

A background graphic consisting of a circular area filled with hand-drawn, wavy, reddish-orange lines that resemble topographic contour lines or a fingerprint pattern.

# Rodney Reservoir Park

Public Workshop #2 & Online Survey

Draft Design Feedback Summary



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# Public Event 2

1200

DOOR TO DOOR FLIERS in ENGLISH + SPANISH distributed by the City in the 2-3 block radius around Rodney Reservoir, as well as email blasts, social media posts and a link on the City of Wilmington's website



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN **OPEN HOUSE** TO REVEAL THE DRAFT DESIGN FOR **RODNEY RESERVOIR PARK**

**THURS. 2/1 6PM-8PM** OR **SAT. 2/3 2PM-5PM**

THE CAFETERIA AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA (1715 W 9TH ST) ENTER AT BACK OF THE BUILDING ON 10TH NEAR N SCOTT ST.

**WE NEED YOUR VOICE!**

Can't make the event? Don't worry, you can still share your thoughts. Scan the QR code or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/rodneyres>

POR FAVOR, ÚNETE A NOSOTROS EN LA **CASA ABIERTA** PARA REVELAR EL BORRADOR DEL DISEÑO DEL **PARQUE RESERVOIR RODNEY**

**JUEVES, FEB/1 6 P.M.-8 P.M.** O **SÁBADO, FEB/3 2 P.M.-4 P.M.**

EN LA CAFETERÍA DE ST. ANTONY DE PADUA (1715 W 9TH ST) INGRESO POR LA PARTE TRASERA DEL EDIFICIO EN LA CALLE 10TH CERCA DE N SCOTT ST.

**¡NECESITAMOS TU VOZ!**

¿No puedes asistir al evento? No te preocupes, aún puedes compartir tus ideas. Escanea el código QR o visita: <https://tinyurl.com/rodneyres>

97

TOTAL

ATTENDEES BY THE NUMBERS

DAY 1

38

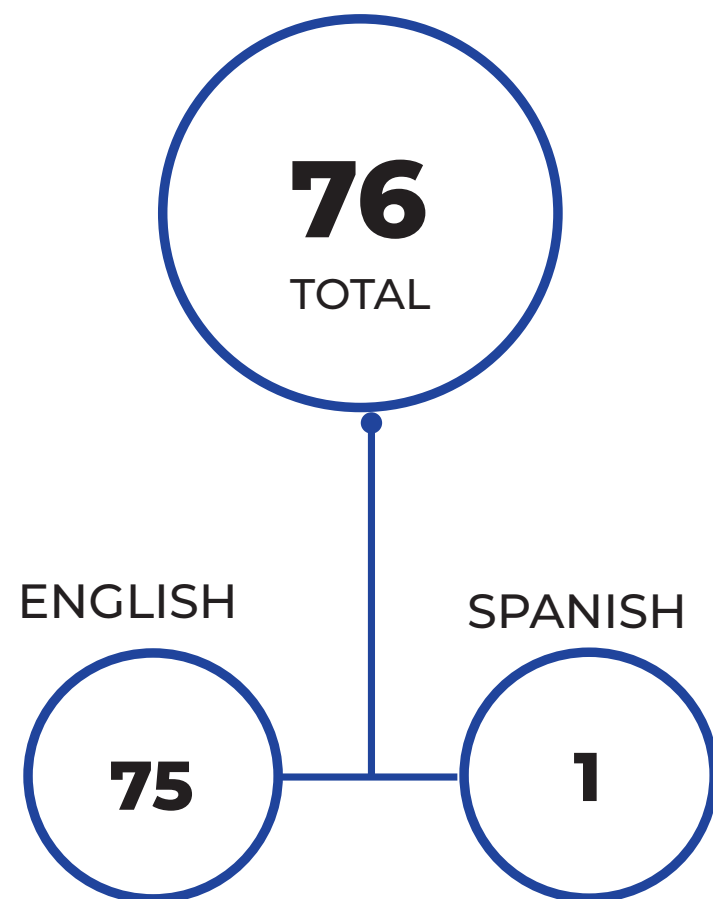
+

DAY 2

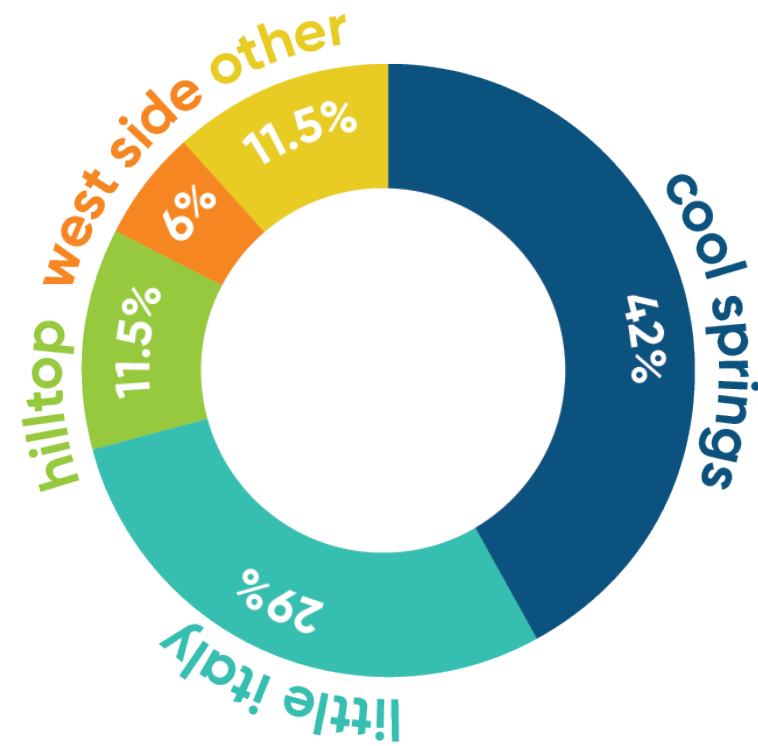
59

# Survey

## RESPONSES BY THE NUMBERS



## WHERE RESPONDEES LIVE



1 → **Share your thoughts on Rodney Reservoir Park!**  
Please select your language option below and hit 'submit'\*  
¡Gracias por compartir tus opiniones sobre el Parque Reservoir Rodney!

A collage of six photographs showing various park features: a wide view of the park, a grassy hill, a set of stairs, a paved path, a fence, and a garden area.

**Hello!**  
English | English  
A

**¡Hola!**  
Español | Spanish  
B

**Submit**

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## 1. A NATURE-CENTRIC PARK

- promoting biodiversity
- supporting native plants and wildlife

## 2. FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- promoting understanding of local ecosystems
- urban agriculture awareness and education

## 3. PROVIDE A PEACEFUL PLACE

- a tranquil environment
- for residents and city-wide visitors

## 4. PROMOTE COMMUNITY WELLNESS

- providing access to nature with accessible walking and running trails

## 5. INTEGRATE FLEXIBLE MULTI-USE SPACES

- accommodate various uses
- a dynamic and inclusive environment

## 6. INTEGRATE FOOD PRODUCTION AND GARDENING

- opportunities for residents to participate in food production and distribution activities

## 7. LAYER PLAY INTO THE LANDSCAPE

- a natural play experience
- integrated into the landscape
- different opportunities from nearby playgrounds

## 8. PRESERVE A CONNECTION WITH THE PAST

- preserving the historic view
- incorporating community stories.

## 9. PRIORITIZE ACCESSIBILITY

- ensure ADA accessibility to accommodate people of all abilities

## 10. INTEGRATE SUSTAINABILITY

- emphasize low-maintenance approaches,
- use of native plantings and consideration of long-term maintenance

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

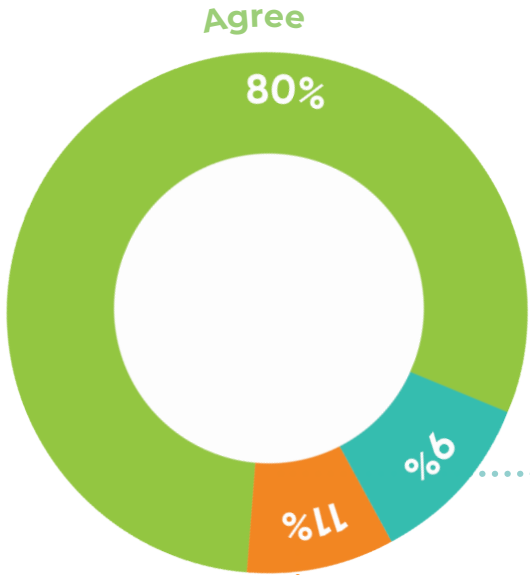
Love Guiding Principles



ADA Access is very important

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

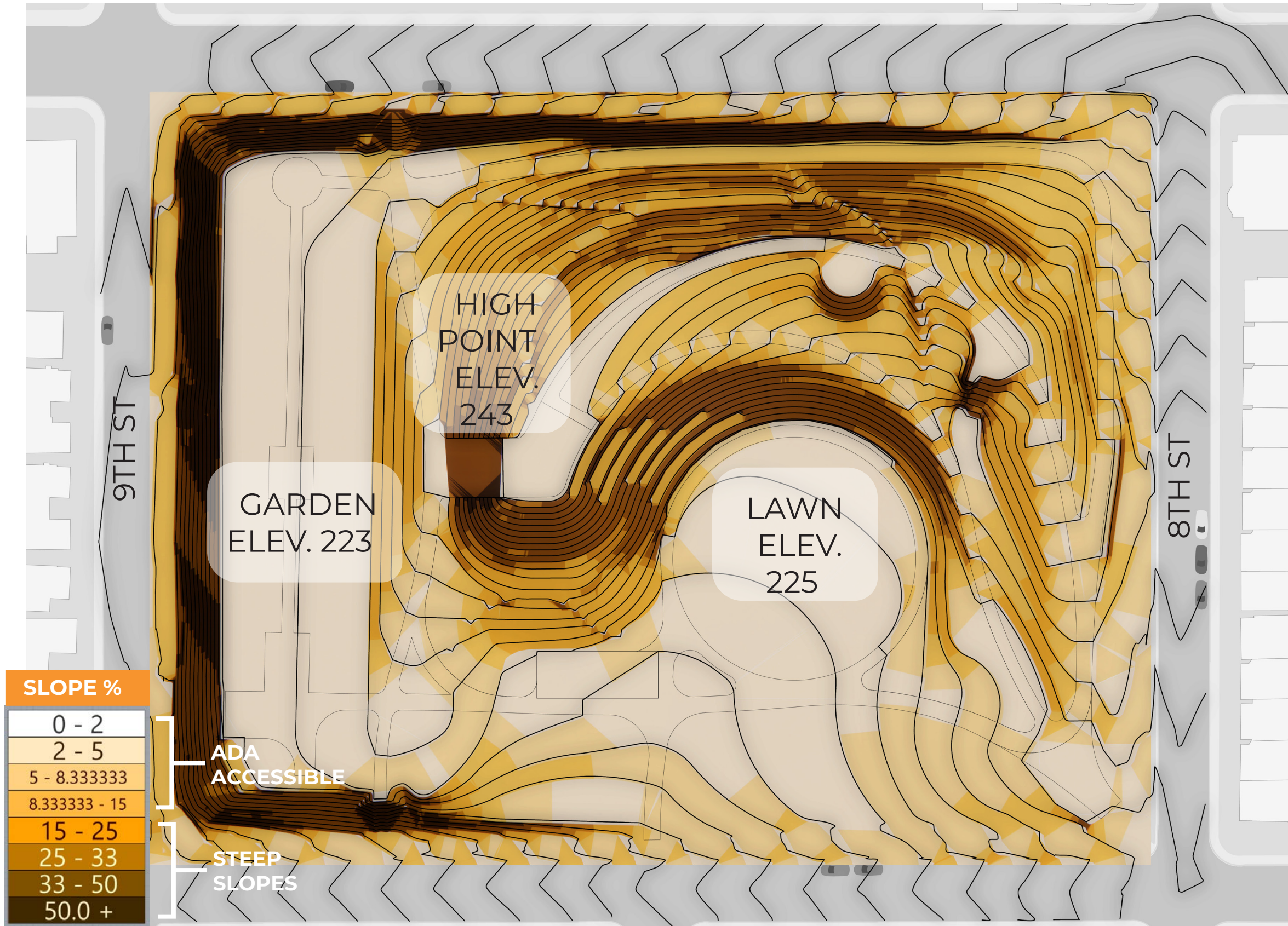
89% of survey respondents agree with these guiding principles which were developed through the community workshop process. Primary concerns are regarding the inclusion of a dog park and/or athletic fields.



**Agree with additions**  
"It would be nice to have [a garden] ADA entrance with less steps and maybe a ramp."  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs  
"I would like to see the design include a playing field that could be used regularly for youth and adults for organized games"  
- Resident, 19711, works in Wilmington  
"Needs a dog park"  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

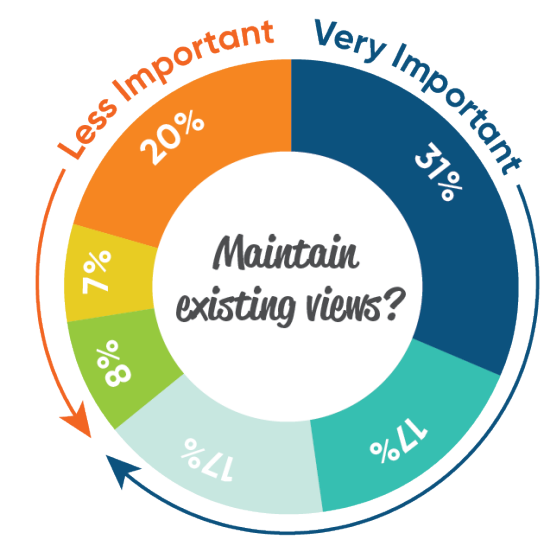
**Disagree**  
"I do not believe the park should have dedicated areas for education... if that requires special maintenance and upkeep."  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs  
"We need a multi purpose athletic field. Not a nature reserve"  
- Resident, 19806, Little Italy

# TOPOGRAPHY



## SURVEY FEEDBACK

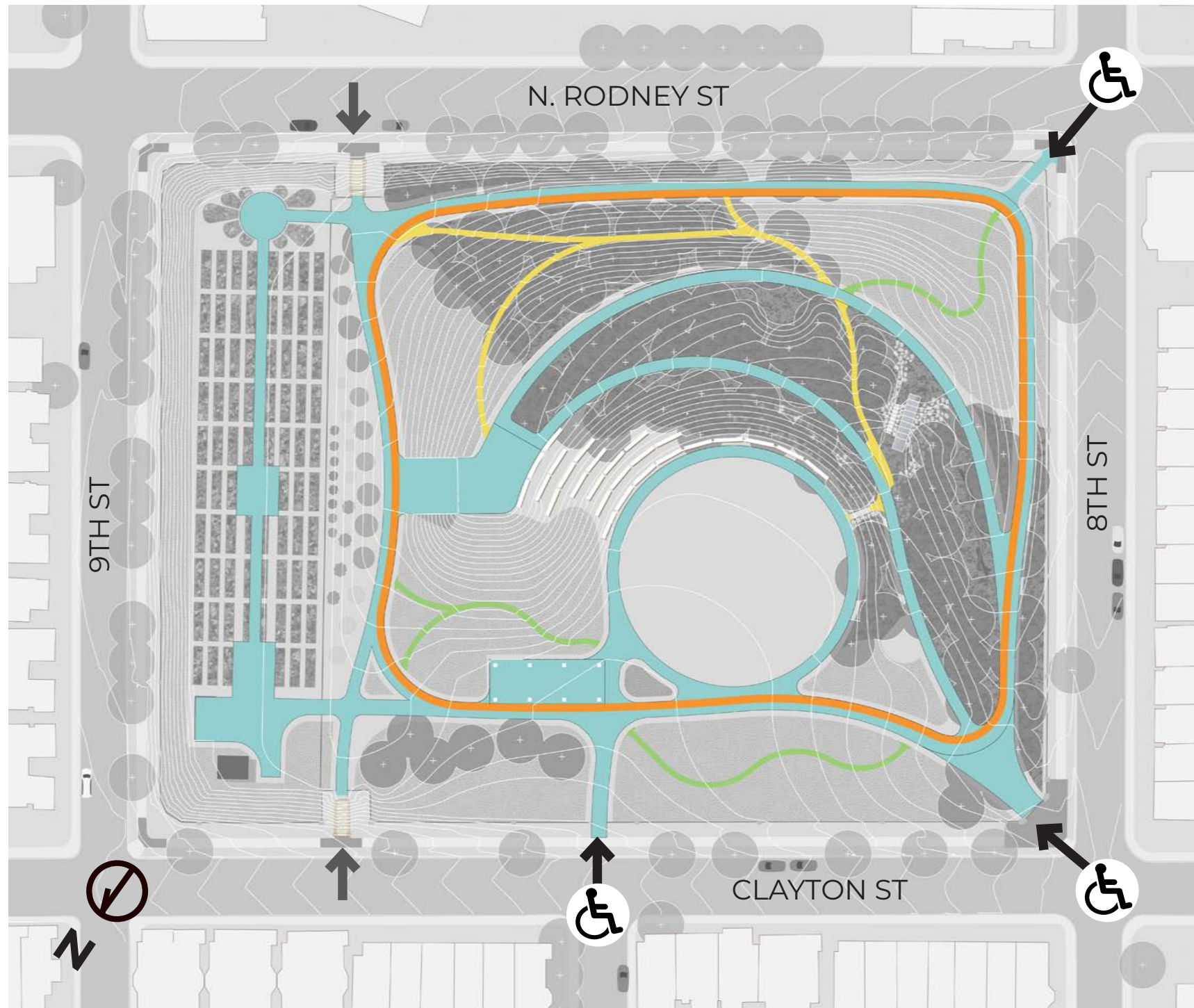
**65%** of survey respondents believe that the existing height and views are important to the park. Primary concerns are regarding maintenance, visibility, and accessibility.



*“The views are a key feature of the site. I still wonder if there could yet be more real estate dedicate to the higher elevation.”*  
 - Resident, 19805, Little Italy

*“The sense of being **above the streets and sidewalks** contributes to the feeling of being in nature. The vista view is important to maintain and, I think, is unique in the City of Wilmington.”*  
 - Resident, 19806, West Side

# PATH SYSTEM



**WOODLAND TRAILS**  
WOOD CHIPS



**RUNNING TRACK**  
PERVIOUS RUBBER  
(ADA ACCESSIBLE)



**MAIN PATH**  
POROUS PAVEMENT  
(ADA ACCESSIBLE)



**MEADOW PATHS**  
MOWED MEADOW



# PATH SYSTEM

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

More Running Space

Porous Pavement needs special snow removal: (cannot be salted) needs soft brush, not plow



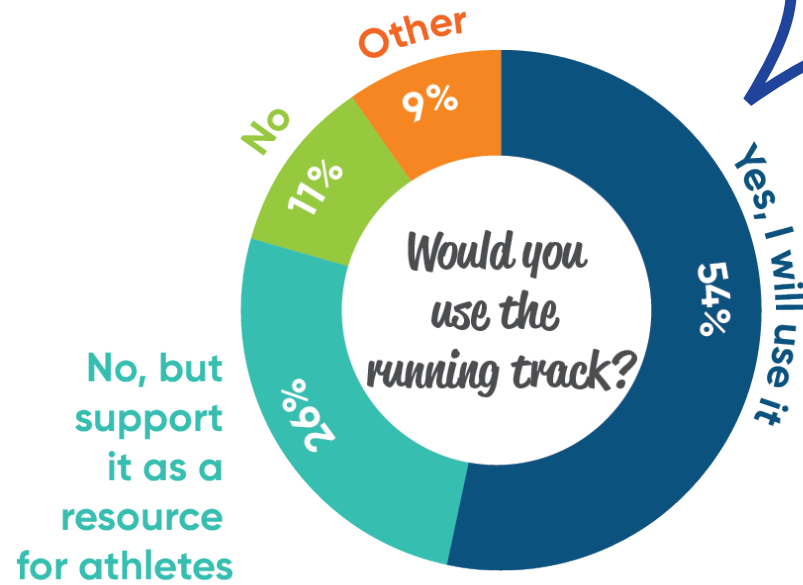
Added Entrances are fantastic + helpful

This is a great entrance for those with mobility issues

What trails if any will be bicycle friendly?

**80%** of survey respondents will use or support a porous surface running track, which would be a resource for both area schools and residents.

Primary concerns are about the practicality for school use and maintenance.



“Love the variety [of paths] as a resource in the neighborhood”  
- Resident, 19805, Little Italy

Walking paths would be used by the community and would provide a safe location to walk on. The design needs to be adjusted so athletes and walkers can share the spaces without interfering with one another.  
- Resident, 19711, outside of Wilmington

# GATHERING SPACES

## GARDEN CLASSROOM

CAPACITY  
20 ADULTS  
30 CHILDREN



## GARDEN PERGOLAS



## UPPER PLAZA



## PAVILION



## OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

CAPACITY  
12 ADULTS  
20 CHILDREN



## OPEN FIELD



# OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

Meadow Classroom very good feature



Feedback from teachers - outdoor classrooms are less popular than a few years ago?

Formal seating and dedicated space not needed



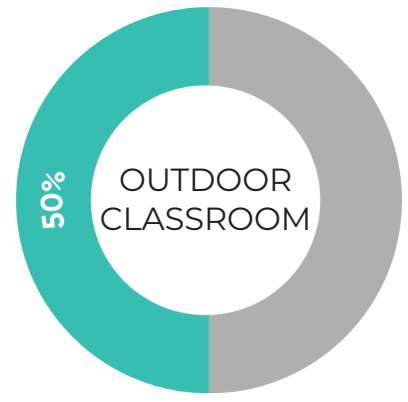
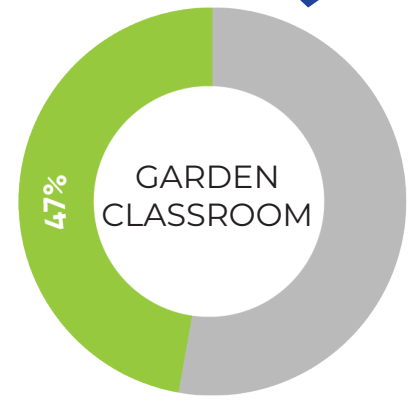
A second tier of seating would be nice

Like the idea of classrooms as both programmatic possibilities and alternate small scale gathering spots

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**47%** and **50%** of survey respondents think a garden classroom and outdoor classrooms (respectfully) would provide a valuable amenity to the community

Primary concerns are about the practicality for school use.



“Love the garden area and teaching classroom opportunities associated with it”  
- Resident, 19806, Little Italy

“We do not need a special outdoor classroom.”  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

“This should not be a focal point for classrooms...”  
-Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

“As an educator, I am confident that the practice of installing the outdoor classroom spaces is an outdated educational trend, and will likely be underutilized by the local community.”  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

# PAVILION

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

Add solar power here (solar sculpture?!)

power for teachers + staff/ presentation wall/projection options?

Structure is great - would be useful for outdoor classrooms

not sure about aesthetic of concrete pavilion. Seems claustrophobic, unnatural



like pavilion, made with other material

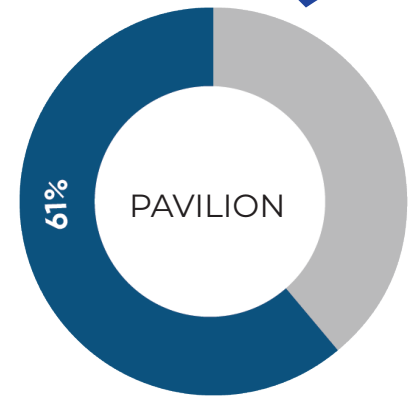
Like pavilion but think it needs to be more accessible

Visual Impact. I don't love the way the pavilion spoils site line

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**61%** of survey respondents think a pavilion would provide a valuable amenity to the community

Primary concerns are the structure and view from Howland.



"I love the concept of the pavilion but it seems a little overbearing for the space. The columns just seem a bit too chunky although it is a really slick idea to mirror the former reservoir columns."

- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"An accessible pavilion with power is a favorable element to include in the design."

- Resident, 19711, Works in Area

"I do not like the current concrete structure for a pavilion. I don't like what it looks made out of concrete and so low to the ground like and how cuts into the view of what should be the grand entrance from Howland."

- Resident, 19806, Little Italy

# GARDEN WORK AREAS

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK



no feedback recorded

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**64%** of survey respondents think garden work areas would provide a valuable amenity to the community. This was the highest percentage of any gathering space.



# OPEN LAWN

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

More usable multi-purpose field area by extending into pollinator garden P.S. Plan looks very good

Pretty design would like a larger playing field that can be multipurpose think it would be used often

A larger multi-use field could bring more groups/schools/teams into WILMINGTON - would showcase the area more

No sports field expansion in the central area

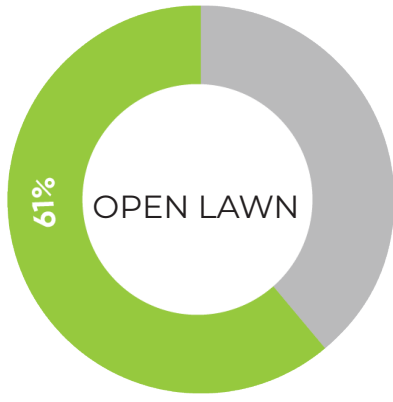


I like the lawn area. Its small enough yet big enough to enjoy + relax + play

Simplify central area and expand for more recreational opportunities especially for school students

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**61%** of survey respondents think an open lawn would provide a valuable amenity to the community  
Primary concerns are about whether this space can be adapted for sports or how dogs should or should not use it.



“please DO NOT expand the amphitheater/lawn space to sports field size. There are other sports field adequate spaces in Upper Cool Spring Park, and Father Tucker Park, near by. Team sports in this area would be damaging to the space, and counter to the ‘nature immersion, and eco-stewardship’ vision of a nature-based park.”  
- Resident, 19806, 9th Ward

“I would love to see the open space that is currently a circular field be redesigned to be a functional shape. Currently it can only be utilized as space for a picnic, etc -- if rectangular it could serve that purpose AND be utilized as a practice field for local youth.”  
- Resident, 19352, Works in Area

“The open space needs to be larger for any groups to use it on a regular basis. As it currently stands, the “open space” will become a dog park.”  
- Resident, 19806, Hilltop

# AMPHITHEATER

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

Love Amphitheater and use solar for power

to have an amphitheater as the main element of the park seems to be very limiting



Theater screens of TVs play educational movies

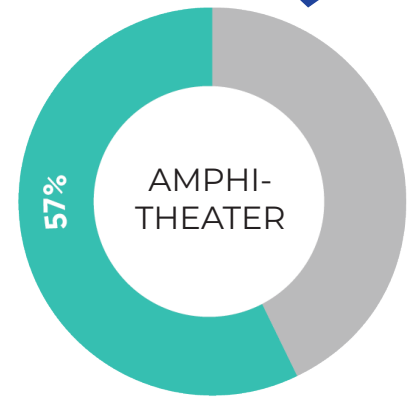
Access to electrical power for amphitheater and outdoor classrooms 4 teachers + kids or events

Love Amphitheater is there electric

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**57%** of survey respondents think an amphitheater would provide a valuable amenity to the community

Primary concerns are about whether or not it will be used, and if it will attract litter.



“Particularly for an amphitheater I would want to ensure someone was in charge of managing that space for events, etc to avoid conflict or messes being left behind.”  
- Resident, 19701, Bear, Works in Area

“I like the way you’ve designed the amphitheater, similar to Roman times. I’d like to see it only like this, and not with a roof or any other formalities.”  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

“noise from amphitheater in the neighborhood. not enough space for athletic fields”  
- Works in Area

“Another amphitheater? There’s one in almost every park in the city.”  
- Resident, 19808, Works in Area

# UPPER PLAZA

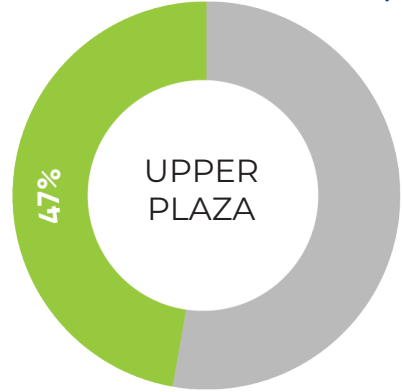
## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK



no feedback recorded

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**47%** of survey respondents think an upper plaza would provide a valuable amenity to the community





# Play

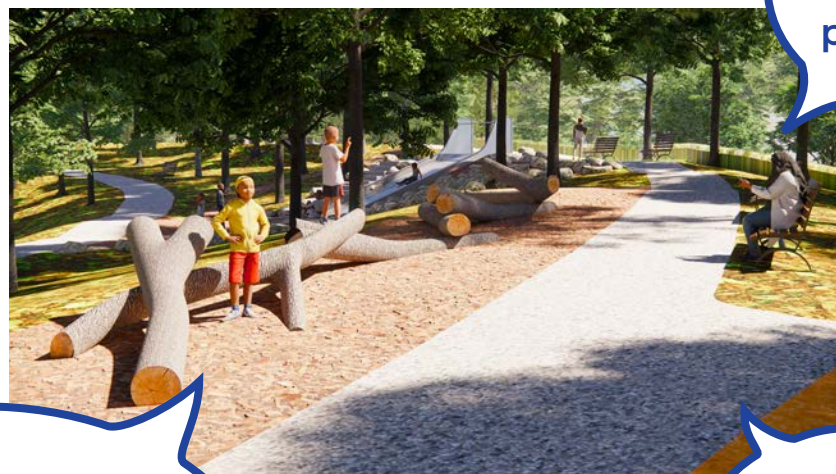
## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

Love the logs + slide my little ones will love it.



I like the slide it's simple and just enough for a quick 'fun' thing for little ones/adults

Should we add a playground?



b-ball hoop

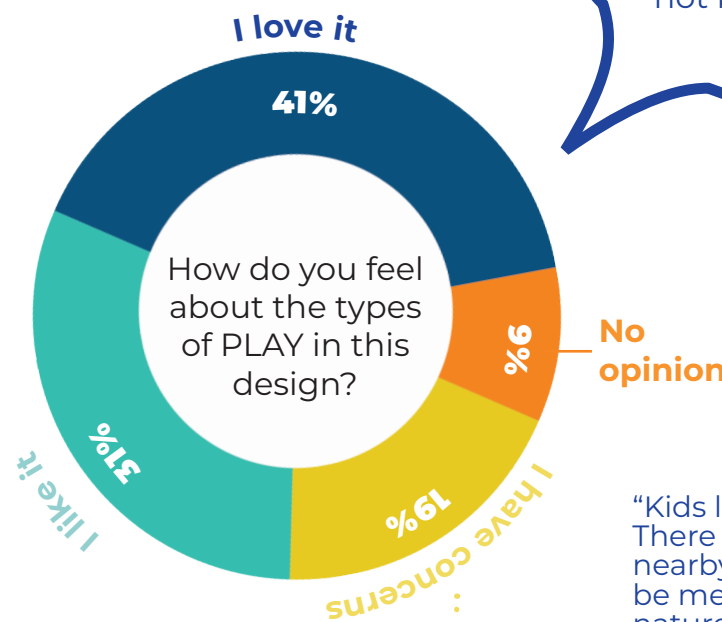
Love the idea of interesting play into the overall design instead of traditional play green

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**72%** of survey respondents think positively about the play in the draft design.

**19%** are concerned

Primary concerns are about play not being a major need in the area and safety.



### Additional Inclusions and Comments

"A splash feature would be nice."  
- Resident, 19806, Hilltop

"I just want the park to be a place where children can play and explore!"  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"Kids love the current hill adjacent to the gatehouse. There are lots of designed playgrounds and spaces nearby. Would prefer a wilder space where kids can be messy for unstructured play. Although this is a nature based play space, it is not wild."  
- Resident, 19806

### Concerns

"There are multiple playgrounds within a couple blocks of this park (Friar Tucker park, Tilton park and further away, Cool Springs) so I don't think that providing play areas is a major need. Items like the logs are fine."  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"Not a fan of the log climb"  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"Having young children, the design of the slide seems problematic -- I can picture my children climbing from the rocks to the slide and back again. However, in general, I do like the organic style of play features."  
- Resident, 19352, Works in Area

# Community Garden

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

Community Gardens should definitely continue!

Need tool + food storage near garden

...as a young Wilmington native having access to a space to grow my own food + gather w/ same minded individuals is so important!

Remove some garden plots + extend the running track to 400m



More models for community garden! schools, give away, programs

Make 9th st 0 elevation. Your high gardens block out block's view of the entire park. Not equitable

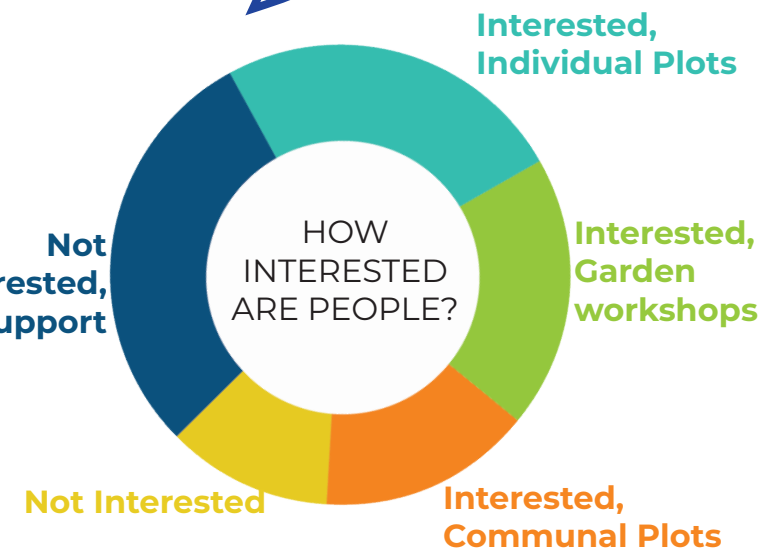
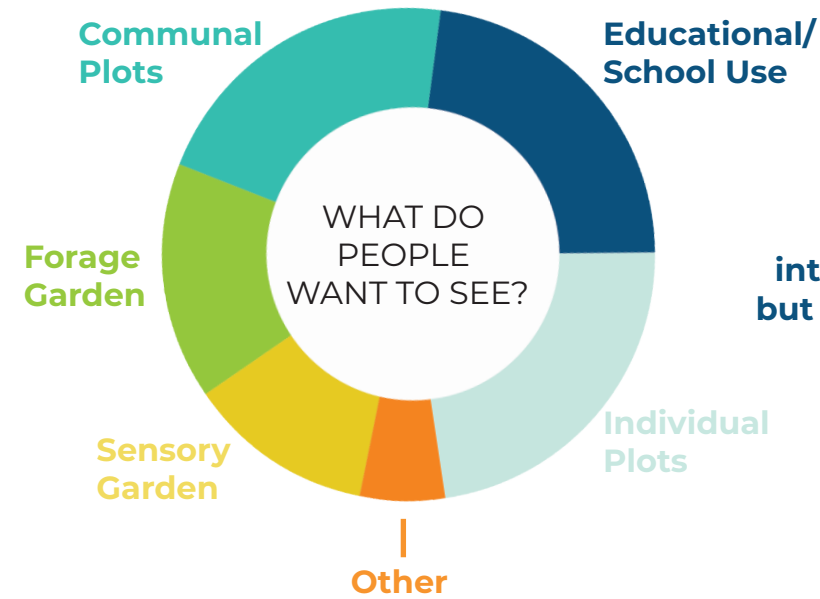
Location of composting?

Community gardens must be fenced to discourage theft

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

92% of survey respondents think there should be some form of food production or gardening opportunities.

86% of survey respondents are interested in participating in the garden or are not interested, but support it.



"I recognize that there are gardeners who value this space and location. I do not agree that this space should be an urban farm center. Perhaps there are other city locations where this idea could be expanded."  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"Butterfly garden to encourage migration patterns of monarchs"  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"Hugelculture bed (area) and compost-creating learning areas"  
- Resident, 19802, 9th Ward

### Additional Inclusions and Comments

"It will need to be fenced off with a lock."  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"Dedicating substantial resources to the garden feels inappropriate as there is no way to provide equal access to all community members."  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"A food production area needs longterm oversight. I think the park could host farmer's market once a week during summer months. That could bring in vendors, more variety and broader community support."  
- Resident, 19711, Works in Area

# ECOLOGY



**POLLINATOR MEADOW**



**SUCCESSIONAL FOREST**



**TULIP POPLAR & OAK FOREST**



**SWEETGUM & LOB-LOLLY FOREST**



**FORAGE FOREST & GARDEN**



**RAIN GARDEN**

# ECOLOGY

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK



I like idea of Native Plant foliage garden

Could forage garden be expanded into meadow by pavilion

Add some terraced food forage native plants on slope (clayton st.) Between 9th + Howard

Include trees, which are crucial in all seasons

Great Native tree Habitat Support Choices!

Sterile Cultivars [of sweetgums] available if seeds are undesirable

Meadows will become forest w/o routine cutting (maintenance)

I really like the tree line

Meadows are very HOT in summer. Can more area be designated forest?

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

**72%** of survey respondents would like plant names on trees and in planted areas



### What other types of plants and natural environments people want to see:

"I would like to see even more trees at the park. Love the idea of the pollinator gardens and hope the bees that live at the garden right now get to return to the space once it's a park"  
- Resident, 19806, Hilltop

"I would love to see natural environments that encouraged birds to the area. Also, signage that gives information about the birds, as well as the insect and plants"  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"I like untamed wild spaces. Spaces that are not too designed. Places where kids can make a mess."  
- Resident, 19808

"Dog park areas!"  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"yes - well adapted non-native plants should be included. - this area has many flower gardening enthusiasts. This area is home to one of the biggest Italian and Greek festivals in the US attracting thousands of visitors over several days. Visitors will no doubt enjoy strolling around the new Rodney Reservoir gardens. It would be wonderful if some of the planted areas could be designed to be in peak bloom to coincide with the festival dates."  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs

"I believe that there is presently a strong representation of plants and natural needs in this design, and that more space should be dedicated to other uses rather than plants and natural environments."  
- Resident, 19806, Little Italy

# Overlook Options



**\$710,000**

**OPTION 1**



**\$300,000**

**OPTION 2**



**\$90,000**

**OPTION 3**



**\$50,000**

**OPTION 4**

# OVERLOOK

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

Voting for this for the canopy walk...

Any structure is not needed. Feels forced in such a lush landscape

Love openness and accessibility to overlook. Re-creates elevation

24

Refurbish or replace the pump house with public restrooms

15

Looks cooler with stairs!

I like option 1 too, but it looks \$\$\$

13

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

### TOTAL



51

### OPTION 1

27



44

### OPTION 2

29



3

### OPTION 3

2



48

### OPTION 4

35

“Open feel allows more people”  
- Resident, 19805, Cool Springs

“I like the overall design and simplicity of it.”  
- Resident, 19805, Little Italy

“there are so few places where we can see so far, it really puts this neighborhood in context with the rest of the city”  
- Resident, 19805, Little Italy

“Like how this is open on all sides, has different levels and is accessible using paths and ramps.”  
- Resident, 19805, West Side

“Would love to have something there that looks like the original building plus it looks like a great place for bathrooms”  
- Resident, 19805, Hilltop

“It looks like a lovely place to stand and look out onto the park, and the rest of the city. Being enclosed, and shaded, people could set up an easel to paint, or sit down to play guitar as well. On a day in which a rain shower surprises you, it’s a place to take cover.”  
- Resident, 19805, Hilltop

“Love extending the views, it is hard to get a good view in Wilmington. Also love the giant steps to create more seating.”  
- Resident, 19805, Little Italy

“I think the grass covered terrace/stairs is the most visually appealing and offers more opportunity for garden education/events.”  
- Resident, 19805, Little Italy

“The gate house is ugly and needs to be removed. No need to spend money building something else”  
- Resident, 19806, Cool Springs