Project Schedule + Engagement Overview

PROJECT SCHEDULE

We're here!

Phase 0

LAUNCH
February 2026

February 23 2026
Working Group Kickoff

Phase 1

ANALYSIS
February - May 2026

March 13 2026
Steering Committee Park Tours

April 14 2026
Stakeholder Focus Groups Round 1

May 14 2026
Steering Committee Meeting 1

Phase 2

COMMUNITY VISIONING
June - September 2026

June 4 2026
Community Meeting 1
Online Survey

August 25 2026
Steering Committee Meeting 2

September 1 2026
Stakeholder Focus Groups Round 2
Community Meeting 2

Phase 3

PLAN DEVELOPMENT
October 2026 - January 2027

October 20 2026
Steering Committee Meeting 3

November 17 2026
Community Meeting 3 - Open House

January 25 2026
Final Plan Presentation to City Council



1,200+
voices heard!

FEEDBACK SUMMARY Top 5 Themes



Improve Existing Facilities
Existing field space needs more flexibility and all-weather durability. Investing in turf fields and re-imagining field layouts can aid in usability and scheduling.



Consider Indoor Recreation
There is significant interest in a potential indoor recreation facility, though cost and location need to be further discussed & evaluated.



Preserve/Enhance Gardens
Residents cherish Wallace Gardens; the space can be enhanced through additional amenities like walking paths, seating, and potential neighboring uses.



Enhance Trail Connectivity
Trails and paths can be enhanced & linked to provide access to existing amenities. Additional connectivity can complement existing park assets.



Prioritize Everyday Programs
Consider additional teen programming, dog parks, nature-based learning, and community-oriented events and classes.

Park + Program Feedback Summary: Public Survey #2

Parks Feedback

Community Parks

» Maximize flexible, **year-round sports field** usability
» Add dedicated **dog park** areas
» Enhance **infrastructure** and add in convenient **alternative transportation** options (shade, seating, covered bike racks)
» Expand **trails** where appropriate

Destination Parks

» Implement historic markers, signs, & land acknowledgments
» Need at least **five** tennis courts at Urlin
» Calls to **keep Wallace Gardens** in place, but open to additional amenities at the site
» Differentiate parks with distinct offerings

Nature Parks

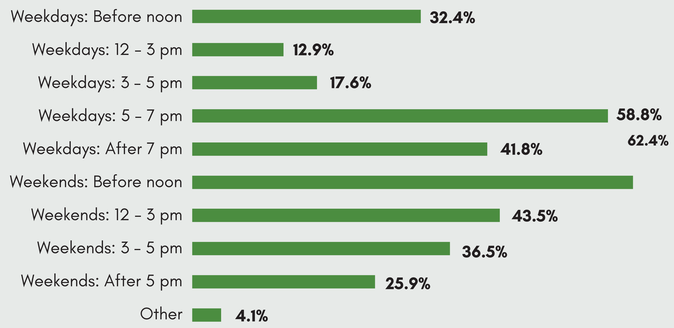
» Add more **educational** opportunities and **nature-based activities** + play
» Enhance and build **trails**
» Prioritize **flood management** and park + trail maintenance
» Dedicated focus on **mature trees and existing canopy**
» Formalize **garden** areas, plus add dedicated pollinator gardens

Neighborhood Parks

» Additional **amenities** including seating, trash receptacles, & signage
» Maintain **bathrooms**
» Activate with amenities like chess tables, swings & small play structures
» Improve play structures
» Implement **more native plantings**
» Improve **connectivity + access**
» Conserve **green space**
» Consider **programming** here - like exercise classes or crafts

Program Feedback

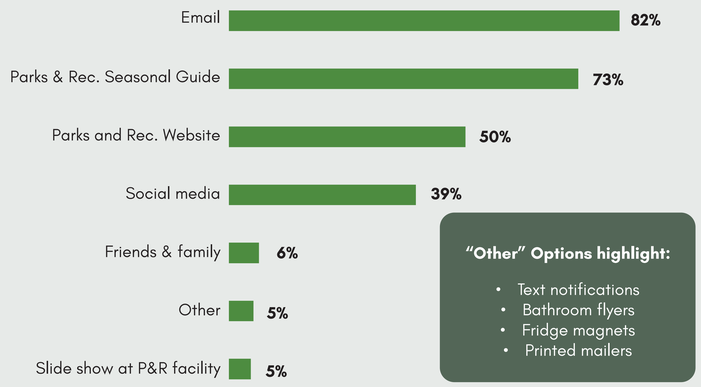
What time of the day and week are you most likely to participate in recreation programs? Select all that apply. (n = 170)



Top five most popular times:

1. Weekends: before noon (62.4%)
2. Weekdays: 5 - 7 pm (58.8%)
3. Weekends: 12 - 3 pm (43.5%)
4. Weekdays: After 7 pm (41.8%)
5. Weekends: 3 - 5 pm (36.5%)

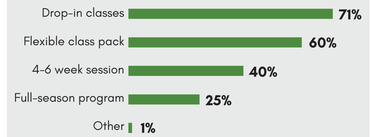
How would you like to receive information about Parks & Recreation programs, services and events? Select all that apply. (n = 173)



"Other" Options highlight:

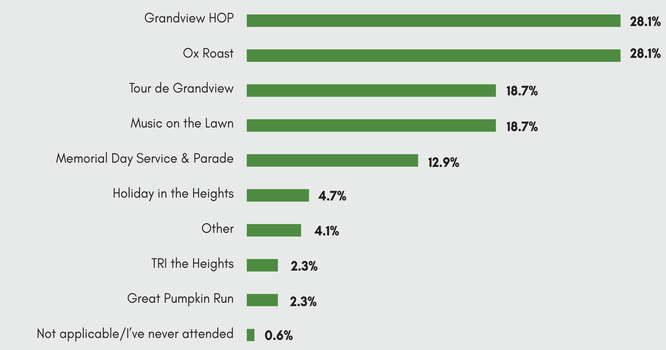
- Text notifications
- Bathroom flyers
- Fridge magnets
- Printed mailers

Which format would you be most interested in for recreation programs? Select all that apply. (n = 158)



Residents are looking for **flexibility** and **easy, reliable access** to recreation offerings.

What is your favorite Community Event? (n = 171)











Park Recommendations Summary

Expand Comfort Amenities

Conduct amenity inventory and **provide standard seating, shade, wayfinding & waste amenities for all parks.**

Prioritize Care for Well-Loved Spaces

Conduct conditions and tree risk assessment to **maintain or upgrade existing amenities and natural areas.**

Create Multifunctional Spaces for All

Create **opportunities for new or improved park amenities.**

RECOMMENDATION KEY

- 1 Paul J. Falco Park
- 4 Urlin Tennis Courts
- 7 Terrace Park
- 12 Virginia Avenue Park
- 13 Parkway Park
- 16 Parkway Mini Park
- 17 Timberman Copeland Park
- 19 Burr Avenue Park
- 20 Yard Street Greenspace
- 21 Recent Land Donation Site



General Program Recommendations

Enhance Existing Programs

Marketing & Messaging
Market programs by life stage and focus on improving programming for 20-49 year olds. Promotions should include what participants gain, when it occurs, whether children can be engaged nearby, whether experience/equipment is needed, and how to register. Focus on the features, advantages, and benefits of taking the class with Grandview Heights as the class message.

Catalog Shift from one large seasonal catalog launch to rolling campaigns: seasonal awareness, monthly themes, and weekly messages featuring a small number of strategic programs.

Partner to Increase Capacity

Expand Scheduling Flexibility
To reach residents at preferred times of day/week, work with outside organizations/contractors for more flexibility to meet users' needs and schedules.

Refer Residents for Specialized Services
Use partnerships and referrals for more specialized services.

Expand New Program Opportunities

Community Events and Festivals
Use signature events as the broadest community-building and program-recruitment channel.

Lifelong Learning and Special Interests
Reposition lifelong learning for younger working adults and households. Including classes such as:

- » Arts and crafts: sewing, repair cafes, sketching, pottery, painting, woodworking
- » Cooking
- » STEAM offerings
- » Indoor plants and gardening
- » Health - CPR and Stop the Bleed
- » Language classes
- » Playing card club, with mahjong



Positioning Strategy
Use beginner and re-entry programming as an on-ramp but emphasize outcomes and confidence rather than labeling residents as beginners.

Family Activity Hub
Coordinate adult and youth activities at the same location and during the same 45- to 60-minute block so the household makes one trip and everyone has a meaningful activity.

Expand Introductions
Create a "Try Grandview Heights" entry point using free/nominal samplers, one-day introductions, bring-a-neighbor offers, discovery passes, and quarterly open-house-style experiences.

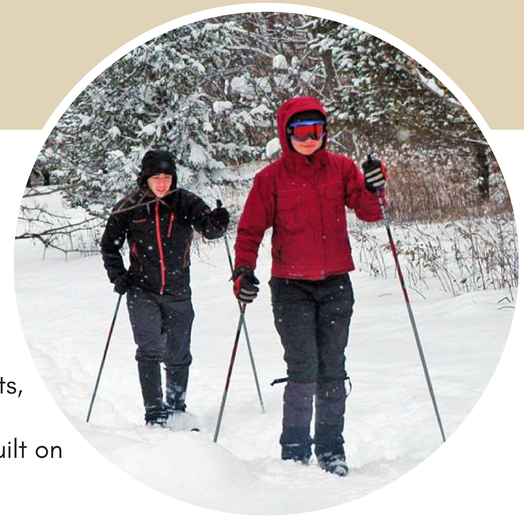
Expand Program with External Organizations
Use regional park systems, outfitters, nonprofits, schools, and cultural organizations to expand outdoor recreation, enrichment, and special-interest offerings beyond the Grandview Heights' limited land and facility inventory.

City Communications
Implement more frequent, targeted and engaging communications content rather than general awareness posts.Residents indicate that their preferred communication methods are via email, seasonal guide, and on the Grandview Heights Parks and Recreation website/social media.

Fitness and Wellness
Shift growth efforts toward accessible, short-format and re-entry programs for adults ages 20-49. Most residents preferred the flexible drop-in format for programming:

1. Drop-in classes (71%)
2. Flexible class pack (60%)
3. 4-6 week session (40%)
4. Full-season program (25%)

Outdoor Recreation and Nature
Focus on beginner-friendly access to local and regional experiences. Use regional partners.



Build on Core Programs Strengths
Most respondents said they participate in youth programs, community events, summer camps, and swim lessons, which should be built on as a base.

Increase Awareness
Create separate campaign messages for ages 20-29, ages 30-39, and ages 40-49.

One Product
Market program clusters as one household product. Show all simultaneous adult, preschool, elementary, and preteen options together as one listing.

Timing
Timing of program offerings was the biggest barrier to participation for residents. Residents are looking for flexibility and easy, reliable access to recreation/program offerings, with a **focus on evenings and weekends.**



Youth Sports
Continue role in introductory and developmental opportunities rather than duplicating competitive providers. (Consider new sports such as Girls Flag Football)



Heritage Trail & Trailhead

Recommendations

Feedback

Trails and walking/biking paths, along with additional trailhead amenities including a restroom and water station, are **the second-highest priority amenities for residents**.

Recommendations

- Add trailhead facility at Grandview Avenue along future Heritage Trail.
- Explore opportunities for additional connections into community and parks system from Heritage Trail.
- Trailhead Amenities:
  - Paved plaza with bike parking and repair station
  - Restrooms and water fountain
  - Seating with shade
  - Potential proximity to parking
  - Wayfinding/signage



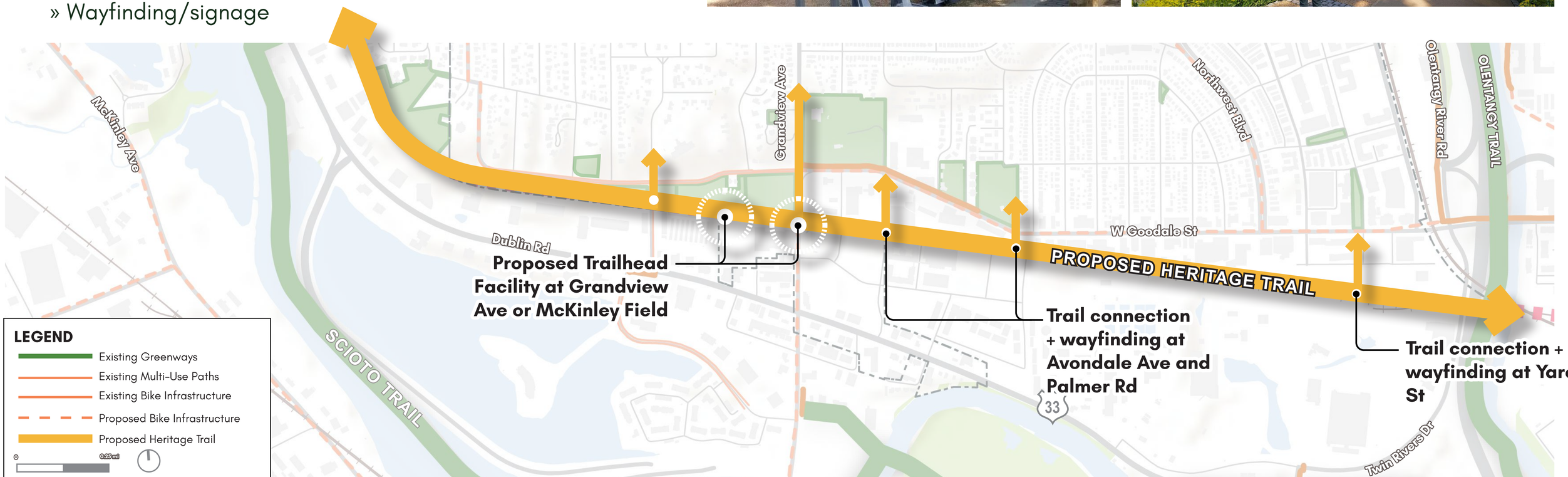












Nature Parks

Embracing Natural Features

Feedback

Many residents would like to see more opportunities for passive, open space and accessible natural areas.

Recommendations

- Conduct Tree Risk Assessment
    - With any new development or improvements, prioritize the preservation of healthy, mature tree canopy wherever possible
- Consider implementation of nature play areas
    - Conduct existing trail maintenance + add new trail connections within and between parks such as Wyman Woods and Urlin Tennis/ McKinley Field/Wallace Gardens


NATURE PLAY


NATIVE PLANTING & INTERPRETATION


MAINTAINED TRAILS & PRESERVED CANOPY



NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Neighborhood Parks

Recommendations

Feedback

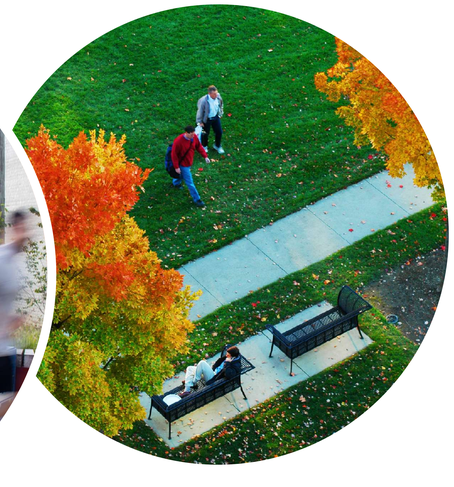
In addition to standard comfort amenities such as seating, waste receptacles and signage, residents would like to see simple amenity and program activations.

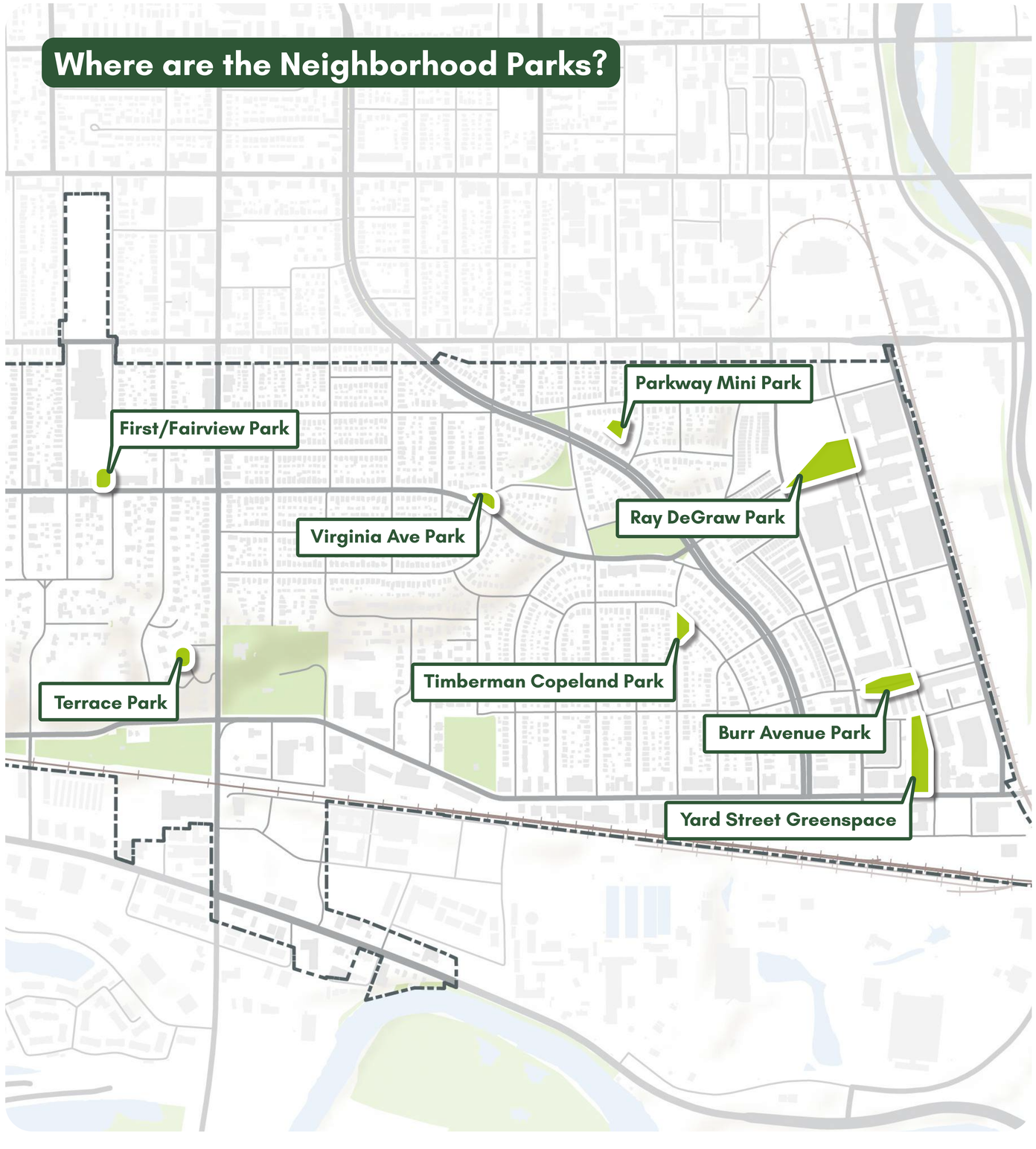
Recommendations

- Provide a baseline of seating, waste receptacles and signage at each neighborhood park
- Where feasible, implement small activating amenities such as swing benches, chess tables, small play structures
- Consider small exercise, nature or craft programming opportunities to increase awareness and visitation
    - Prioritize and implement additional native planting opportunities to increase interest and pollinator habitat









Urlin, McKinley Greenspace, Wallace Gardens

Recommendations

Dog Park
- Potential half-acre shaded off-leash dog park at McKinley Greenspace

Relocated Softball
- Turf softball fields at Pierce Field, Buck Park, and Larson Middle School allow for removal of softball field at McKinley Field
- Field removal enables expanded parking, fifth tennis court, trailhead, and flex open space

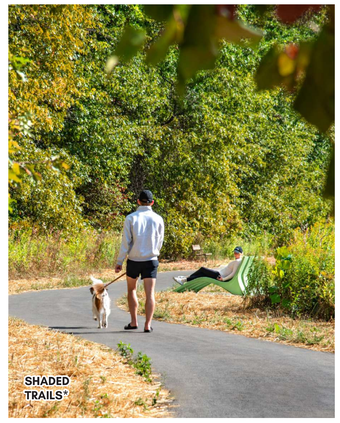
Heritage Trail
- Trailhead at Grandview Ave or Urlin Tennis Courts

Improved Play Area*
- Upgrade existing play area with destination nature playground

Shaded Trails*
Additional pedestrian circulation to connect McKinley Field and Wallace Gardens through mature tree canopy areas

Wallace Gardens
- Community gardens to remain in-place
- Potential improvements include: pathways, accessible raised beds, tool storage, and improved parking access


UPDATED NATURE PLAYGROUND*

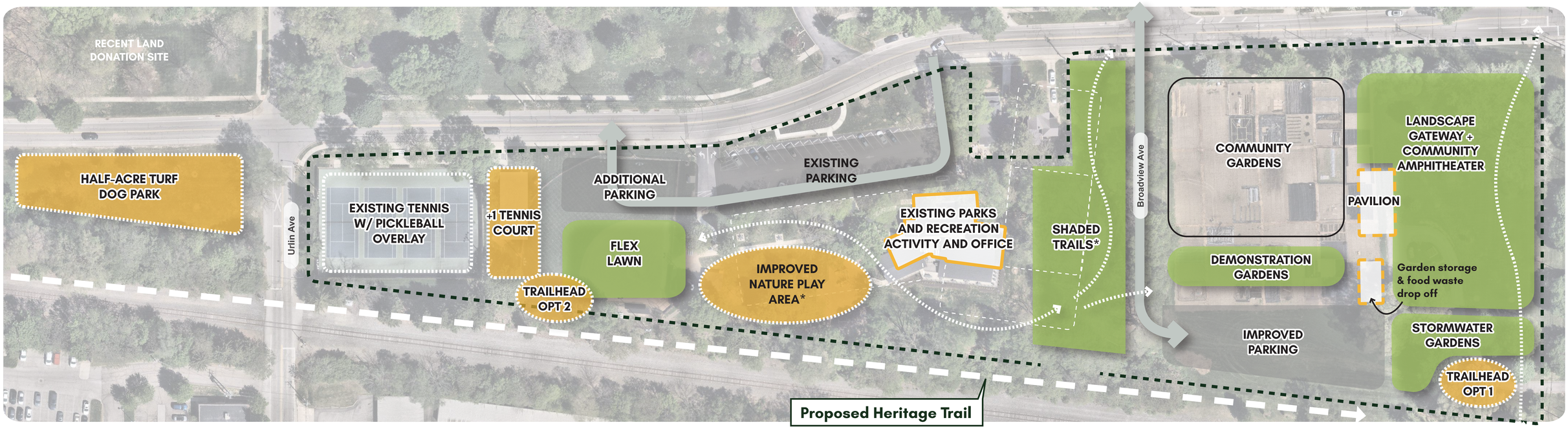

SHADED TRAILS*


DEFINED GARDEN BEDS & PATHWAYS


EXPANDED TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL


OFF-LEASH DOG AREA


DEFINED GARDEN BEDS & PATHWAYS



* The Extension indoor recreation scenario may impact nature play and shaded trail areas

Former City Hall Site
Recommendations

Feedback

Passive open space and natural areas were in the Top 5 amenities residents indicated Grandview Heights needs more of

Phase 1
Online & Paper Survey

52% of residents feel the preservation and reuse of the Former City Hall building is **not a high priority**

Phase 2
Online & Paper Survey

"Respectfully share Native American information + history"

Stakeholder Focus Group

"Canopy walk and hillside overlook"

Public Meeting #2
Design Your Park Activity

"Cost to renovate existing firehouse into event space is too high; consider constructing new building"

Steering Committee Meeting #3

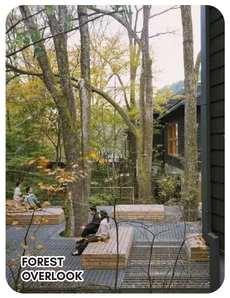
Proposed Improvements

01. Sun lawn
02. Shade lawn
03. Restrooms + winter warming station
04. Picnic pavilions
05. Loop trail
06. Native meadow
07. Stormwater gardens
08. Forest overlook platform
09. Connection to hillside trails
10. Potential future event space (2000 SF)
11. Parking + drop off loop (30-35 spaces)

















Indigenous history storytelling:
Opportunity to engage indigenous groups to inform potential material and interpretive opportunities

Pierce Field + C. Ray Buck Park

Recommendations

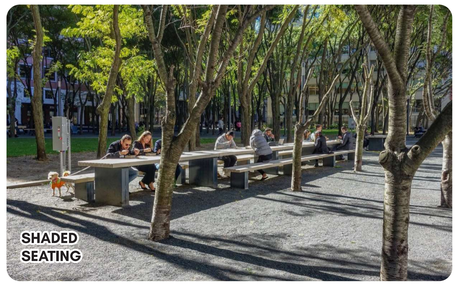
PIERCE FIELD

Proposed Improvements

01 Linear plaza
02 All-weather turf softball field
03 Improved play area











C. RAY BUCK PARK

Proposed Improvements

- Replace lawns and infield with heat-resistant all-weather turf for long-term resiliency
- Additional softball and little league fields
- Multi-purpose field for soccer, field sports, community events, etc.



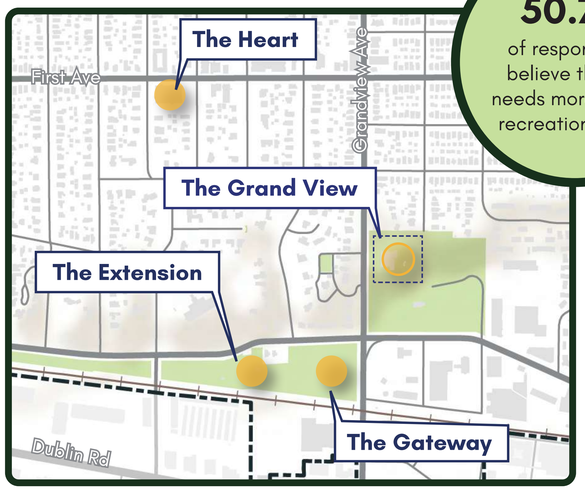




Indoor Recreation Scenarios

Recommendations

POSSIBLE INDOOR RECREATION LOCATIONS



50.7% of respondents believe the city needs more indoor recreation space

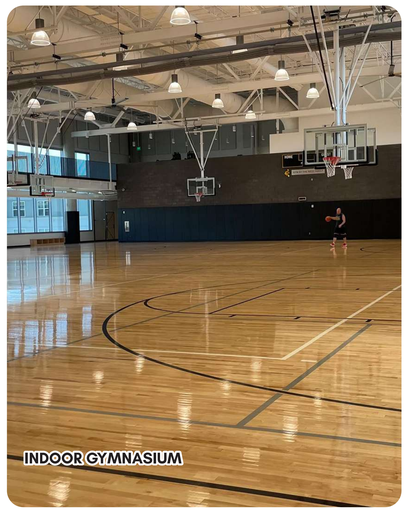
A Feasibility Study will be the first step to determine market feasibility, scope, and location of a possible future indoor recreation facility.

Similar to local and regional benchmarks, a new indoor recreation facility would include:

- **A full-size indoor gymnasium**
- **100 meter walking track**
- **Indoor fitness space**
- **Classroom space and support/storage**

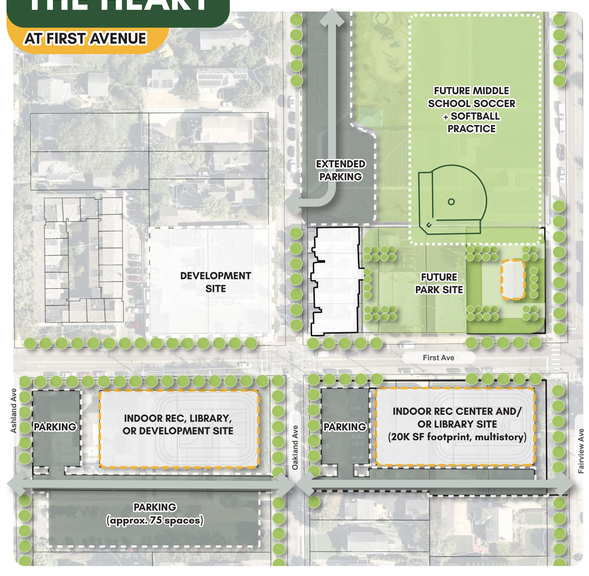

ELEVATED TRACK + INDOOR FITNESS


GROUP FITNESS SPACES


INDOOR GYMNASIUM

THE HEART

AT FIRST AVENUE



OPPORTUNITIES

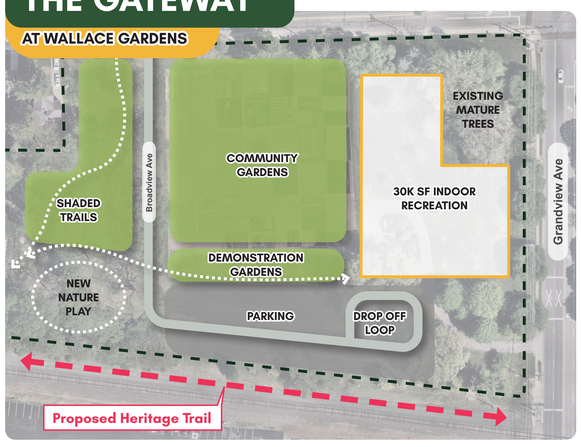
- Proximity to library, future First Ave Park expansion and Grandview Heights Schools
- 20-30K SF building footprint either west or east of Oakland Ave.
- Combined facility with Grandview Library for shared programming and operations
- Possible Public/Private partnership

CHALLENGES

- Long term vision - requires land acquisition following library relocation
- Limited opportunities for on-site outdoor amenities
- Parking may be limited depending on site selection and building orientation

THE GATEWAY

AT WALLACE GARDENS



OPPORTUNITIES

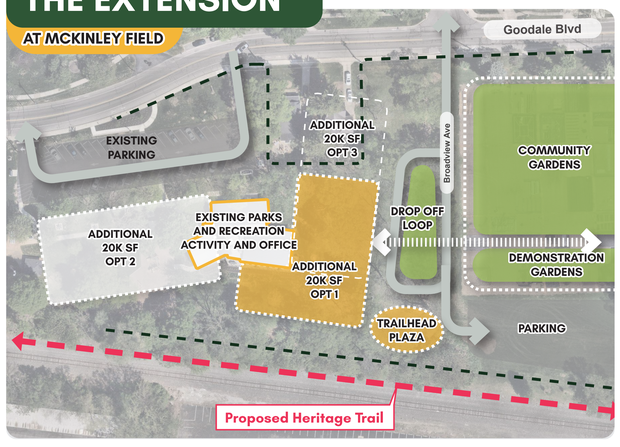
- New municipal building and indoor recreation creates framed gateway into Grandview Heights
- Community gardens remain in-place - potential to celebrate history and improve public access with pathways, raised beds, and demonstration gardens
- Proximity to existing outdoor amenities and future Heritage Trail
- Minor impact to existing mature trees

CHALLENGES

- Required new vehicular entry from Broadview Ave to create safe parking circulation
- While community gardens can remain in-place, reconfiguration may be required for optimal sun exposure

THE EXTENSION

AT MCKINLEY FIELD



OPPORTUNITIES

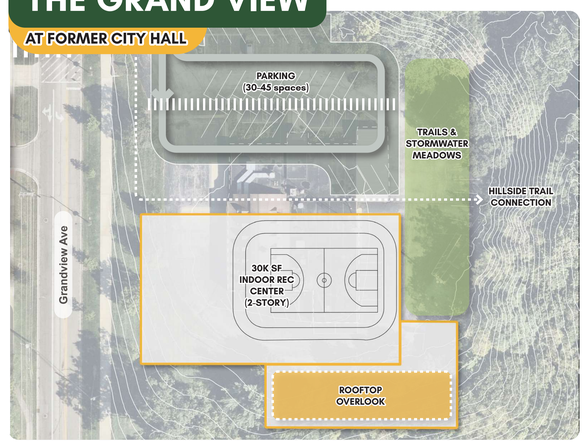
- Extension of existing structure and parking
- Community gardens remain in-place - potential to celebrate history and improve public access with pathways, raised beds, and demonstration gardens

CHALLENGES

- Impact to existing mature trees
- Option 1 may require most significant impact existing shade trees and opportunities for shaded trails
- Option 2 requires relocation of existing play area
- Option 3 may require residential land acquisition
- Requires relocation of existing softball/youth baseball field
- Stormwater management

THE GRAND VIEW

AT FORMER CITY HALL



OPPORTUNITIES

- Proximity to Wyman Woods
- Potential 2-story structure can take advantage of views to downtown Columbus

CHALLENGES

- Limited opportunities for on-site outdoor amenities
- Limited area for parking availability
- Significant disturbance to existing mature trees and hillside

Wyman Woods
Recommendations

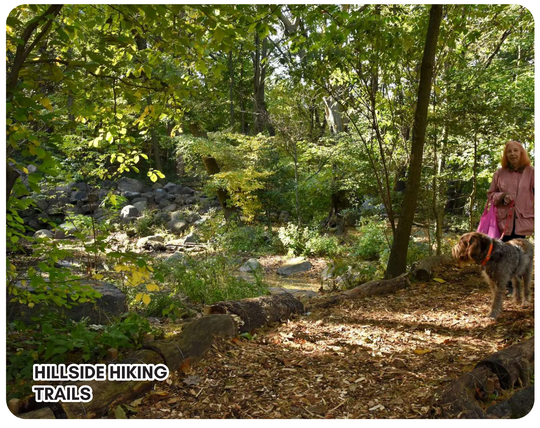
Feedback

Wyman Woods is the #1 most visited site in the park system. With many well-loved existing amenities, residents would like to see **hillside connections** to the Former City Hall site/ adjacent neighborhoods, **preservation of tree canopy** and **opportunities for outdoor fitness.**

Proposed Improvements

01. Hillside hiking trails (0.25 miles)
02. Existing accessible loop trail (0.30 miles)
03. Outdoor fitness equipment nodes
04. Practice soccer field
05. Flex lawn/gathering space
06. Existing sled hill
07. Improved stormwater management at parking


OUTDOOR FITNESS NODES


HILLSIDE HIKING TRAILS


PARKING STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS


FLEX LAWN/ AMPHITHEATER



Tree canopy preservation:
Similar to Nature Parks, preservation of healthy existing mature tree canopy along the hillside shall be prioritized for runoff mitigation, erosion control, shade and aesthetic character.