



Meeting Minutes

Project: James Park Playground Renovations

Meeting Date: August 06, 2025, 9:00am

Meeting Location: Lorraine H. Morton City Hall, 909 Davis Street, Rm 303

Meeting Purpose: Gather playground ideas/feedback from Evanston teens

Attendees: Matt Rodgers, 8th Ward Councilmember
Stefanie Levine, Senior Project Manager
Monday Bamgbose, Youth Worker, Parks and Recreation
Kenon Boehm, Landscape Designer II
Youth Workers

PRESENTATION:

Focus group #1 was held with nine Summer Youth Employees at the Lorraine H. Morton City Hall in an effort to gain teen insights to improve the design and features provided in the planned improvements at James Park's playground.

City staff provided an update on the James Park playground renovation, reviewing past public engagement and the currently concept. The discussion highlighted a specific request from a previous meeting to gather input from teens, especially regarding the designated play area for ages 13 and up.

Staff then covered that they were looking to gather more information from this group about what they would like to see considered in the project regarding this space. Three boards were presented, and the group was asked to select their top five elements. The top five elements selected were:

- Rope Climb
- Spiderwalk
- Hangout Space
- And a four way tie for the following elements
 - o Ledge Hanger
 - o Quintuple Steps
 - o Gaga Pit
 - o Hammock/Bench Area

Following the activity, participants discussed other features they enjoyed growing up and those they wish had been available. They also offered suggestions for younger



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children, showing thoughtful consideration for all age groups. Staff organized the feedback as follows:

- 13+ items
 - o Taller ziplines
 - o Connection of elements
 - o Shade
 - o Shade elements similar to Dr. King park
 - o Pull-up rack
 - o Rock climbing wall
 - o Volleyball net
 - o 4 square
- 2-12 items
 - o Tube Slide
 - o Taller Decks
 - o Connection of age group elements similar to Leider Park
 - o Springer elements
 - o Imaginative play
 - o Talk tube
 - o Gymnastics bar
 - o Two person swing
 - o Tire swings
 - o Tractor to dig sand
 - o Sand pit
 - o Perry Park spider
 - o Taller elements
 - o Space or animal/zoo theme
 - o Merry-go rounds
 - o Hopscotch paths

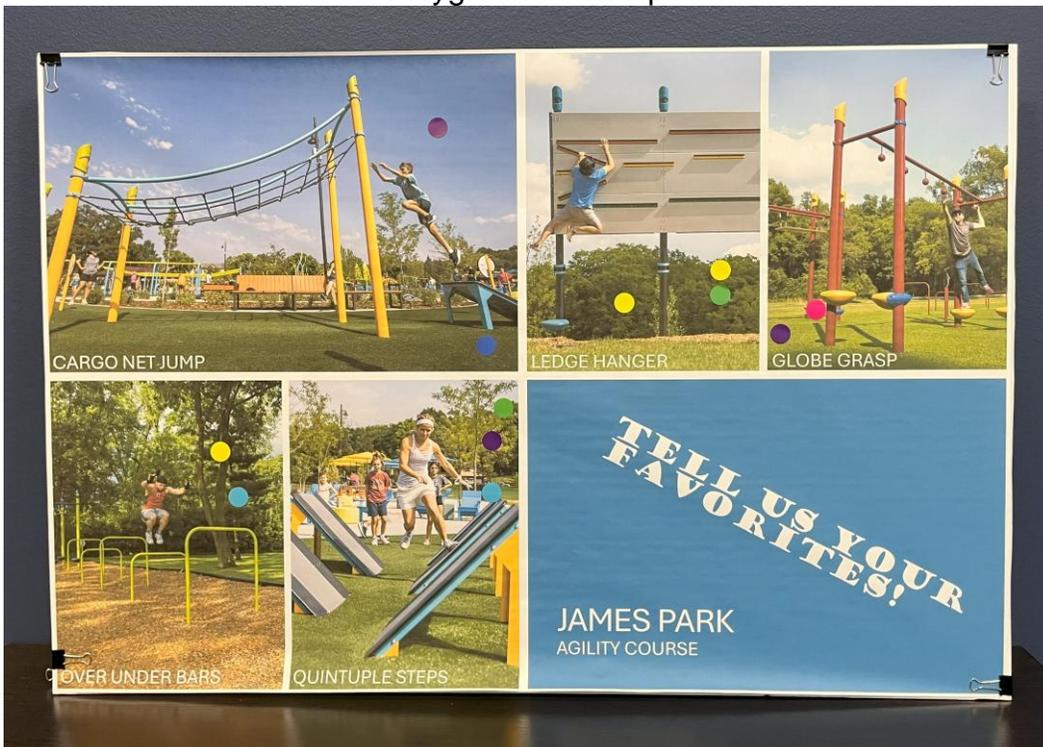
The meeting concluded with staff indicating that they're looking to meet with the 2-12 age group next, but greatly appreciated the input received, and look forward to these items being worked into the final design.



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Playground Concept



Agility Feedback Board



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Gym and Outdoor Fitness Feedback Board



Games and Hangout Spaces Feedback Board