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## **Merriam Park: Design Advisory Committee Meeting #4 – Design Direction**

### **NOTES:**

The following is a summary of interpretation of items discussed and action items. If there are any corrections or additions to the summary, please inform Project Manager, Mary Norton at [mary.norton@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:mary.norton@ci.stpaul.mn.us) to issue updated notes.

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### **Introductions:**

- **Participants:**
  - Barb Thoman: Lives nearby and had kids who used the park.
  - Greg Johnson: Lives on Carrol Ave and spends time at Merriam Park.
  - Lon Stousland: Resident on Marshall Ave, has lived in the neighborhood for 3-4 years.
  - Richard Kim: Business owner near Merriam Park.
  - Leah: Union Park District Council
  - Niko and Mary: Representatives from the City of St. Paul.

### **Agenda:**

- **Project Timeline:** Discussion on the progress and potential check-ins during winter.
- **Project Goals and Scope:** Overview of the main objectives of the project.
- **Community Engagement Recap:** Review of engagement so far, with some focus on playground comments.

### **Key Discussion Points:**

1. **Existing Conditions:**
  - Question about the tree canopy and whether there is an easement near the skatepark.
  - Clarification on the public right of way and restrictions related to park property.
2. **Design Trends:**
  - **Concept Development:** Positive feedback from the group, with mentions of connections to Robly and Nokomis Park (notably the contours and lake view).



- Dana emphasized improving the cross path to enhance the entrance.

**3. Concerns:**

- The rec center pathway is seen as unsafe. The group discussed making the space more connected and adding signage or plaques for intentional placemaking.
- Potential ideas include adding murals to the rec center's exterior walls.

**4. Questions for Consideration:**

- Are there areas that need more attention?
- Ideas on how to utilize the park over the next 5, 10, and 25 years, with an emphasis on flexible, interconnected spaces.
- Consideration of whether the tree canopy should stay (e.g., succession planting).

**5. Baseball Programming:**

- Kids' baseball fields are in poor condition (bleachers are in rough shape).
- Discussion about parking along Roblyn and the need for a clear path from bleachers to the main path.
- The hillside offers a good view of both playgrounds and ballfields.

**6. Next Steps:**

- Once the consultant is on board, there will be another DAC meeting.
- Leah will coordinate with Sarah on next steps for connecting before the next meeting.
- Exploration of "winter moments" for future planning.

**Final Notes:**

- Emphasis on exploring other opportunities for engagement.
- Meeting concluded with appreciation for the opportunity.

An aerial photograph of a suburban area with a large green field, a brick building, and a parking lot. A white text box is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Merriam Park Site**  
**Improvements**  
**Design Advisory Committee (DAC)**  
**Meeting 4 - Design Direction**  
**Oct. 2024**



## Agenda:

- **Project timeline**
- **Project overview**
- **Recap from engagement event**
- **Existing conditions**
- **Existing tree canopy**
- **Design precedents & priorities**
- **Results from engagement**
- **Data and key trends**
- **Ways to stay engaged**



# Project timeline

2024

2025

2026

Fall

Winter

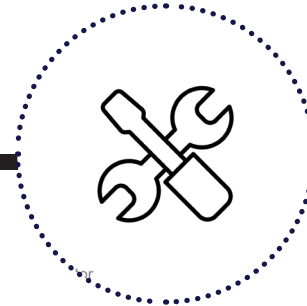
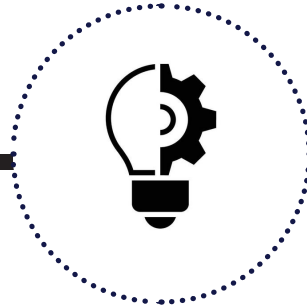
Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

Spring



**Community  
Engagement  
& Concept  
Development**

**Concept  
development &  
Professional  
Services**

**Bidding &  
Permitting**

**Construction**

**Construction  
Substantial  
Completion**

**Ongoing community engagement with local District Council, City Staff,  
and online communications.**



## Project Goals

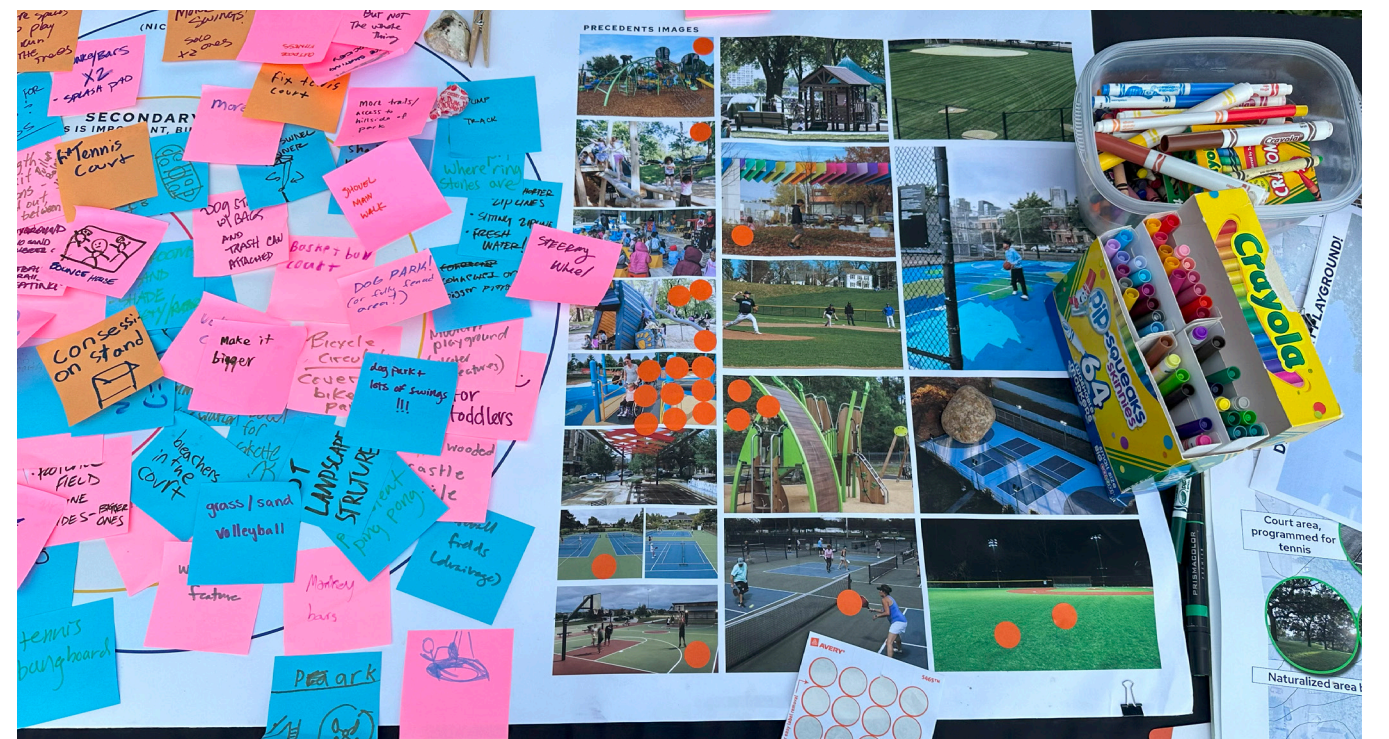
- » Improve programmed areas and to create more comfortable, accessible facilities for all users.
- » Create recreation opportunities that adapt to a wide variety of park users and abilities.
- » Provide circulation and community spaces within the park that support both active and passive recreation.

## Project Scope

- » Playground
- » Court & Amenities (Tennis & Basketball)
- » Baseball Fields

# Recap from engagement

# Merriam Park DAC Design Direction 10.1.2024



# Recap from engagement

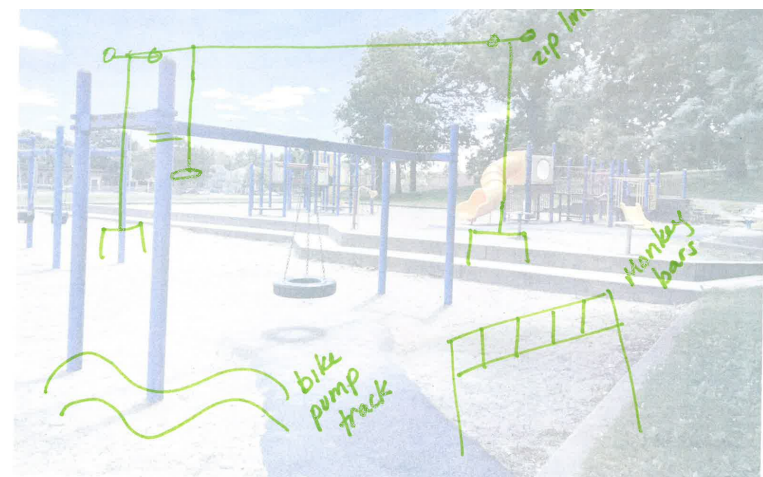
# Merriam Park DAC Design Direction 10.1.2024



DRAW YOUR NEXT PLAYGROUND!



DRAW YOUR NEXT PLAYGROUND!





# Existing conditions

# Merriam Park DAC Design Direction 10.1.2024



# Existing tree canopy

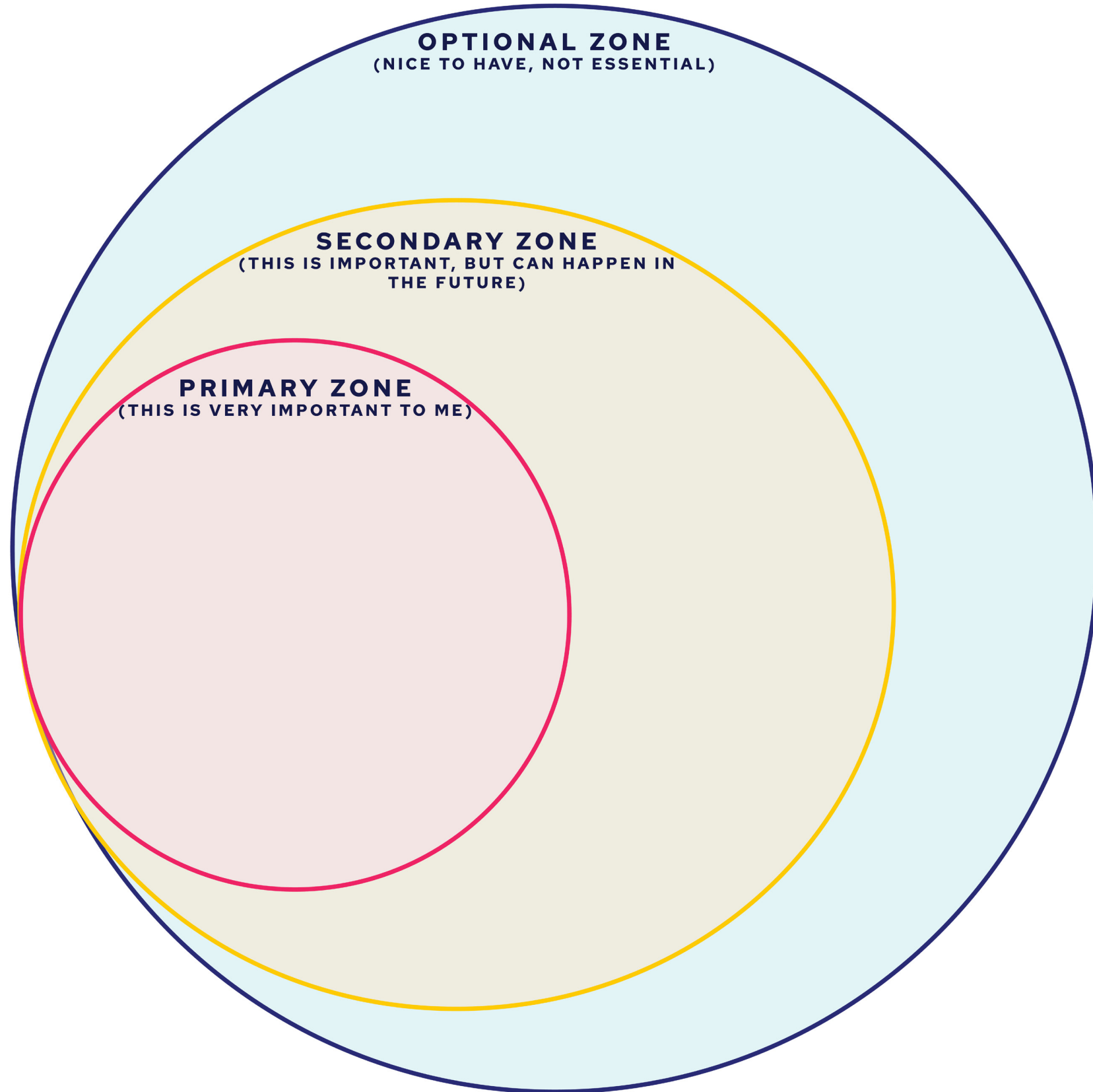
# Merriam Park DAC Design Direction 10.1.2024



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## WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU!

PLEASE USE A POST-IT, TELL US WHAT YOUR PRIORITIES ARE FOR THE PARK



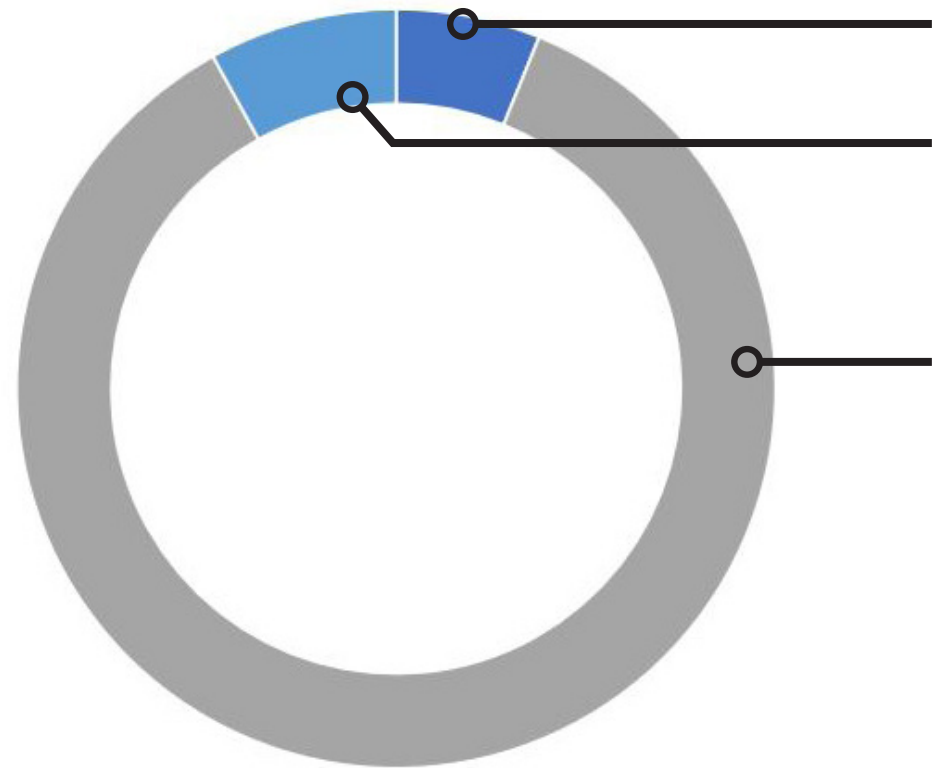
### PRECEDENTS IMAGES





# Data & summary themes

\* Feedback was received via precedent and priorities board from Ice cream, Peanut Butter & Jam event on September 21st 2024. Responses from participants are summarized in this document. All feedback received is valued and evaluated thoroughly.



## Site Improvements

3.3% of responses

## Site Amenities

4.3% of responses

## New Program Elements

46% of responses

## Trends we heard

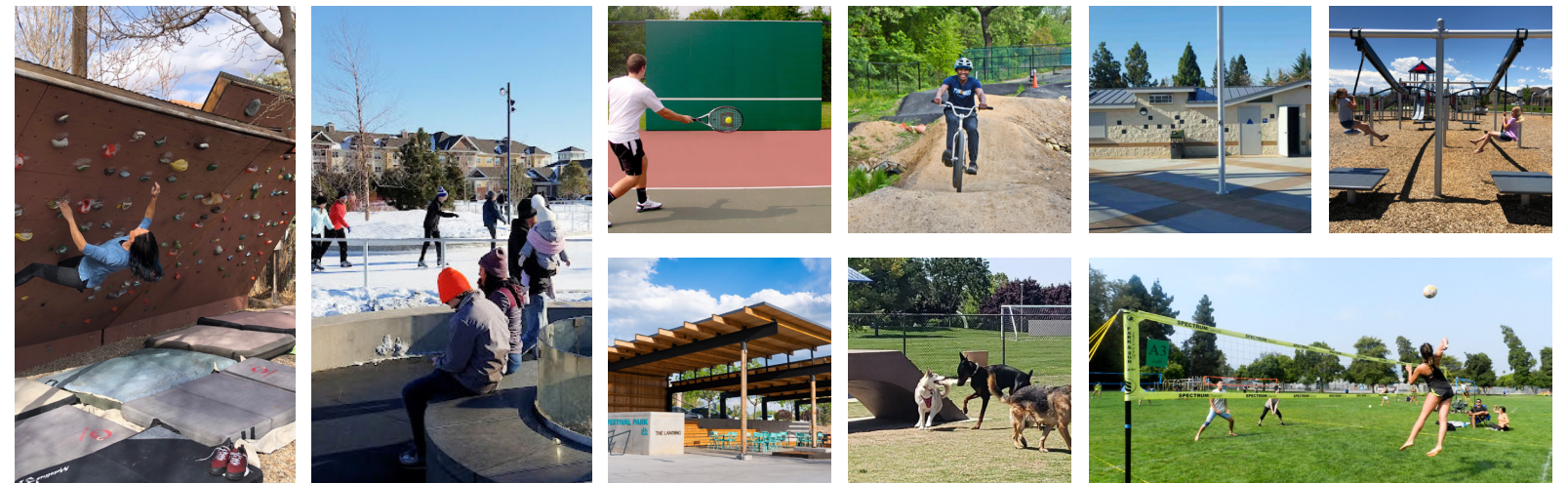
- Removal of sand at the playground.
- Accessible walking paths.
- Designating open spaces for flexible programming.
- More shade whether its shade trees or a shade structure.
- Separate area for a dog park with supporting amenities.
- Re - thinking playground features to encapsulate different age groups.
- Water feature (Pool or Splash pad).
- Park pavilion with seating.
- Flexible sports field ( having different line types for different sports).
- Updating the tennis courts with different striping for flexible use.

# Merriam Park DAC Design Direction 10.1.2024

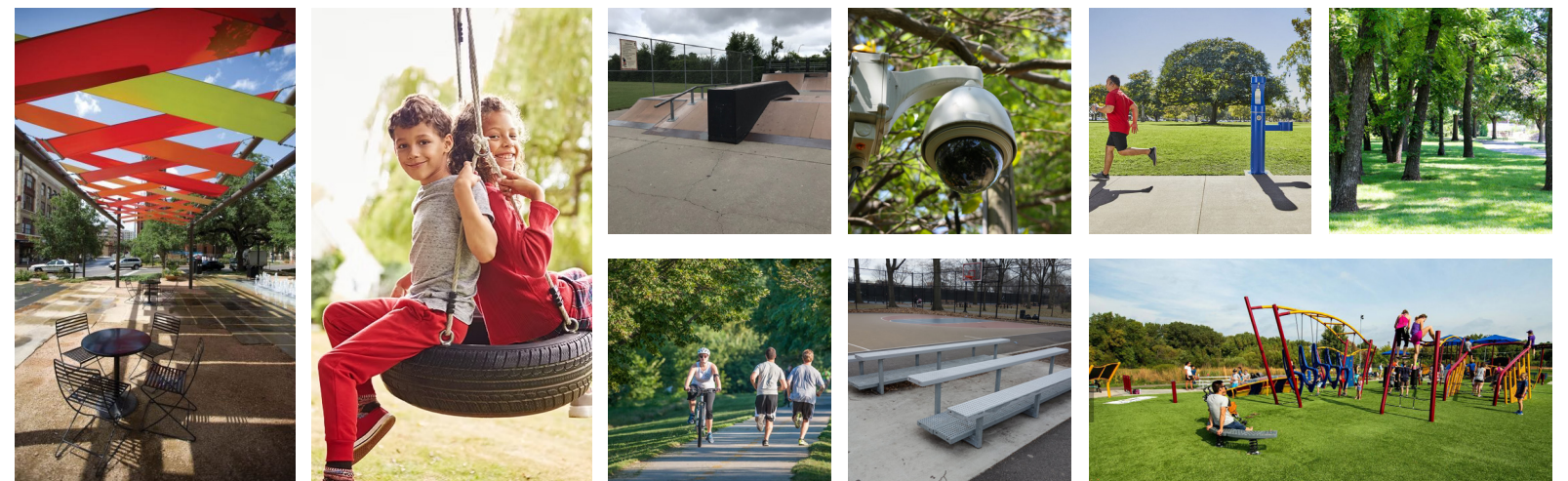
## Near term solutions \*Other suggestions: Ping Pong Table, Full Court Basketball, Better Fencing



## New Program Elements \*Other suggestions: Splash Pad, Volleyball, Covered Bike Parking, and Separate Sandbox area



## Supporting amenities \*Other suggestions: Increase size of park, Winter Maintenance, Wider trails, and Improved Accessible Paths.





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-  Local Lookouts
-  Civic Threads
-  Gateways
-  Woodland Connections
-  Identity Edges

# Project timeline

2024

2025

2026

Fall

Winter

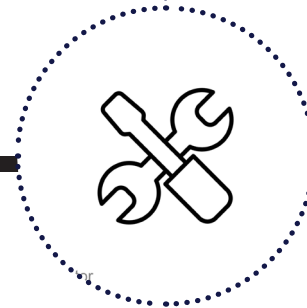
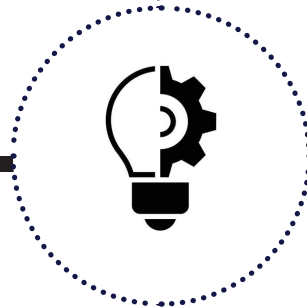
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**Thank You!**

**STAY ENGAGED!**

**SURVEY OPEN THROUGH NOVEMBER 1ST**

Check out the project website  
for information and updates:



[https://www.stpaul.gov/  
merriamparkprojects](https://www.stpaul.gov/merriamparkprojects)

Share your feedback  
with the design team:



[https://engagestpaul.org/  
merriampark/surveys/Merriam-  
park-improvements-survey](https://engagestpaul.org/merriampark/surveys/Merriam-park-improvements-survey)

# MERRIAM PARK - Site Improvements

Design Advisory Committee Mtg. # 4

10/01/2024



## CONFIRMING MAIN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Providing comfortable, accessible facilities for the neighborhood
- Adapting & creating multi-purpose spaces for flexibility
- Strengthening connections throughout
  - (Circulation, community, active and passive rec.)



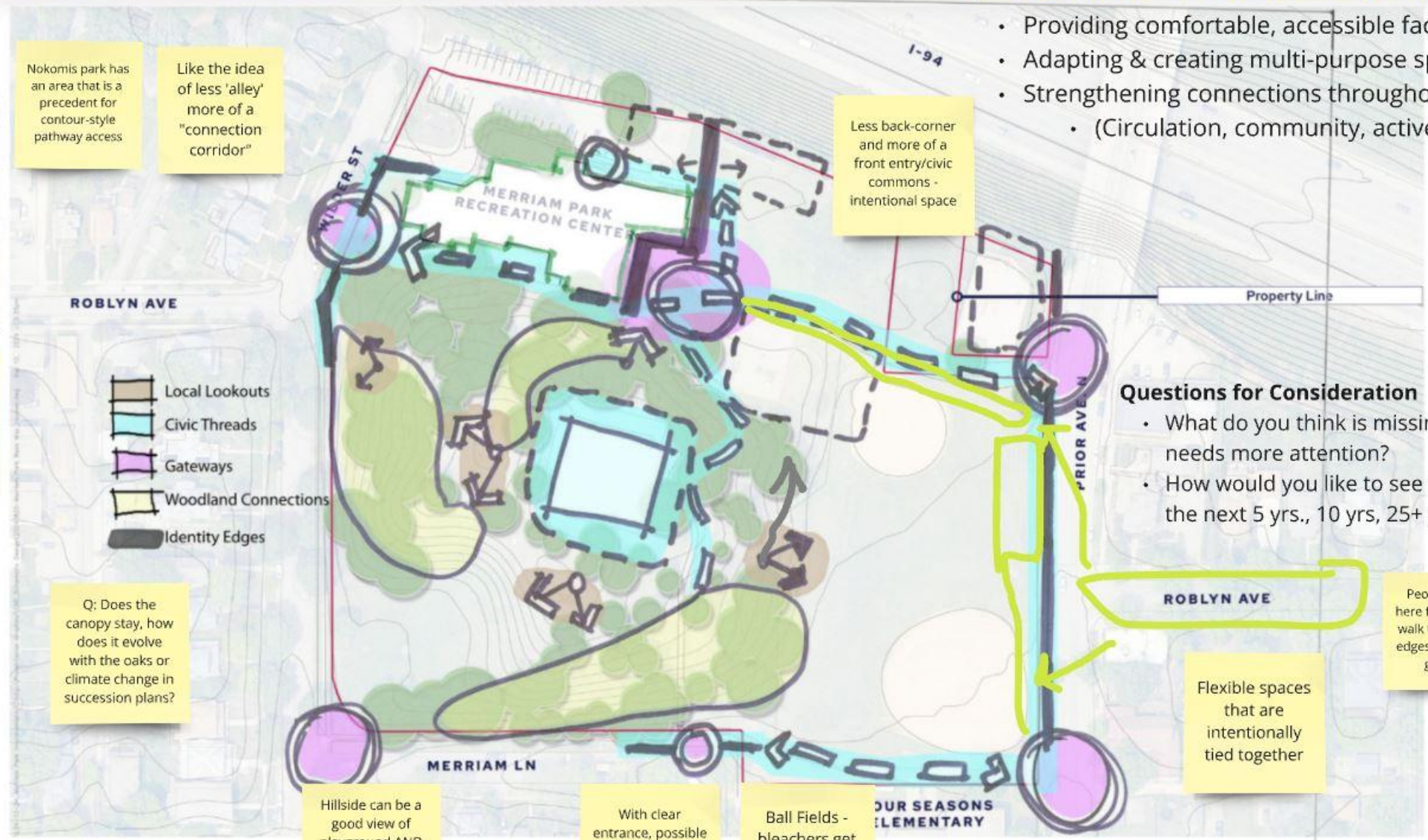
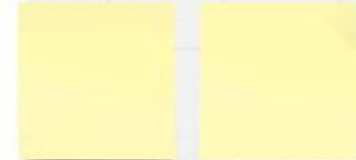
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Design Advisory Committee Mtg. # 4

10/01/2024

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### Questions for Consideration

- What do you think is missing or an area that needs more attention?
- How would you like to see the park being used in the next 5 yrs., 10 yrs, 25+ years?



Nokomis park has an area that is a precedent for contour-style pathway access

Like the idea of less 'alley' more of a "connection corridor"

Less back-corner and more of a front entry/civic commons - intentional space

intentional placemaking, signage opportunities for welcoming people to the space, education

Q: Mural options or public art on the building(?) is this possible in the interim before new rec center?

Current 'alley' or back of building feels "creepy" - like someone is not supposed to be here

Q: Does the canopy stay, how does it evolve with the oaks or climate change in succession plans?

Hillside can be a good view of playground AND ballfields, nice for periphery for parents

With clear entrance, possible utilize hillsides but most currently stick to the paths

Ball Fields - bleachers get used now, but in rough shape

Flexible spaces that are intentionally tied together

People park here for games, walk w. gear to edges shown in green