

City of Evanston, IL

Independence Park Improvements

Community Open House #2
Chandler-Newberger Community Center
Thursday March 23, 2023 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Feedback
Summary



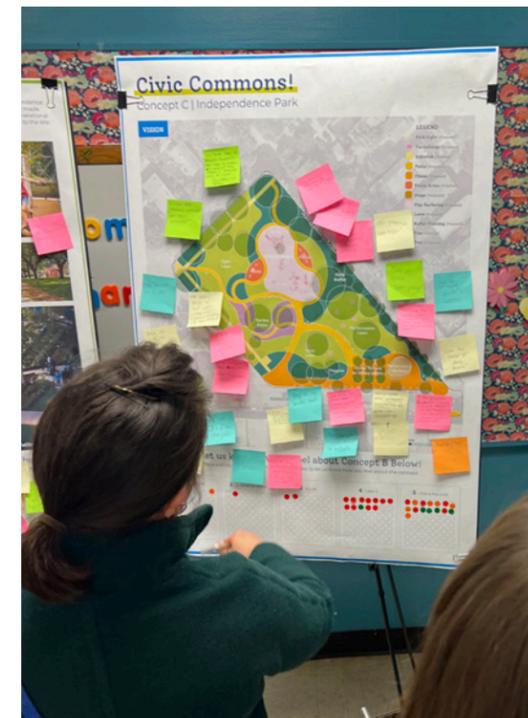
Community Open House #2

Chandler-Newberger Community Center
Thursday March 23, 2023 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Independence Park | Concept Review

The planning team hosted an open house style meeting with the Evanston community at the Chandler-Newberger Community Center on Thursday March 23, 2023. During the event, which ran from 6p-8p, attendees engaged in a collective discussion, and then participated in a series of interactive exercises, designed to explore their thoughts and ideas for each of the three design concepts. 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 second of three community engagement touch points that will be held during the planning process.



Pleasure Ground!

Concept A | Independence Park

What do you love most?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 03/23. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

“Love the mix of seating with terrace chairs and picnic tables with lights and adirondacks ”

“Love love the ground of the playground!”

“Picnic grove looks very pleasant.”

What could be better?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 03/23. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

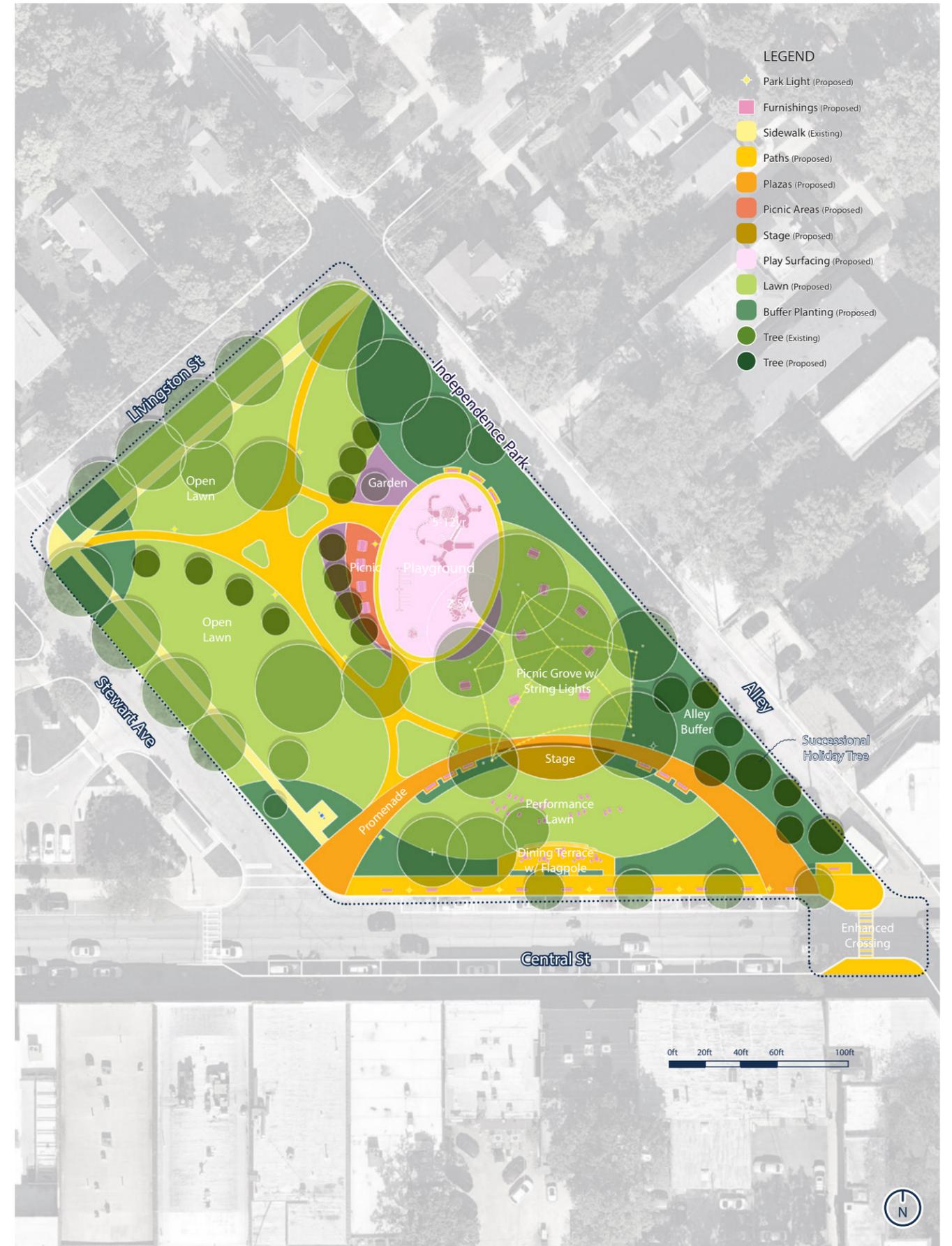
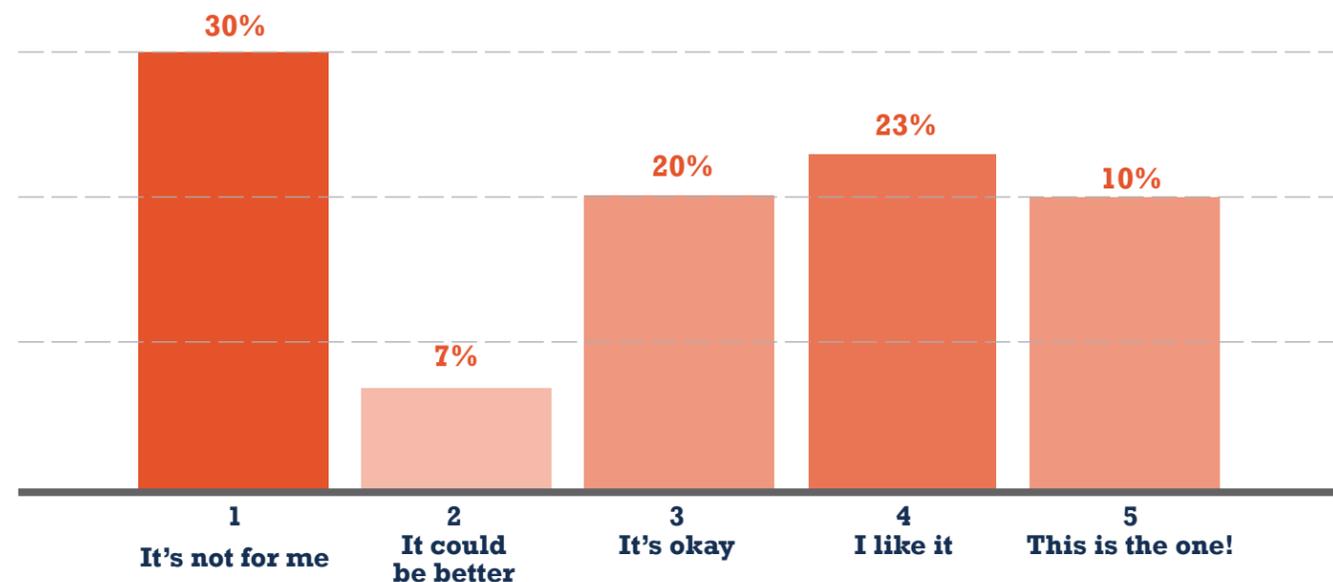
“Given how limited our ‘mild weather’ season is, dedicating a ton of space to events seem unnecessary”

“Too much space for a performance lawn.”

“Please provide bathrooms. This is a major hub of Central St. and people need to have basic needs met.”

Let us know how you feel about Concept A Below!

89 | Total Score
30 | # of Votes



Pleasure Ground!

Concept A | Independence Park



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!
●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●●
○	○	○	○	○
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Inspiration

Concept A draws inspiration from the historical term "pleasure ground" meaning a landscape designed for outdoor use and enjoyment. This concept minimizes hardscape in favor of large open passive lawns and ornamental plantings. Long, sweeping paths provide constantly changing views and access from all corners of the park.



What do you love most?

Write your answer on a post it note and post it here.

Sticky Notes:

- Bathrooms please!
- Would like more crosswalks across central
- good trees to plant
- Zip line
- Please provide... (multiple notes)
- Need barrier on central st - ornamental landscaping with no kids
- Love the idea of the garden near the playground
- Love the idea of the garden near the playground
- Restrooms
- Garbage/Recycle/Compost Bin
- I'd like walls that kids/adults can sit on like at McCallough
- Green how to... (multiple notes)
- Swing Seating
- PLEASE NOTE: THIS FEELS LIKE A COMMUNITY SPACE... DOWN TO EARTH... COMMUNITY... PEOPLE WOULD LOVE TO SEE THIS STAGE
- LOVE THE STAGE... BUT THE STAGE IS TOO BIG
- PLEASE PROVIDE TERRACING BETWEEN CENTRAL AND STAGE... AND MAKE SURE THERE'S A PLACE TO SIT FOR PEOPLE WATCHING THE STAGE
- DO NOT WANT THE PLAYGROUND TO BE TOO CLOSE TO THE STAGE... CHANGE THE PLAYGROUND APPROXIMATELY 10 FEET AWAY FROM THE STAGE
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Destination Play!

Concept B | Independence Park

What do you love most?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 03/23. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

“Love the aesthetic of nature play near gathering spaces!”

“Expanded play areas for more age ranges is preferred! Other parks nearby are too small.”

“Stage facing to the play is great to include all.”

What could be better?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 03/23. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

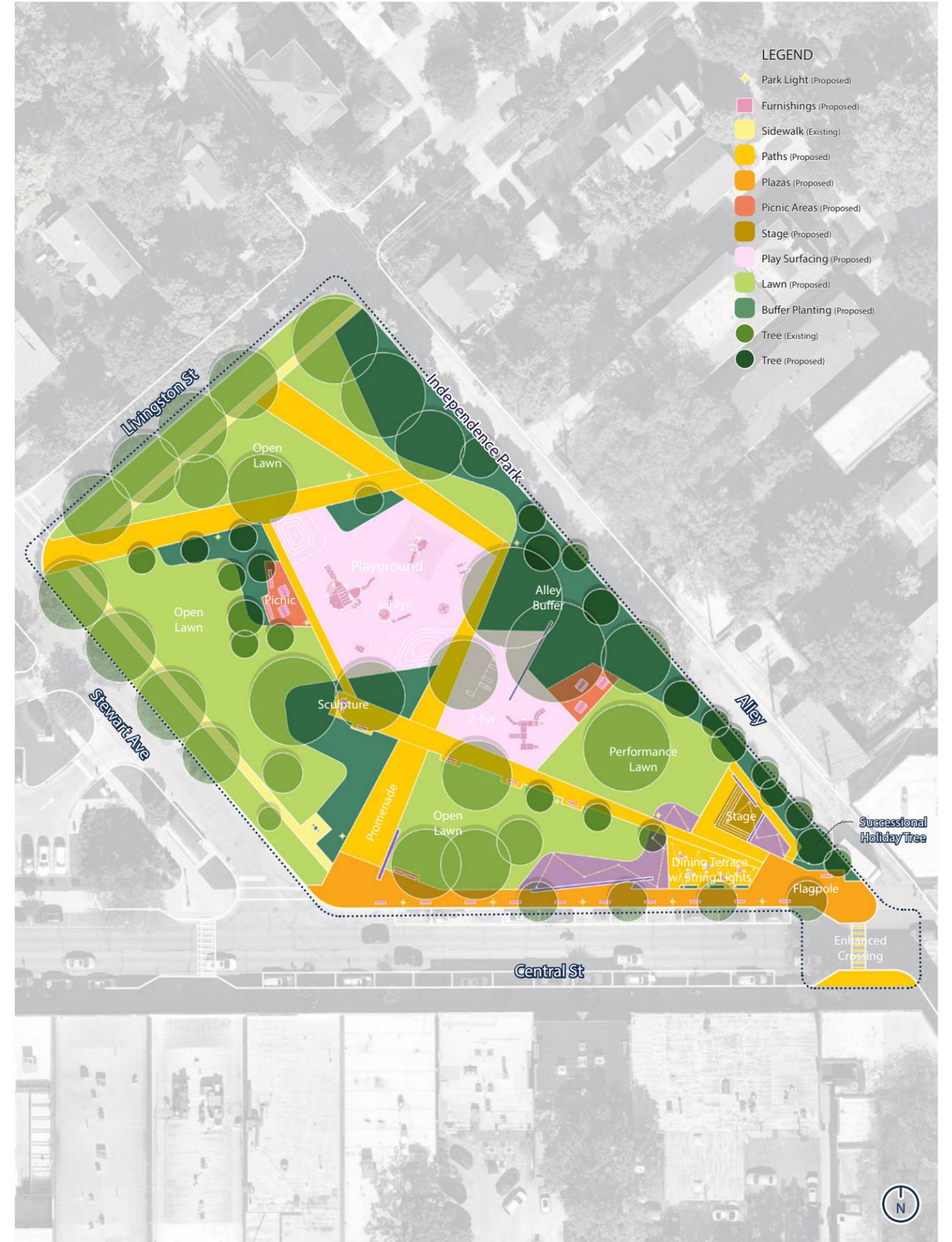
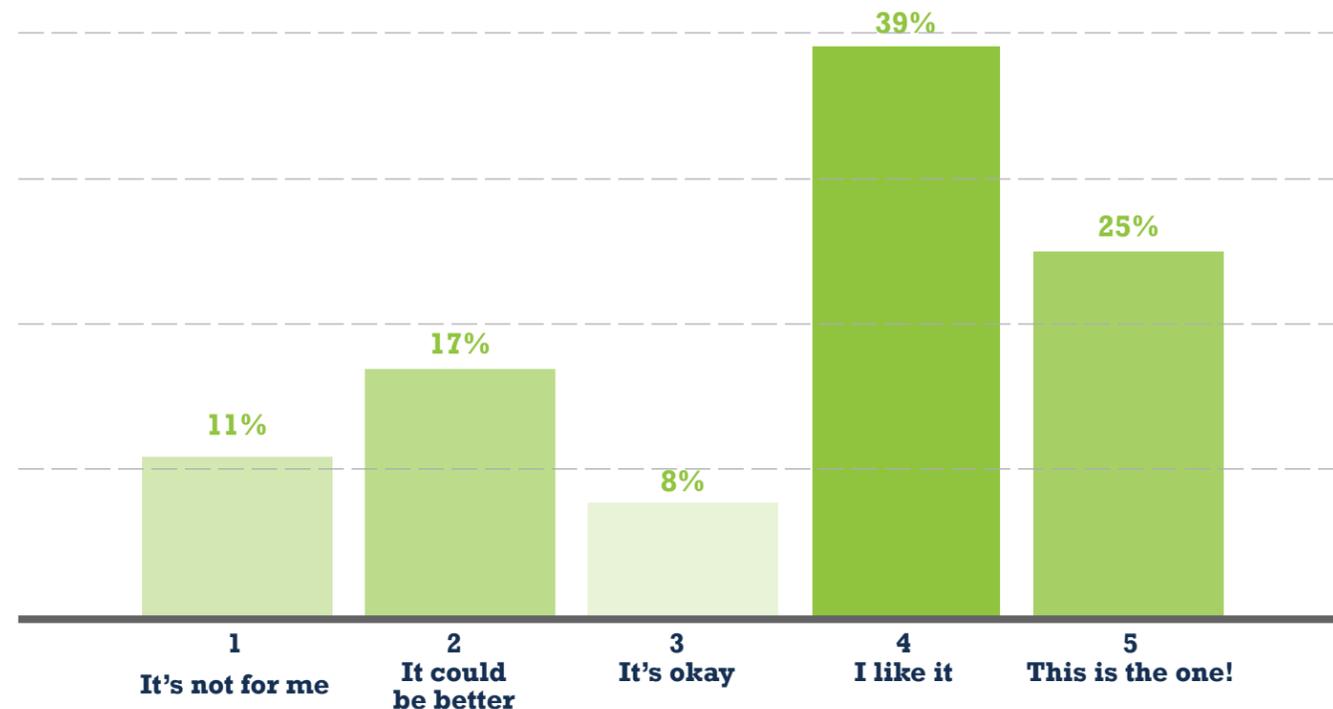
“Don’t split playgrounds - hard for families with multi-age kids.”

“More meandering paths”

“Paths are too angular. Provide bathrooms.”

Let us know how you feel about Concept B Below!

126 | Total Score
36 | # of Votes



Civic Commons!

Concept C | Independence Park

What do you love most?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 03/23. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

"This concept engages Central St. brilliantly!"

"I like two picnic areas that are close to play equipment."

"Seems to foster more community gathering than the other concepts."

What could be better?

Select Quotes From Comments Received 03/23. See the Following Pages for a Full Accounting of the Feedback Received.

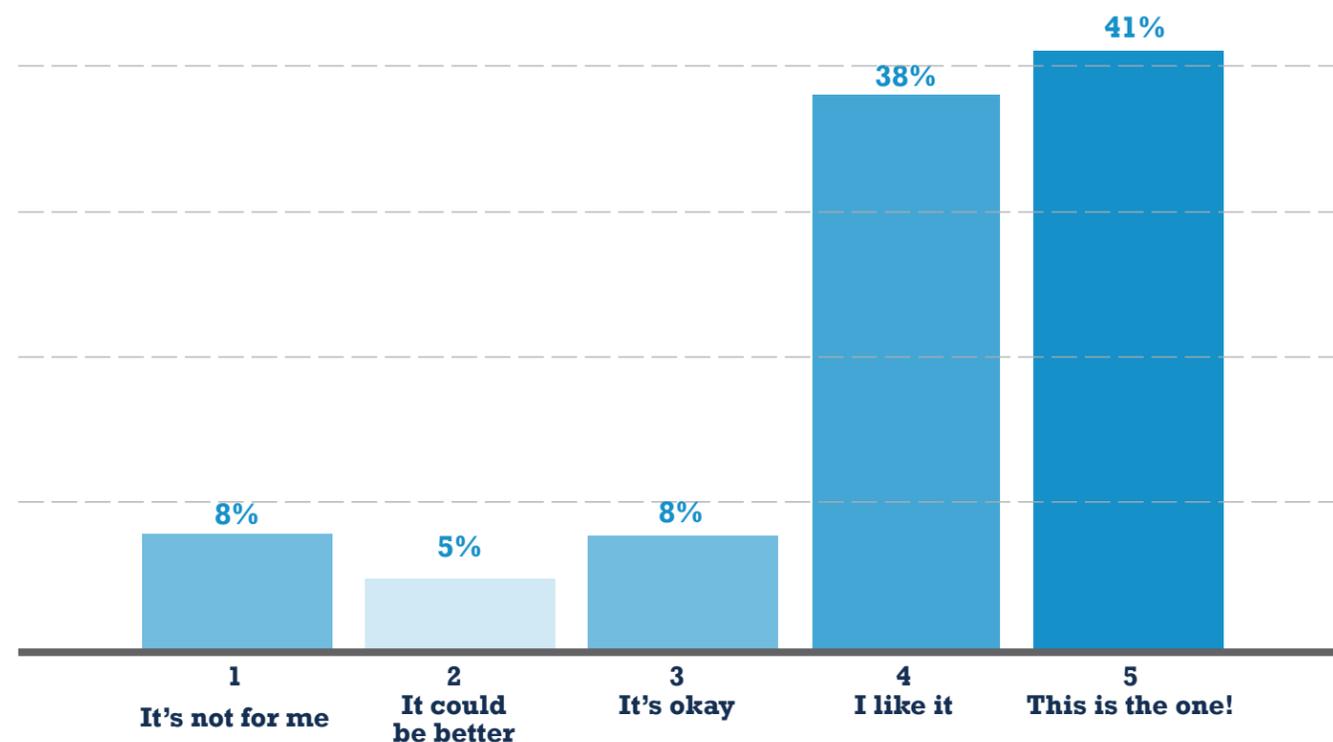
"It would be very helpful to have a place to go to the bathroom!"

"Add more creative play options inspired by nature."

"Sun shade for playground be nice."

Let us know how you feel about Concept C Below!

147 | Total Score
37 | # of Votes

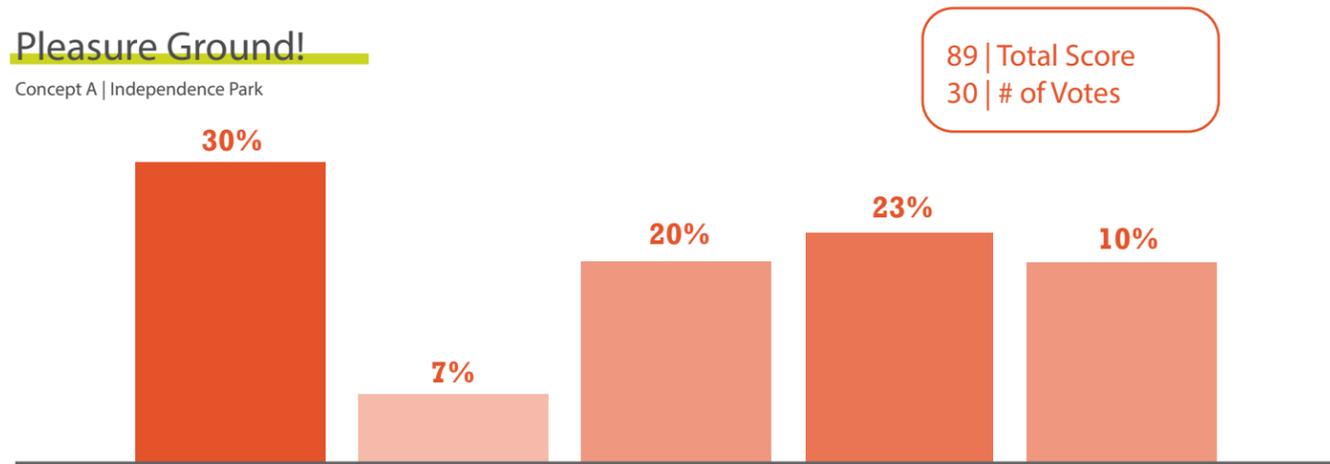


Sentiment Summary

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

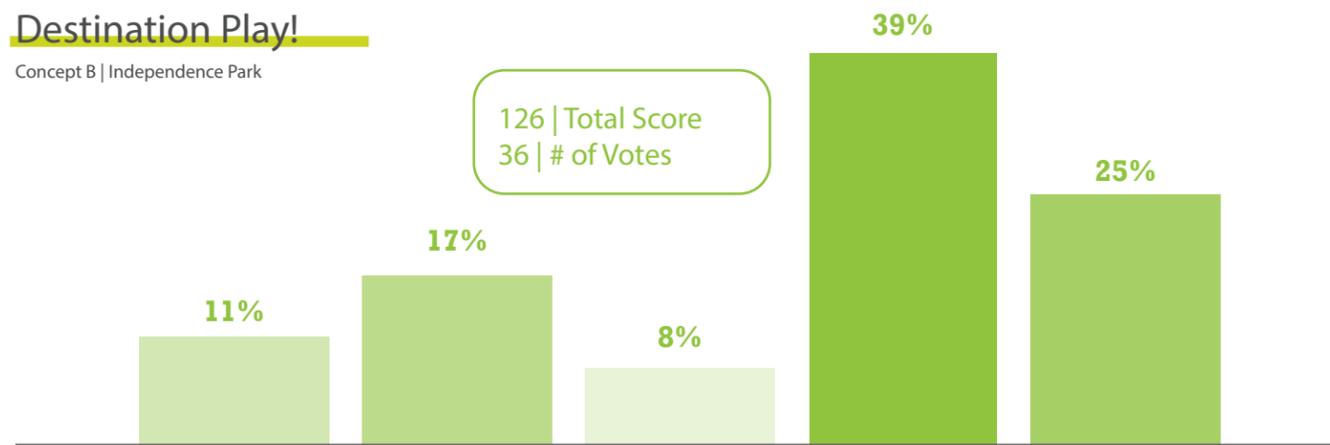
Pleasure Ground!

Concept A | Independence Park



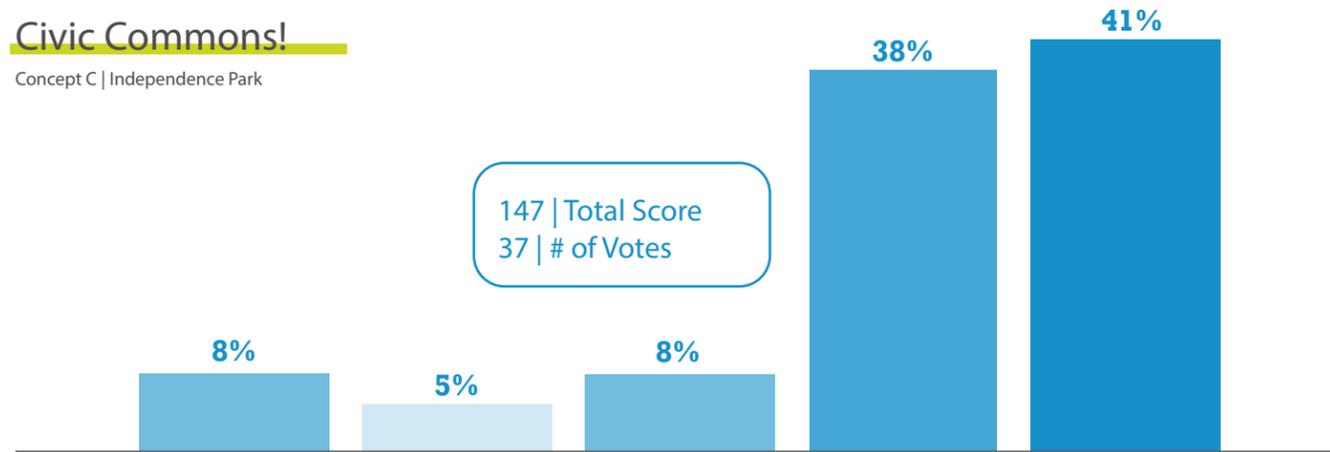
Destination Play!

Concept B | Independence Park



Civic Commons!

Concept C | Independence Park



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

Online Feedback

Record of comments received from the project website

Online Comment #01:

I'm excited about the updates to Independence Park! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE add a splash pad for kids! Evanston has no place to cool off in the summer heat aside from the beach. A splash pad is much more accessible and easy to use (and less parking headaches than around the beach). And it would drive business to local Central St businesses. Please also put in more native perennial plantings and trees. Thanks!

Online Comment #02:

We are parents of small children who live in the neighborhood, and we're thrilled that improvements are coming for Independence Park! Like many, we enjoy walking over to Central Street, grabbing coffee or food, and then enjoying some time to relax and play. Our wish list is: (1) a splash pad, (2) more and safer playground equipment, including equipment for smaller children, (3) more picnic tables or other seating to accommodate families, and (4) a softer border along Central Street.

As for restrooms: Could Central Street businesses be brought onboard with allowing the public to use their restrooms? Many are already accommodating, but this would spare those who live on the park from the nuisance of public restroom facilities.

As for grills, concert stages, and event spaces: Twiggs Park has some great gazebos, and other parks in the area feature grills, event space (Mason Park), and these amenities. Charcoal grills are also an attractive nuisance for small children, require enhanced supervision/safety considerations, and are (I believe) incongruent with the goal of providing outdoor eating spaces for local take-out. Given the way in which this park is embedded in a residential community, I also think some of the other parks are better suited to having concert spaces (there's also Canal Shores and Out of Space for that).

Online Comment #03:

Are bathrooms a part of the new park plan. They should be. Since the North Branch Library closed down there are no public restrooms on Central Street.

Online Comment #04:

As various options are considered, I hope the redesign will accommodate viewers of Evanston's July 4th Parade. As you may know, the parade passes directly by the park. Spectators erect chairs on the parkway and, on the day of the parade, in the park itself, especially along Central Street. The rows of chairs and blankets extend a considerable distance from the sidewalk into the park. (Check this out next July 4!) Other events that take place in the park, such as the Evanston Garden Club Show, also use its space in unconventional ways, and benefit from visibility to Central St. traffic and easy access, when transporting one's purchases to a car.onto

MKSK