

Meeting Minutes

Project: Philbrick Park Renovations

Meeting Date: May 06, 2025, 6 pm

Meeting Location: Noyes Cultural Arts Center

Meeting Purpose: Neighborhood kickoff meeting to discuss park conditions and renovation possibilities.

Attendees: Bobby Burns, Councilmember 5th Ward
Michael Callahan, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Stefanie Levine, Senior Project Manager
Kenon Boehm, Landscape Designer II
Parks and Recreation Board Members
Community Members

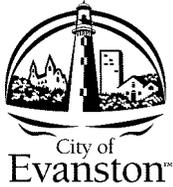
PRESENTATION:

Public Engagement meeting #1 was held at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center.

Staff went through the planned presentation, detailing project timelines, anticipated scope, and existing conditions.

Following this presentation, Staff opened the conversation to allow for open discussion and general questions/answers. Attendees discussed how they currently utilized the park and how they visualized the future design of the space. Most attendees stated that they appreciated the current spatial configuration, but that they agreed it needed to be revitalized/renovated. Common items brought up:

- Family park that is an extension of many people's outdoor space in the community
- Seating area heavily used by many different groups
- Nature playgrounds would be great as most playgrounds nearby are more typical
- Open field utilized for soccer and t-ball
- No safety concerns over lack of fencing or lighting
- Concerns with sand pit attracting wasps and animals. Discussion led to this potentially being reworked as a sensory space or "mud kitchen" utilizing wood chips in lieu of sand
- Chess tables briefly discussed as a nice park element
- Overall drainage concerns were only apparent within the playground after heavy rains and dissipate quickly

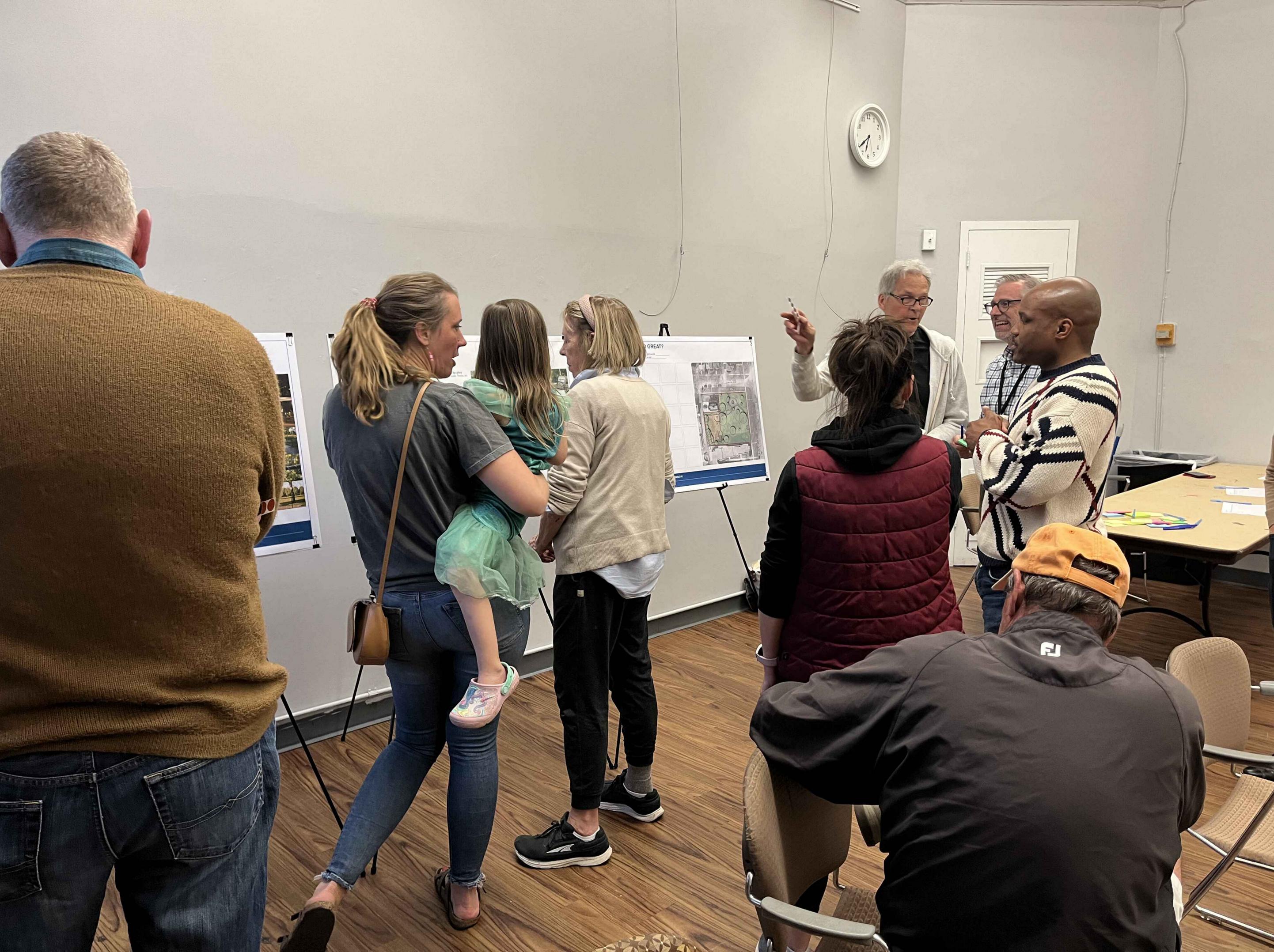


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Following the Q&A portion of the meeting and prior to breakout activities, Councilmember Burns voiced that this was the first of many points of communication/discussion and additional meetings/connection would be needed.

The meeting then moved into the breakout activities where residents could provide additional feedback. Attendees were given post it notes and stickers to be utilized on (4) boards. These boards asked questions regarding site use, general demographics, and provoking topics to help the attendees fine tune their wants into their top four use categories. Each of the categories allowed for the opportunity to provide additional information around their wants.

The meeting concluded with staff indicating that the next meeting would hopefully be held in June/July and all attendees were encouraged to attend future meetings to provide additional public input. Public meeting #2 will have multiple concepts for review and input.



WHAT'S GREAT or NOT SO GREAT?

MY FAVORITE PART ABOUT PHILBRICK PARK IS _____ BECAUSE _____.
 I'D VISIT PHILBRICK PARK MORE IF IT HAD _____ BECAUSE _____.

Great:
Big green space in front for kids to play catch/soccer.

Pollinator GARDEN -
NEED natural Landscaping

NEED To Have better integration of the various areas of the Park. Tie them together.

The west side of the park which is focused on young kids (fountain from Sherman Ave. Providing several things to play on side)

Not great:
Sand box seems to always have garbage or bees in it

The sandbox is fun, but hard to keep clean (great)
The mud kitchen idea is great - something that still has a sandbox vibe

Great:
So many different areas for all age groups to use.
Park -> kids
Green space -> older kids + families
Sitting -> older adults

Swings are great.
The mix is great too
Swing for the very little.
And bigger

I'd visit Philbrick with my 4 year old grandson if had a bigger variety of equipment to ride, swing, etc.

More landscaping would make it feel less barren
Maybe something along the multifamily buildings on the south side of the park

Great:
The circle with benches where all ages can sit and enjoy the park

Great: The open space for older kids who kick balls or play catch etc.



WHAT CAN IT BE?

TELL US YOUR PRIORITIES

REVIEW THE IMAGES BELOW TO PRIORITIZE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS

Provide interaction with nature

Native plants, Pollinators, Meandering Paths, etc.

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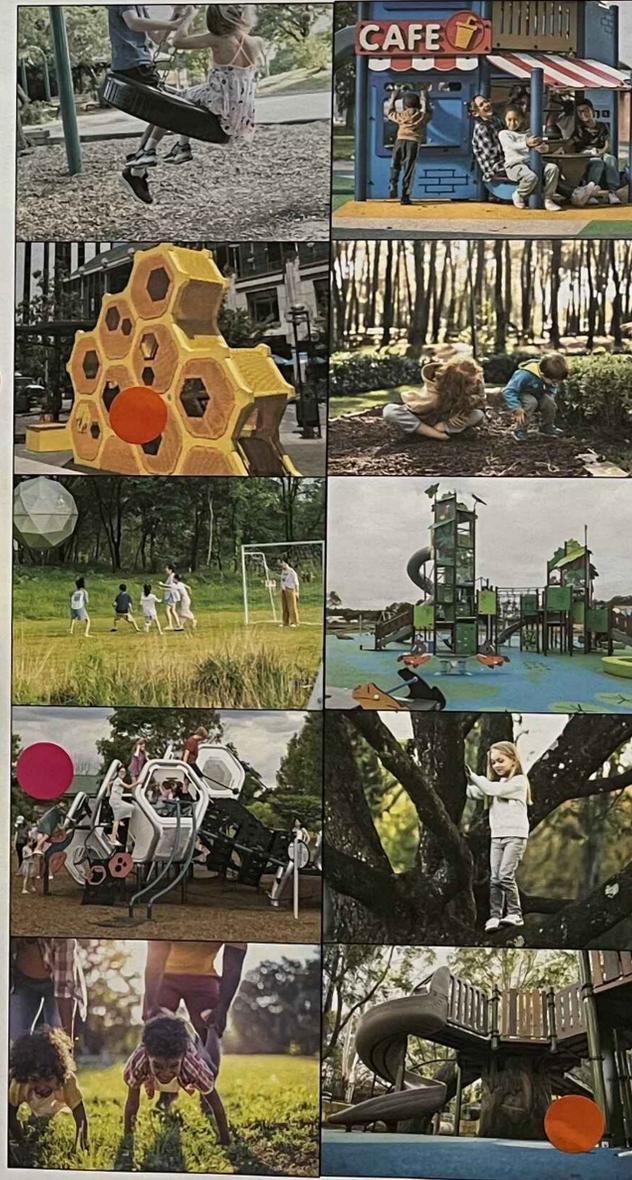


Provide ways to play

Playground, Nature, Free space, Themes, etc.

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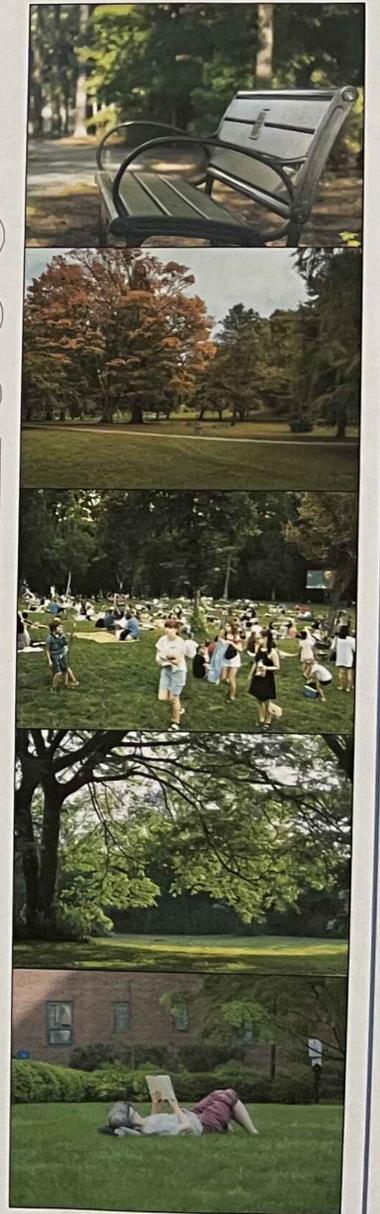
<p>Having nature spaces for the kids to explore. Check out nature playground @ Horner Park in Chicago</p>	<p>Accessible features maybe sensory friendly like the xylophones @ wheelchair height or wind chimes</p>
<p>Climbing features like the arched climb walls @ Independence park</p>	<p>Convert the sandboxes into a mud kitchen/ flexible space for kids to explore/ use imagination</p>
<p>Go to school on the equipment at Nozhi's park by Lighthouse - climbing - riding - swinging</p>	



Provide relaxation spaces

Benches, Open Space, Shade, etc.

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WHAT CAN IT BE?

TELL US YOUR PRIORITIES

REVIEW THE IMAGES BELOW TO PRIORITIZE YOUR (2) FAVORITE THINGS

Provide gathering areas

Patio, Flexible seating, Shade, Picnic tables, grills, etc.

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I love the picnic table. We love bringing dinner & eating in the park.

BAGGIE BALL COURT



Provide exercise spaces

Exercise equipment, Walking paths, etc.

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Provide enhanced safety

Lighting, Fencing, etc.

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About yourself

TELL US MORE

FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE ITEMS BELOW

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT?

DAILY WEEKLY MONTHLY

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WHO VISITS WITH YOU?

SOLO PARTNER FAMILY

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WHAT TIME OF DAY?

MORNING AFTERNOON ALL DAY

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HOW LONG DO YOU STAY?

30 MIN. 1-3 HOURS 3+ HOURS

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HOW DO YOU UTILIZE THE PARK?

PLAY SOCIALIZE RELAXATION PASSING THROUGH EXERCISE EVENTS CLASSES

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TELL US MORE! ADD POST-IT NOTES TO SQUARES!!



PHILBRICK PARK | RESPONSE #4

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING #1 | 05-06-2025