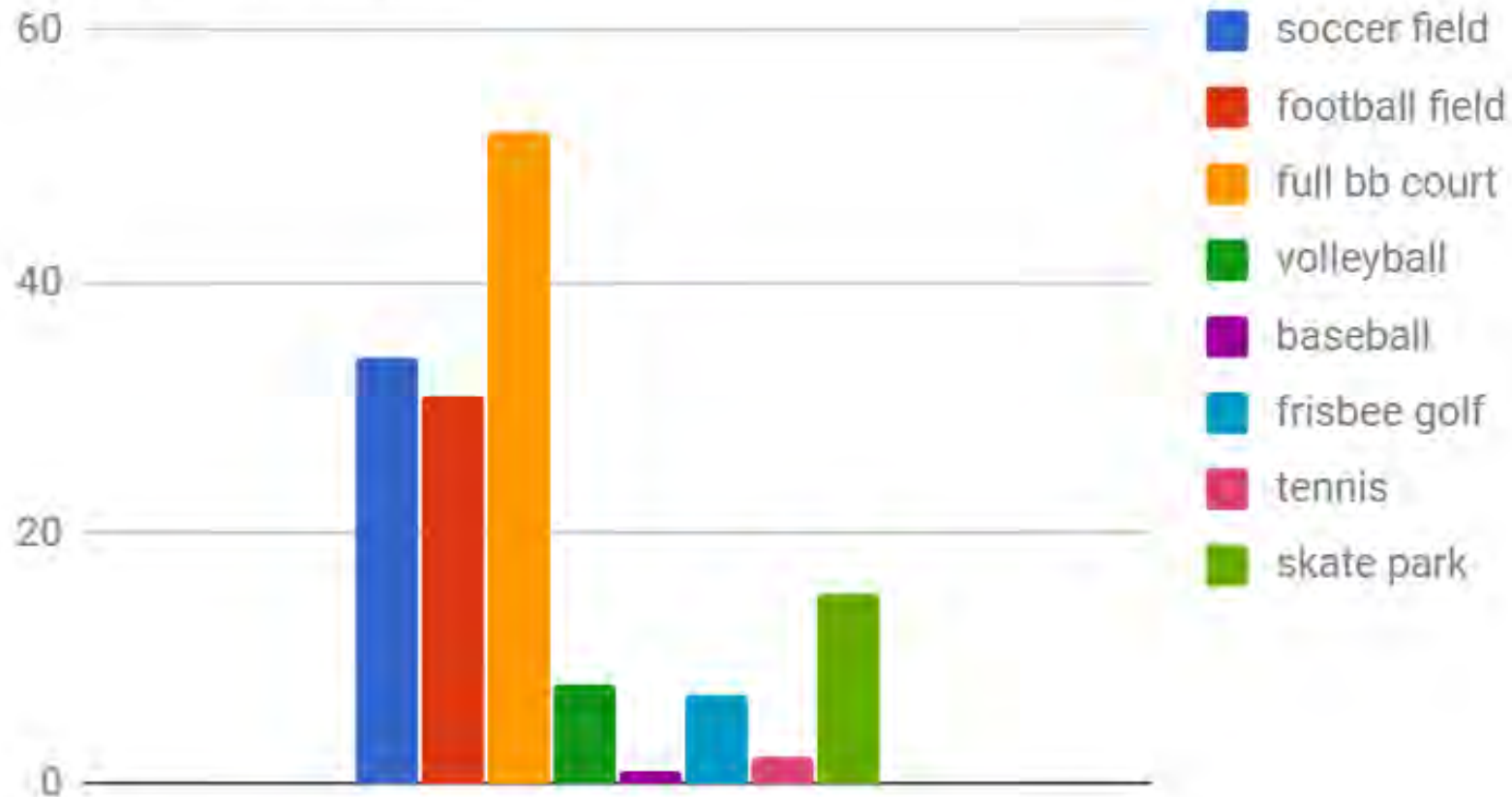
North Service Area MasterPlan Study

113 People Surveyed!!

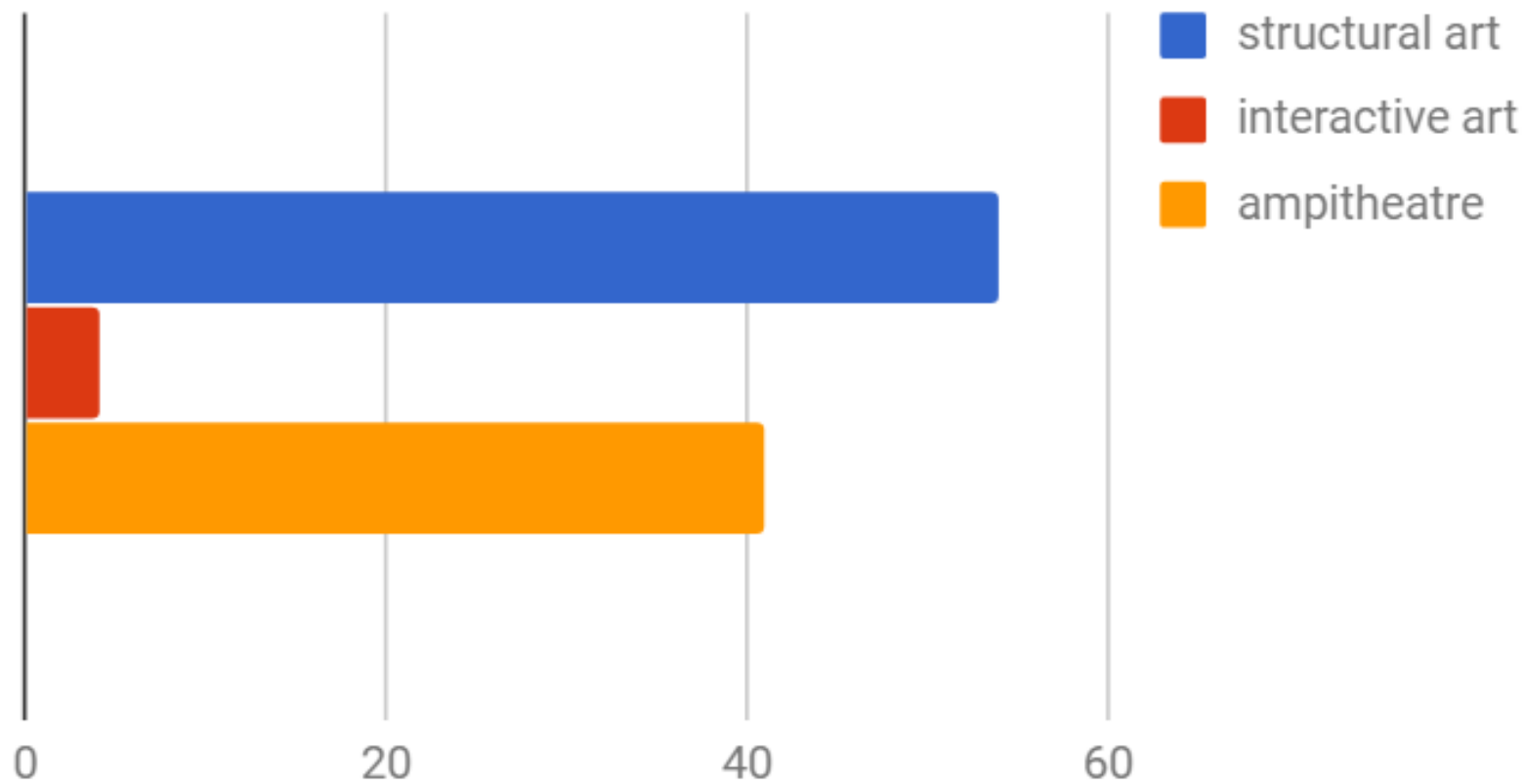
Agricultural Amenities



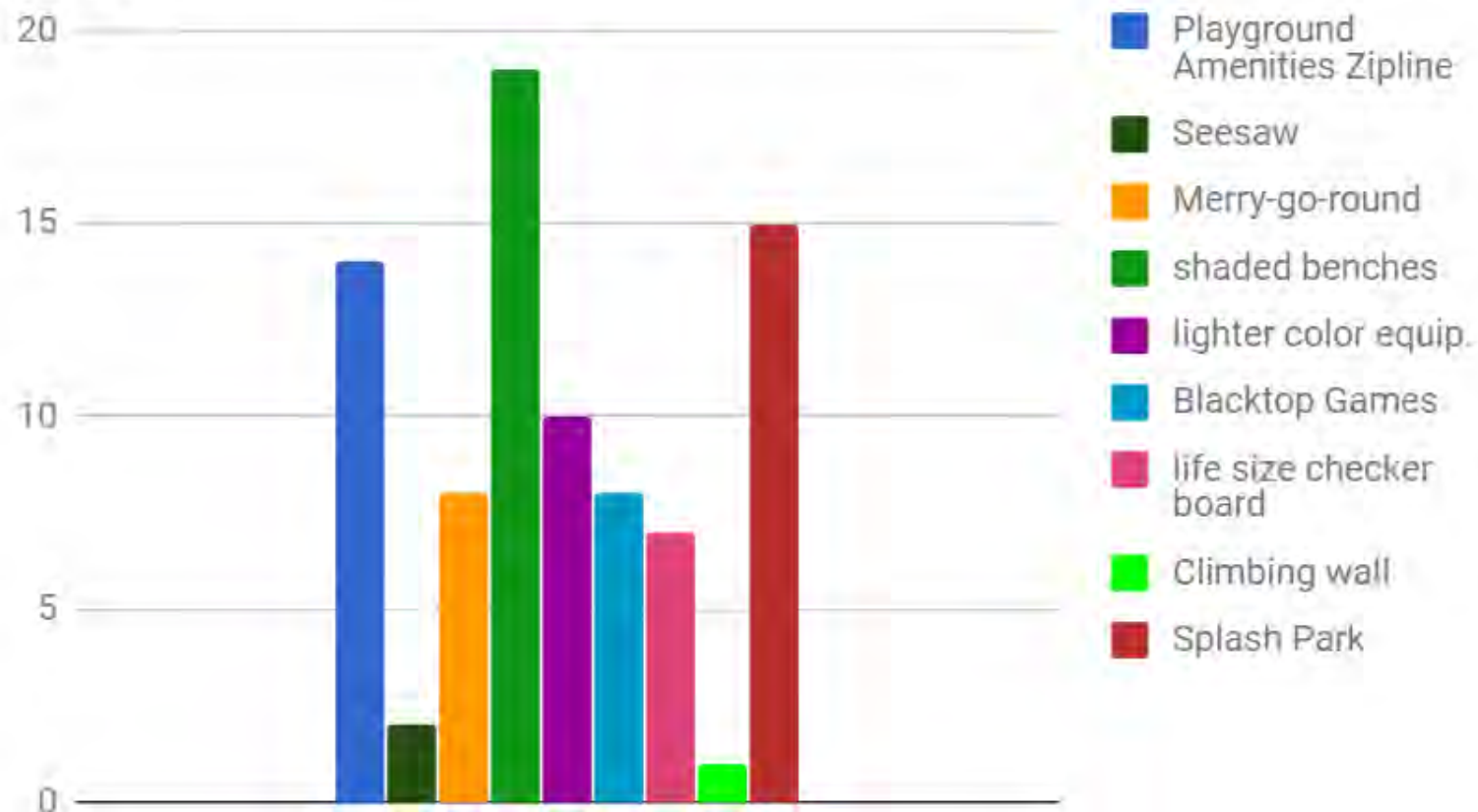
Sport Amenities



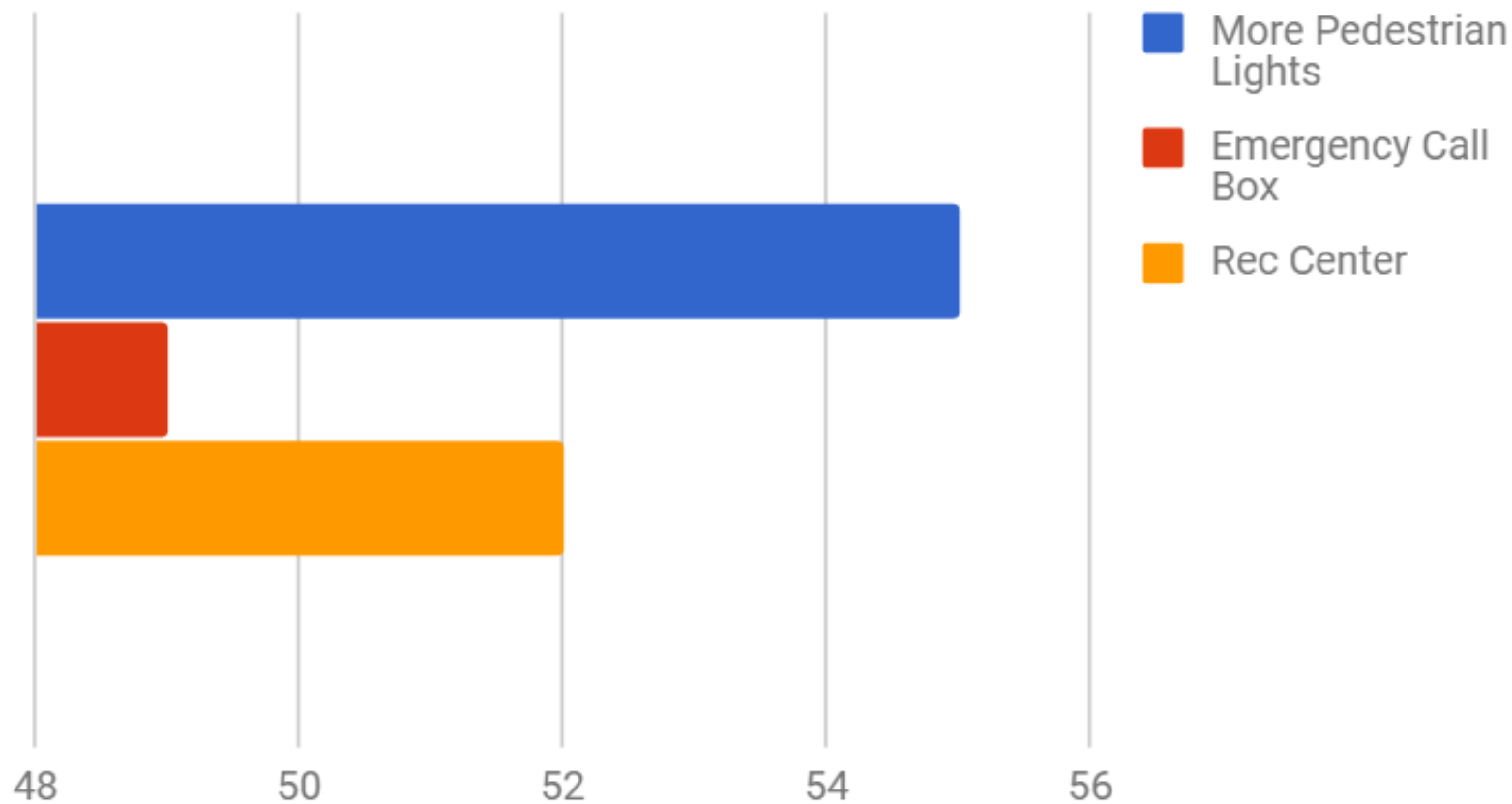
Art Amenities



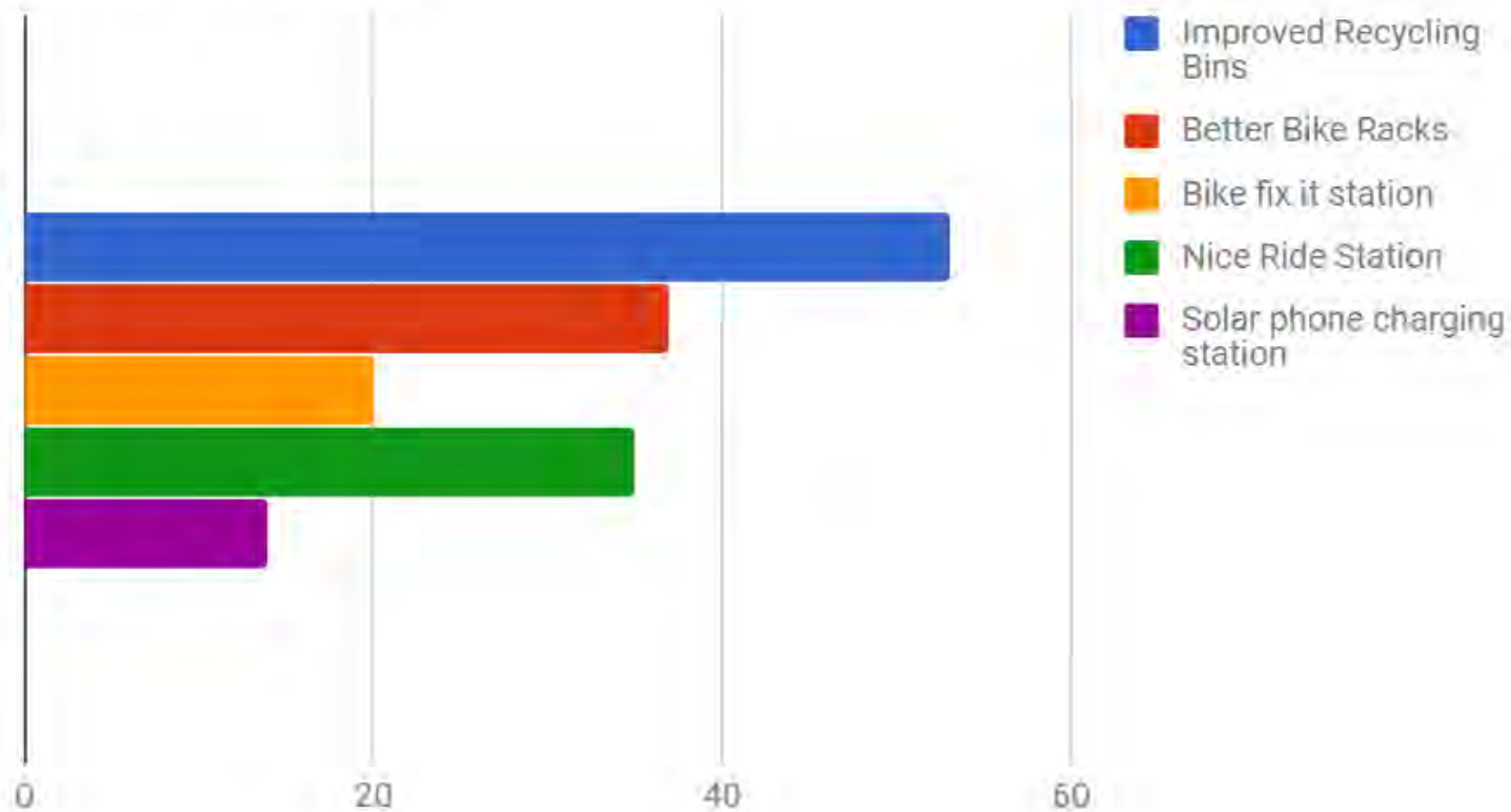
Playground Amenities



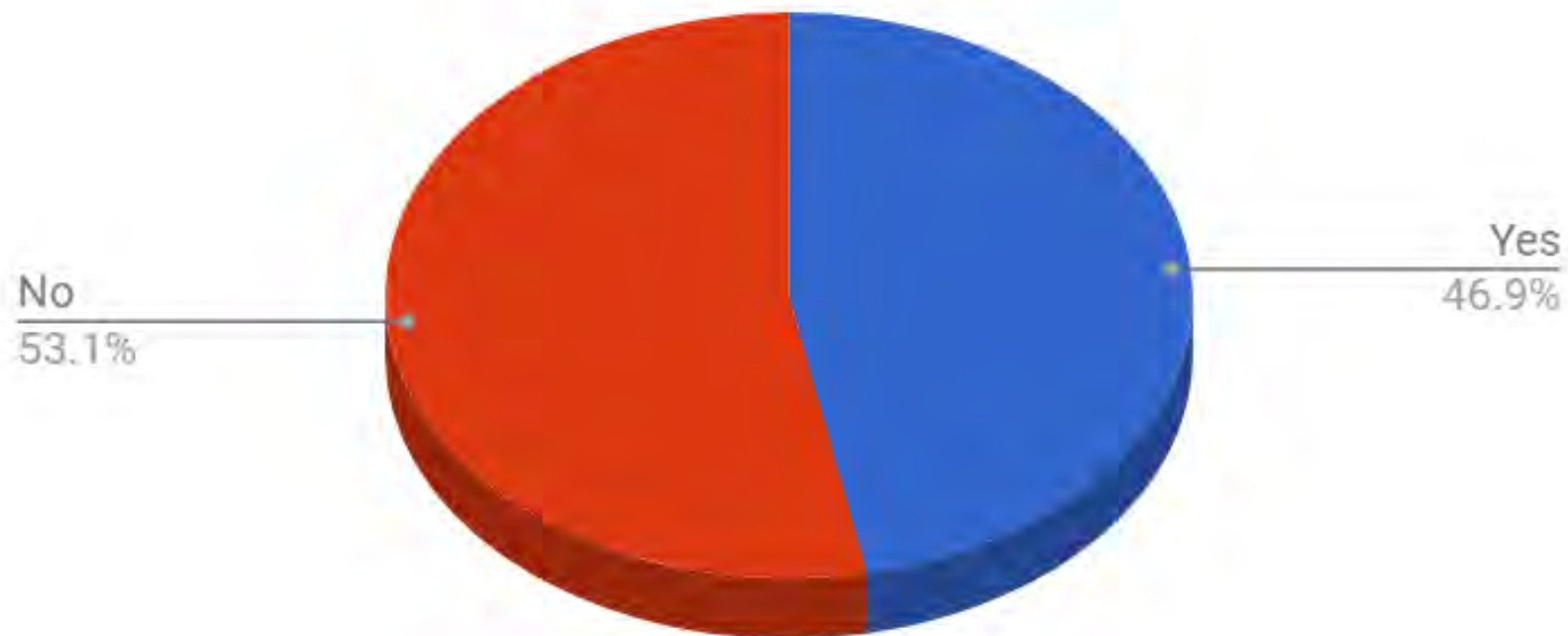
Safety Amenities



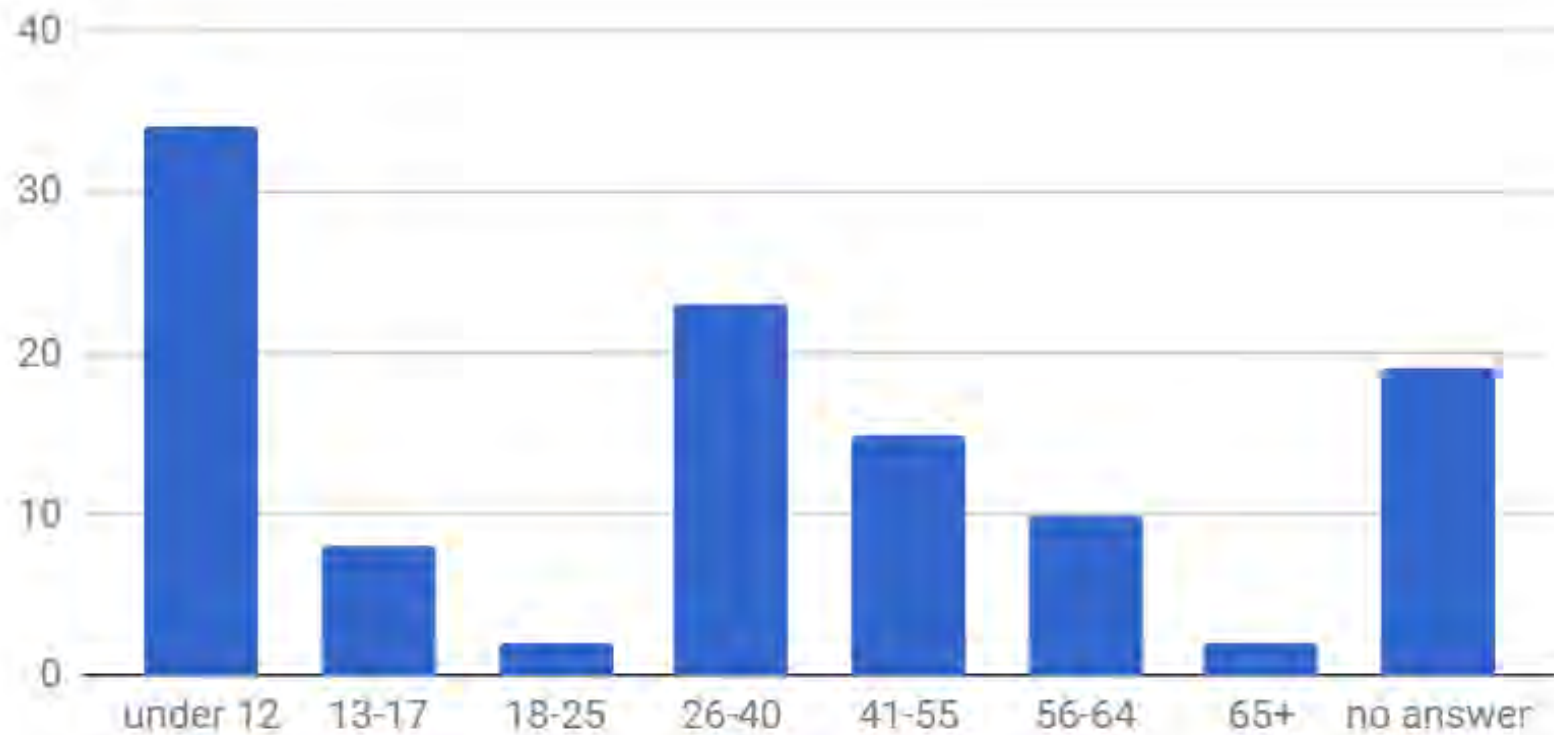
Other Amenities



Uses Park Regularly

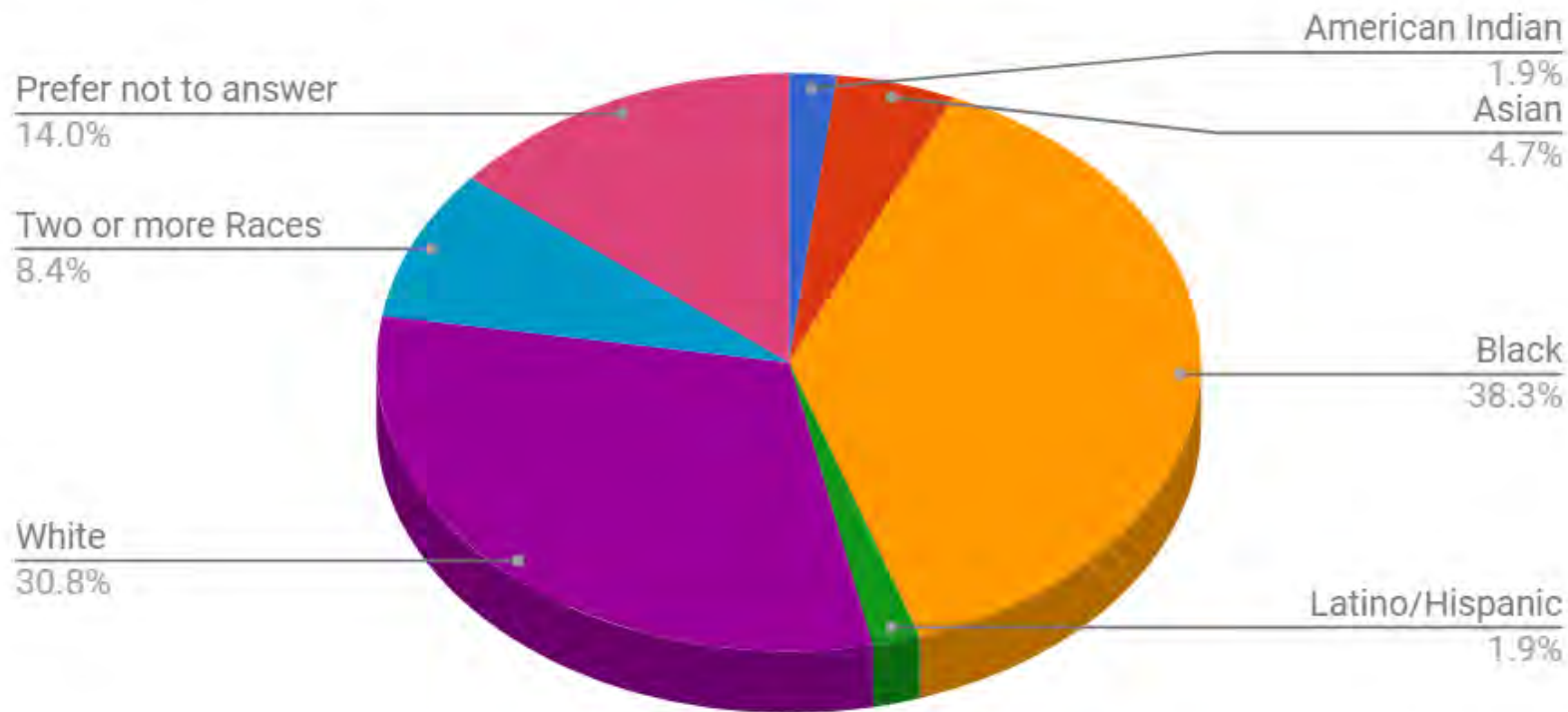


Age



Age of Individuals who responded

Race/Ethnicity





Party in Cleveland Park

Thank you MPRB's Community Advisory Committee!



After surveying 113 people and speaking with over 333 people, we were able to collect data from individuals who utilize Cleveland Park on a regular basis. We hope you use this research to fulfill the needs and wants of Cleveland Neighborhood Residents and frequent Cleveland Park visitors!

We are ENRG L.L.C. We are composed of seven dancers and we work very closely with the nonprofit Asian Media Access to teach free dance classes to kids in low income neighborhoods like North Minneapolis. Each of us are familiar with the North Minneapolis area so, we were excited to inform people about the North Service Area Plan. We were able to utilize our talent of dance to organize several street performances, in order to raise awareness about the plan itself. To advertise the plan, we passed out flyers (see attached below) and interviewed people drawn in by the performance. Below is a chart that we used to record information about the whole process. Just to clarify, the “# of people reached” column is referring to people that we had any sort of interaction with, directly, by interview or giving them a flyer as they passed by. This does not include kids and/or relatives of people who were nearby and heard us talk about the service plan.

Number	Date	Time	ENRG MEMBERS	Location	#of people reached	Percentage of people
1	7/27/17	2 hour	Jeremey, Darren, Nehemiah, Brandon, Vortex	FLOW Plymouth	23	75% knowing/able to access to the Northside Parks
2	8/6/17	3 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Nehemiah, Brandon, Vortex	Penn and Plymouth	11	40%
3	8/13/17	3 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Nehemiah, Brandon, Vortex	Penn and Plymouth	13	45%
4	8/16/17	3 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Jett, Brandon	Broadway & Penn	15	30%
5	8/20/17	3 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Nehemiah, Brandon, Vortex	Penn and Plymouth	18	60%
6	8/24/17	3.5 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Brandon, Vortex	The Walker	15	25%
7	8/27/17	3 Hours	Jeremey, Darren,	Penn and Plymouth	20	40%

			Nehemiah, Brandon, Vortex			
8	8/31/17	4 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Tin	Lowry and Lyndale	12	20%
9	9/3/17	3 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Nehemiah, Brandon, Vortex	Penn and Plymouth	17	50%
10	9/8/17	2 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Brandon, Nehemiah	Plymouth and 7th	10	25%
11	9/9/17	7 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Brandon, Nehemiah, Vortex	Broadway Open Street	40	80%
12	9/10/17	3 Hours	Jeremey, Darren, Nehemiah, Brandon, Vortex	Penn and Plymouth	22	55%
13	9/13/17	1 hour	Jeremey, Darren	Dowling and Penn	10	50%
14	9/18/19	N/A	TBD	Breaking Bread	N/A	rained out
15	10/29/17	2 hours	Jeremey, Brandon, Vortex, Darren, Chevelle	English Church at Lowry and Penn		

Selective Comments from people we interacted with:

1. "I really don't hear much about the programs over North."
2. "I played football for farview in middle school and it kept me out of trouble."
3. "my daughter plays basketball at North commons."
4. "I wish the programs were more accessible and advertised better." (A lot of similar comments like this one.)
5. "I don't know about any programs"
6. "My kids are involved with after school activities, so they don't really need to spend much time at the parks".

7. "If we could find a way to channel all the talent that the North side has to offer, then the entire twin cities would come and support."
8. "I grew up in St. Louis but, as a kid I played football for a park board team and I hope over North kids are given the same opportunities."
9. "I really like what you guys are doing out here, take these couple of dollars and get something to drink".
10. "My kids go to school over here, but they don't feel safe at the parks".
11. "You guys should do a performance over on Fremont, that area could use the love".
12. "I'm too old to go to the park programs." (a 16 years old youth's comment)
13. "Hey we were watching you guys dance through the office, do you have any flyers or info so we can spread the word for you guys about the Northside Park seeking comments. I work at KMOJ the Northside radio station."
14. "How will this affect my kids already involved in programs with the re-design?"
15. "I don't live here, just visiting but, I like the way the parks on the Northside look."
16. "Are you guys going to be doing more performances even after the grant is finished."
17. "I was kicked out of the park near my house for fighting and I can't go back."
18. "My parents to didn't want to pay for me and my brothers to play football."

North Service Area Master Plan – Engagement Report

Sept 2017

Engagement Dates/Locations

July 22 - Jordan Week of Kindness Celebration event in the Jordan neighborhood

July 15 - North Commons Park

July 29 - FLOW Northside Arts Crawl at JXTA

Aug 12 - North Commons Park

We also engaged with young people from Urban Strategies and Asian Media Access, as part of kayaking trips we did in partnership with Minneapolis Parks Foundation.

Engagement Methods and Questions

JXTA apprentices and staff created a short magazine style survey that asked people about neighborhood parks, several specific questions about parks amenities, and demographic info.

We brought these 'zines out to the parks and events with a "smoothie bike" (a stationary bike that has a blender attached so that you can make a fruit smoothie) and different example/inspiration pictures of parks.

Who We Talked To

We talked with approximately 125 people.

Zip Code:

55411 – 71%

55412 – 23%

Other zip codes (including 55405, 55403, 55443, 55454, 55430, 55428, 55416, 55412, 55413, 55414, 55103, 55123) – 6%

Gender:

Female – 58%

Male – 39%

Other – 4%

Race/ethnicity:

African American or Black (including Somali) – 77%

White – 9%

Asian (including Hmong) – 5%

Latino – 4%

Other – 3%

Age:

Under 13 – 22%

13-18 – 38%

19-25 – 8%

26-40 – 16%

40-64 – 12%

65+ - 0%

What We Heard

We asked the following questions, based on MPRB questions, goals and planning areas, and our own thoughts as Northside park users and community members. These are the themes of what people said.

Do you and your family spend time at the park?

- A lot of time: 51%
- Sometimes: 46%
- Never: 3%

If yes, which park do you spend the most time at?

North Commons	51%	Willard	4%
Jordan	8%	Sumner Field	4%
Farview	8%	Wirth	4%
Cleveland	4%	Farwell	2%
Willard	4%	Cottage	2%
Webber	4%	Bethune	2%
Folwell	4%		

If you do spend time at a park, what brings you there?

- Spending time with family and friends
- Swimming/the pool
- Sports – basketball, soccer, football
- Playground
- Eating, grilling
- Events and people

Or if you don't go to the parks, why not?

- Violence
- I'm busy

What would bring you there?

- Events
- Activities for kids/family time

What areas of your park do you feel need immediate improvement?

- Basketball courts – maintenance, new courts (Sumner Field, North Commons, Farview)
- Pools and swimming:
 - More swimming areas/pools
 - Good park, but pool closes too often (Webber)
 - Larger and cleaner pool (Farview)
 - Keeping the pool maintained (North Commons)
- Playgrounds – needs a makeover/better playground, needs to be bigger, updated things for kids to do, border around playground to keep small children in (North Commons and in general)
- More benches and seating (North Commons especially)
- Cleanliness – bathrooms, more trash bins
- Fewer police – don't allow police to drive on the grass, if they are there they should be on bikes engaging with the community (Jordan)



JUXTAPOSITION ARTS

Do you want to see changes in any of these areas?

Water fountains

88% say yes (many are broken, there aren't enough, need to drink after playing, want colder water, way to fill up bottles like Minneapolis Taps)

13% say no

Benches

73% say yes (need more places to sit and rest, benches create conversation, more benches by pool, replace/fix benches, use better materials)

28% say no

Lights

68% say yes (makes the park feel safer, it's too dark, good for playing sports at night)

32% say no

Sand vs Woodchips

59% prefer woodchips (sand gets in eyes, is less messy, cleaner, doesn't get into the pool)

41% prefer sand (less painful on feet)

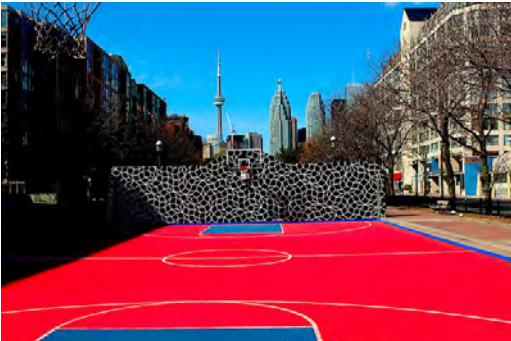
JXTA

JUXTAPOSITION ARTS

What does your dream park look like?

- Art and color, including art that is “functional” (art that you interact with, or that is built into playground, sports areas, or other park amenities)
- Water play (pools, splash pads)
- Variety of seating
- More opportunities and more different kinds of places for play and exploration, including free exercise equipment for all generations
- Clean and safe
- Wifi
- Events, activities for families, and spaces for performing and gathering
- Rec centers with year-round activities and jobs

These are the pictures that people circled most when talking about their dream park.



July 22, Jordan Week of Kindness Celebration Event

32 people total

Under 13 - 9

13-18 - 13

19-24 - 3

25-39 - 5

40-64 - 2

Black - 24

White - 4

Latino - 3

Asian - 1

Female - 17

Male - 15

55411 - 15

55412 - 10

Parks:

Cleveland
Farwell
North Commons
North Commons
North Commons
Willard
Jordan
Jordan
Farview
Webber
Webber

What people said

Farview

- Make pool bigger
- Fix the outdoor basketball hoops
- Put the basketball hoops back up
- Keep the pool maintained

Jordan

- Less police
- Community quotes "why do we need police at a park all of the time?"
- Do not allow the police to drive in the grass
- If the police come maybe on bikes engaging with the community

- Little kids swimming are not criminals

Webber

- Good park it looks good

North commons

- Keep the pool maintained

Overall – Notes about example images:

- Color, & more art that you can play on
- Poetry, artful, art you could use (fruit huts)
- Most circled - Colorful basketball courts, Splash pads and water play

FLOW - July 29

Future of Northside Parks poster/engagement area - about 50 people engaged

Post-it comments, categorized by theme

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT-

Getting high schoolers involved with building

COMMUNITY GARDEN GREENHOUSES-

-more community gardens with greenhouses

Integrate native plants with signs (signs with info about plants and bugs)

Community gardens

Community gardens (55413)

PUBLIC ART-

-more public art

Graffiti board-55412

Public art

Art from local artists (55413)

Murals

Art and play that represents community and history

Sculpture next to "Be the Match"

Street art

Art structure for climbing and playing

Murals

FREE VALUES-

Free water parks

The water parks should be free-55414

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT-

Minneapolis taps

PLAYGROUND VALUES AND PARKS-

Very interactive playground-55103

Better playground equipment

Interactive

Agriculture

MLK Park

Running trails and free weight machines (55413)

Used material for park

Better playgrounds

Sign with list of exercises to do on object

Venues at parks

Bike lanes connected

Hear nature

Chime tree

Sculpture next to "Be the Match"

Activities and events

Urban farming

Less concrete

More shade

Gathering spaces

Exercise equipment (ages 8-80)

OTHER-

More color-55414
Shops
Imaginative play
Design/color

SAFETY-

More, better lighting-55411
Phone booth
Free collect calls
Mentors/Employees to keep parks safe
More streetlights, more colorful (55455)

LIVE EVENTS-

Live music events
Performing place (55413)

INDOOR ACTIVITIES AND INDOOR FOR REC CENTERS-

Indoor activity center for winter
Performing arts in rec center-55403

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND VALUES-

Hammocks rock!!-55108
Merry-go-rounds
More pools
More bike trails
Multi-season gathering spaces (heat)
Nature inspired
Hammocks
A park that makes you never want to leave!
Better walking paths
Treehouse
Canals
Performing place (55413)
Sign with list of exercises to do on object
Reading space
Wifi
Outdoor theater
Amphitheater
Urban farming

WATER PARKS-

Better water park

Park Connectors NoMi Roots: Final Report

Engagement activities

7.11.2017 30 STEP-UP students and their supervisors for taco lunch. Tried to talk to the whole group about the parks, they could only listen for a short time. Brought out the boards and the kids filled them out in the grass. Handed out the survey, but most of them were not filled out.

7.19.2017 50 people for Southern lunch, including 20 from the assisted living, 20 STEP-UP students and 10 neighbors. After lunch, talked about the parks and filled up the boards with dots. A couple of kids and a UM intern went to talk to some folks from the assisted living facility about the parks.

7.17.2017 to 7.20.2017 Handed out flyers door to door in the neighborhood twice.

7.22.2017 10 people for pot luck lunch. Had 5 people from the neighborhood and 2 people who responded to our flyers. Got a few comments about the parks on the boards.

8.1.2017 Attended Neighborhood Night Out at St. Olaf from 6 to 8. About 65 people came, talked about the parks. Kids have opinions, but did not want to fill out the surveys.

8.2.2017 30 for lunch including 10 younger students from Youth Farm. Pulled out the boards and added dots on the grass.

8.5.2017 Attended an event in Harrison, but on one else came, so we weeded and talked about life, including the parks.

8.10.2017 Final gathering at UROC, talked to 40 STEP-UP students about the parks. Put dots on the boards and traded green tomato muffins for completed surveys.

Reflections on the boards

The pictures are a good instigator for thoughts about the parks. The green dot red dot directions help some, but even with verbal directions I am not sure what the dots mean. Also what to do with the other colors? When anyone goes to put a dot on the picture, they have a specific thought in mind. I think you lose the specifics in the generalization of the dot. But there is so much data from so many people, that maybe the specifics either kind of get lost or are not needed in the cloud of data that is developed. With the rain, the grass and the kids, our boards got loved a lot and show their wear.

Farview Park

The drinking fountains and basketball courts need improvement. The pool is too small and the playground needs improvement. The fields are good and another kid wanted more space to play football for pickup games. Written requests for a pollinator garden, veggie garden, and fruit and nut trees. Also a request for a water feature, more shade and tennis courts. Not sure what to think about a mix of red and green dots on one sheet and green and a yellow dot on another sheet. Also not sure what the other colors of dots that showed up mean.

Harrison Park

More written comments. Fix basketball court and more basketball courts on the outside. Better water fountain and pool. New football field and upscale to turf! New baseball field. By the dots, pretty much everything outside needs help, except the picnic tables. The rec center itself got green dots. We did get these boards late, so I think less people saw them and more of them were in a setting where writing on the boards was easy.

Jordan Park

The jungle gyms and shaded seating are pretty much a hit. The fields and the horse shoe space are not so much hits. Although the pool was green dotted in both big pictures, it was covered in red in the small picture. Comments include too much space, less lawn and more pollinator, native plants and veggies! Food trees and gardens. Also a request for tennis courts. The request for public restrooms and more security was written on this sheet, but probably could be generalized to all the parks.

North Commons Park

The most important comments on this park are there are too many drug dealers and they need a safer area. The comments also included that the pool is too small, although there were lots of green and yellow dots on the pools. The tennis courts got both dots and a request. The baseball courts got both green and red/yellow dots depending on the picture. I am not sure what the red dots in the green trees mean.

Existing Facilities

Pretty much all the activities got some dots. Ice skating, sledding, the field, baseball and the pool all got the most dots. Other requests were to fix the basketball court, nasty pool and like and eat snow. Another kid wanted to be able to swim at Webber.

New Ideas

There were red dots on skateboarding and kids playing in the mud. There were mixed dots on soccer, the climbing wall and the dog park. There was not much interest in a big sports center. Pollinator habitat, archery, sledding, an amphitheater, sculpture, sand volleyball, picnic area, outdoor basketball, tennis, indoor tennis, gardening, adult exercise area, kids play area and pools all got a good reception. Comments added gardens, flowers, veggies, wildflower habitat, tennis courts, public restrooms and security.

NoMi Roots Summary of Park Survey Findings

STEP-UP Students who participated in this grant helped design a survey to give to the community asking a few basic questions about what people wanted from parks. We determined that the big questions were what facilities, events and safety measures are important for Northside Parks. I then developed the students' ideas into a 7-question survey that we used at our events. Getting kids to fill out the surveys was not easy, especially since a lot of the kids were excited about lunch and hanging out with their friends, so a lot of our data was collected on our park posters provided by MPRB. Eventually we figured out that surveys could easily be filled out by offering students a snack in exchange. In the future, this will be an important part of the survey strategy, and we will use the surveys as a lunch or snack ticket instead.

The results of the surveys are summarized roughly in a series of charts we put together based on the responses we received. The overall trend is that kids and young adults are looking for the parks to be better equipped for sports and recreation facilities, but also for the social function of parks. In other words, simply remodeling park facilities will not be enough, rather programming the right events for the community to participate in will build the parks as a space for safe socialization. Survey responses support music and sporting events.

Speaking with adults furthers this claim that the parks need to become spaces for socialization and community building. Nearly every adult agreed with the youth that they would like to see programming that brings families and friends out to the park. Something I found particularly interesting was that many adults offered to bring their own skills and time to the table, whether it be as a musician, child educator, basketball coach or educator. With the Northside being an area where unemployment is a concern, it seems that many adults and seniors are willing to step in to help run these new park programs, suggesting that the labor needed to accomplish community building is already on the Northside.

We would also like to briefly mention that many people admired our program of growing food and feeding the community, and expressed that they would be interested in seeing programs like ours at their local parks. In terms of building community, free food and dining options consistently bring people together, and with the park system having so much land, starting community gardens or orchards on park land could be feasible in the future. Of course, this is just one of many ways to build community with the parks, but for starters park programming might want to consider reaching out to the number of Northside community organizations who promote outdoor activities like gardening and good health to bring folks together. With talks of a food forest being developed for South Minneapolis, it seems that many folks on the Northside are interested in having one as well, and the park board should again consider reaching out to the vast network of Northsiders working to promote healthy living and outdoor activities to help improve the environment of North Minneapolis. While the Northside lacks many resources, it is these community connections that have helped keep the neighborhood together.

~Lucas Zeidner

MPRB North Regional Master Plan Survey

The following questions will help us gather information on how to improve park facilities and programs in your neighborhood. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability, and feel free to add notes to the back of the survey.

1. What North Minneapolis park(s) do you use most often?

2. How often do you go to a park in North Minneapolis?
 - a. Every day
 - b. Once or twice a week
 - c. A few times every month
 - d. A few times every year
 - e. Never
 - f. Other _____

3. What kinds of activities and facilities bring you to the parks in North Minneapolis?

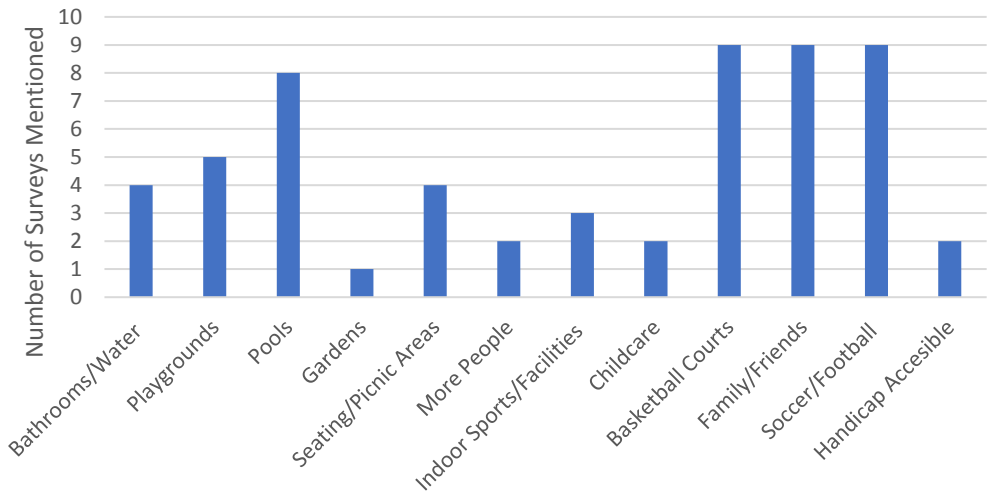
4. What facilities need to be improved in North Minneapolis parks?

5. What facilities would you like to see added to your neighborhood parks?

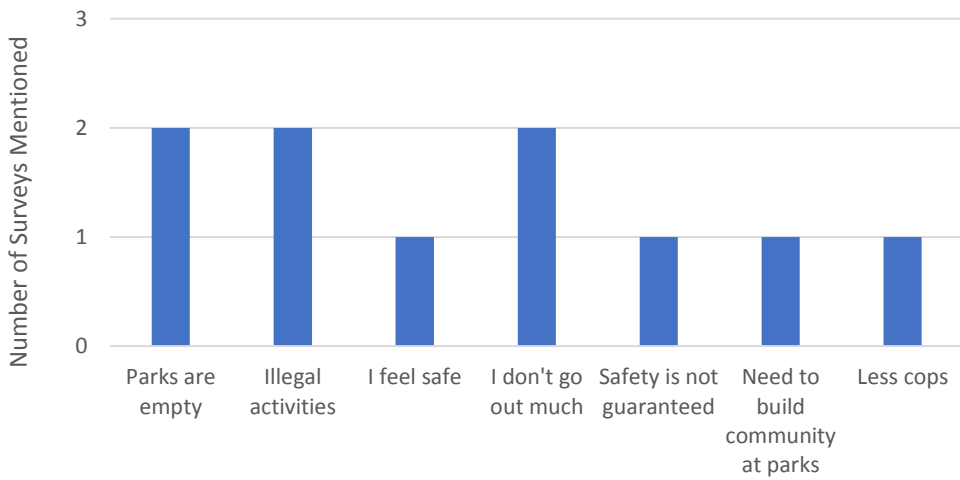
6. What kinds of events would you like to see at Northside parks (i.e. youth sports, community dining, music)?

7. On a scale of 1 to 10, how safe do you feel at North Minneapolis parks (10=very safe, 1=dangerous)? Why?

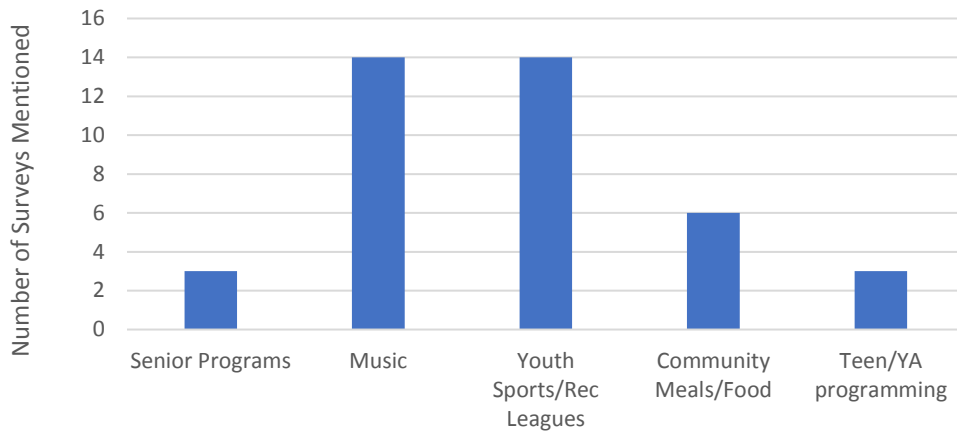
Facility Changes by Mention in Surveys



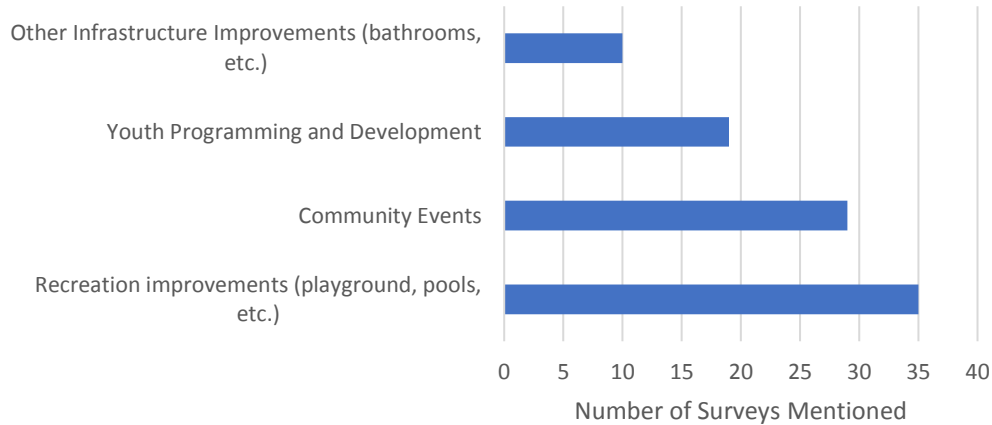
Safety Opinions by Mention in Surveys



Park Programming Recommendations by Mention in Surveys



Overall Trends in Park Improvement Interests by Mentions in Surveys



Park Connectors NoMi Roots: First Report

- Found a two burner propane stove in the shipping container storage shed.
- The stove works!
- Bumped the extra propane tank from my house and filled it up.
- Made a trip to Savers and outfitted our kitchen.
- Thought we needed to make benches for seating. Found a plan and got the wood. Made a good connection with the church and are using outdoor folding chairs that we carry back and forth.
- Tried a couple of meals with our kitchen to see how it all works.
- Had an opportunity to invite the step up kids to our place for lunch, so we did that.
- Made tacos for 30 people and it worked pretty well. We needed a better plan for serving.
- After lunch we got out the boards and invited the kids to put on their dots. The grassy hill worked pretty well.
- Hard to know how much and what to say to a large group. I think our timing could have been better. The kids were getting bored and were ready to play football, at that point moved to the grass.
- We also made up a survey that we thought we would use, copied them and tried them out. None of the kids were interested in filling them out. If the kids couldn't fill them out, I had them sit next to me and I helped. They all go to some park and had comments. I am not sure that you are getting much detail in the data, but you may have enough data that you don't need much detail. Found a couple of the surveys in the compost bin or the garbage, will include them in what we send to you.
- I sent 28 pictures from my phone to your email. I didn't know if there was some better way. I sent them all so you or your media folks could edit.
- Made up a flyer, but have not handed them out yet. Did count an hour of work from everyone for the event. They all helped in some way or other: cooking, carrying chairs, handing out dots, cleaning up.

Patsy Parker

7/24/2017

Park Connectors NoMi Roots: Second Report

- Thursday we could not close up the tent, a side piece was broken.
- Monday, the tent had flown across the garden over the weekend and was still broken, so we folded it up and took it apart.
- Flyered twice with the step up kids and a UMN intern.
- Planned a southern community meal with residents of the assisted living facility.
- Realized we needed to talk to the administration of the facility and events director to get it all ok'ed. They made a check in list.
- Another step up group got our email and also planned to come for lunch.
- Adam emailed and also planned to come for lunch.
- Realized we needed a tent for shade for our big lunch, so got one.
- The day before, picked greens for our lunch, got the chicken and delivered it to our favorite local cook of fried chicken and got ready for the party.
- Set up tents, chairs, tables for eating and serving. Cooked vegetarian greens, cut the watermelon saved from the food shelf, made corn bread, rice and all pitched in to help.
- Served about 20 from the assisted living facility, 10 or so other step up kids, Adam, our 10+ kids and a few folks from the neighborhood who wanted lunch, for a grand total of 50 or so.
- The step up kids were great, helping to set up, serve lunch to the folks from assisted living who had a little trouble balancing everything on their wheel chairs. Gave all the kids another hour for helping with the setup, take down and everything in between.
- After lunch we talked about the parks a bit, put out the boards on the grass and added dots.
- A couple of step up students and a UMN intern talked to groups of assisted living folks about their experiences with the parks.
- Saturday sponsored a garden event about the parks and composting. Five folks from the neighborhood came, including one adult who actually had no previous connection with the garden. Got a few comments about the parks.
- Felt like flyering was not the most productive way to find people, seemed better to go where they already are.
- Will send you pictures later. I would like the photos that Adam took of talking to the assisted living folks.

Patsy Parker

8/13/2017

Park Connectors NoMi Roots: Third Report

- Nobody was coming to our lunches on Wednesday or Saturday except us and the occasional person from the Assisted Living or the streets who was looking for food.
- Decided to go where the people were.
- Attended Neighborhood Night Out at St. Olaf and tried taking surveys about the parks. Kids have opinions, but don't want to take surveys.
- Picked up the Harrison board and planned to take it to an event at the Irving garden. No one was there except the regular composters and gardeners who weeded and talked. Due to a miscommunication the boards got rained on. So we dried them out.
- There were two groups of young people who had not put dots on the boards, so we made plans to invite them to lunch.
- We had lunch with the kids from Youth Farm. They brought salad and we made curry and rice. Another step up group joined us, so there were 30 for lunch. We carried across the chairs, set up an extra table and ate good food together.
- After lunch we pulled out the boards and helped the little kids put dots on the boards. Kids know exactly what they want to say and nothing more. One kid wanted to swim at Webber Park and didn't want to add to that. I hope the dots really give you the information that you want.
- Everybody helped clean up and I gave our folks another hour for helping with set up, take down and everything else.
- Our site was going to be the location for the final gathering, so we planned to capture information from the last group of step up kids and have a party.
- The next day we were canning and taking video, so we were joined by two other groups for lunch. The kids made three dishes straight out of the garden, salad and dressing (made in a red solo cup with oil, vinegar, lemon and whatever else they added by a group of Somali girls who were definitely trying something new), vegetarian greens and chow chow, which got eaten instead of canned. Of course it rained, so we had a great time under our tents trying to stay sort of dry. Just in time the rain let up and we cleaned up. Growing food, cooking real food, eating together and composting are a combination of activities that really helps kids to learn about good food and the earth. Might be a winning combination for the parks. I don't know if I am supposed to put in a plug, but the kids were so excited and pleased with what they had done.
- I will send pictures of our lunches and putting dots on the boards.

Patsy Parker

9/27/2017

Park Connectors NoMi Roots: Fourth Report

- We were planning on a big party for our final time with the step up kids, but had to change to a short notice event at UROC.
- Talked with the 40 step up students about the Parks.
- Had the boards out on the tables and asked kids who had not put on dots to add their dots.
- Gave all the students a survey about the parks and traded a finished survey for a green tomato muffin.
- I will send pictures of our final event.

Patsy Parker

9/28/2017

NRRC Community Connector Events

On **July 7** NRRC partnered with the Minneapolis Park Board to bring neighbors to Farwell Park to help vision its future. The turnout for this event was strong with approximately 100 attendees. Music was provided by Urban Flavor and food trucks were on hand. MPB collected information from residents regarding their vision and perspectives for Farwell and other Northside Parks' future.

Our next event was a National Night out Celebration held at Farwell Park on **August 1**. NRRC partnered with the Minneapolis Park Board and We Care Performing to bring neighbors together for National Night Out. Music and entertainment was provided by youth who attended the We Care Summer Program at Farwell Park and NRRC resident, the First Lady of Song, Debbie Duncan. This was a potluck event that was attended by 100 plus residents. Again MPB collected information from residents regarding their vision and perspective for Farwell and other Northside Parks' future.

Our final Community Connector Event occurred **September 2**. This time NRRC partnered with the Minneapolis Park Board and the Northside Educational Alliance (NEA) to produce a Youth Urban Arts Festival that would specifically target what youth wanted to see at Farwell Park. All of the logistics of this event were coordinated by NEA's youth council which is comprised of youth ages 15-19. The Lioness, Kaleem the Dream, and ZuluZuluu provided the entertainment and there were also arts vendors and food trucks on hand. Approximately 75 people attended and data on perspectives on Farwell Parks' future was recorded by Minneapolis Park Board staff.

Though all of the official data for these events was collected by Minneapolis Park Board Staff, NRRC did recognize some consistent themes in comments to NRRC staff. **Residents were grateful for all of the events, appreciated their diversity in focus and hoped that more such community events would be held at Farwell Park and that there would be another opportunity to hold a music series at this park. Residents also requested more programming for elementary age children and a park shelter.**



FINAL REPORT
REDEEMER CENTER for LIFE

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
North Service Area Master Plan
Community Connectors

Redeemer Center for Life was honored to work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) as a Community Connector generating community engagement and input to the North Service Area Master Planning process in 2017. Redeemer Center for Life hosted MPRB staff and materials at two events, promoted the NSA planning process and other input opportunities at a wide range of community events, open hours and program activities, and in a cross-collaboration RCFL's YouthBank supported the youth-led planning team for one of the NRRC Community Connector events.



Redeemer Annual Block Party

- Wednesday August 16th
- MPRB staff and display
- Redeemer campus 1800 Glenwood in the Harrison neighborhood
- 600+ attendees - est. 45% African-American 25% Euro-American, also Latin American, Chicano, East Asian and African immigrant/refugee.

H-Cubed: Summer Takeover - Freedom Friday

- Friday August 25th
- Hosted MPRB staff and display
- Freedom Square 2400 block West Broadway Avenue
- 100+ attendees - est. 65% African-American, 20% Euro-American, also Latin American, Chicano, East Asian and African immigrant/refugee.



Change 3rd Event to Marketing and Directed Input

Originally we had planned to have MPRB staff at Redeemer's final weekly summer cookout as well, but the cookout was rained out. With no equivalent event on the horizon, we instead redoubled efforts to hype the NSAMP process and input possibilities with all smaller events and routine community activity. We posted the NSAMP FAQ summary in Redeemer spaces including Venture North Bike Shop, the Living Room which hosts regular Health Commons drop in hours as well as community workshops and events, and in the Redeemer church and nonprofit offices. We spoke of Redeemer's support for the NSAMP as a community connector at events including summer cookouts, with summer STEP-UP interns Community Leadership curriculum, bike youth programs, church events and encouraged folks to look for NSAMP input displays at the specific Redeemer events and events throughout the Northside, to talk with neighbors, and to visit the Minneapolis Parks website.

YouthBank is a youth-led funding mechanism to support youth-led projects for the Northside. One of the projects in the first round of Redeemer YouthBank funding this summer was for a youth team to create the Northside Youth Arts Festival at Farwell Park which hosted MPRB & NSAMP input via NRRC as the Community Connector.

The overarching desire worth reporting here from informal conversations has several layers 1) the community wants to feel safe and welcome enjoying the parks 2) when policing is the main tactic, safety the solution becomes the problem creating unsafe/unwelcome atmosphere especially for teens/young adults targeted 3) the more positive, community based, activity based approaches to creating a welcoming atmosphere in Northside parks the better. A fantastic range of other ideas also entered conversation which we encouraged to folks to share in official channels, though we promise youth getting in trouble for fire-starting in North Commons that we'd include their request for legit fire rings and firewood in some of the Northside parks.



**MPRB North Service Area
Community Connector Report – Submitted by Cathy Spann
September 11, 2017**

I have lived and worked in North Minneapolis for 20+ years. I have had the opportunity to work, consult and volunteer in North Minneapolis public and social service organizations such as North Point Health and Wellness Center, Summit Academy OIC, Avenues for Homeless Youth, and most recently the Jordan Area Community Council.

As part of this community engagement project, I selected the pocket parks located in the Jordan neighborhood. Jordan is mainly a residential neighborhood. A community representing the widest breadth of lifestyles and demographics in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Bordered on the north by Lowry Avenue and on the east by Emerson Avenue, it has a unique border on the south and west created by West Broadway Avenue.

The Jordan neighborhood major strength is its composition of racially and ethnically diverse residents. I targeted communities of color primarily African American, Youth, Immigrants and Homeless. I collaborated with Great is Thy Faithfulness COGIC to door knock and facilitate two pop up events in the Jordan Neighborhood and one youth focus group. I recruited eight community residents to assist with coordination and planning of events.

I hosted two outdoor pop up events, at the neighborhood pocket parks, one in Cottage Park and the other held at GlenGale Park. I collaborated with a local artist and used creative place making tools, such as SparkIt to engage youth and families. Community resident's door knocked and did flyer distribution to 57+ households, surrounding the immediate area of both parks.

I facilitated one youth focus group, under age 17, at the Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls club and twenty-one youth participated.

Event & location	Date	Attendees
Cottage Park,	July 13, 2017	22
Glengale Park, 2448 Illion Ave	August 12, 2017	32
Jerry Gamble Boy and Girls club	September 8, 2017	30

84 individuals were engaged, 50 surveys were collected from 31 females and 19 males, ranging from 17 or younger to 60 or older.

Of the individuals, that completed the survey:

- 13 visited the parks 5-7 times per week
- 18 visited the parks 2-3 times per week,
- 6 visited the parks a few times a month and
- 12 visited the parks a few times per year
- 1 visited the park never

A few pertinent issues or concerns that were highlighted by community residents were:

- Crime and safety; drug activity
- More equipment; i.e. swings, basketball courts or hoops, benches, tables
- Cleanliness of the parks
- Wood chips versus sand
- People use park as a dog park, a fence is needed and signage
- Use more of the green space; i.e. install a pool
- Host family friendly activities

The MPRB staff provided poster boards and the following questions were asked of community residents at each event:

1. What types of facilities do you and your family currently used?

- Playground equipment
- Swimming pool & water slides
- Basketball courts
- Baseball fields
- Bike trails

2. What else would you like to see at Your Park?

- More benches
- A pool
- A stage - music, power outlets
- Same stuff or items as Powderhorn Park in South Minneapolis
- Expansion of what already exist
- Larger slides
- Bike trail
- More swings
- Merry go round
- Seesaw
- Wood chips versus sand
- Monkey bars
- A club house/playhouse
- A fence around the playground area

3. Glen Gale Park – How can we improve this Park?

- Host movies in the park
- Add more swings, slides and tables
- Basketball courts
- Rock climbing
- Remove the maypole, its dangerous
- More activities coordinated with others

- Water fountain
- Add a pool
- Change the parks dirt/sand foundation to black tar
- Trampoline
- More special events i.e. SE Asian night, soul night, Caribbean night

4. Cottage Park – How Can We Improve this Park?

- Address crime issues
- More events
- BBQ grills
- Basketball hoops
- Gardening
- Exercise in the park
- Soccer
- Water park
- Toddler tables and 2 picnic tables, a play house
- Climbing walls bigger
- Wood chips versus sand
- Park needs to be cleaned

Additional comments from residents:

- Nice place to bring my daughter
- Enjoy being around my own people
- Hire someone to be in the park and engage children & youth
- Cottage park is improving, the area is making great progress, keep up the good work
- I don't like coming to these parks, nothing to do
- Parks are convenient for families
- Parks need to be upgraded
- The park floods – Glen Gale
- No concerns, love the parks
- Nicely designed
- The parks are amazing