



# BLOOM

WINCHESTER



BIL







TM





# PROJECT TEAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## THE PEOPLE OF WINCHESTER-CLARK COUNTY

Members of the general public of Winchester and Clark County have been integral team members in the development of the BLOOM Community Parks Master Plan. Residents, workers, and community members made their voices heard throughout the planning process – including through more than 850 parks survey responses – to directly inform this plan and help shape the future of Winchester’s parks for years to come.

Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation extends thanks to the many individuals and institutions who made valuable contributions to the plan through their input, ideas, volunteerism, and dedication to quality public space.



## THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The BLOOM Steering Committee was responsible for working directly with the planning consultant, providing resources and guidance throughout the duration of the project. The Committee included the following individuals:

- Latonia Bell, Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation Board
- Stephen Berry, Clark County GIS Coordinator; Chairman, Walk Bike Clark County
- Debbie Fatkin, Clark County Community Services; Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation Board Chair
- Jennifer Gulley, Coordinator, MAPP Partnership; Coordinator, CC Community Health Improvement Planning
- Deborah Jackson, Executive Director, Legacy Greenscapes
- Beth Jones, Program Officer, The Greater Clark Foundation; BPAC; Member, Alliance for Local Food Access (ALFA)
- Jeff Lewis, Director, Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation
- Deatra Newell, Winchester Resident and Community Organizer

## THE PLANNING CONSULTANT

The plan was led by Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation in partnership with Omnes, a landscape architecture, planning, and art studio based in Easton, Pennsylvania. The consultant team included:


- Laura Stedenfeld, Principal
- Sheila M. Fuentes, Researcher & Editor
- Carson Fisk-Vittori, Landscape Designer
- Bonnie Kirn-Donahue, Associate
- Emily Hahn-Van Wagoner, Senior Landscape Designer
- Sara Harmon, Landscape Designer
- Makio Yamamoto, Landscape Designer
- Justin Soto, Designer





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# INTRODUCTION





# ABOUT

## WHAT IS “BLOOM: A COMMUNITY PARKS PLAN”?

BLOOM is a master plan for future improvements to ten parks in the system maintained by Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation (“WCCPR” or “Parks and Recreation”) in Winchester, Clark County, Kentucky. This community-based plan was developed in 2020 and 2021, and centers the voices of those who live, work, and play in Winchester. The plan’s theme is inspired by the native wildflowers of Kentucky, and celebrates the concept that a diversity of ideas can bloom and flourish from the seeds and nourishment of a community.

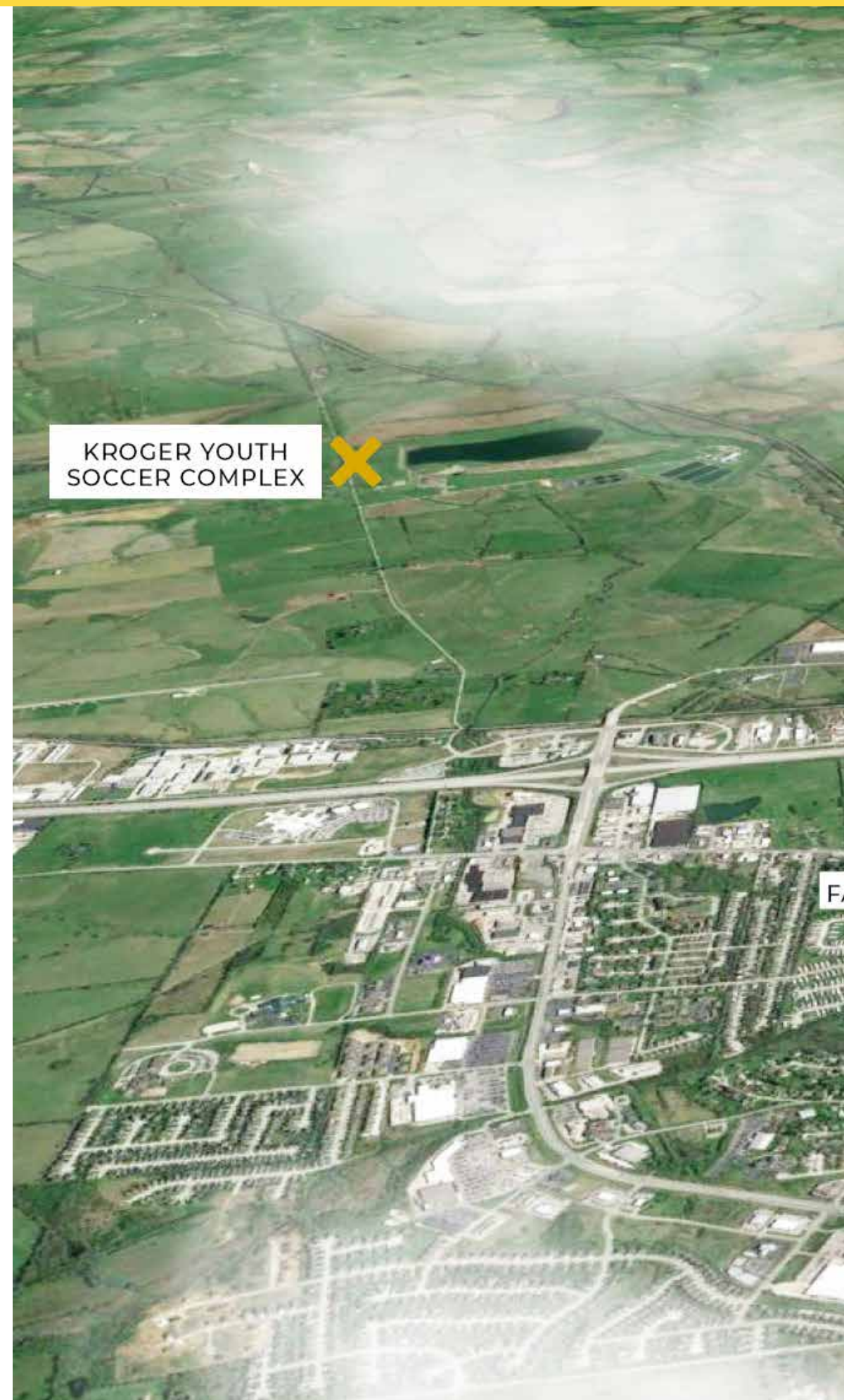
The plan considers aspects of access, walkability and connection between and within parks. Through the lenses of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the plan recommendations and proposed concepts aim to ensure that all feel safe, welcome, and respected in Winchester’s public spaces and parks. BLOOM also explores themes of identity, beauty, cultural ecology, and maintenance & operations. While BLOOM makes recommendations only for the ten parks in scope, the planning team considered relationships to other open spaces of significance within Winchester City and Clark County, such as the Traveling Trail, in the context of the larger urban, suburban, and rural frameworks.

The project was generously funded by a 10 Minute Walk grant awarded to WCCPR and administered by National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The grant campaign is a national effort to improve access to safe, quality parks and green spaces, led by the Trust for Public Land (TPL), in partnership with NRPA and the Urban Land Institute and with support from The JPB Foundation.

## HOW WILL THE PLAN BE USED?

The plan makes recommendations for how WCCPR can improve the quality of the parks and open spaces that it owns and maintains. These recommendations and proposed park concepts range from short-term maintenance and inexpensive catalytic improvements to larger capital investments that may take years to accomplish as a community. The plan will assist WCCPR in defining goals and funding priorities as it applies for grants and works with the Parks Board and County to determine funding streams.

There are a number of non-profit organizations active in Winchester that have been working hard to advance the quality of and access to public space, such as Winchester Design Studio, Winchester in Nature (WIN), Nature Alliance School, and The Greater Clark Foundation, among others. BLOOM recognizes that partnerships and collaborations will be necessary to achieve the goals and concepts defined within the master plan.







LYKINS PARK

MELBOURNE PARK

MASSIE PARK

HERITAGE PARK

COMMUNITY PARK

HARMON PARK

COLLEGE PARK

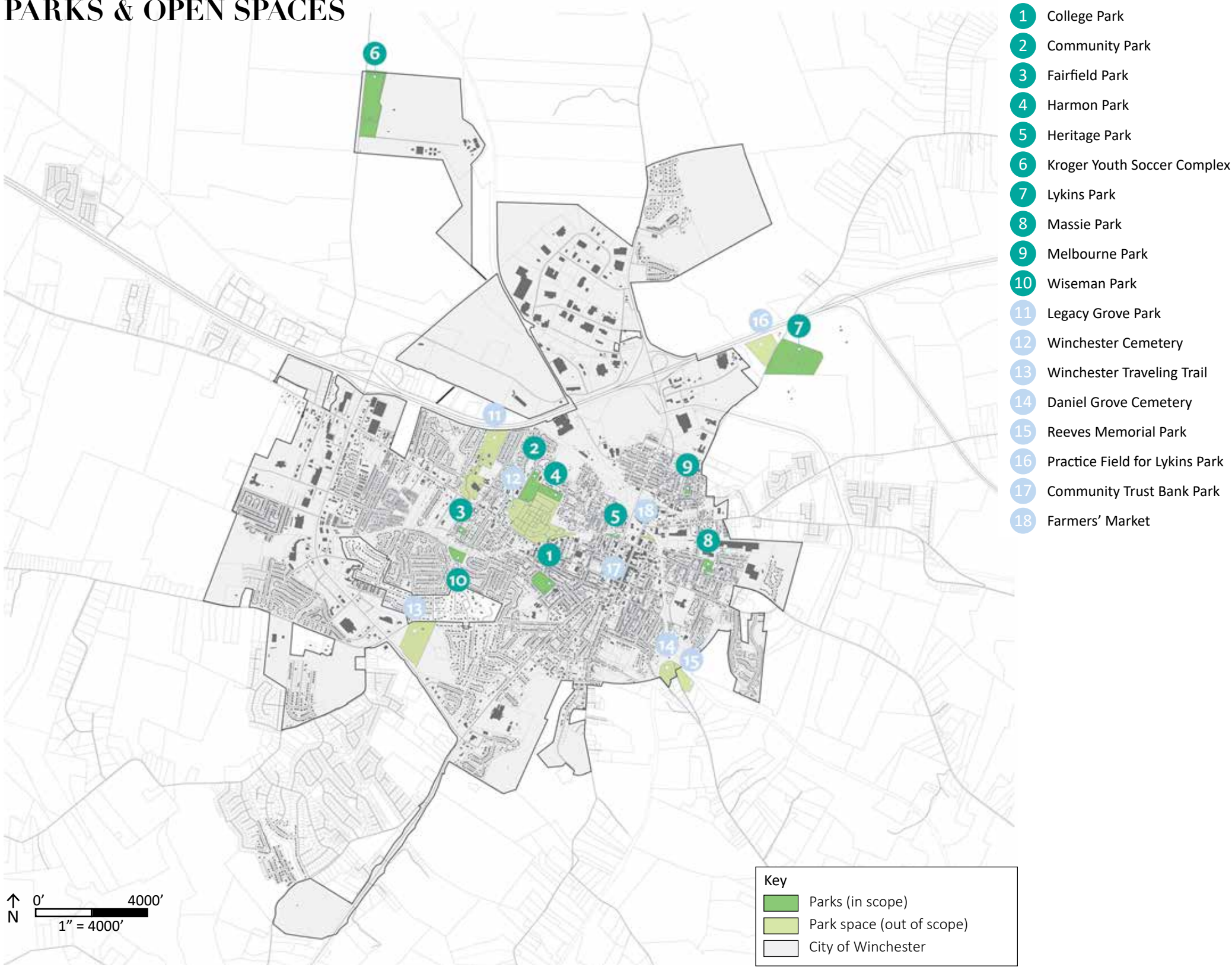
AIRFIELD PARK

WISEMAN PARK



# WHAT DOES THE MASTER PLAN STUDY?

## PARKS & OPEN SPACES





## WHAT OPEN SPACES ARE INCLUDED?

The master plan studies ten parks that are actively owned and managed by WCCPR. This includes the first ten parks noted at left. The planning team also considered significant public spaces, trails, cemeteries, schools, and plazas as contributing to the social and ecological systems of public space in Winchester. It should be noted that although it was voted the most popular public space by residents in the Overall Parks Survey, Legacy Grove is not a WCCPR-owned park; it is owned and managed through The Greater Clark Foundation.

Though the parks are focused in Winchester City, the plan also considered the larger impact and relationship with Clark County, which is a partial funder of annual public space budgets for WCCPR.

## WHAT ARE WINCHESTER'S DEMOGRAPHICS?

The population of Winchester City represents more than half of the total population of Clark County. Winchester is a low-density community with a medium-density historic downtown and edges that transition to rural conditions at the perimeter of the County.

An important consideration for accessibility planning within public spaces is that 20.1% of people in Winchester City report having a disability. The highest percentage (13.7%) report having “ambulatory difficulties.”

Winchester City's median household income is 36% lower than the overall United States. Winchester City's poverty rate is 61% higher than the overall poverty rate in the United States. Winchester City residents with bachelor's degrees or higher is 47% lower than in the United States overall.

Winchester City's median age is similar to the overall United States. The population of Winchester City by race is 89.6% white, with 7.3% Black or African American alone, 1.9% two or more races, and less than 1% Asian alone or American Indian and Alaskan Native alone. Spanish and other languages are spoken in 3.4% of the population of Winchester City.

### TOTAL POPULATIONS OF CLARK COUNTY AND WINCHESTER CITY

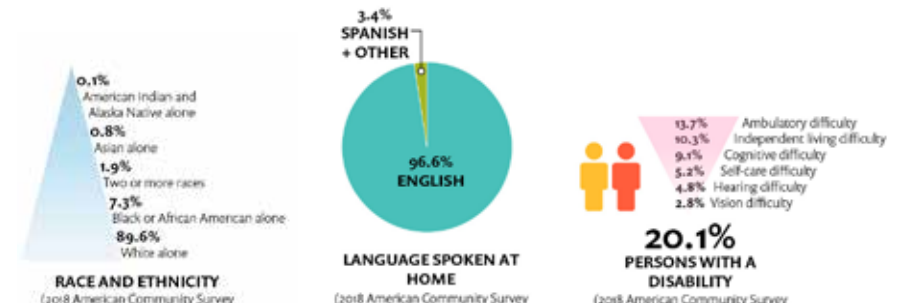


**36,249**  
TOTAL POPULATION of  
CLARK COUNTY  
(Winchester 2019 Park Metrics, NRP)



**18,413**  
TOTAL POPULATION of  
WINCHESTER CITY  
(2018 American Community Survey)

### RACE & ETHNICITY, LANGUAGES SPOKEN, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN WINCHESTER CITY



### WINCHESTER COMPARED TO THE UNITED STATES



# GOVERNANCE

## WHO GOVERNS WINCHESTER’S PARKS?

WCCPR is a governmental entity that is independent from Winchester City; it was formed in 1961. WCCPR is governed by a volunteer-led Parks Board of eight members: four are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Winchester and four are appointed by the Clark County judge/executive. One member of the board will be appointed by the Mayor from the legislative body of the City of Winchester and one member shall be appointed by the judge/executive from the legislative body of the County of Clark.

The terms of Parks Board Members coincide with the terms on their respective legislative bodies. The terms of the members chosen from the public at large shall be for four years; provided, however, that for initial appointments, the mayor and judge/executive shall each appoint one member for a term of two years, one member for a term of three years, and one member for a term of four years.

## WHO OWNS & MAINTAINS WINCHESTER’S PUBLIC SPACES?

The planning learned that there is a common misunderstanding between governmental leadership and the public about who owns and maintains the public spaces in Winchester City. For the purpose of this study, the planning team is focused on the ten parks within scope, but made consideration of these other spaces:

- The City of Winchester owns the parks within the City, including: Fairfield Park; Harmon Park; Heritage Park, Kroger Youth Soccer Complex, Massie Park, Melbourne Park, and Wiseman Park.
- College Park, Community Park, and Lykins Park are deeded to both the City and the County.
- Iron Hills Disc Golf Course is owned by the County and operated by the Fairgrounds; it is loaned to WCCPR in exchange for mowing and maintenance.
- Kroger Soccer Complex is owned and maintained by the City but not considered a public park; it is intended for use exclusively by the Winchester Youth Soccer League and the land was donated to the City by the Water Department. The Winchester Youth Soccer League operates the complex under a user lease agreement with WCCPR. Winchester Football Club also uses the fields and provides a donation to the Youth Soccer League for use of the fields.
- Lykins Park is considered a public park owned by the City of Winchester,

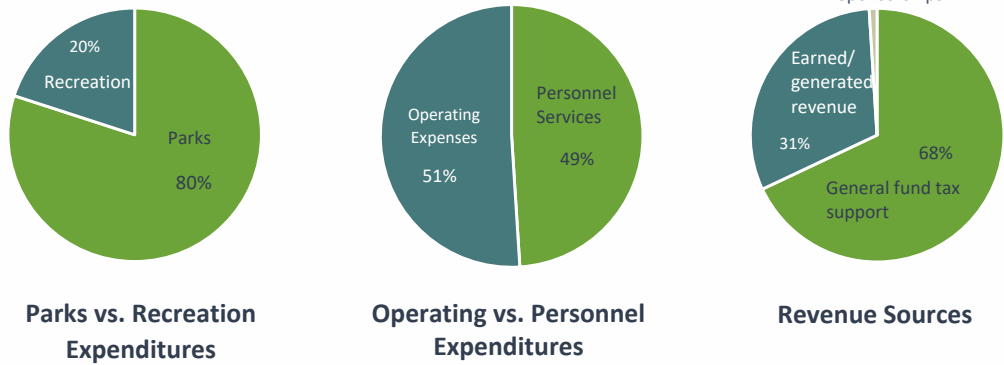
but its fields are used exclusively by Winchester’s Softball League. The Softball and Baseball Leagues provide a donation to WCCPR each year to offset a portion of maintenance costs.

- Schoolyards are owned and maintained by the School Board.
- Cemeteries are privately owned and maintained.
- Legacy Grove and the Traveling Trail are owned and maintained by The Greater Clark Foundation.
- Clark County Fairgrounds are owned and maintained by the Clark County Fairgrounds.
- Lower Howards Creek Preserve, Billy Bush Park, and Old Boonesboro Greenspace are all owned and maintained by Clark County.
- The Green at BCTC is owned and maintained by Lexington Community College.
- Clark Regional Medical Center Trail is owned and maintained by Kentucky Hospital.

	FY2021	FY2022
City Contribution	×\$320,000.00	*\$789,845.00
County Contribution	\$200,000.00	¥\$310,000.00
Projected Parks Membership & Program Revenue	\$77,300.00	\$214,340.00
Total Monetary Support	\$597,300.00	\$1,204,845.00

× INCLUDES \$50,000 COLLEGE PARK PLAYGROUND GRANT  
\* INCLUDES \$250,000 LWCF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING + \$250,000 CITY MATCHING FUNDS  
¥ INCLUDES \$40,000 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS \$20,000 FOR IN-KIND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE MOWING OF LYKINS, FAIRGROUNDS, IRON HILLS DISC GOLF, AND THE COMBS PATTON PROPERTY.  
SOURCE: THE OFFICE OF MAYOR ED BURTNER, MAYOR OF WINCHESTER, KY AND WCCPR

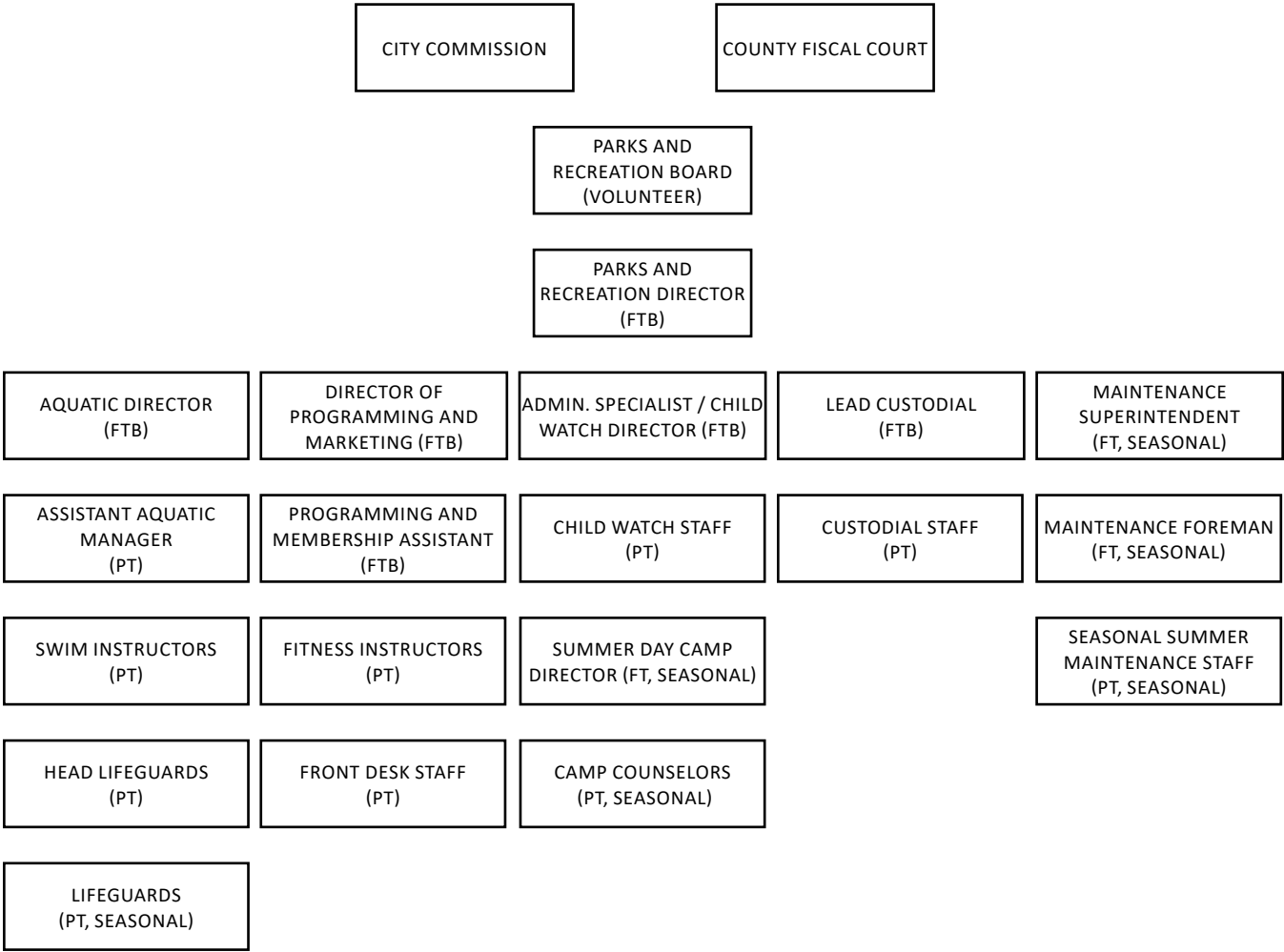
## HOW ARE BUDGETS SPENT?



SOURCE: WINCHESTER 2019 PARK METRICS REPORT BY NRPA.



# WCCPR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



PT = PART TIME EMPLOYMENT  
FT = FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT  
FTB = FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT WITH BENEFITS

## WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1. The goals of BLOOM Winchester should be embraced by leadership and adopted in full in order to guide plan implementation.
2. To address common misconceptions among members of the public about park funding, governance, and decision-making, WCCPR should make the annual Park Audit publicly available. To request a copy, visit: [https://kydlgweb.ky.gov/entities/16\\_SpgeHome.cfm](https://kydlgweb.ky.gov/entities/16_SpgeHome.cfm)
3. WCCPR has been successful with recent grant applications, and should continue to apply for grant funding for public space improvements. BLOOM Winchester should be used as a guide for development and tool for grant applications.
4. Governance should utilize BLOOM Winchester to work with communities in order to deliver quality public open space that serves residents and enhances public and ecological health. As evidenced by this plan’s community engagement, there is widespread support for public space enhancements that promote equity.
5. During Working Groups and community engagement exercises, the planning team heard a strong desire for progress in public space enhancements, and a more active role for the Parks Board and Parks and Recreation. WCCPR should evaluate the pros and cons for dissolution of the Parks Board and incorporation into the City of Winchester governance. When discussed during the master planning process, many stakeholders cited the establishment of a food & beverage tax as a mechanism that would allow this transition to take place. All of these options should be evaluated in order to provide the taxpayers of Winchester with the most effective governance possible.
6. The planning team recommends that WCCPR and the Parks Board evaluate the proportion of City -vs. County-appointed Parks Board Members to more equitably represent funding for parks.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION



DIVERSITY

EQUITY

INCLUSION



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

## WHAT IS DEI (DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION)?

The BLOOM Community Parks Plan uses the concepts of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as guiding principles to park assessment, maintenance considerations, and improvement recommendations. These principles must also guide the prioritization of the implementation of plan recommendations.

**Diversity** is the representation of all our varied identities and differences – collectively and as individuals. We seek to proactively engage, understand, and draw on a variety of perspectives. We believe that the solution to the problems we hope to address can be found by affirming our similarities, as well as by finding value in our differences.

**Equity** seeks to ensure fair treatment, equality of opportunity, and parity in access to information and resources for all. We believe this is only possible in an environment built on respect and dignity.

**Inclusion** builds a culture of belonging by actively inviting the contribution and participation of all people. We believe every person’s voice adds value, and we strive to create balance in the face of power differences. We believe that no one person can or should be called upon to represent an entire community.

Cities that have adequate public space benefit from enhanced public health outcomes, economic boosts for adjacent real estate, and various ecological/stormwater sustainability gains. Public space also contributes to more livable cities, particularly when quality public space is equally distributed.

When considering park improvements and policy changes that result from this planning effort, Winchester should consider the community context where parks could have the greatest positive effects. These considerations include access for children, families, seniors, and other communities that are currently underserved with park and recreational assets, and are particularly applicable to those who have low wealth/income status.

## WHAT ARE WINCHESTER’S COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS?

During the planning process, Winchester community members communicated a wide range of impressions and thoughts about diversity, equity, and inclusion in parks and their larger communities. In survey responses, Working Group discussions, and at engagement events, residents’ descriptions of their own experiences in parks often touched on impressions about equitable and inclusive access to parks and recreation opportunities.

Issues of equity and inclusive access were mentioned in more than 5% of responses to the survey question, “What would you change about parks in Winchester?” and in almost 10% of responses to the question, “Is there anything else you want to tell us about your parks and community?” The concerns of many centered on the perception that there is a lack of equity of investment among the parks, and that WCCPR allocates most resources to the few parks that serve the most affluent residents of Winchester.

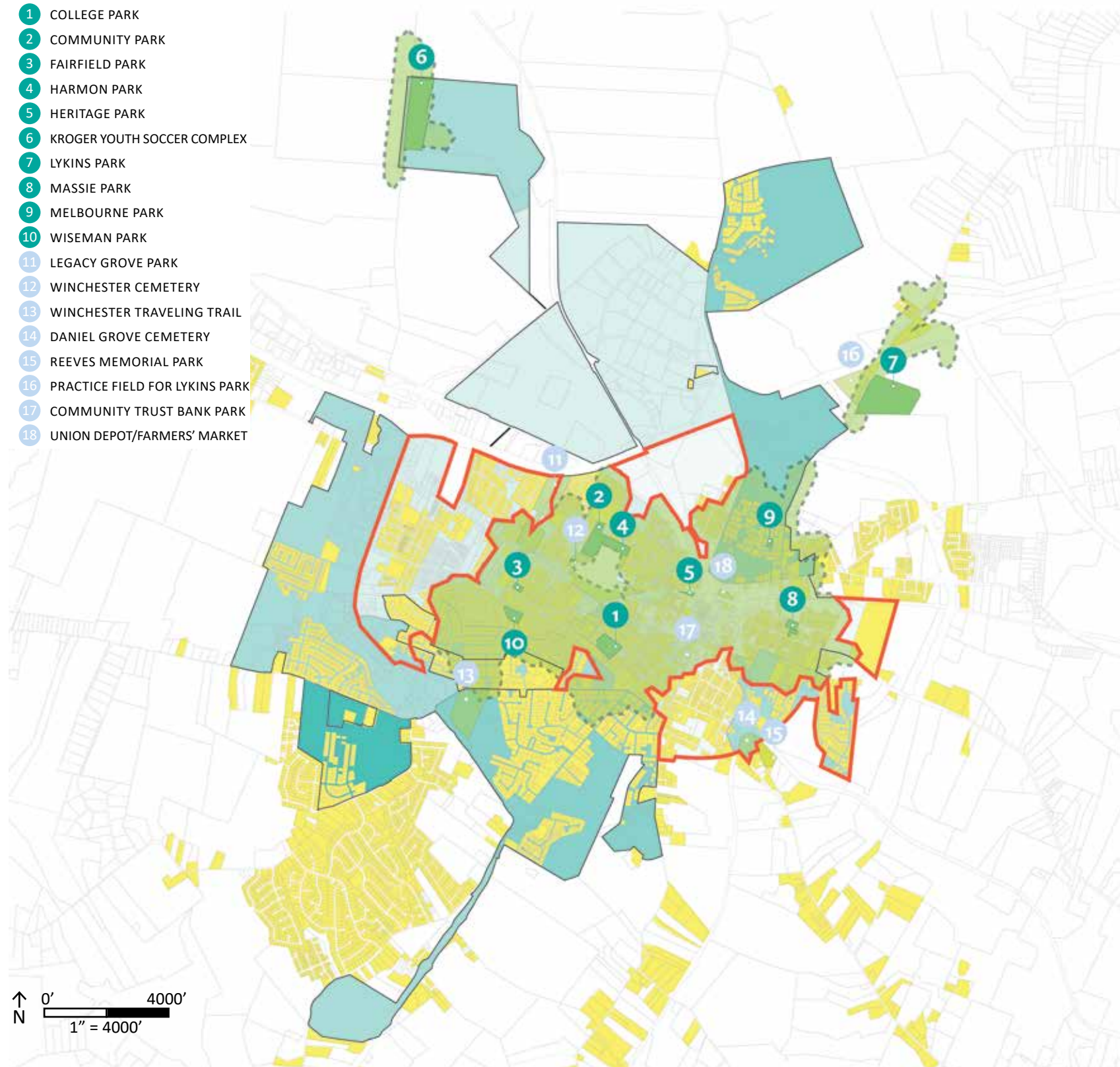
Throughout the engagement period, the concern that arose most often in conversations with park users of all ages and experiences was about equitable and inclusive access to water play in the hot summer months. In conversations with the design team at every park, and in responses to both the Overall Parks Survey and individual park surveys, Winchester residents expressed frustration about water access. Residents who do not have the means to pay for entry to the College Park Fitness Center or Winchester Country Club have no access to water recreation; there is no free option for water play in WCCPR Parks in the summer. Many residents expressed resentment about the perception that past promises by Winchester leadership about a community splash pad had been broken due to a lack of care for communities in need.

There is also a strong perception among residents that College Park in particular is prioritized in terms of equipment, maintenance, and programming over other neighborhood parks. That perception is magnified for many residents who do not live within walking distance of College Park and do not have access to a vehicle to drive there.

The other parks in WCCPR’s network were also more likely to be rated by residents as being more difficult to access and use, especially for people with disabilities or mobility challenges. A sense of exclusion and isolation is experienced by residents who lack equitable access to the highest quality parks in WCCPR’s network, and who see the parks in their own neighborhoods as inferior, untended, or unsafe.

## EQUITABLE PARK DEVELOPMENT: PER CAPITA INCOME

- 1 COLLEGE PARK
- 2 COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 FAIRFIELD PARK
- 4 HARMON PARK
- 5 HERITAGE PARK
- 6 KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX
- 7 LYKINS PARK
- 8 MASSIE PARK
- 9 MELBOURNE PARK
- 10 WISEMAN PARK
- 11 LEGACY GROVE PARK
- 12 WINCHESTER CEMETERY
- 13 WINCHESTER TRAVELING TRAIL
- 14 DANIEL GROVE CEMETERY
- 15 REEVES MEMORIAL PARK
- 16 PRACTICE FIELD FOR LYKINS PARK
- 17 COMMUNITY TRUST BANK PARK
- 18 UNION DEPOT/FARMERS' MARKET



### DATA ANALYSIS

Here, we overlay ESRI's 10-minute walk and residential land use with median home value data to identify areas for equitable park development. The outlines are mostly consistent with data from the Trust for Public Land's ParkServ map (shown on page 29).

This reveals areas with per capita incomes at or below poverty level (dependent on household size) of \$18,944 or less and \$18,945 - \$25,126 that are in need of parks within a 10-minute walk.

KEY	
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #2e7d32; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	PARKS (IN SCOPE)
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #c8e6c9; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	PARK SPACE (OUT OF SCOPE)
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	\$18,944 OR LESS
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #bbdefb; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	\$18,945 - \$25,126
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90caf9; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	\$25,127 - \$31,589
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4fc3f7; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	\$31,590 - \$42,019
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #00bcd4; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	\$42,020 OR MORE
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ffeb3b; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	RESIDENTIAL LAND USE
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 2px dashed #4caf50;"></span>	10-MINUTE WALK (1/2 MILE RADIUS)
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 2px solid red;"></span>	HIGH PRIORITY PARK NEEDS

\*DATA FROM POLICY MAP:  
PER CAPITA INCOME, CENSUS 2014-2018.

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

## WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1. Determine prioritization of the implementation of plan improvements through the guiding principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, proactively centering the needs of populations that may be experiencing intersectional barriers to park access.
2. Communities with the greatest need should be identified and prioritized in funding decisions. Disadvantaged communities often face barriers to quality parks due to land use-regulations and policies that have historically adversely affected poor communities and communities of color. This can manifest in smaller park sizes, and less allocation of funding for maintenance and programming in these areas. WCCPR should implement strategies that guide capital investments and operations and maintenance expenditures to communities with the greatest needs and barriers to park use and access.
3. Building on the notion that parks decisions should be both representative of community wishes and made in consideration of the areas of greatest need, the splash pad at Harmon Park must be built. Throughout the engagement process, park users identified the need for the return of water play at Harmon and Community over and over again. The construction and care of a community splash pad at Harmon will demonstrate a commitment to the needs of all residents and Winchester, and help to rebuild trust within the community concerning parks operations and decision-making.
4. Historically disadvantaged communities, especially communities of color, are often more vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to historical planning and policy inequities. Park designs should address how current and future climate change will affect these areas, and focus on creating legible designs that both mitigate and adapt to the changing climate. In places like Heritage Park, which both lies within a floodplain and is understood as an important gathering space for Black community in Winchester, study and consideration must be given to the potential for future flooding and other environmental change before future construction or changes are implemented.
5. Strategies for economic development created by investment and improvements should be implemented to benefit existing residents and mitigate the potential negative impacts of such development such as displacement.
6. Develop park amenities and programming that are culturally appropriate and respond to the needs and wishes of community members, with a concerted effort to give people of all ages and life experiences a say in what happens in their parks. Respond to the needs and desires identified in the BLOOM community engagement process, and continue the dialogue with community members and organizations about their needs, wishes, and dreams for parks and publicly-owned vacant land. Adopt the approach of listening and supporting rather than prescribing program. This is a great way to support neighbors who will be most impacted by these spaces, and build long-lasting partnerships that allow the neighborhood to take ownership over the space for years to come. A Citizen Steering Committee could be formed as a catalyst for engaging with broader communities that are not currently well-served by parks.
7. The City should adhere strictly to ADA accessibility standards and codes to create inclusive public spaces that can be fully experienced and engaged by people of all abilities. This consideration should extend to layout, material choices, view sheds, and sensory input. If space allows, public spaces should have social gathering places, as well as quiet places for respite; this is appreciated especially by those who have sensory disabilities and need to step away from stimuli.
8. Actively adopt anti-racist policies for investing in, caring for, surveilling (or not), and maintaining public spaces. There are also opportunities to recognize spaces that are utilized by majority white people, and integrating program, site elements, and design strategies that can invite broader multi-cultural use. For more general ideas, an excellent resource for inclusive landscapes and design processes is the Gehl Institute's *2020 Report, Inclusive Healthy Places, A Guide to Inclusion & Health in Public Space: Learning Globally to Transform Locally*.
9. Establish new play spaces and spaces/activities for multi-generational families. Many community members who attended BLOOM outreach events were grandparents raising grandchildren. These residents expressed a desire for park designs that would allow them to comfortably watch over children while they play, but also for programming that would provide social opportunities and allow them to interact with their children at the park.



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

**“More access for wheelchairs that typical siblings can also use.”**

**“Give more attention to the parks that are in historically Black or marginalized neighborhoods.”**

**“Our parks need to be maintained in an equitable manner. For example, parks in marginalized neighborhoods are not kept in as good condition as parks utilized by more affluent residents.”**

**“Allow pets and have areas that are safer for adults or children in wheelchairs and walkers.”**

**“More for handicapped adults and children’s activities.”**

**“I’m pleased with the amount of parks, but I would like to see more investment in safe and ADA accessible playground equipment.”**

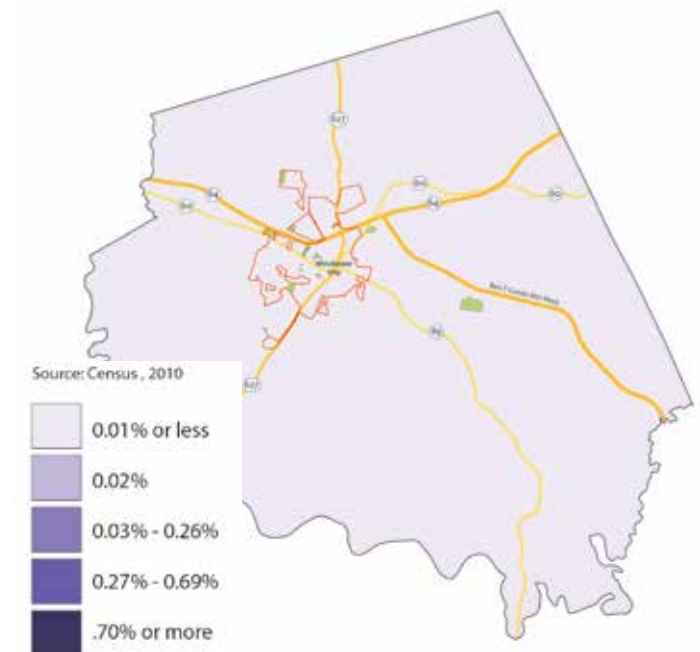
**“The summer program for kids price increase was entirely too much for families.”**

**“Our parks need to be all inclusive. Include playground equipment accessible to children with special needs.”**

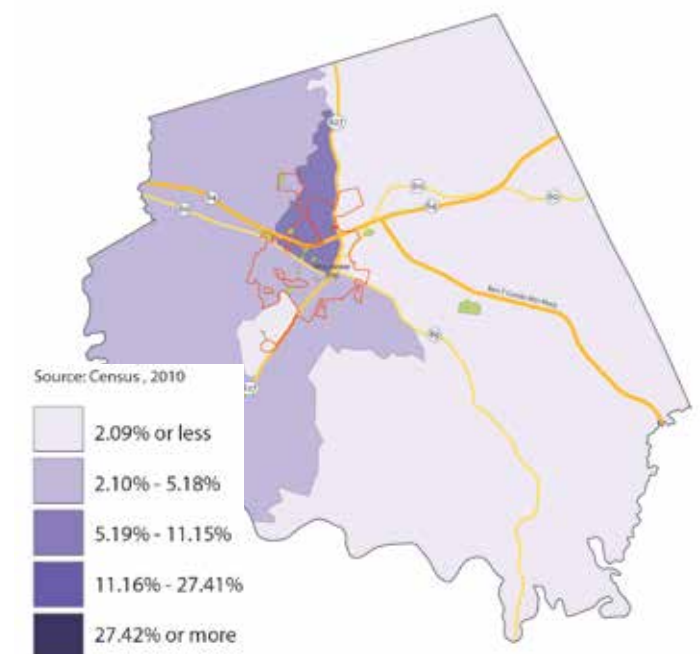
# DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

## HOW DIVERSE IS WINCHESTER?

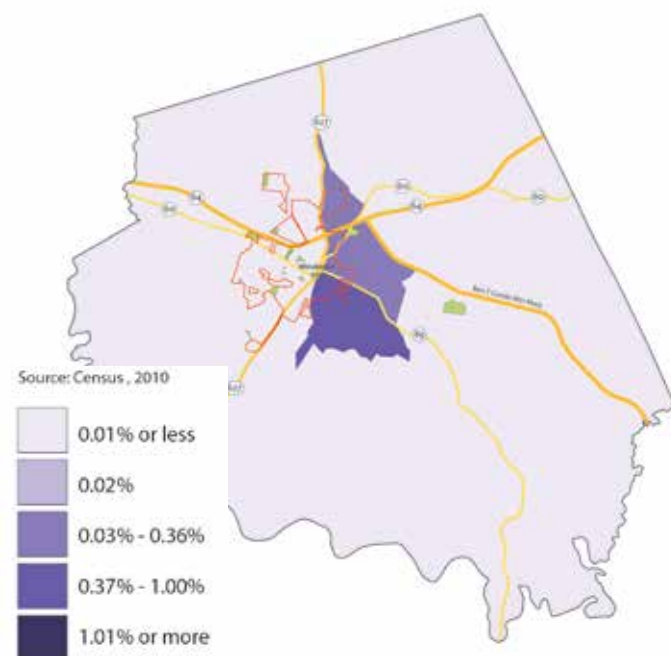
Winchester City and Clark County represent different demographic shifts, and capture the urban core, rural edge, and suburban condition between them. The team evaluated the demographic mix at both scales, as well as a 10-minute walk radius within each park. This information informs planning strategies that recommend public space enhancements in neighborhoods that are intersectionally under-resourced and could benefit from civic investment in parks, with populations that are non-white, low-income, have low transportation access, and have a higher concentration of children and those with disabilities.



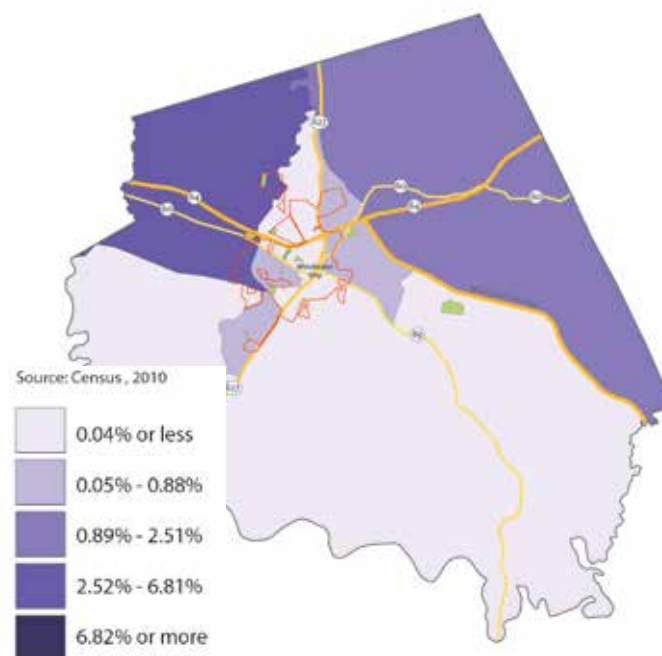
PERCENT NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER



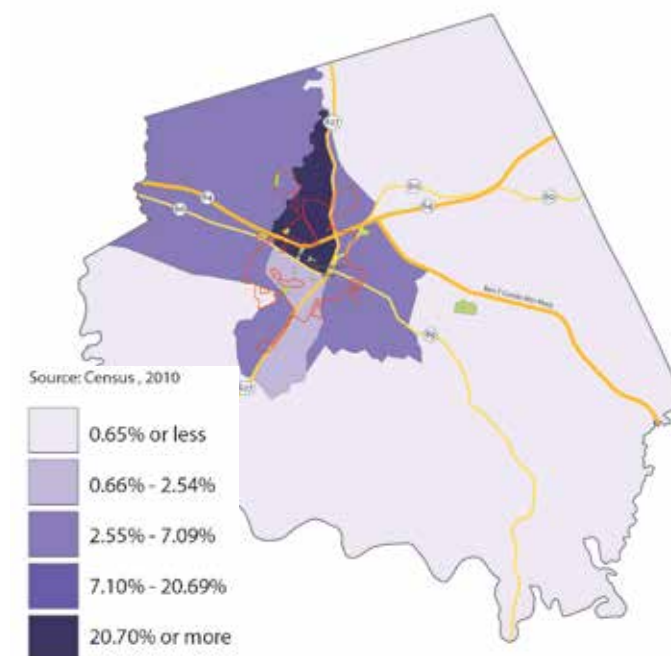
PERCENT HISPANIC OR LATINO



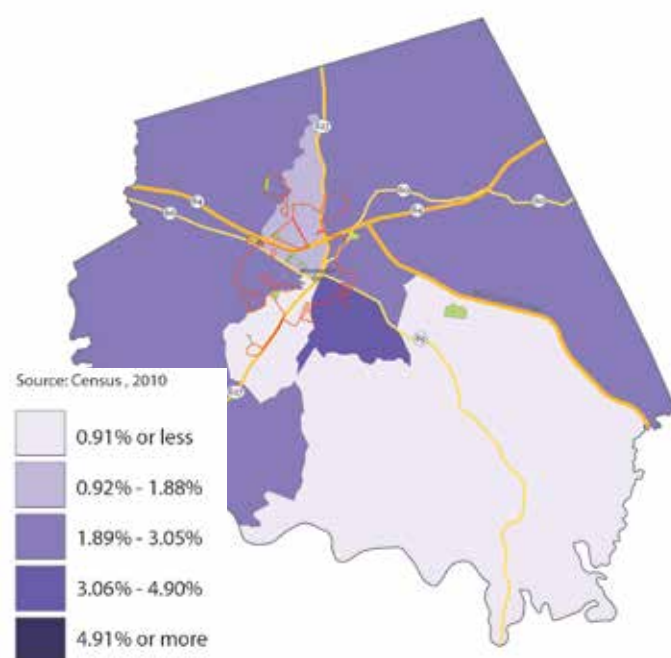
PERCENT AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE POPULATION



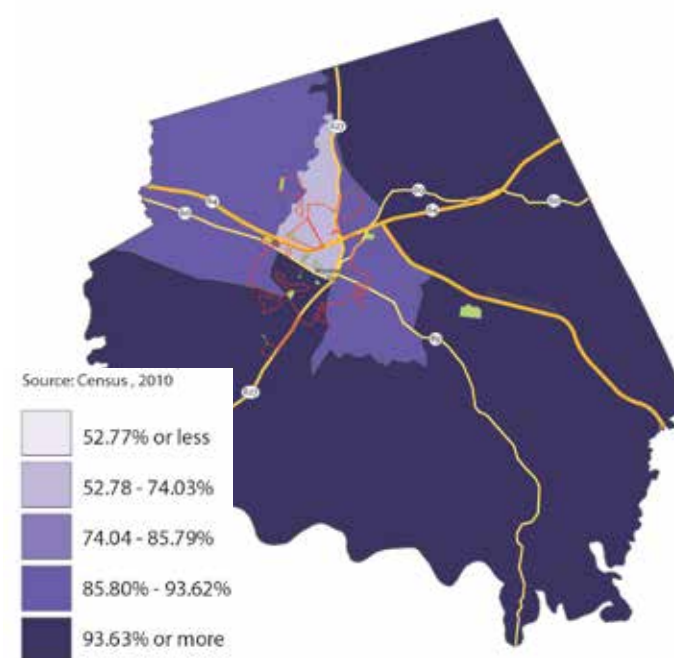
PERCENT ASIAN POPULATION



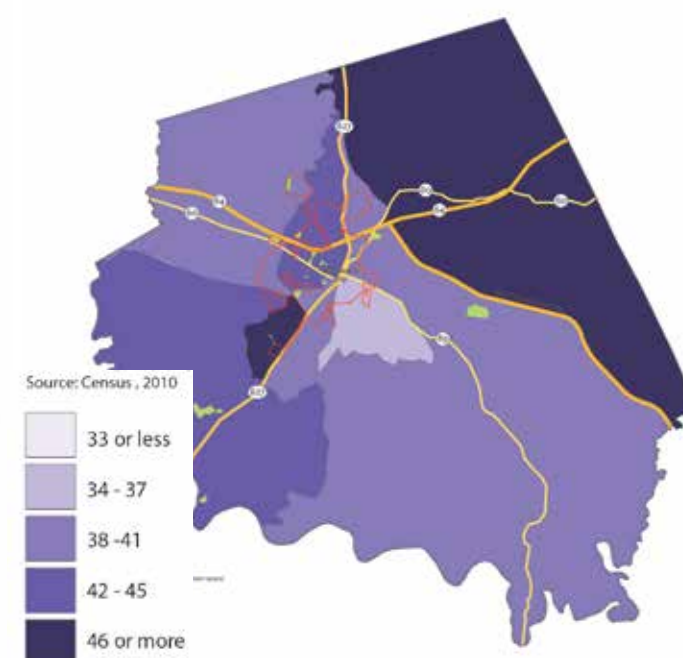
PERCENT BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION



PERCENT TWO OR MORE RACES POPULATION



PERCENT WHITE POPULATION

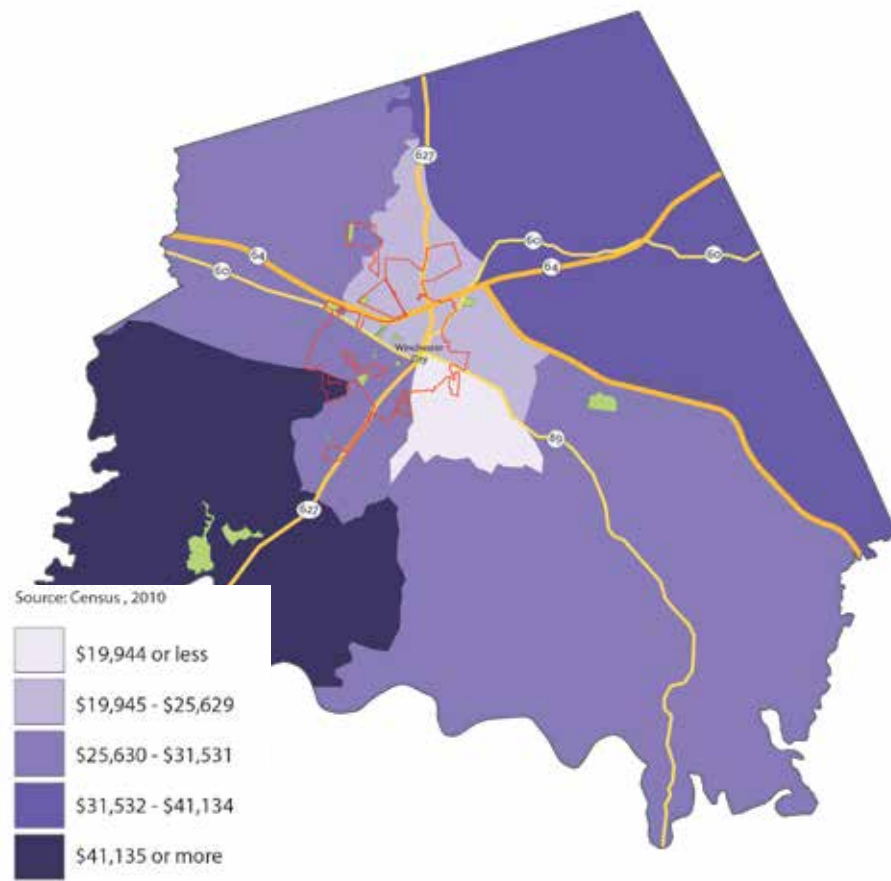


MEDIAN AGE OF POPULATION  
CLARK COUNTY, KY

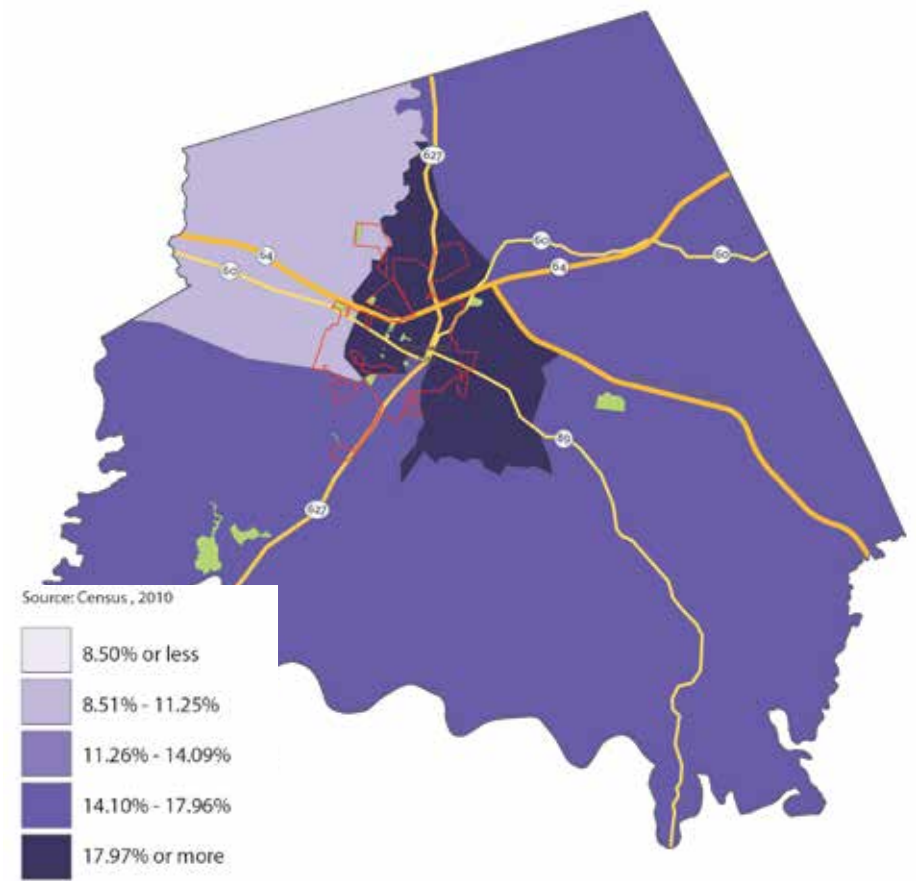


# APPENDIX

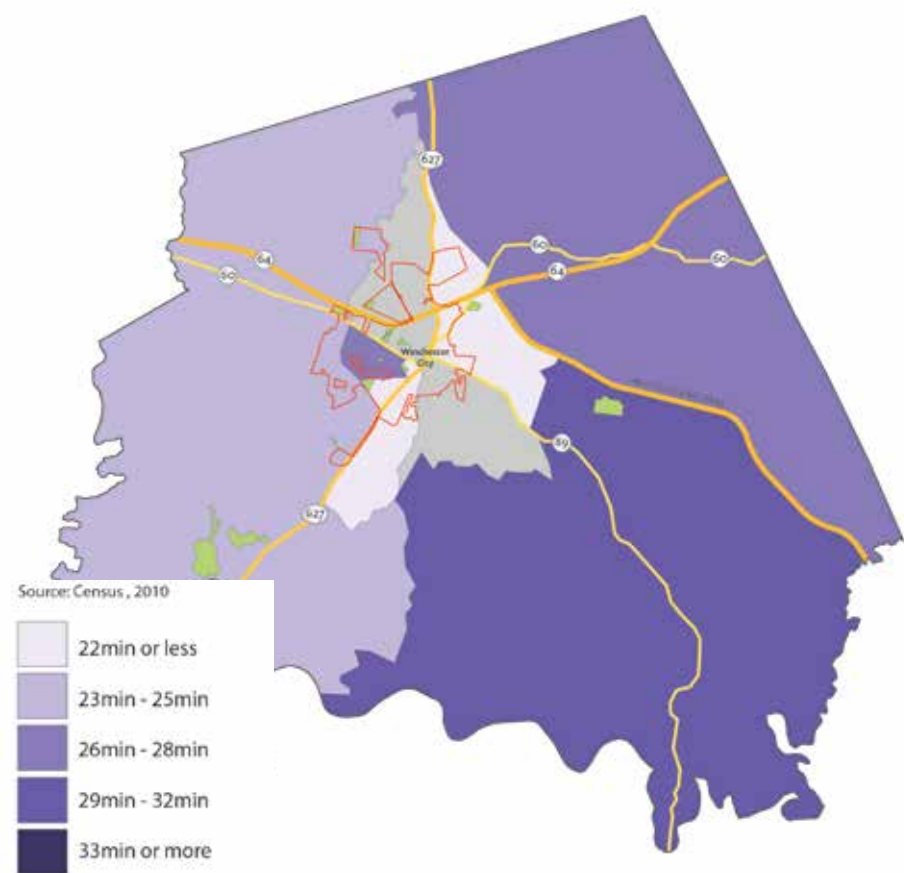
## DEMOGRAPHIC MAPPING



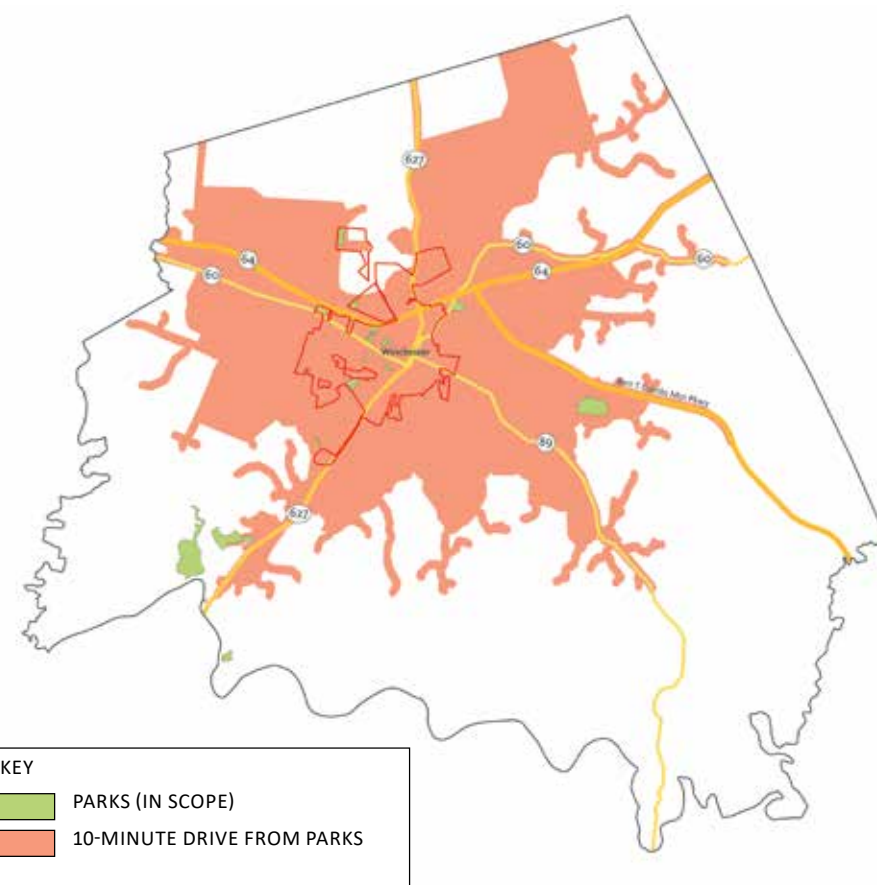
**PER CAPITA INCOME  
CLARK COUNTY, KY**



**PERCENT PERSON WITH A DISABILITY  
CLARK COUNTY, KY**



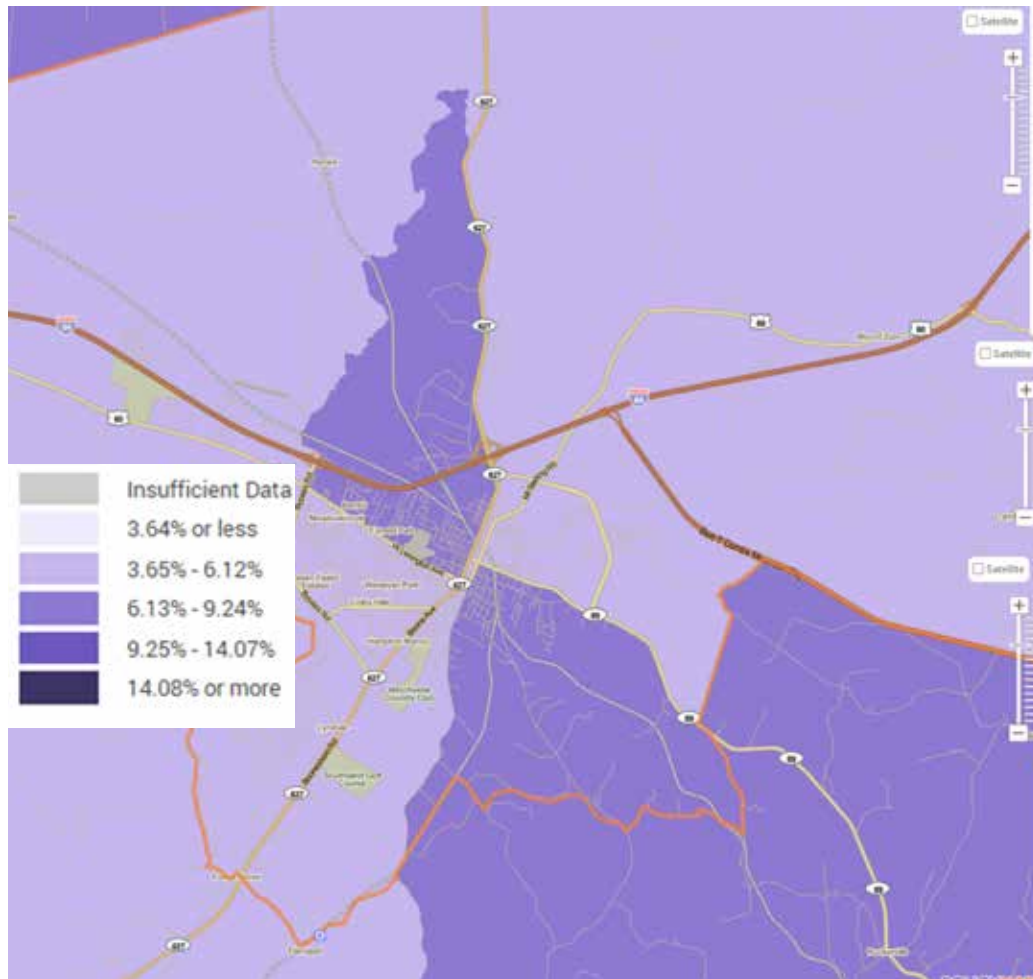
AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME TO WORK IN CLARK COUNTY, KY



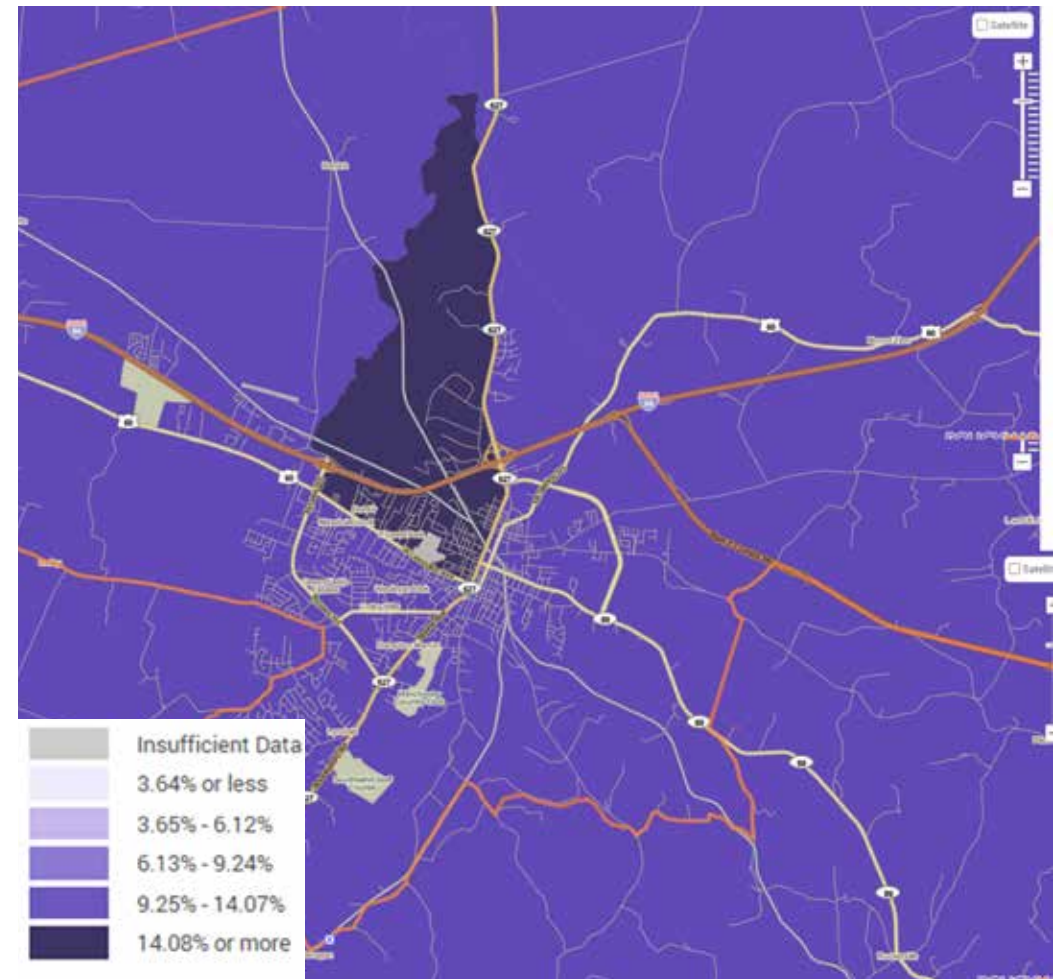
10-MINUTE DRIVE FROM PARKS (WITHIN SCOPE) IN CLARK COUNTY, KY

# APPENDIX

## DEMOGRAPHIC MAPPING



PERCENT PEOPLE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE  
\*MAPS AND DATA FROM POLICY MAP ([WWW.POLICYMAP.COM](http://WWW.POLICYMAP.COM))



SEVERE COVID-19 HEALTH RISK INDEX  
\*MAPS AND DATA FROM POLICY MAP ([WWW.POLICYMAP.COM](http://WWW.POLICYMAP.COM))





# ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACE



WALKABILITY

USABILITY

ACCESSIBILITY

CONNECTION



# CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

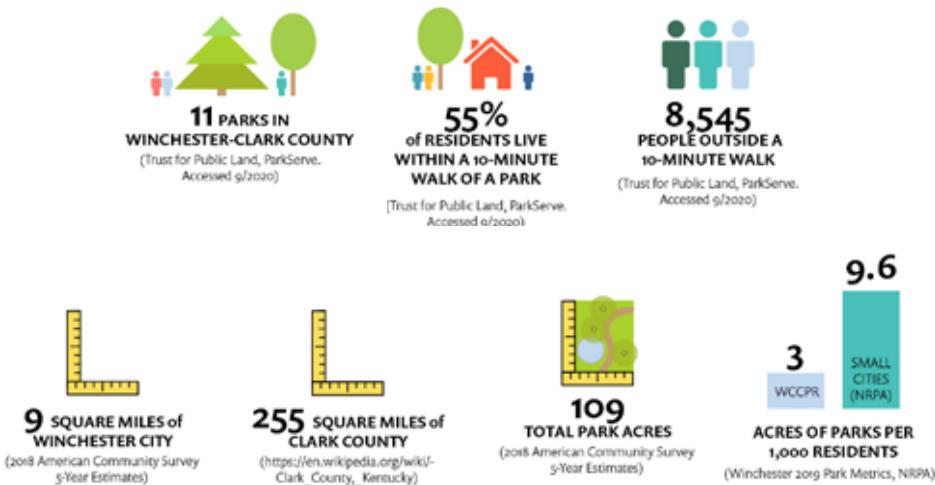
## HOW ACCESSIBLE AND ARE PARKS?

BLOOM Winchester creates a framework for quality parks in Winchester, as well as recommendations to improve access and connectivity between these spaces and the populations they serve. With 109 total acres of parks, there are 3 acres of park per 1,000 residents, which is less than 1/3 the national baseline for cities the size of Winchester. Absent the introduction of parks into the future, Winchester should learn to maintain and use the park spaces they have, with relevant connections to the communities serves.

According to the Trust for Public Land’s ParkServ mapping, 55% percent of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park in Winchester City. This figure is not far off the 62.7% of residents who reported living within a 10-minute walk in the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey. By either measure, a significant portion of residents are outside walking distance of a park. Winchester City represents only 3.5% of the total area of Clark County, while housing more than half of its residents. There is an opportunity for a more dense condition that makes the most of urban parks within the City, while trails and sidewalk improvements can serve parks further afield, such as Lykins and Kroger Youth Soccer Complex.

## WHAT ARE SOME BARRIERS TO ACCESS?

- A number of physical, social, and economic barriers to accesses parks include:
- Sidewalk Gaps: Immediately adjacent to parks, a lack of sidewalks and safe pedestrian crossings creates barriers for people of all ages and abilities, especially those with mobility disabilities or limitations.
  - Transportation: With public transportation limited to Foothills Express, Winchester relies upon cars to get to work and play activities. Most people in Winchester City drive alone to work. Throughout the planning process, residents talked about putting their bikes in their cars and driving somewhere out of town to enjoy riding. The team also heard from many who face the challenge of not having ownership or access to a vehicle at all. Many of Winchester’s main public streets are also not pedestrian/bike friendly.
  - Time: For those who work multiple jobs or night work, there are limited opportunities to participate in the healthful aspects of recreation. Those with limited time often also have limited resources, and may be among the least likely to have cars or bikes to connect to park spaces.
  - Income Inequality: Affluent communities in Winchester benefit from a concentration of private open space and also have mobility to visit park amenities outside of their neighborhoods (eg., the pool at the Country Club).
  - Broadband Access: Without access to internet, the public may not know of park hours, rules, events, or public health announcements.



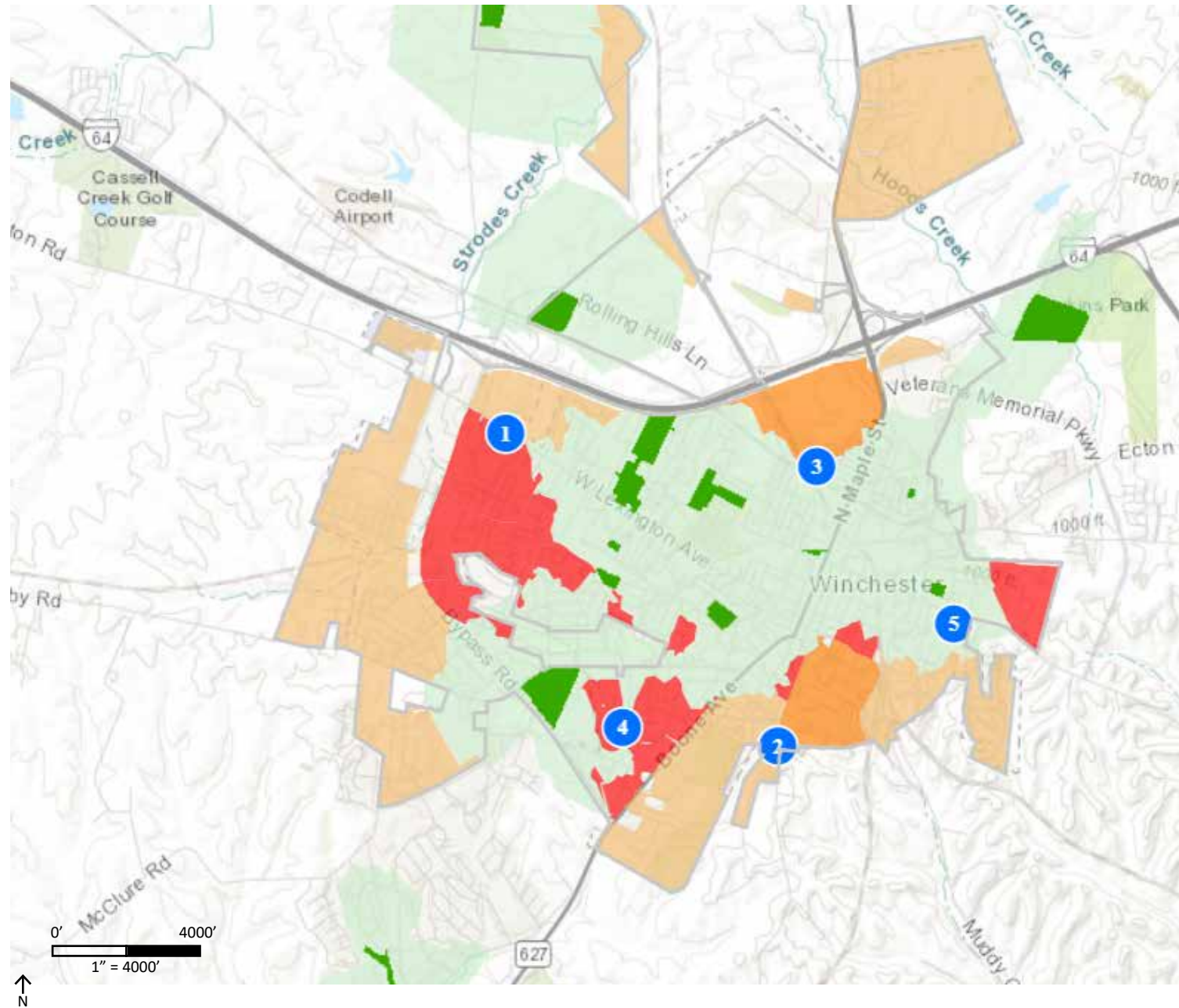
SOURCE: WINCHESTER 2019 PARK METRICS REPORT BY NRPA.

## WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

To understand connectivity, the planning team mapped a series of data sets that reveal patterns of public space and their relationship to economic and social forces. Overlapping this physical data with the data sets in the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” chapter, it’s possible to understand which neighborhoods may be more/less advantaged, and those that have better access to higher quality public space. To enhance connectivity, the plan recommends:

1. Establishing sidewalk and trail improvements to create connected public space network as outlined in this chapter. Focus on gap areas within these maps that identify the highest need for public space improvements.
2. Improving parks most in need, considering not only the physical improvements of the parks but also their impact in communities that are comparatively less connected and with lower-incomes and housing values to allow these neighborhoods to realize social and economic benefits of public space enhancement. (See “Equitable Park Development: Per Capita Income” in the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” chapter).
3. Work with property owners adjacent to the old rail line to implement a rails-to trails connector within the City that can link all of the parks and connect, eventually, to Lexington.
4. Create a trail that connects all parks and the rails-to-trail greenway. Shown on the next page, this trail network links parks and also establishes a “lynch pin” in downtown by connecting with the existing African American Heritage Trail and Black Business District, as well as Union Depot Farmers Market and Plaza.

## 10-MINUTE WALK FROM THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



### DATA ANALYSIS

The Trust for Public Land's analysis includes parks that are not included in the scope of ten parks. Their map shows a more extensive area within a 10-minute walk of a park.

The light orange zones represent areas with a moderate need for parks, the dark orange zones are areas with a high need for parks, while the red areas indicate a very high need for parks.

- ☒ Parks with public access
- ☒ 10-minute walk park service area
- ☒ Park need **i**
- Very High
- High
- Moderate

SOURCE: [HTTPS://PARKSERVE.TPL.ORG/MAPPING/INDEX.HTML?CITYID=2183676](https://parkserve.tpl.org/mapping/index.html?cityid=2183676)



# CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

## WHAT CAN MAKE WINCHESTER MORE CONNECTED?

Accessibility to parks is fundamental to equity and maintaining community connectivity. This diagram shows proposed connections between parks by the creation of a system of pathways and connections. These should include:

- Completing sidewalk gaps and implementing an ADA-accessible entry for each park.
- Establishing a Rail-to-Trail along the old railroad bed that crosses the city from east to west.
- Creating a trail that links parks to each other and the Rail-to-Trail greenway. Consider pedestrians and bicycles as part of the trail network.

## HOW CAN WE CONNECT TO ECOLOGY AND PEOPLE?

The drawing at right highlights the many streams and waterways within Winchester, a few of which emerge in or adjacent to the parks: Strodes Creek in Kroger Soccer Complex, Heritage and Wiseman, and Hoods Creek in Lykins. These creeks are the tributaries of the South Fork Licking River and are within the Fork Licking River watershed. BLOOM Winchester imagines a connected, networked series of public spaces that are linked along lines of infrastructure while also linking these ecological assets within the City.

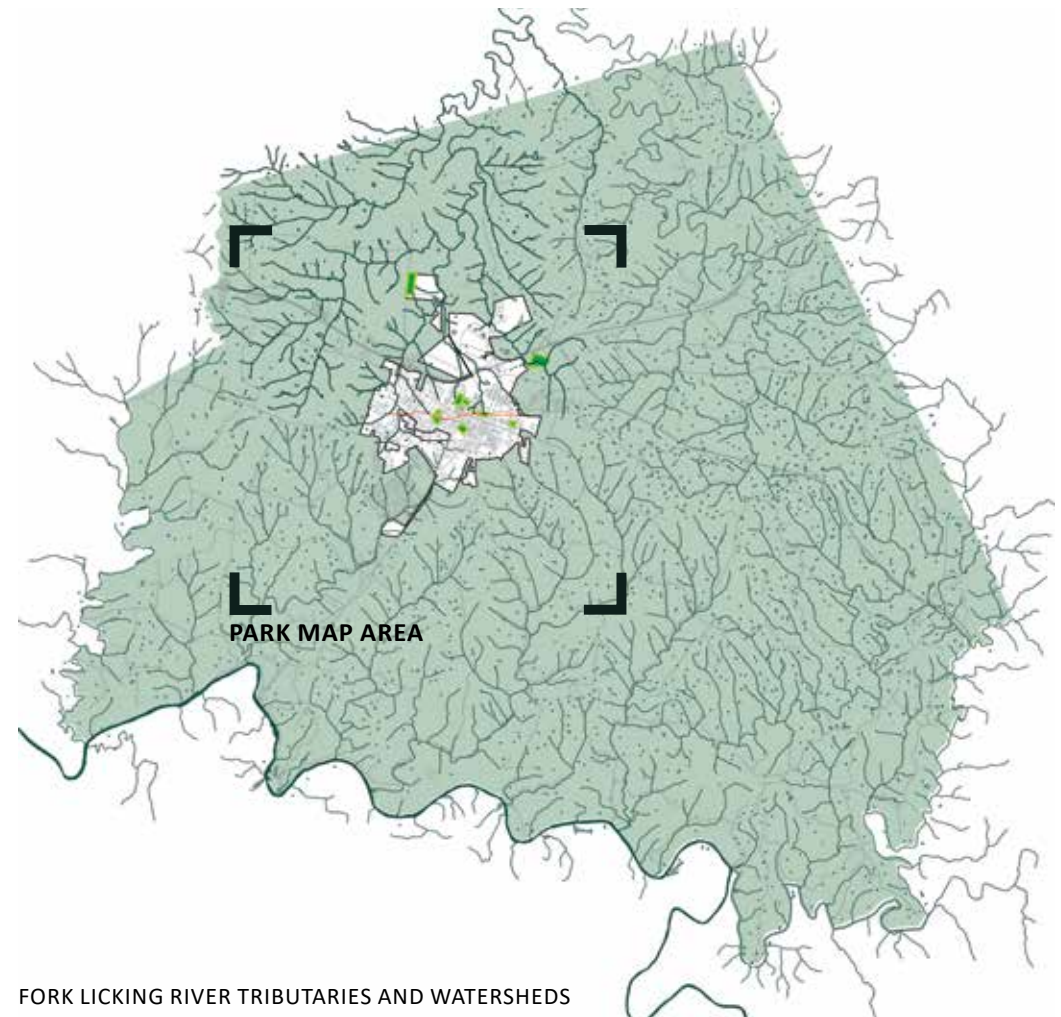
These trailways can also integrate elements of identity and beauty, such as new signage, native wildflowers for pollinators, public art, host events and festivals, and integrate with technology and apps to enhance use and visibility.

## CAN THIS CONTRIBUTE TO CITY GOALS?

Establishing streetscapes, new riparian edges, prairies and greenways that incorporate green infrastructure can help the City meet its goals for the state MS4 program, and offer opportunities for state and federal funding. These projects can link social, ecological, and economic goals to advance a green and connected vision for Winchester.

## WHAT SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED?

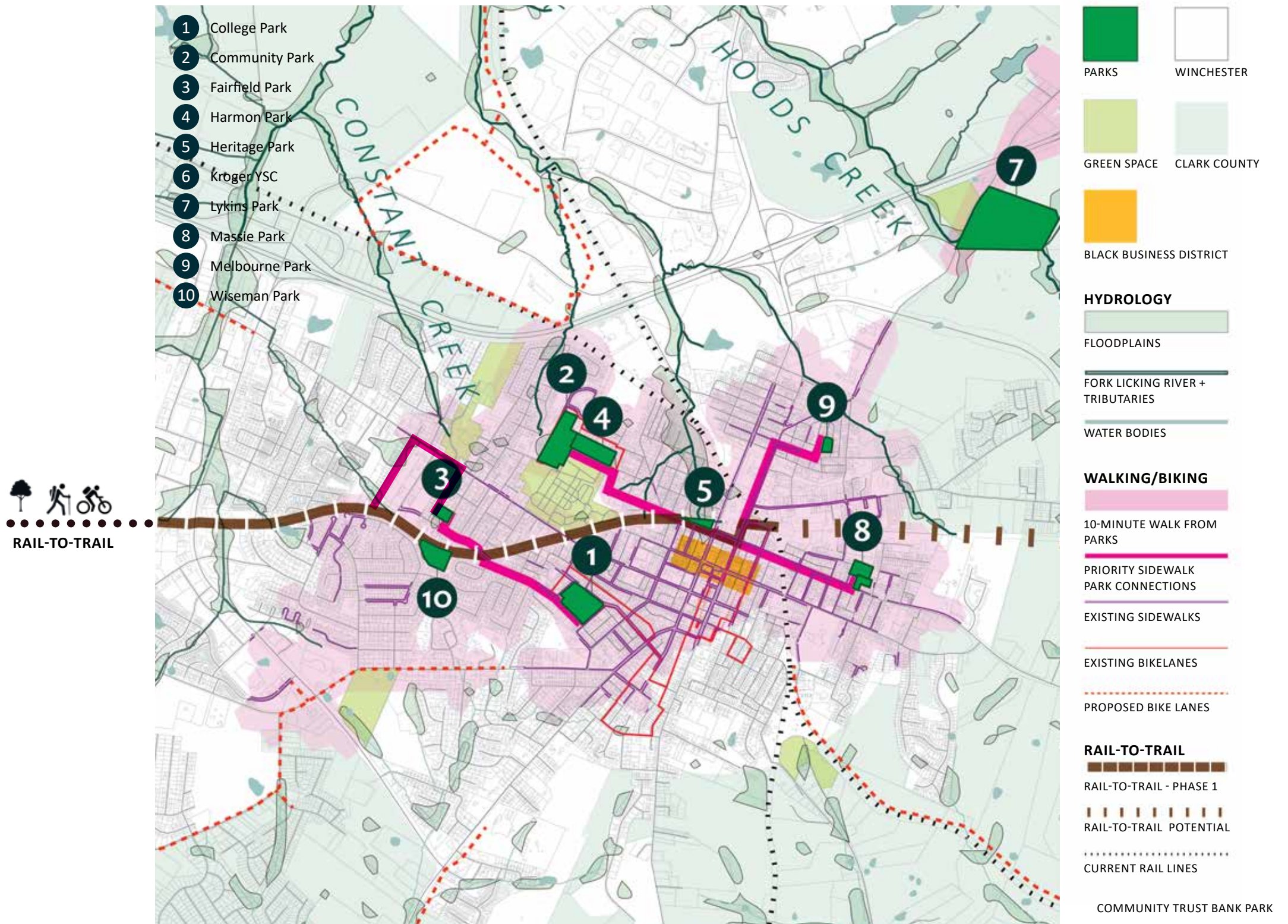
Heritage Park and Union Street Depot both act as a lynch pin to the parks system due to their central location near the intersection of both the Rail-to-Trail and the existing rail line, and adjacent to Strodes Creek.



Additionally, throughout the BLOOM public engagement process, residents identified Heritage Park as an important gathering place for Black community members. It is at the core of historic Winchester and the West Washington Business and Social District, where there were once dozens of Black-owned businesses. For all of these reasons, Heritage Park is a critical place to highlight and prioritize within the overall parks system, and should be considered for some of the first public space improvements of the plan's implementation.

The western side of the Rail-to-Trail system is highlighted as a proposed first phase priority for the trail system – spanning from downtown Union Depot towards Lexington Kentucky, and crossing through Heritage and Wiseman Parks, and proposed pedestrian connections to Massie, Fairfield, Melbourne, College, Community, and Harmon parks.





PRIORITY CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE PARKS HIGHLIGHTED IN DARK PINK SHOW THE AREAS THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM SIDEWALKS AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS TO FORM ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE PARKS. THE BROWN RAIL-TO-TRAIL LINE SUGGESTS A PRIORITIZED CONNECTION TOWARD LEXINGTON, WITH POTENTIAL TO ALSO CONNECT EASTWARD IN THE LONGER TERM.



# CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

## WHAT IS A “RAILS-TO-TRAILS” GREENWAY?

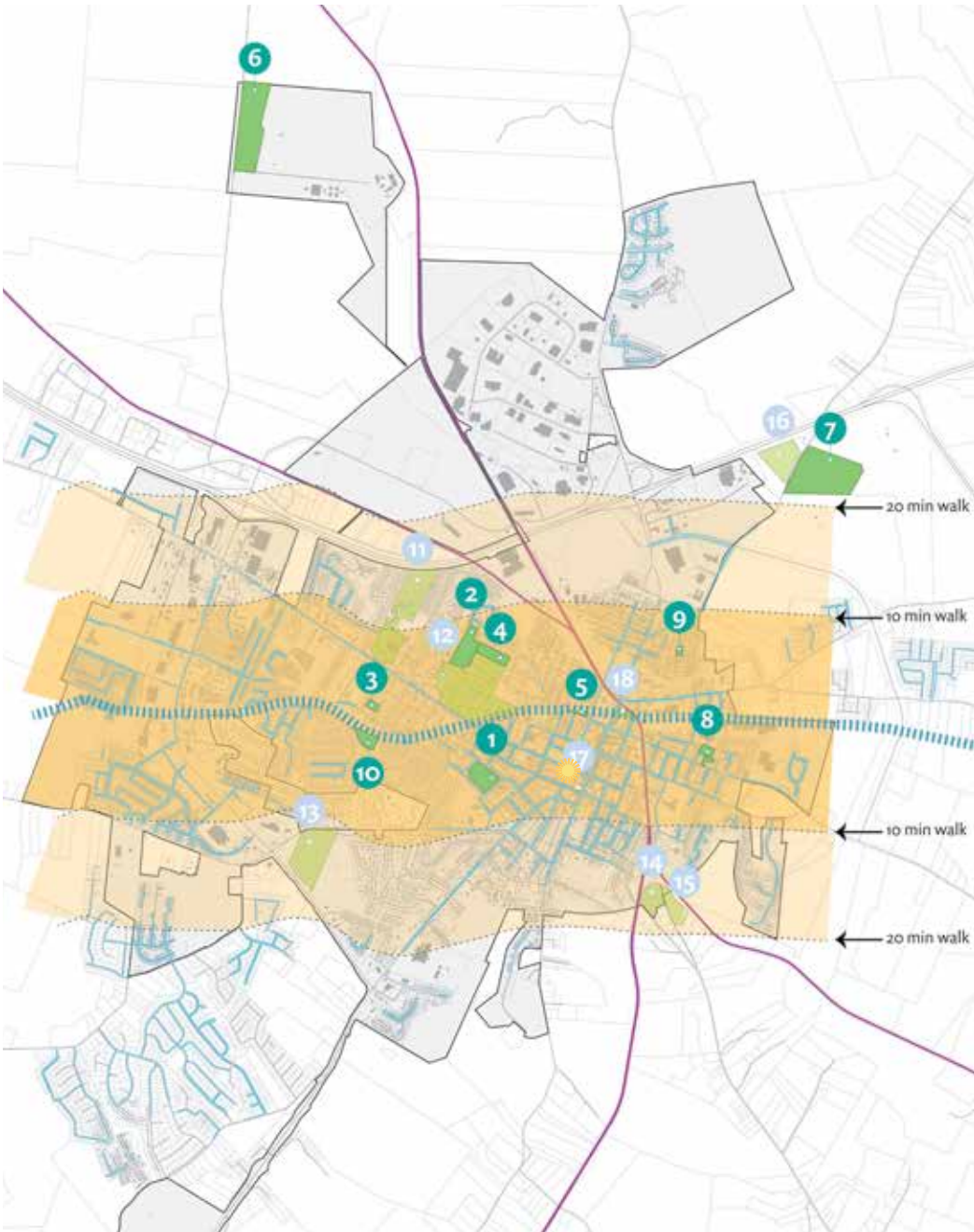
A Rail-to-Trail project consists of the conversion of a disused railway track, or similar infrastructure, into a greenway used for recreation, exercise and transportation. The benefits of a well maintained trail or greenway are widespread, with notable increases in public health, transportation, conservation and economic activity. Providing safe, accessible and beautiful spaces for residents is important to encourage people to get outdoors and exercise, while enabling transportation that is not tied to automobiles.

As an investment, trails can be completed at relatively low costs and provide rippling monetary benefits for the surrounding areas. The two areas in which towns see the greatest economic impacts from developing a trail system are in the increased spending of visitors, and the increase in tax revenue from businesses benefiting from greenway traffic.

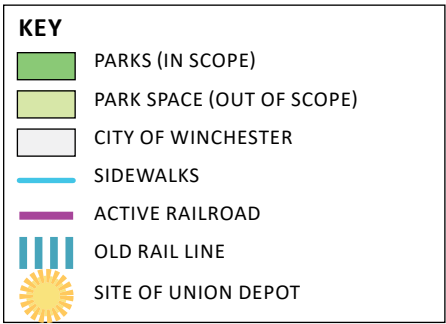
Greenways and trail systems have the potential to improve nearby property values. This is based on the “proximate principle” conceived by John L. Compton in 2004. This concept highlights the eventual cost recovery of initial development costs of the trail through the increase in property value that comes about once the trail is implemented. The increases in property tax value can then be used to pay for future improvements and developments to the trail system or to pay off debt from the initial implementation of the trail.

## HOW CAN TRAILS PROMOTE EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Conversion of Rails-to-Trails must take into consideration equitable development by ensuring that increased property value does not result in displacement and gentrification, however. It is critical to implement strategies that ensure benefits from economic development are beneficial to existing residents, particularly in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, and that negative impacts such as displacement are mitigated. Trail segments should be designed in dialogue with surrounding communities, allowing all to have a sense of stewardship for these connectors.



PROPOSED RAIL-TO-TRAIL ROUTE WITH 10 AND 20 MIN WALKING PROXIMITY.







PROPOSED RAIL-TO-TRAIL ROUTE - BEFORE AND AFTER PERSPECTIVE RENDERING.



# ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TRAILS

The establishment of trails and networked public spaces have an incredible social and economic impact within communities. These spaces increase property values, enhance tourism, provide jobs and economic growth, and increase revenues for local businesses. The Town Branch Commons Trail in Lexington Kentucky is important to note because it has the potential to connect to a trail in Winchester. The following are examples of successful rails-to-trails projects in similar communities that have proven positive impacts.

## SHELBY PARKS GREENLINE MEMPHIS, TN (12 MILES)

- New amenities in recent years has **nearly doubled the park’s economic impact to more than \$13 million annually in increased jobs, concessions, visitor spending and tax revenue.**
- Park improvements have resulted in a **5% increase in property values** within 500 feet of the park and Shelby Farms Greenline.
- Total of **\$67 million in property value added.**
- Brings an **additional \$23 million in direct savings to Shelby County citizens:** health savings, reflected in lower medical costs for the population using the park for exercise; direct use, the value of free parks and recreational facilities which save the public from having to pay for these amenities; community cohesion, the benefit of positive community interaction in parks; and environmental savings.

## LITTLE MIAMI SCENIC TRAIL NEWTON - SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

- Trail positively impacts single-family residential property values, with **sale prices increasing by \$7.05 for every foot closer a property is located to the trail.**
- **81% of residents have used the trail in the past 12 months.**
- Of these residents, there have been 3,195 visits averaging 20 trips per resident.
- **72% of residents report that they are satisfied with having the trail adjacent to their property.**
- **88% of residents believe that the trail has improved and maintained the quality of their neighborhoods.**
- **Trail users spend an average of \$17.47 / person.**

## GREATER ALLEGHENY PASSAGE PITTSBURGH - DC (132 MILES)

- Owners of businesses near or along the trail indicated that **one-quarter of their gross revenue was directly attributed to trail users** and two-thirds reported that they experienced at least some increase in gross revenue because of their proximity to the trail.
- Between 2007 and 2008, **\$23,878,495 in revenue was attributed to the trail** and \$4,372,190 of wages were paid to employees of these businesses.
- Over one-quarter of all businesses that were surveyed mentioned that they have **expanded, or plan to expand, their operations or staff numbers because of the impact of the trail.**
- One Million in **additional benefits from air pollution reduction and storm water capture benefits.**
- Four in ten trail users that were surveyed planned an overnight stay as part of their trip. On average, these **overnight trail users spent \$98 a day in the trail communities and on lodging.**

## TOWN BRANCH TRAIL LEXINGTON, KY (1.2 MILES)

- Projected to **increase property value for 48% of properties** within 500 ft or 0.1 miles from the project.
- Data suggests that properties could increase by 1% conservatively, with other similar projects increasing by 4.73%
- The **NCHRP recreation benefits** for bicycle users and pedestrian users within 0.25 miles of the project amount to **\$16.3 million.**
- The project estimates that an increase from **25% to 40% of tree canopy in the urban service area of Lexington would yield over \$16 million in additional benefits** from air pollution reduction and storm water capture benefits
- Annual per **capita savings from physical activity between \$19 and \$1,175 per year in 2010 dollars.** The median health savings from physical activity is estimated at **\$128 per year in 2010 dollars, or \$155 in 2016 dollars**

## KATY TRAIL

CLAYTON - ST CHARLES, MO (240 MILES)

- Supports **367 jobs with a total payroll of \$5,128,000.**
- The **total value added** to the local community from visitor spending is \$8,204,000.
- The direct economic effects in 2011 included an estimated **\$10,432,000 in direct sales.**
- Two sectors that grew the most were **restaurants / bars and overnight lodging**, with 50% of the total visitor spending located here.
- **Average spending by visitors to the trail:\$147.14/night.**
- **400,000 annual visitors** total economic impact of **\$18,491,000/year.**
- **\$18/trip** Average amount spent by local day users.
- **12% of visitors went shopping or antiquing on their visit**, 13% visited a local winery, 12% visited a historic attraction and 10% went shopping or antiquing during their Katy Trail visit.
- **\$6,302,000 value added from direct visitor spending.**

## OHIO AND ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

CLEVELAND - PITTSBURGH (101 MILES)

- The economic impact of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area is **\$408.1 million annually.**
- **Four main components: Tourism (\$387.2 million), operations (\$1.8 million), grantmaking (\$142,000), and capital expenditures (close to \$19 million).**
- Generates **\$34.7 million in tax revenue, which averages to nearly \$300,000 per mile in increased tax revenue.**
- **\$3.7 Million: Spending on “hard goods”** (bikes, clothing, etc).
- **\$159,000: Spending on “soft goods”** (food, beverages etc).
- The total employment impact is **4,200 jobs** (3,026 direct jobs and 1,174 indirect/induced jobs).

### SOURCES

#### SHELBY PARKS GREENLINE

[HTTPS://CITYPARKSALLIANCE.ORG/RESOURCE/SHELBY-FARMS-PARK-GREENLINE/](https://cityparksalliance.org/resource/shelby-farms-park-greenline/)

[HTTPS://WWW.HIGHGROUNDNEWS.COM/DEVNEWS/SHELBYFARMSECONIMPACT061114.ASPX](https://www.highgroundnews.com/devnews/shelbyfarmseconimpact061114.aspx)

#### TOWN BRANCH TRAIL

Town Branch Commons Corridor Project: Benefit Cost Analysis, 2016

#### GREATER ALLEGHENY PASSAGE

The Great Allegheny Passage Economic Impact Study (2007–2008)

#### KATY TRAIL

Source: [https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Katy\\_Trail\\_Economic\\_Impact\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Katy_Trail_Economic_Impact_Report_Final.pdf)

#### LITTLE MIAMI SCENIC TRAIL

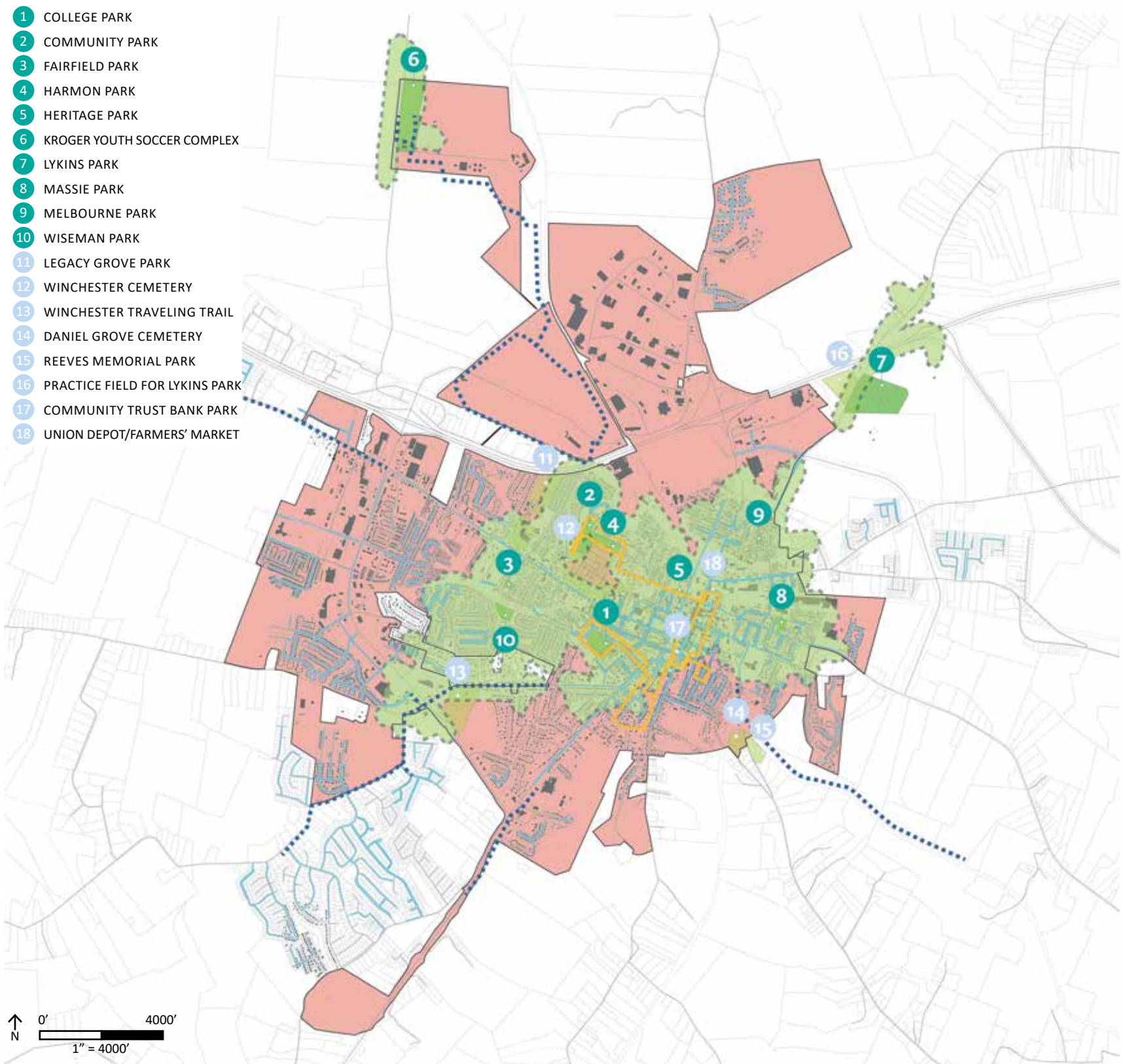
Karadeniz, Duygu. “The Impact of the Little Miami Scenic Trail on Single Family Residential Property Values”. University of Cincinnati, 2003

#### OHIO AND ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/Ohio-Erie-Canalway-NHA-Final-Economic-Impact-Report.pdf>

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## EXISTING AND PROPOSED\* BIKE LANES



**DATA ANALYSIS**  
Existing bike lanes appear to connect at least (4) of the central, downtown parks.

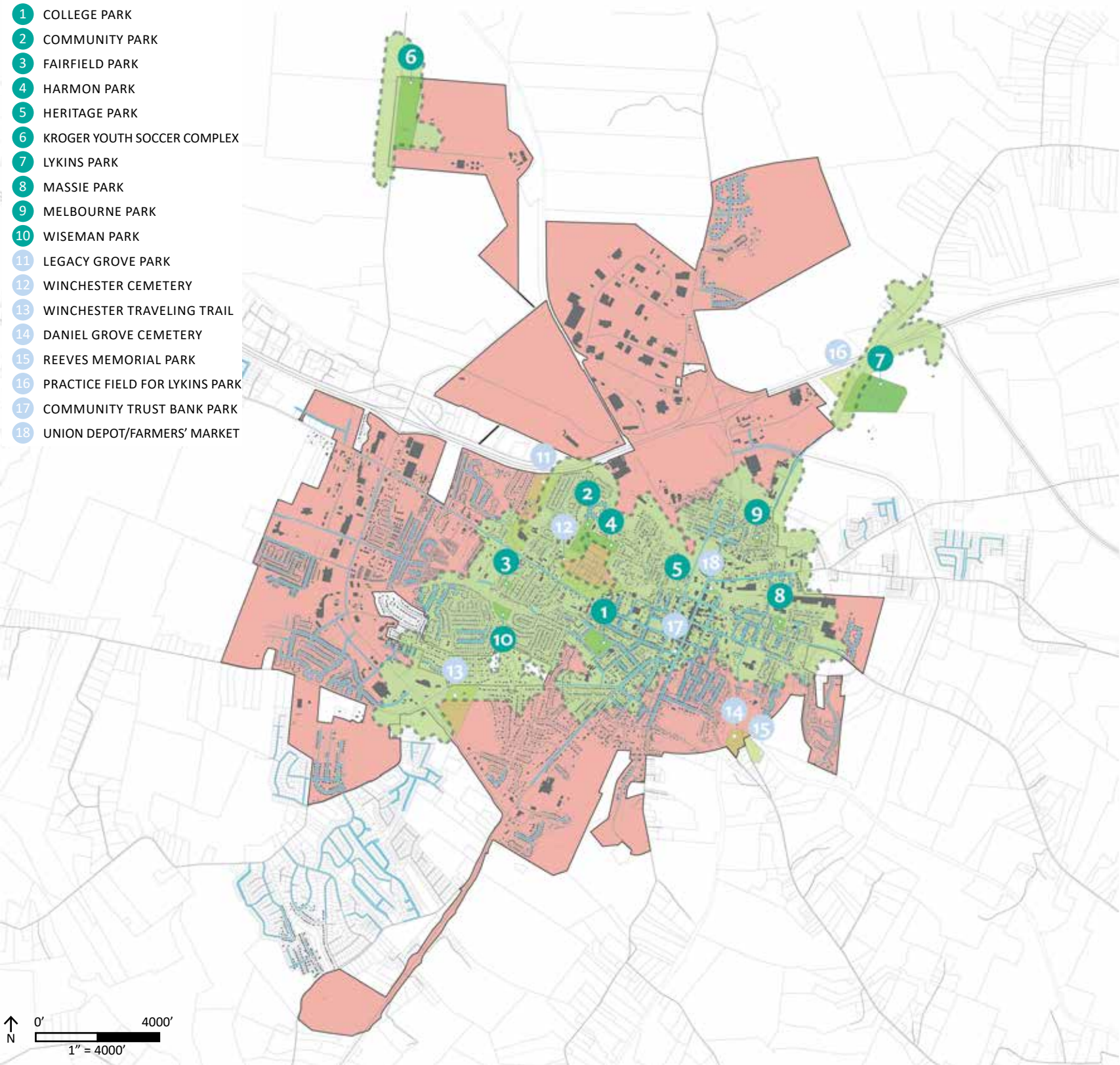
Proposed bike routes (from the 2017 Winchester-Clark County Comprehensive Plan) begin to connect downtown Winchester with Clark County at large.

Gaps in sidewalk and bike routes exist in area between Bypass Road and Community Park.



10-MINUTE WALK + EXISTING SIDEWALKS / SIDEWALK GAPS

- 1 COLLEGE PARK
- 2 COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 FAIRFIELD PARK
- 4 HARMON PARK
- 5 HERITAGE PARK
- 6 KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX
- 7 LYKINS PARK
- 8 MASSIE PARK
- 9 MELBOURNE PARK
- 10 WISEMAN PARK
- 11 LEGACY GROVE PARK
- 12 WINCHESTER CEMETERY
- 13 WINCHESTER TRAVELING TRAIL
- 14 DANIEL GROVE CEMETERY
- 15 REEVES MEMORIAL PARK
- 16 PRACTICE FIELD FOR LYKINS PARK
- 17 COMMUNITY TRUST BANK PARK
- 18 UNION DEPOT/FARMERS' MARKET



**DATA ANALYSIS**  
Sidewalks are a critical factor in developing parks within a 10-minute walk.

With Winchester’s 13.7% rate of people with ambulatory disabilities, it is even more important to develop accessible pedestrian connections, like city-wide sidewalks that meet ADA requirements.

Winchester City’s sidewalks are concentrated in the south-eastern quadrant of the city, and tend to be located on major streets.

This leaves a striking gap in sidewalk infrastructure that stretches from the north-western to the south western quadrants between Bypass Road and downtown.

**KEY**

- PARKS (IN SCOPE)
- PARK SPACE (OUT OF SCOPE)
- CITY OF WINCHESTER
- 10-MINUTE WALK (1/2 MILE RADIUS)
- AREAS OUTSIDE OF A 10-MINUTE FROM EXISTING PARKS IN SCOPE
- EXISTING SIDEWALKS

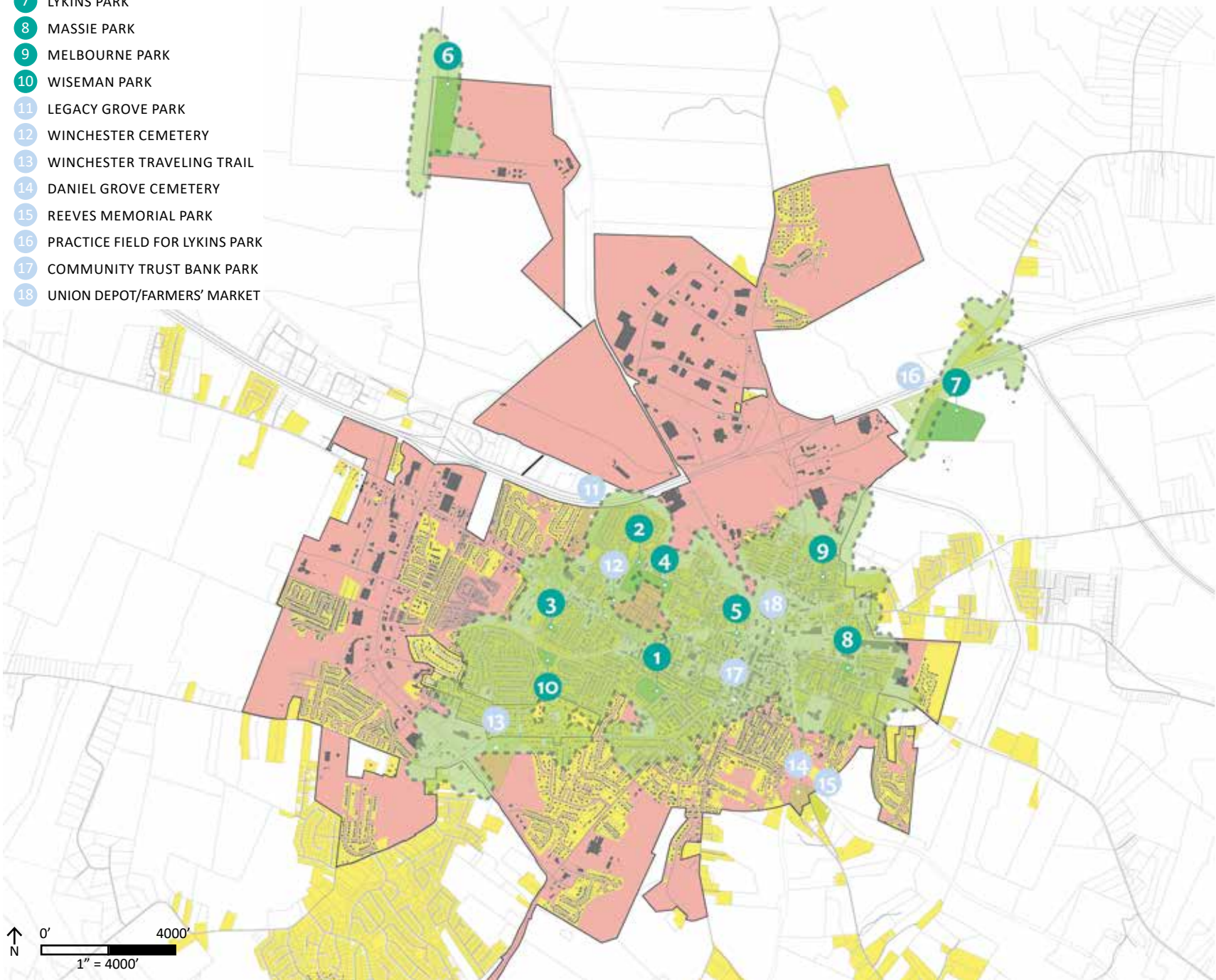
# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## 10-MINUTE WALK + RESIDENTIAL LAND USE

- 1 COLLEGE PARK
- 2 COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 FAIRFIELD PARK
- 4 HARMON PARK
- 5 HERITAGE PARK
- 6 KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX
- 7 LYKINS PARK
- 8 MASSIE PARK
- 9 MELBOURNE PARK
- 10 WISEMAN PARK
- 11 LEGACY GROVE PARK
- 12 WINCHESTER CEMETERY
- 13 WINCHESTER TRAVELING TRAIL
- 14 DANIEL GROVE CEMETERY
- 15 REEVES MEMORIAL PARK
- 16 PRACTICE FIELD FOR LYKINS PARK
- 17 COMMUNITY TRUST BANK PARK
- 18 UNION DEPOT/FARMERS' MARKET

**DATA ANALYSIS**  
ESRI's 10-minute walk analysis is overlaid with Winchester's current residential land use map.

Residential areas between the edge of the 10-minute walk zone, city boundary, and the commercial zone along Bypass Road are in need of access to parks.



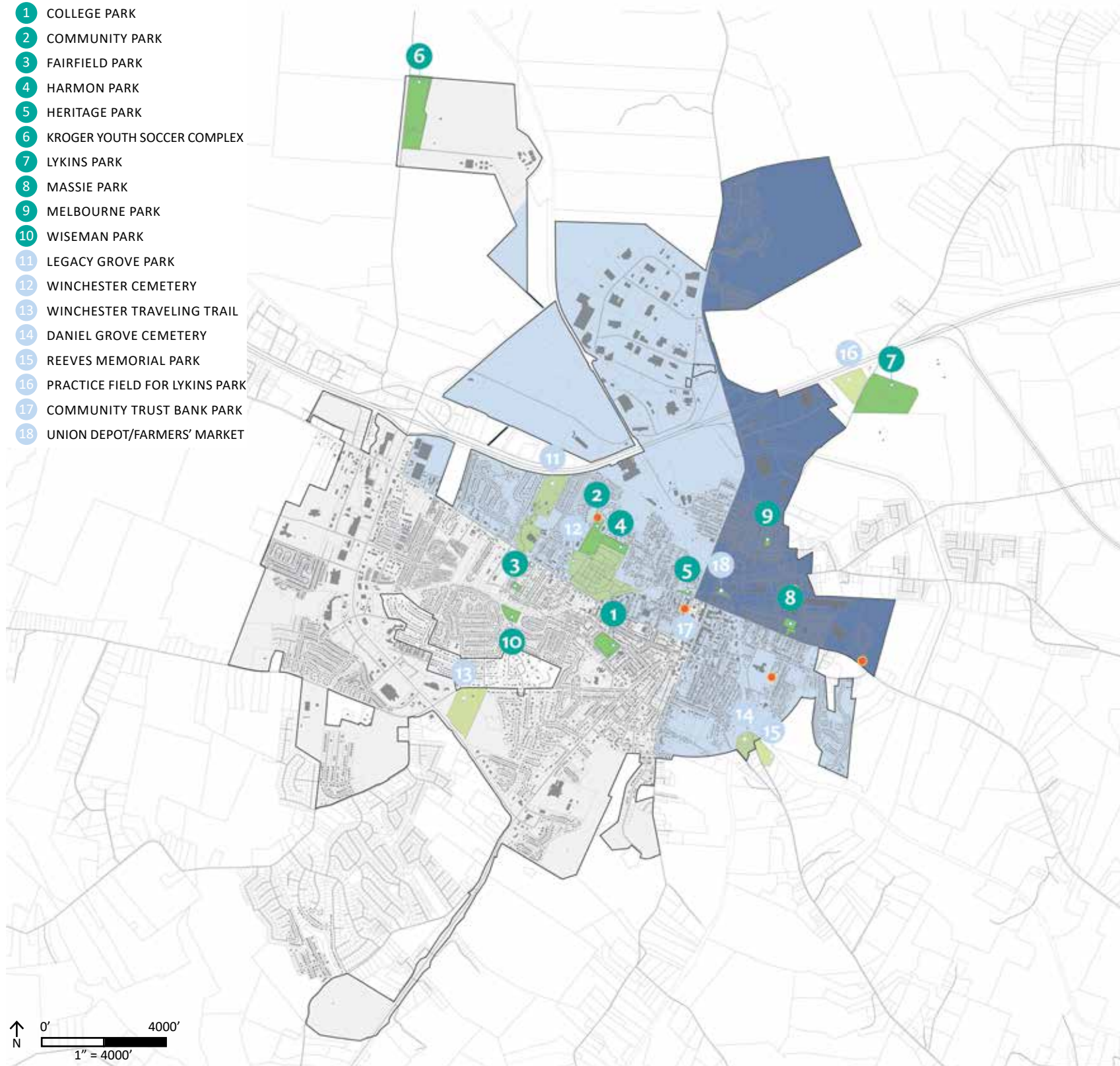
**KEY**

- PARKS (IN SCOPE)
- PARK SPACE (OUT OF SCOPE)
- CITY OF WINCHESTER
- 10-MINUTE WALK (1/2 MILE RADIUS)
- AREAS OUTSIDE OF A 10-MINUTE FROM EXISTING PARKS IN SCOPE
- RESIDENTIAL LAND USE



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 1 COLLEGE PARK
- 2 COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 FAIRFIELD PARK
- 4 HARMON PARK
- 5 HERITAGE PARK
- 6 KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX
- 7 LYKINS PARK
- 8 MASSIE PARK
- 9 MELBOURNE PARK
- 10 WISEMAN PARK
- 11 LEGACY GROVE PARK
- 12 WINCHESTER CEMETERY
- 13 WINCHESTER TRAVELING TRAIL
- 14 DANIEL GROVE CEMETERY
- 15 REEVES MEMORIAL PARK
- 16 PRACTICE FIELD FOR LYKINS PARK
- 17 COMMUNITY TRUST BANK PARK
- 18 UNION DEPOT/FARMERS' MARKET



### DATA ANALYSIS

Looking at affordable housing relative to park spaces is another way to see if all community members are being served by the park system.

Though there are parks within a 10-minute walk of affordable housing locations, there is an imbalance of park sizes within walking distance. Larger parks appear to be on the west side of town, and less accessible to residents who live in the north-east.

KEY	
	PARKS (IN SCOPE)
	PARK SPACE (OUT OF SCOPE)
	CITY OF WINCHESTER / NO DATA
	149-285 PPL IN AFFORD. HOUSING
	286+ PPL IN AFFORD. HOUSING
	WINCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY LOCATIONS

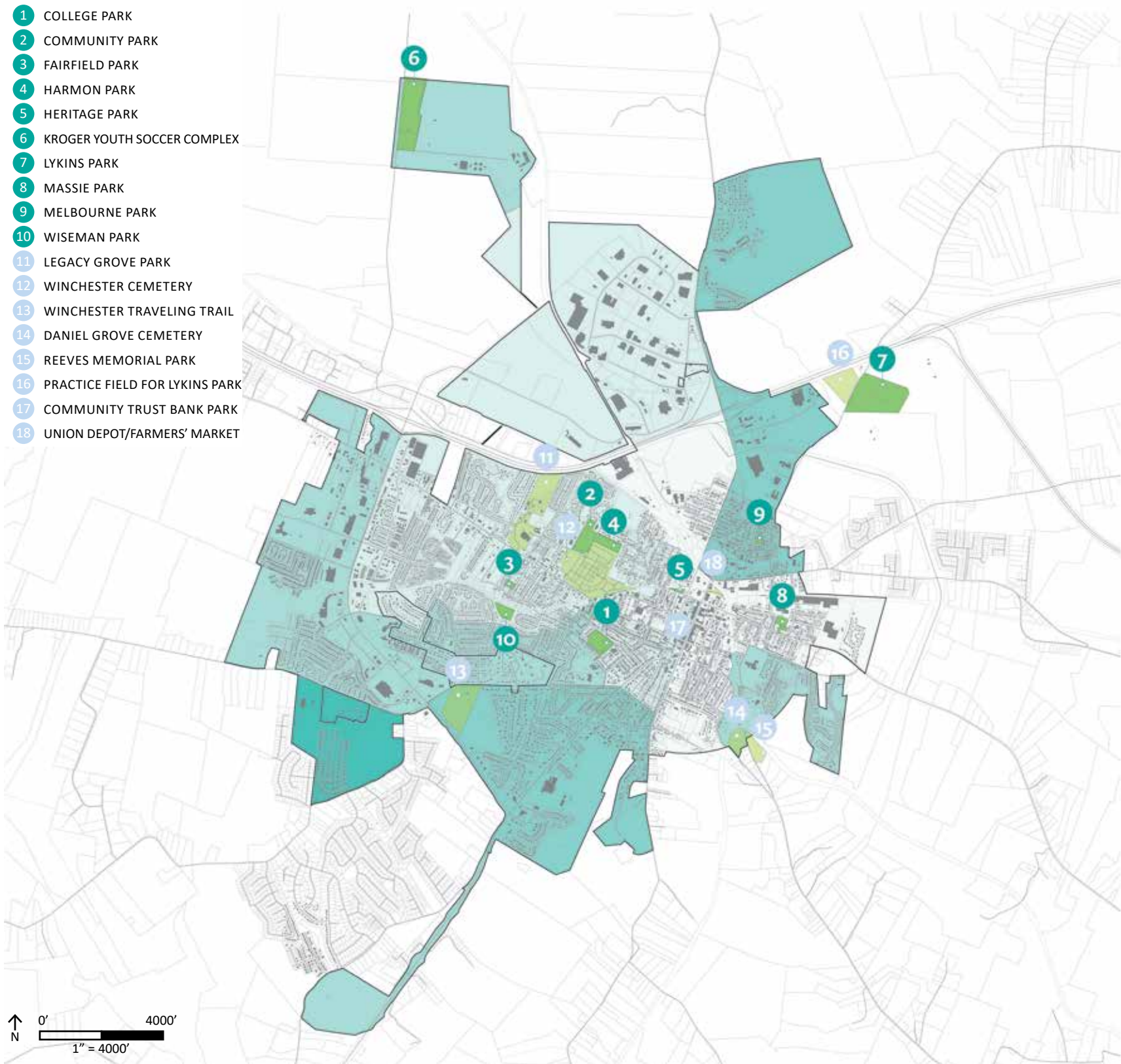
\*DATA FROM POLICY MAP:  
PEOPLE IN PUBLIC HOUSING, HUD 2018.



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## PER CAPITA INCOME

- 1 COLLEGE PARK
- 2 COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 FAIRFIELD PARK
- 4 HARMON PARK
- 5 HERITAGE PARK
- 6 KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX
- 7 LYKINS PARK
- 8 MASSIE PARK
- 9 MELBOURNE PARK
- 10 WISEMAN PARK
- 11 LEGACY GROVE PARK
- 12 WINCHESTER CEMETERY
- 13 WINCHESTER TRAVELING TRAIL
- 14 DANIEL GROVE CEMETERY
- 15 REEVES MEMORIAL PARK
- 16 PRACTICE FIELD FOR LYKINS PARK
- 17 COMMUNITY TRUST BANK PARK
- 18 UNION DEPOT/FARMERS' MARKET



### DATA ANALYSIS

When analyzed spatially, per capita income can offer an additional perspective about where parks are located relative to Winchester City residents' income levels.

There appear to be few parks in areas where per capita income is less than \$18,944.

Medium-sized parks appear to be located in the north-west and south-west quadrants, or outside of the downtown area.

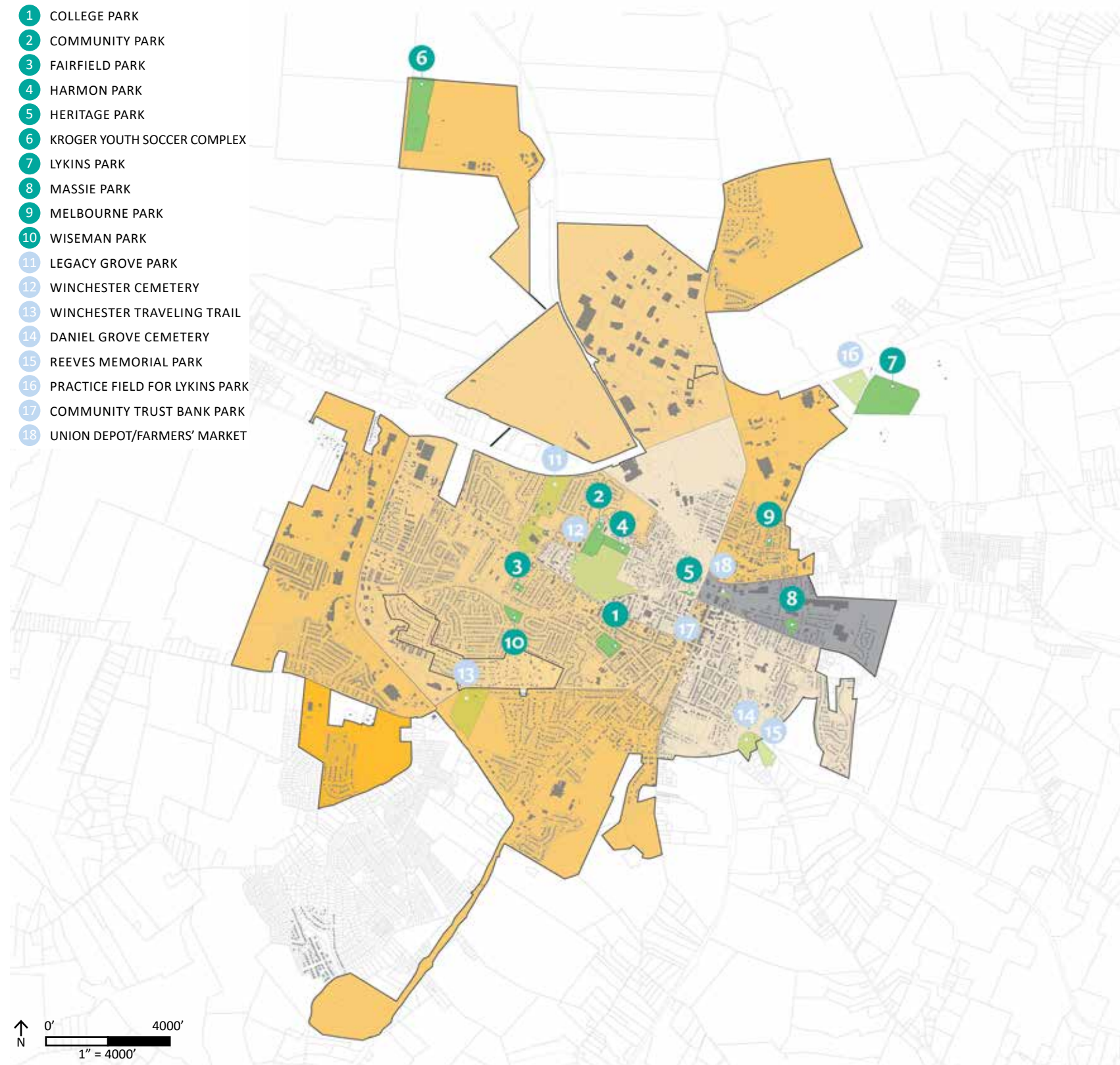
Larger parks appear to be located in more suburban areas with higher per capital incomes.

KEY	
	PARKS (IN SCOPE)
	PARK SPACE (OUT OF SCOPE)
	\$18,944 OR LESS
	\$18,945 - \$25,126
	\$25,127 - \$31,589
	\$31,590 - \$42,019
	\$42,020 OR MORE

\*DATA FROM POLICY MAP:  
PER CAPITA INCOME, CENSUS 2014-2018.

## MEDIAN HOME VALUE

- 1 COLLEGE PARK
- 2 COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 FAIRFIELD PARK
- 4 HARMON PARK
- 5 HERITAGE PARK
- 6 KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX
- 7 LYKINS PARK
- 8 MASSIE PARK
- 9 MELBOURNE PARK
- 10 WISEMAN PARK
- 11 LEGACY GROVE PARK
- 12 WINCHESTER CEMETERY
- 13 WINCHESTER TRAVELING TRAIL
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### DATA ANALYSIS

Median home value is another way to look at the character of Winchester City.

Here, we can see a stark contrast in median home value in areas north-west and south-east of the South Main Street area.

There appear to be no parks in the south-east area with the lowest median home value. There are a few parks in the north-west area, though they are separated from downtown by the Winchester Cemetery.

### KEY

- PARKS (IN SCOPE)
- PARK SPACE (OUT OF SCOPE)
- \$98,000 OR LESS
- \$98,001 - \$150,400
- \$150,401 - \$218,200
- \$218,201 - \$358,100
- INSUFFICIENT DATA

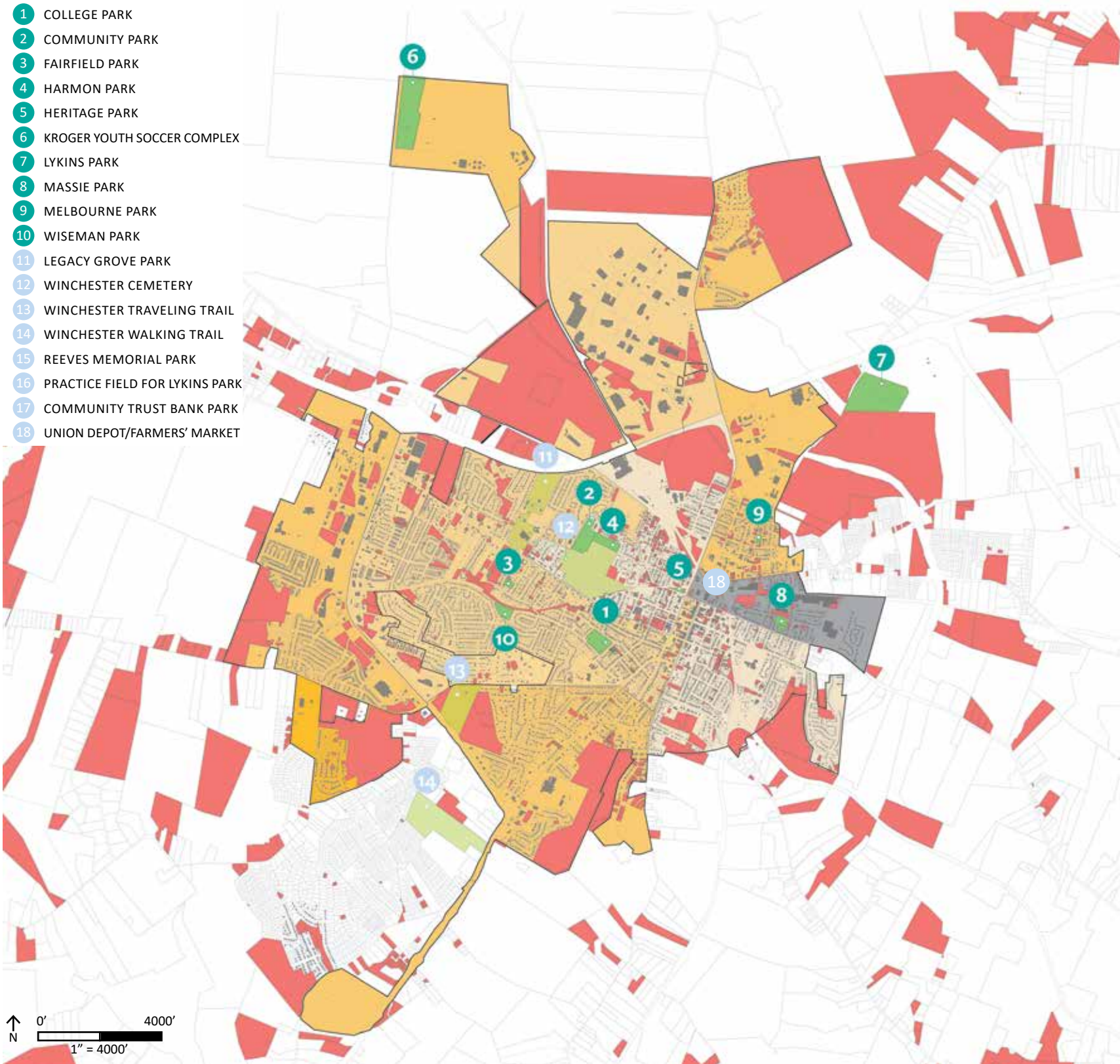
\*DATA FROM POLICY MAP:  
MEDIAN HOME VALUE, CENSUS 2014-2018.



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## VACANT LAND + MEDIAN HOME VALUE

- 1 COLLEGE PARK
- 2 COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 FAIRFIELD PARK
- 4 HARMON PARK
- 5 HERITAGE PARK
- 6 KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX
- 7 LYKINS PARK
- 8 MASSIE PARK
- 9 MELBOURNE PARK
- 10 WISEMAN PARK
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**DATA ANALYSIS**

This map overlays the park map with vacant land, and median home value. While larger tracts of vacant land appear at the edges of the city boundary, there are many small vacant properties within the city limits in areas where median home values are \$98,000 or less.

While large tracts of land are appealing for sports parks, smaller parcels can make a significant difference in a neighborhood as pocket parks.

**KEY**

PARKS (IN SCOPE)

PARK SPACE (OUT OF SCOPE)

\$98,000 OR LESS

\$98,001 - \$150,400

\$150,401 - \$218,200

\$218,201 - \$358,100

INSUFFICIENT DATA

VACANT LAND

\*DATA FROM POLICY MAP:  
MEDIAN HOME VALUE, CENSUS 2014-2018.





**MAINTENANCE + OPERATIONS**



**REWILDING**

**LABOR**

**HABITAT**

**PRAIRIE**



# MAINTENANCE + OPERATIONS

## HOW IMPORTANT IS PARKS MAINTENANCE?

Parks that are clean, intact, welcoming, and have thriving ecosystems all contribute to a feeling of safety within public space. The maintenance of WCCPR parks sends a message to the community about how the government cares for the community. In this respect, where time and resources gets directed absolutely matters for a healthy civic commons to thrive.

Throughout the planning process, when the BLOOM team spoke with residents and working groups, parks maintenance and safety were among top concerns. Parents cited unsafe play equipment, needles, and trash as concerns that sometimes prevented them from using spaces for recreation.

In order for Winchester’s public spaces to be well used now and into the future, a maintenance regimen that keeps parks resilient against everyday use, seasonal change, and ever-evolving living systems is a key to success.

## HOW ARE WCCPR PARKS MAINTAINED?

As outlined on page 12, WCCPR owns and maintains ten parks within Winchester City. WCCPR has two dedicated staff responsible for maintenance of all 106 acres of parks, who work full-time on a seasonal basis. They visit all ten of the parks daily to empty trash and maintain the park. They also mow on a bi-weekly basis, which usually involves a team of four, including a volunteer. These two full-time employees also perform seasonal maintenance for plantings and perform occasional repairs.

The center of operations for parks equipment is at the College Park facility. Typically, individual parks do not contain their own storage facility for equipment, nor do all have connections for remote water and power sources. This causes challenges with maintenance and operations staging, making staff further reliant upon vehicles.

Given the maintenance budgets, equipment, and staffing available, WCCPR has a large territory to tend with minimal resources. This leaves little time and resources for programming and events to take place within parks, as much of the focus is on mowing and minimal maintenance of these spaces.

## To operate one acre of parkland

Winchester spends **\$7,671**

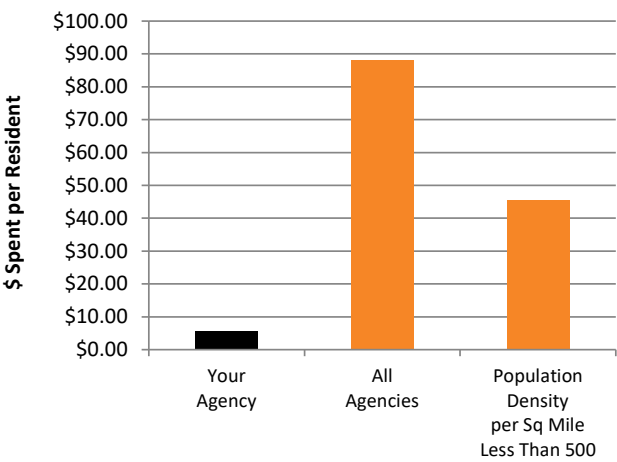


Nationally we spend **\$8,638**



SOURCE: WINCHESTER 2019 PARK METRICS REPORT BY NRPA.

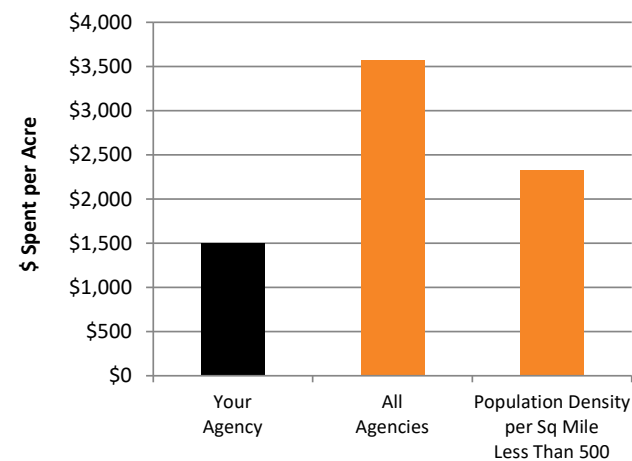
## Operating Expenditures Per Capita



	Your Agency	All Agencies	Population Density per Sq Mile Less Than 500
Lower Quartile		\$48.84	\$17.00
Median	\$5.63	\$88.30	\$45.44
Upper Quartile		\$159.07	\$108.89

SOURCE: WINCHESTER 2021 AGENCY REVIEW REPORT BY NRPA.

Park Operating Expenditures per Acre of Parkland



	Your Agency	All Agencies	Population Density per Sq Mile Less Than 500
Lower Quartile		\$1,816	\$762
Median	\$1,500	\$3,568	\$2,330
Upper Quartile		\$7,051	\$4,348

SOURCE: WINCHESTER 2021 AGENCY REVIEW REPORT BY NRPA.

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

- Operating expenditures are well below national averages, and parks need to be better funded to enhance the quality of life in Winchester. (see exhibits at left) Work with the City and County to allocate more funds for park improvements as well as deferred maintenance. This should be an ongoing discourse that empowers WCCPR to advance the goals of BLOOM Winchester.
- In tandem with Winchester Youth Soccer League an the Softball/Baseball leagues, WCCPR should audit the costs for maintenance and operations at Lykins and Kroger Youth Soccer complex. Throughout the plan, the team heard that there is an unfair allocation of funds, and that WCCPR contributes maintenance to land that is not for public use, but instead by private clubs. By increasing contributions or lessening maintenance commitments, more energy can be devoted to the maintenance and operations of public parks within Winchester.
- A re-evaluated maintenance schedule can help parks workers to become more attentive and in tune with the parks. Rather than visiting each park everyday, a schedule that visits half of the parks every other day will allow more time to attend to park needs, making care visible. An adjusted schedule will also give the maintenance crew more time within the parks rather than time commuting between parks.
- Focus on re-wilding portions of parks to build habitat and resiliency, while lessening the burden of maintenance on the WCCPR crew. This strategy has economic benefits while contributing ecosystem services and a sense of beauty within the parks.
- View parks maintenance and operations holistically, balancing the cleanup and maintenance of the park with active programming that has an impact on the community. Evaluate opportunities for park programming that can also enhance maintenance, such as painting days or clean-up days. This lessens the burden on WCCPR, especially for seasonal maintenance, while also creating a sense of stewardship in the community. (See next chapter for more information).
- Have all play structures inspected by a Certified Play Safety Inspector who has been certified by the NRPA. All play structures should have structural integrity, no rusty or broken parks, and adequate safety material within fall zones, among other criteria. WCCPR’s insurance policy pays for this service annually, and it should be undertaken each year to keep equipment safe and up to date.

# BENEFITS OF RE-WILDING

## WHAT IS RE-WILDING?

Re-wilding is a conservation strategy that re-establishes a native landscape that can manage its own natural processes, with minimal human intervention.

Management techniques that once sought to keep wildlife out of parks and maintain a picturesque aesthetic of bluegrass lawns have failed to incorporate the growing evidence of the importance of ecosystem function as integral to the overall health of the environment, including the people that live within it. A call to celebrate and enhance the biodiversity of Kentucky's land has put focus on the beauty and richness of native plants that once thrived – and the connection between increased habitat biodiversity and the increase in health of human communities is more widely understood.

By implementing meadows of prairie wildflower planting, and integrating wetland and rain garden planting along riparian corridors, Winchester parks can play a critical role in restoring meadows, riparian corridors, and wildlife habitat. These strategies will not only increase the ecosystem function of the park but can also play a role in cutting down on labor costs and emissions of lawn mowing, as well as act as an educational demonstration for the community.

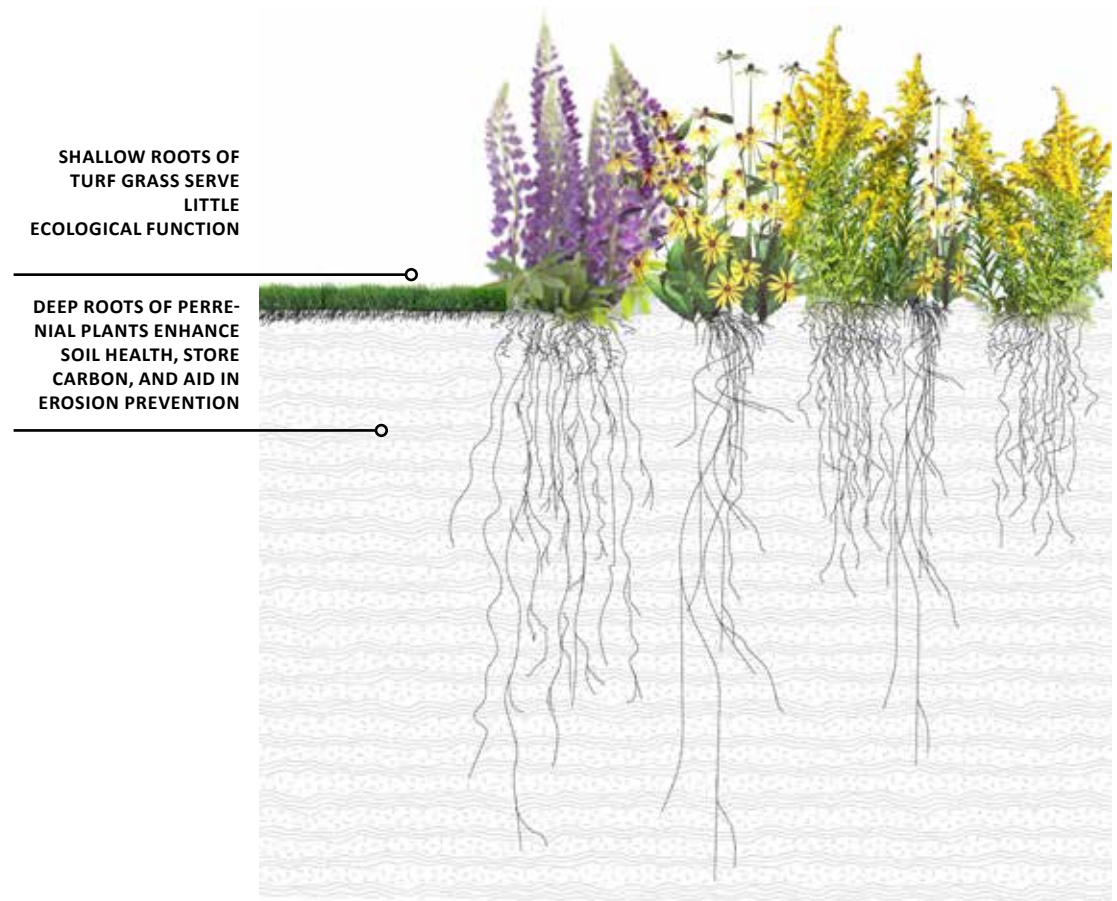
It is estimated that 17 million gallons a year are spilled filling lawn mowers. Lawn mowers generate carbon emissions. Overall turf grass, even though considered a “green space,” is often detrimental to the environment.

## BENEFITS OF NATIVE HABITAT VS LAWN

- Lawns = short roots and erosion VS Habitat = Long root system - flood resilient
- Lawns = monocrop VS Habitat = biodiverse plant community
- Lawns = high maintenance VS Habitat = low maintenance

## BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING BIODIVERSE LANDSCAPES IN PARKS

- Climate Adaptation, Resilience, and Mitigation
- Flood and Drought Resilience
- Erosion Prevention
- Natural Beauty



- Lower maintenance
- Less reliance on fossil fuels for maintenance
- Educational Resource
- Community Planting Activities + Stewardship
- Increased Wildlife - ex. Birds + Butterflies



# REWILDING STUDY

## WCCPR PARKS STATS

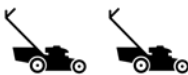
TOTAL PARK ACREAGE:	109 ACRES	TIME TO MOW 1 ACRE:	-1HR
EXISTING LAWN AREA:	81 ACRES	GAS COST TO MOW ALL PARKS (ONCE)	\$336.96
GALLONS/ACRE:	1.5		
GAS COST / ACRE:	\$4.16 (\$2.77 PER GALLON)		

## PRAIRIE

ESTABLISHMENT COST / ACRE:	\$ 1200-1500
ESTABLISHMENT COST TOTAL:	\$97,200-121,500
MAINTENANCE / ACRE / YEAR:	\$ 475 ANNUALLY (MOWING)
MAINTENANCE / YEAR TOTAL:	\$ 38, 475 (FOR 81 ACRES)
TIME TO MOW ALL LAWN IN PARKS:	81 HRS X 2 MOWINGS = 162

REQUIRES MOWING 2X TIMES A YEAR :  
\$667 - \$1000 / YEAR (GAS COST)  
162 - 243 HRS / YEAR  
243 - 365 GALLONS / YEAR

ANNUAL MOWINGS PER ACRE



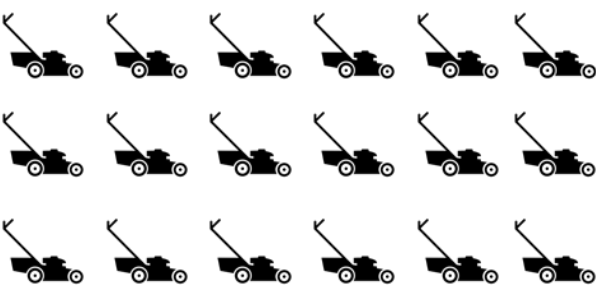
PRICING SOURCE: CONSERVATION DESIGN FORUM, INC. MAY 1995

## LAWN

ESTABLISHMENT COST / ACRE	\$ 2,200 (SEEDLINGS)
	\$ 12,000 (SOD)
	\$ 15,200 (IRRIGATION SYSTEM)
MAINTENANCE / ACRE / YEAR:	\$ 1,500 (REGULAR MOWING, FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES)
	\$ 1,800 (WATER COSTS - ONLY IS IRRIGATED, WHICH WCCPR’S PARKS ARE NOT)
MAINTENANCE / YEAR TOTAL:	\$121,500 (FOR 81 ACRES)
TIME TO MOW ALL LAWN IN PARKS:	81 HRS X 18 MOWINGS = 1,458

WEEKLY MOWING:	BI-WEEKLY MOWING:
\$17,570.07 / YEAR (GAS COST)	\$8,785.04 / YEAR (GAS COST)
4,223.60 HRS / YEAR	2,111.80 HRS / YEAR
6,335.36 GALLONS / YEAR	3,167.68 GALLONS / YEAR

ANNUAL MOWINGS PER ACRE:







**BELONGING**

**PLACE**

**WONDER**

**ACTIVATION**



# BEAUTY & IDENTITY

## PROGRAMMING & OPERATIONS

Park programming and site elements work in concert to create a sense of joy and beauty within parks, letting the public engage with each other and with nature. In addition to the native landscape, Winchester also has a strong sense of history, and is an important center for the black community’s heritage. All of these aspects should be celebrated within the cultural landscape of Winchester, and meaningfully integrated into the social life of parks.

WCCPR has robust park programming and traditions that happen throughout the year. The recreational and facility at College Park is a central hub for programming, recreation, exercise classes, and aquatics. There is a fee for entry to the facility, which the planning team heard from the public is a barrier for use by some in the community. By having free programming or community days, WCCPR can best serve their communities and encourage neighbors to use their public spaces.

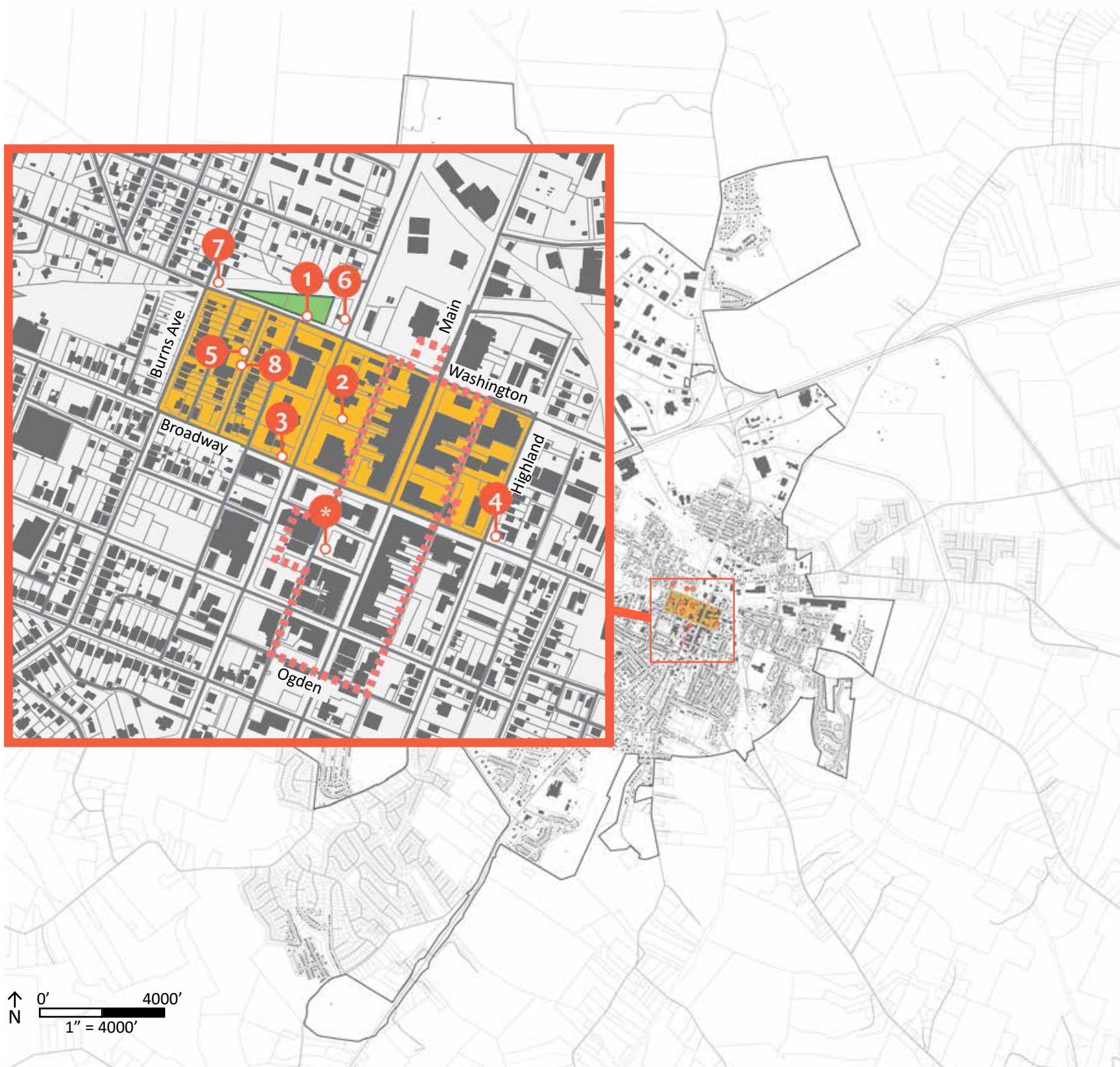
## WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1. Implement uniform signage with an updates aesthetic, which sends the message that Winchester’s parks are evolving as a cohesive system.
2. Celebrate the historic identity of Winchester, and implement park concepts and trails that link the most important assets of history, such as Heritage Park or Union Depot.
3. Introduce more programming such as pop-ups, games, cultural events, food truck nights, movie nights. etc. that get neighbors out into parks. These events will be particularly well attended in the summer, but can also activate parks year-round.
4. Host events to assist WCCPR with park improvements, such as clean-up days and painting parties, where residents can gain a sense of stewardship for their parks.
5. In the re-wilding of spaces, integrate native wildflowers that enhance habitat and lend a sense of season beauty into parks. These also provide opportunities for environmental education and play.
6. Involve residents in defining designs and activiies for parks, using community feedback from BLOOM Winchester as a point of departure. This lets residents know they’re listened to, and allows them to infuse their parks with meaning, memories, and relevance.

## PARK EVENTS

MONTH OF EVENT	DATE	NAME OF EVENT	DESCRIPTION
MARCH	6	MORNINGS/MINGLE	TBA
APRIL	11	SPRING FLING	TBA
APRIL	11	UNDERWATER EASTER EGG HUNT	EASTER EVENT IN POOLS AT PARKS
APRIL	18	LITTLE LEAGUE KICK OFF	LITTLE LEAGUE START AND GAMES ALL DAY
MAY	15	ROCK THE BLOCK	DOWNTOWN EVENT WITH BAND
MAY	29	NIGHT MARKET	DOWNTOWN EVENT WITH BAND
MAY	31	RUN FOR THE PAWS SK	5K RUN TO SUPPORT CLARK ANIMAL SHELTER
JUNE	8 - JULY 31ST	SUMMER DAY CAMP	DAY CAMP FOR LOCAL CHILDREN
JUNE	12	ROCK THE BLOCK	DOWNTOWN EVENT WITH BAND
JUNE	13	BEER CHEESE FESTIVAL	DOWNTOWN EVENT WITH BAND
JUNE	13-20	CLARK COUNTY FAIR & HORSE SHOW	
JUNE	TBA	MORNINGS/MINGLE	
JULY	4	FIREWORKS	FIREWORKS AT LYKINS PARK - VENDORS
JULY	10	ROCK THE BLOCK	DOWNTOWN EVENT WITH BAND
JULY	25	BICYCLE RODEO	BICYCLE EDUCATION AND SAFETY EVENT AT LYKINS PARK
AUGUST	13	SIP AND STROLL	
AUGUST	14	ROCK THE BLOCK	DOWNTOWN EVENT WITH BAND
AUGUST	28-31	PIONEER FESTIVAL	EVENTS AROUND TOWN
SEPTEMBER	18	NIGHT MARKET	
SEPTEMBER	TBA	MORNINGS/MINGLE	
OCTOBER	3	HEMP HARVEST FEST	
OCTOBER	3	WINSPRINT TRIATHLON	TRIATHLON HELD AT COLLEGE PARK
OCTOBER	16-17	HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL	FESTIVAL AT COLLEGE PARK
OCTOBER	31	HALLOWEEN MAINIA	
NOVEMBER	5-7	HOLIDAY HOP	
NOVEMBER	28	SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY	
DECEMBER	5	JINGLE AND MINGLE	
DECEMBER	12	GINGERBREAD HOUSE PARTY	CHILDREN'S EVENT AT COLLEGE PARK

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS

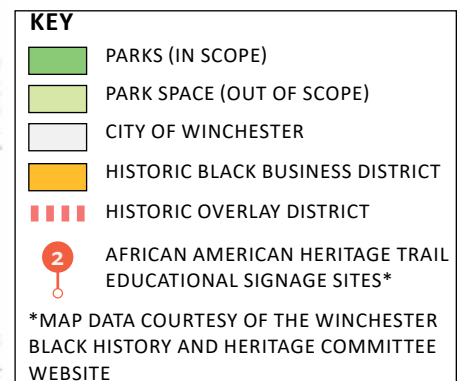


### DATA ANALYSIS

Ensure that the Parks Master Plan process seeks out input from BIPOC community members, to ensure that there are not only white voices, experiences and expectations in the plans and recommendations.

Connect with the Winchester Black History and Heritage Committee to listen, learn and collaborate. Learn more about the amazing African American Heritage Trail and the historic Black Business District.

Find ways to further celebrate the historic Black Business District along with the downtown national historic district.



# BEAUTY + IDENTITY

## PARK IDENTITY AND BRANDING

BLOOM suggests a beauty and identity strategy that integrates consistent contemporary branding as well as ideas for activating parks through community events. Consistent and legible park identity throughout the park system maintained by WCCPR can create renewed interest and awareness for the parks.

### SIGNAGE CONCEPTS

The signage concept draws from the current Winchester Clark County Parks and Recreation Identity – incorporating the oak leaf and circles from the logo, and updating the color palette to create a colorful array of bold, inviting, and playful combinations. Park signage can also be a great way to integrate community bulletin boards into each park as a way to announce upcoming events and neighborhood happenings.

## PALETTE STUDY

### CURRENT IDENTITY



### BLOOM IDENTITY PALETTE





# CURRENT IDENTITY

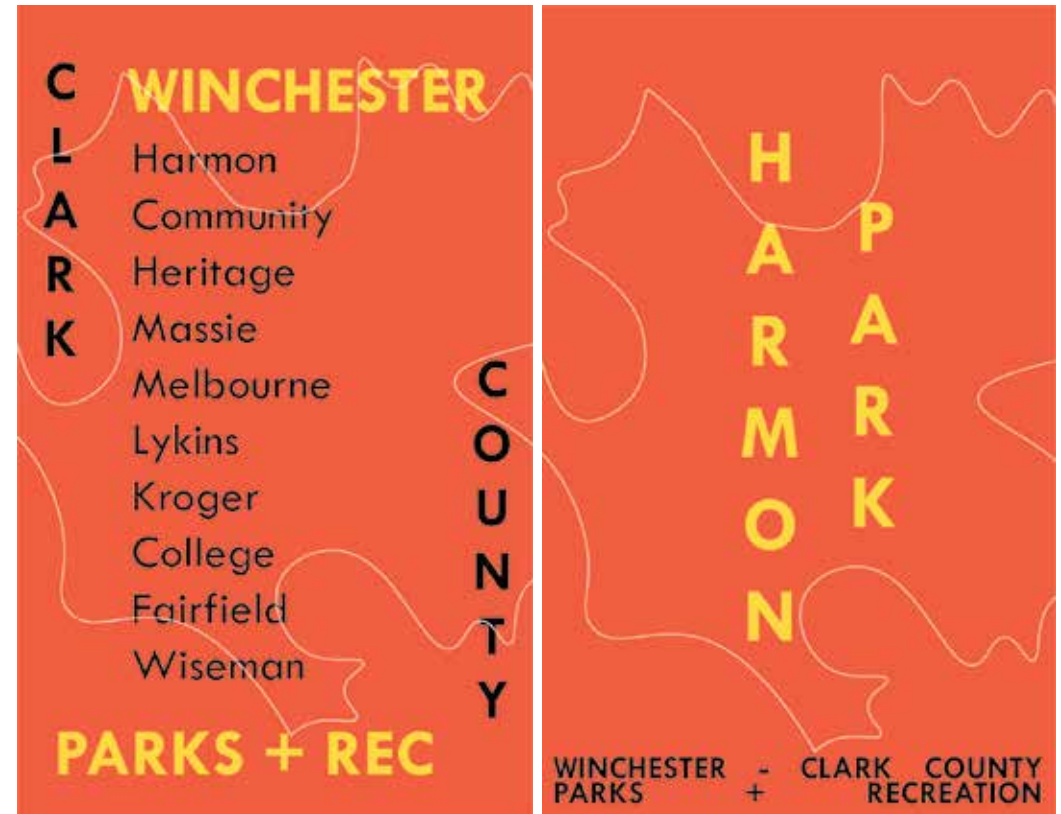
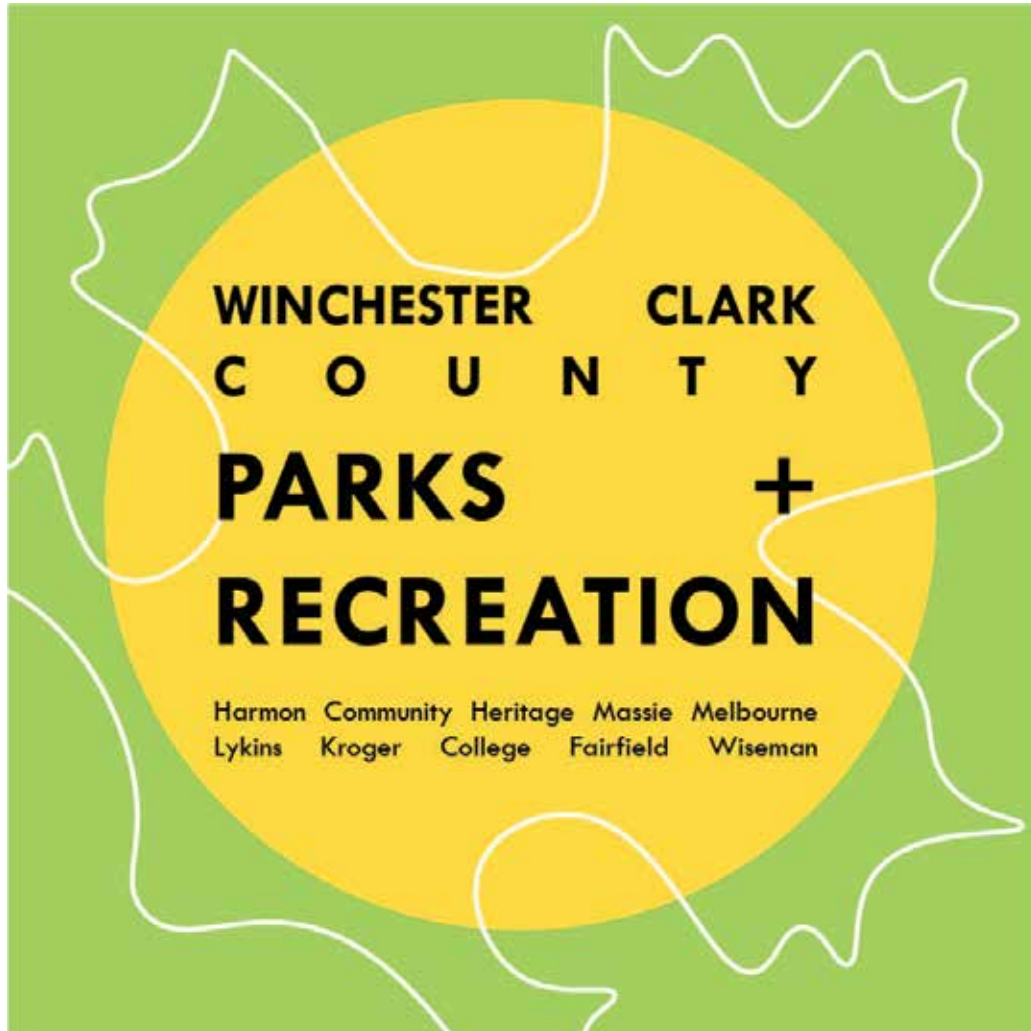
## PARK IDENTITY STUDY

A study of existing park identity reveals mismatched and sometimes missing signage and branding, contributing to a sense of disconnection within the parks system and a perception among residents that some favored parks “get more” than others when it comes to resources and care.



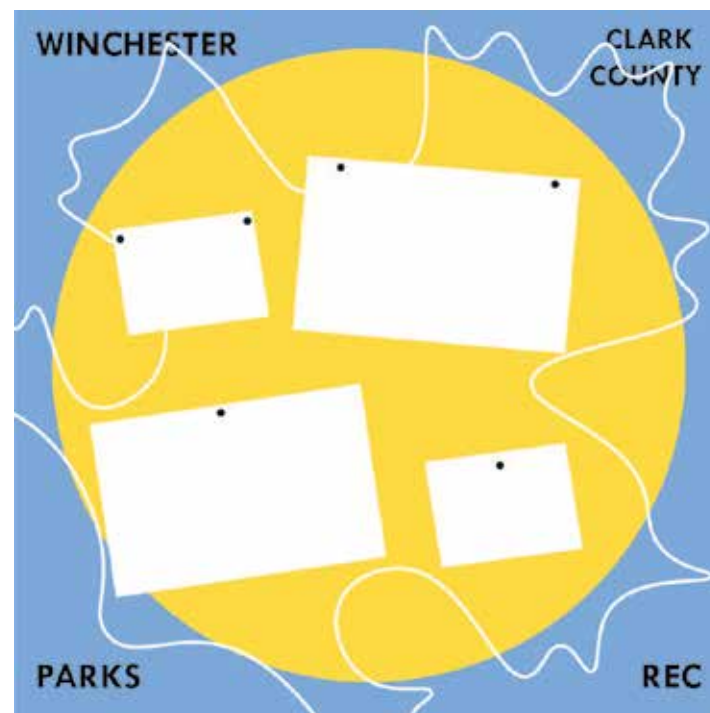
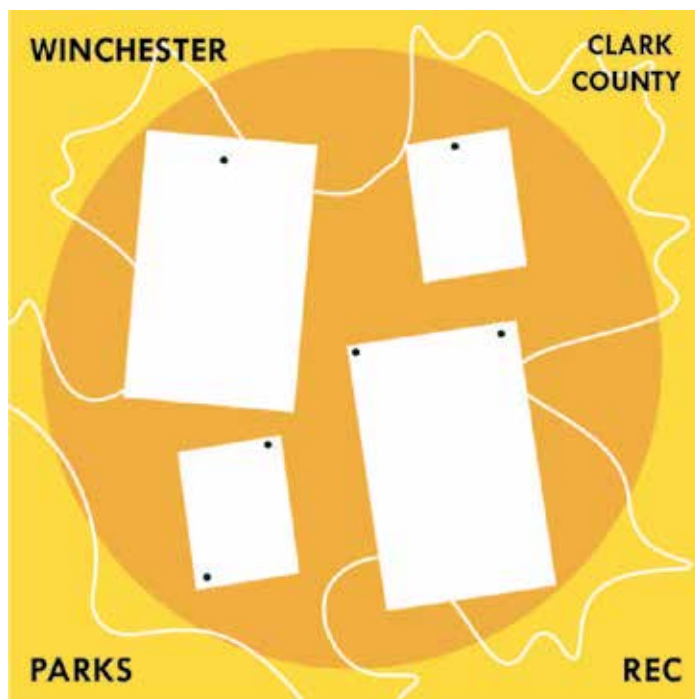
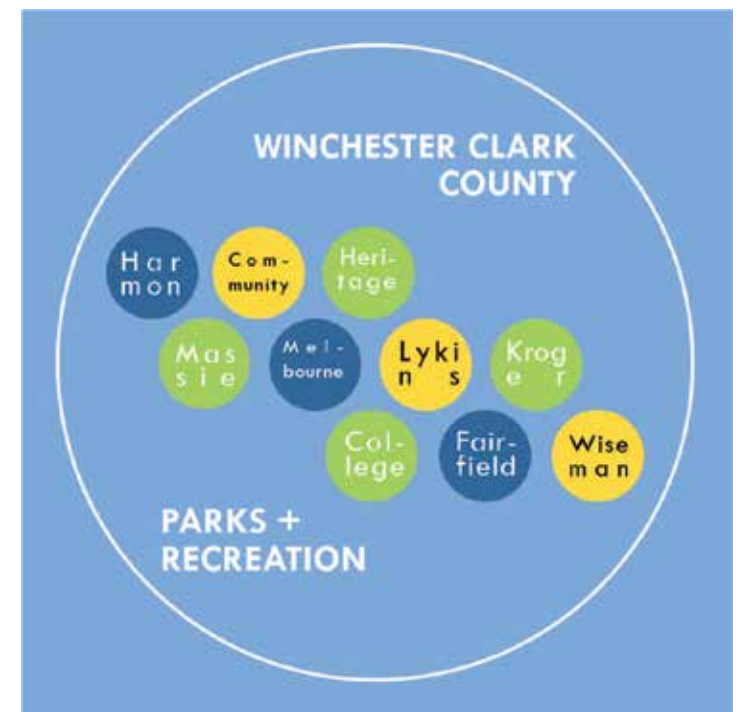
# BEAUTY + IDENTITY

## SIGNAGE CONCEPT:



The signage concept draws from the current Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation identity – incorporating the oak leaf and circles from the logo, and updating the color palette create an array of colorful combinations that can be used across branding opportunities.





Park signage can also be a great way to integrate community bulletin boards into each park as a way to announce upcoming events and community happenings.



# PARTICIPATORY DESIGN + COMMUNITY DAYS

## COMMUNITY DAYS

Throughout the planning process, Winchester residents expressed a desire for community programming at the neighborhood park level, as well as a willingness to participate in park stewardship. Participatory design strategies can ensure that culturally appropriate designs and activities are integrated into each park. Community activities can not only engage residents and create renewed interest in and attachment to the parks, but can also be a cost-effective way to implement planting and maintenance efforts through volunteer involvement.

## PARTICIPATORY DESIGN STRATEGIES:

- Incorporate culturally appropriate designs, activities, and programming based on community input. This gives a sense of community and collective ownership.
- Invite the community to have a say in choosing planting palette, colors, features, programming.
- Incorporate ongoing participatory design strategies that lead to continued care and investment for the park.
- Implement tree planting and maintenance educational and workshare events.
- Incorporate legible climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that bring awareness to create literacy of ecological change.
- Create legible green infrastructure designs.
- Hold intergenerational landscape and climate literacy events.

## PARK ACTIVATION IDEA:

- **HOST A COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY TO PLANT TREES, PRAIRIE WILDFLOWERS, AND RAINGARDENS**





# PARTICIPATORY DESIGN + COMMUNITY DAYS







## **PARK ACTIVATION IDEA:**

- . HOST A COMMUNITY PAINTING DAY TO SPRUCE UP SHELTERS AND PICNIC TABLES**
- . GET COMMUNITY INPUT ON THE COLOR SCHEME!**

# PARTICIPATORY DESIGN + COMMUNITY DAYS

## PARK ACTIVATION IDEA:

- **HOST NEIGHBORHOOD SKILLSHARE EVENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SHARE HANDS-ON LESSONS AND KNOWLEDGE**
- **OFFER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS WITH LOCAL EXPERTS ABOUT WINCHESTER'S ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, AND GEOLOGY**
- **INTRODUCE STORYTELLING WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES ABOUT THE PAST AND FUTURE OF WINCHESTER**







# BEAUTY + IDENTITY

## WHY ARE MEADOWS AND RIPARIAN EDGES USEFUL?

Wildflower meadows are useful, beautiful, carbon sequestering, pollinator-friendly habitats. A meadow is a grassland with perennial plants that grow in it, free of woody plants. Perennial wildflowers are very deep rooted, contributing to soil health and aiding in erosion prevention. By implementing a variety of perennial wildflower plants, parks can achieve a diverse array of beautifully planted meadows for both sun, shade, wet, and dry conditions. Kentucky's Blue-stem prairie is a type of meadow local to the Winchester eco-region.

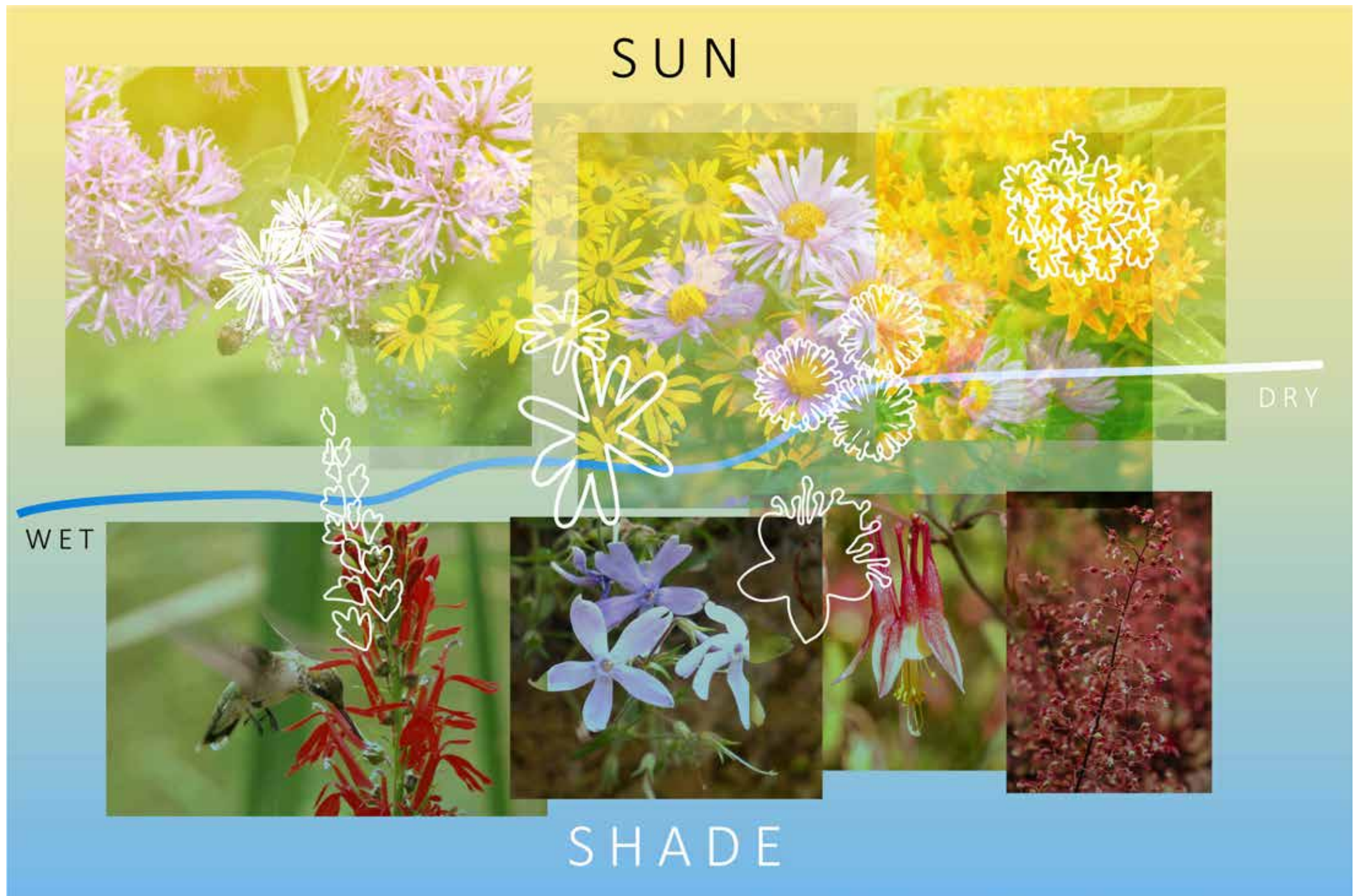
Riparian edges help protect river edges, cleanse water, and offer habitat for riparian species. These planted areas offer buffers between urban and agricultural zones, and help to maintain water quality within watersheds. These riparian edges are places of beauty that can also promote play, recreation, and engagement with the natural world.

## WHAT IS WINCHESTER'S ECO-REGION?

Winchester lies within the "Interior Plateau" eco-region that extends from southern Indiana and Ohio to northern Alabama. The geological make up includes limestone, sandstone, siltstone and Shale. Historical Vegetation is primarily Oak-Hickory forests, bluestem prairie, and cedar glades. The fauna includes a diverse aquatic population.

## WHAT IS WINCHESTER'S PLANTING ZONE?

Winchester Clark currently lies within the USDA Hardiness zone 6B, but these zones are currently shifting at a rate of 13 miles every decade due to climate changes. Native



SOURCES:

ECOREGION: "PRIMARY DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF LEVEL III ECOREGIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES," [HTTPS://HORT.PURDUE.EDU/NEWCROP/CROPMAP/ECOREG/DESCRIPT.HTML#71](https://hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/cropmap/ecoreg/descript.html#71)  
 NATIVE PLANTS: PLANTNATIVE, "NATIVE PLANT LIST - KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE," [HTTP://WWW.PLANTNATIVE.ORG/RPL-KYTN.HTM](http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-kytn.htm)

# BEAUTY + IDENTITY

## CLIMATE ADAPTIVE PLANTING PALETTE

### SUN PERENNIALS

#### DRY SOIL

**BUTTERFLY WEED**, *ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA* (FULL SUN)

**BLAZING STAR**, *LIATRIS SPP.* (FULL SUN)

#### AVERAGE-DRY SOIL MOISTURE

**PURPLE CONEFLOWER**, *ECHINACEA PURPUREA* (FULL SUN)

**WHITE BEARD-TONGUE**, *PENSTEMON DIGITALIS* (FULL SUN)

**SILVERLEAF MTN. MINT**, *PYCNANTHEMUM INCANUM* (FULL SUN)

**TICKSEED**, *COREOPSIS SPP.* (FULL-PART SUN)

**WILD BERGAMOT**, *MONARDA FISTULOSA* (FULL-PART SUN)

#### AVERAGE SOIL MOISTURE

**JOE-PYE-WEED**, *EUPATORIUM SPP.* (FULL SUN)

**PURPLE-HD. SNEEZEWEED**, *HELENIUM FLEXUOSUM* (FULL SUN)

**BLACK-EYED SUSAN**, *RUDBECKIA FULGIDA* (FULL SUN)

**BLUESTAR**, *AM. TABERNAEMONTANA* (FULL-PART SUN)

**SUMMER PHLOX**, *PHLOX PANICULATA* (FULL-PART SUN)

#### WET-AVERAGE SOIL MOISTURE

**SWAMP SUNFLOWER**, *HELIANTH. ANGUSTIFOLIUS* (FULL SUN)

**IRONWEED**, *VERNONIA GIGANTEA* (FULL SUN)

#### WET-DRY SOIL MOISTURE

**WRINKLE-LEAF GOLDENROD**, *SOLIDAGO RUGOSA* (FULL SUN)

### PART SUN-SHADE PERENNIALS

#### AVERAGE-DRY SOIL MOISTURE

**ASTER**, *ASTER SPP.*

**ALUMROOT**, *HEUCHERA AMERICANA*

**CRESTED IRIS**, *IRIS CRISTATA*

**WILD COLUMBINE**, *AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS*

#### AVERAGE SOIL MOISTURE

**WHITE BANEERRY**, *ACTEA PACHYPODA*

**JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT**, *ARISAEMA TRIPHYLLUM*

**WILD GINGER**, *ASARUM CANADENSE*

**WILD GERANIUM**, *GERANIUM MACULATUM*

**WILD BLUE PHLOX**, *PHLOX DIVARICATA*

**JACOB’S LADDER**, *POLEMONIUM REPTANS*

**SOLOMON’S SEAL**, *POLYGONATUM BIFLORUM*

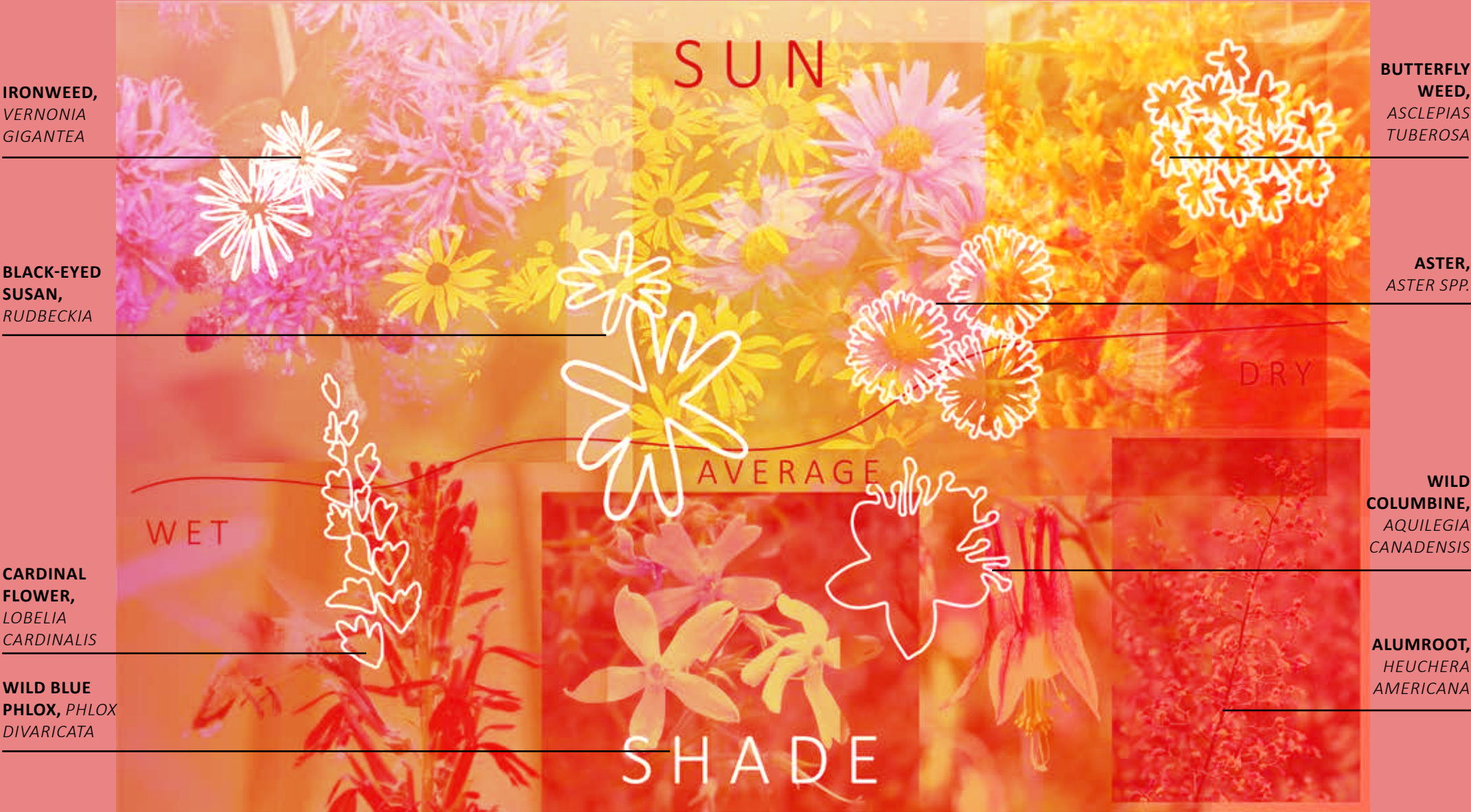
**FOAMFLOWER**, *TIARELLA CORDIFOLIA*

#### WET-AVERAGE SOIL MOISTURE

**CARDINAL FLOWER**, *LOBELIA CARDINALIS*



# NATIVE + CLIMATE ADAPTIVE SPECIES PALETTE



SOURCES:

ECOREGION: "PRIMARY DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF LEVEL III ECOREGIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES," [HTTPS://HORT.PURDUE.EDU/NEWCROP/CROPMAP/ECOREG/DESCRIPT.HTML#71](https://hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/cropmap/ecoreg/descript.html#71)  
NATIVE PLANTS: PLANTNATIVE, "NATIVE PLANT LIST - KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE," [HTTP://WWW.PLANTNATIVE.ORG/RPL-KYTN.HTM](http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-kytn.htm)

# CULTURAL ECOLOGY





RECIPROCITY

HISTORY

COMMUNITIES

ECOSYSTEMS



# CULTURAL ECOLOGY

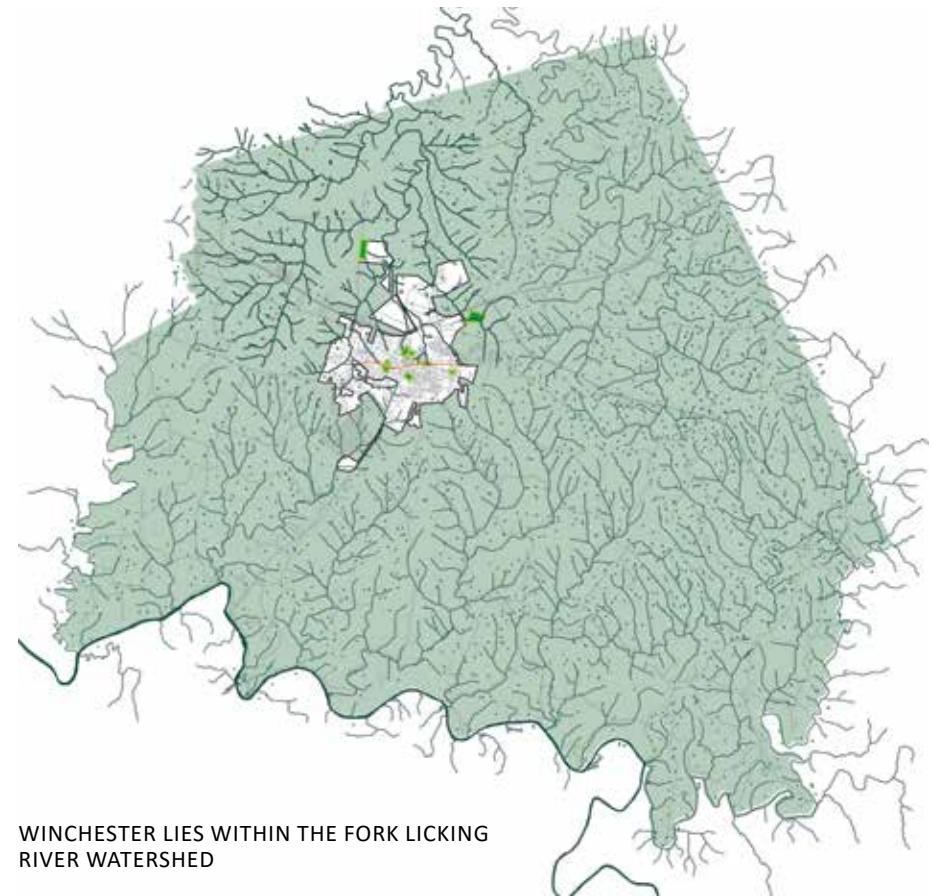
## ECOLOGICAL HEALTH + BIODIVERSITY

12,000 years of human history on the land has greatly influenced the biodiversity of the place now known as Kentucky. The last few hundred years since European settlement has resulted in immense degradation of plant and animal diversity due to intensive farming, industrialization, and the exploitation of natural resources.

In recent years, a call to celebrate and enhance the biodiversity of Kentucky's land has put focus on the beauty and richness of native plants that once thrived – and the connection between increased habitat biodiversity and the increase in health of human communities is more widely understood.

## SHIFTING AGROECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY

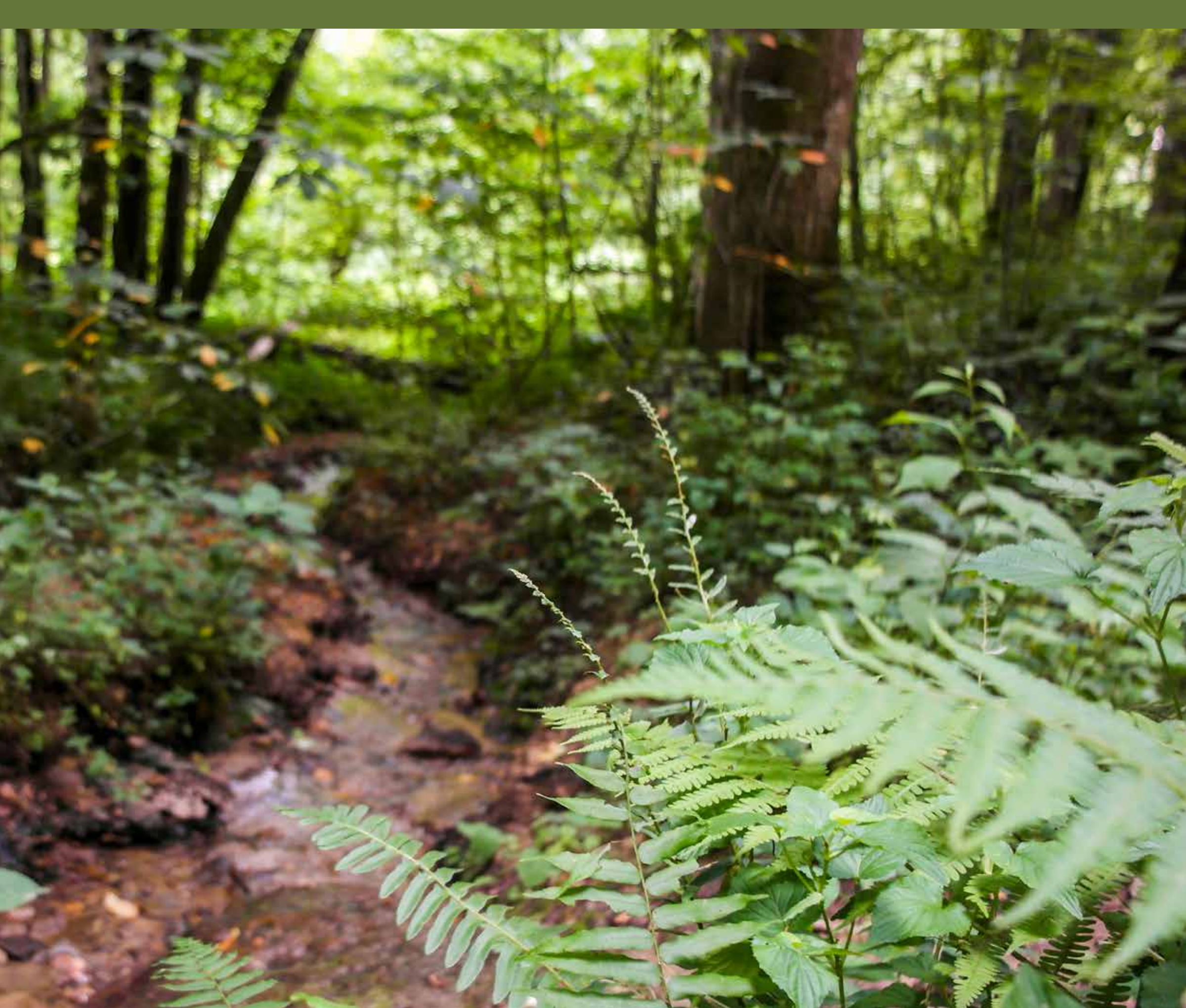
Cultural and economic activities are inextricably linked with the ongoing ecological changes of the Kentucky "Bluegrass" region. Historical cultural and ecological context can help us understand the influences of current day cultural land practices, such as the legacy of plantation farming, labor, and manicured lawns, as well as provide insight to envision more equitable futures.



## WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1. Make decisions about parks with cultural ecology in mind, understanding the greater regional and historic context. This helps Winchester to ensure its public spaces continue to be relevant resilient into the future.
2. Plant native, low-water, drought (or flood) tolerant species that are appropriate to the site. These species will enhance the level of ecological function, providing value ecosystems services and habitat.
3. Remember, trees make the oxygen we breathe! We are inextricably linked to the earth through the landscape, and we need to treat it with the same importance and respect as we place on social and economic activity.







# CULTURAL ECOLOGY TIMELINE

“Indigenous peoples have always lived on the land that is now called Kentucky, and continue to live here today. The place we now call Kentucky is primarily Shawnee, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Osage land.”

- Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)

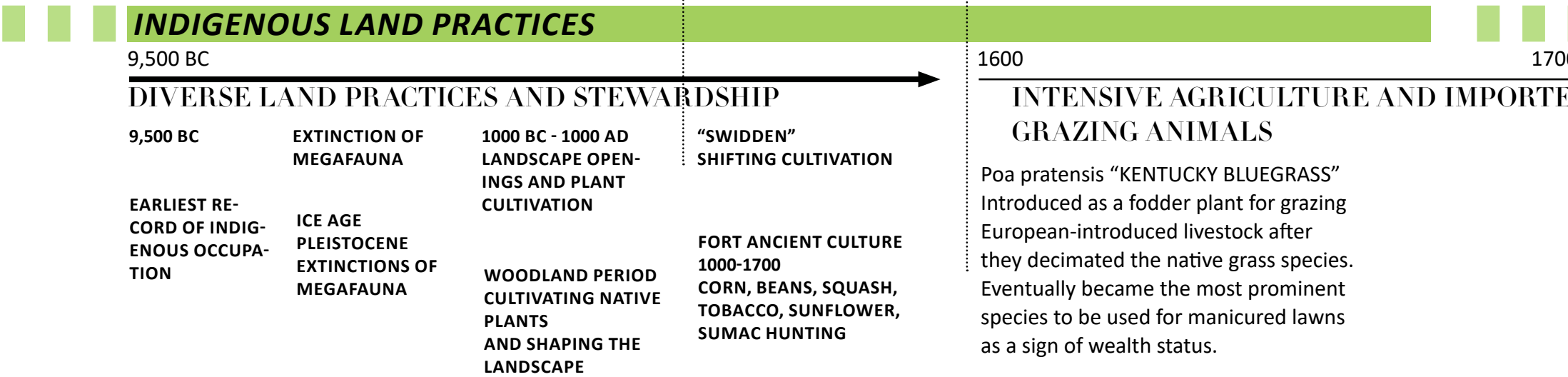


COMPANION PLANTING



EUROPEAN IMPORTED  
“KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS”

MAJOR INFLUENCES





“The topography, soils, and climate in central Kentucky were not suitable for growing cotton, rice, or sugar cane. [But the climate was] well-suited to industrial hemp production. Harvesting and processing hemp was very hard, intensive work . . . hemp growers relied almost exclusively on enslaved labor.”

- UNCOVERING THE LIVES OF KENTUCKY’S ENSLAVED PEOPLE, NOTABLE KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICANS DATABASE

EUROPEAN PLANTATION SYSTEM + ENSLAVED LABOR

PLANTATION SYSTEM

PLANTATIONS 1775-1865  
CENTRAL KENTUCKY HEMP PLANTATIONS  
Labor Intensive crop production of Hemp for fiber was cultivated by enslaved laborers. It was the major cash until the abolition of slavery.

“INDIAN REMOVAL” 1814-1858



ROAD BUILDING



TIMBER MILLS

INDUSTRIAL AGE

MANICURED LAWNS PROMINENT

CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)  
RECONSTRUCTION (1865-1877)  
-SLAVERY ABOLISHED  
INDUSTRIAL AGE  
- Clear cut timber shipped abroad  
- Industrial Fertilizer  
- Interstate Highway + Roadbuilding industry  
- Industrial Manufacturing



MARCH ON FRANKFORT



ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS

ENVIRONMENTALISM

CIVIL RIGHTS

LAND BACK

CIVIL RIGHTS (1950S-60S) + ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
- The 1964 March on Frankfort for public accommodations bill demanded a law to end segregation and ban discrimination in public places.  
- The relationship between race and environmental health inequities are brought into public awareness linking health of the ecosystem with the health of human communities.  
- Land Back movement highlights the ongoing struggles of Indigenous Communities to gain land sovereignty.

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND REGIONAL BEAUTY

## WHAT ARE PROACTIVE APPROACHES TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

Restoring natural ecosystems can be an opportunity to enhance both the beauty of a landscape as well as the resilience. In urban or suburban settings, it is important to consider that the land is already highly modified and may not be suitable to a native plant palette. In more rural settings, we can also understand the nuances of the natural vs. introduced landscape and the impact that can have on how stable an ecosystem is.

Rather than restoring a landscape to match ancient plant communities and ecology, contemporary ecological restoration must be adaptive to the current and future conditions of the land. This should include utilizing climate adaptive tree and plant species and analyzing future climate risks in Kentucky such as drought and flooding.

Parks can set an example for the surrounding communities to educate on climate adaptive strategies that may benefit the community such as rain gardens that help to prevent flooding and drought resistant planting. These are public landscapes that help people learn the value of ecosystem services, all while in enjoyment of the social life of parks.

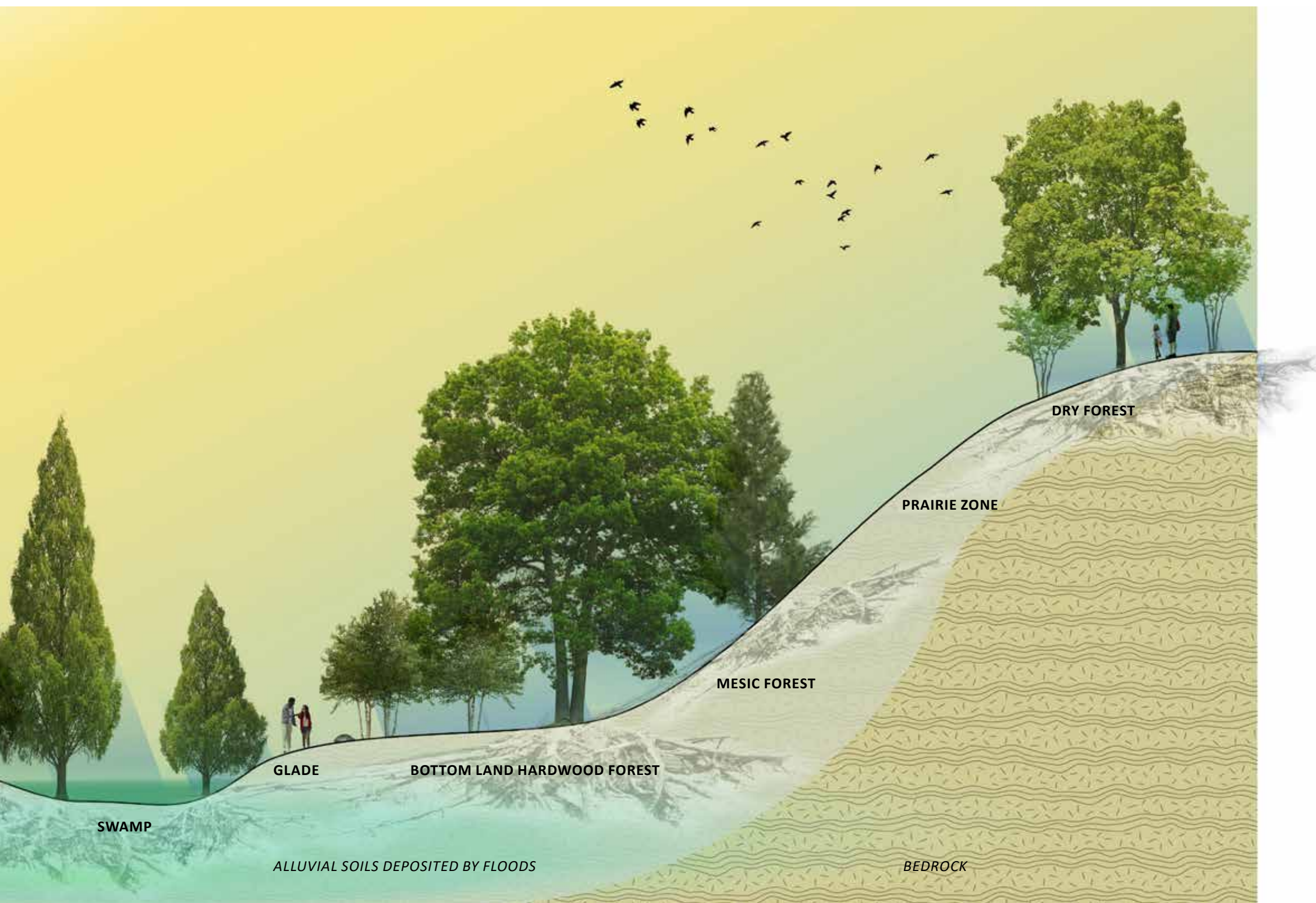
### SOURCES:

ECOREGION: "PRIMARY DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF LEVEL III ECOREGIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES," [HTTPS://HORT.PURDUE.EDU/NEWCROP/CROPMAP/ECOREG/DESCRIPT.HTML#71](https://hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/cropmap/ecoreg/descript.html#71)

CROSS SECTION REFERENCE: G. ABERNATHY, D. WHITE, E. LAUDERMILK, AND M. EVANS M, EDS., KENTUCKY'S NATURAL HERITAGE: AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO BIODIVERSITY (LEXINGTON, KY: THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY PRESS, 2010).





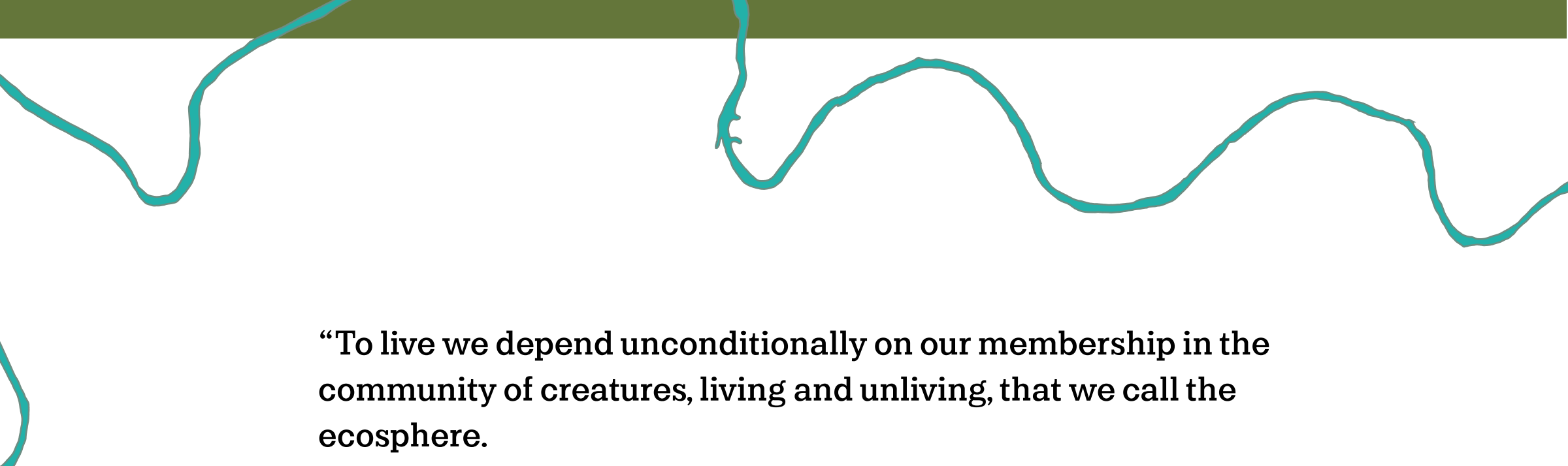




# ECOLOGICAL RECIPROCITY



WILDFLOWERS AT KROGER SOCCER COMPLEX

A thick, hand-drawn style teal line that starts at the top left, dips down, then rises and dips again, continuing across the top of the page.

**“To live we depend unconditionally on our membership in the community of creatures, living and unliving, that we call the ecosphere.**

**Every life in the terrestrial ecosphere depends unconditionally in turn, on a thin layer of fertile topsoil which in most places is a few inches or a few feet deep and which accumulates slowly.**

**In a climate such as ours it deepens by perhaps one inch in a thousand years. This layer of topsoil is made by the decay of rock, by sunlight and rain, and by the life and death of all the creatures, but mainly of the plants – mainly perennial plants – that grow from it, die into it, and by covering it year-round protect it from erosion and hold it in place.”**

**– Wendell Berry**

**Kentuckian, Environmental Writer and Poet**

SOURCE: KENTUCKY’S NATURAL HERITAGE, FORWARD





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT







OUTREACH

FEEDBACK

CONNECTION

COMMUNITY



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## A PAUSE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Originally conceived of during early 2020, the BLOOM master planning process was put on hold in spring 2020 as the COVID-19 crisis was first unfolding, with the planning team and Steering Committee working together to track shifts in public health guidance and recommendations in relation to the planning and engagement process. The project resumed in earnest in fall 2020, with the planning team and Steering Committee meeting regularly through early 2021 to re-develop the public input plan, which included pivoting some traditional community engagement exercises and discussions to digital and socially distanced formats for the COVID era.

## METHODOLOGY

This community-based plan centers community voices and collective ambitions to inform the future of parks under the purview of Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation. In prioritizing equitable, inclusive, accessible, and quality public parks for all residents, the public engagement process sought feedback from people of all backgrounds and experiences to define a vision for the future. An inclusive and interactive approach to community engagement yielded a collaborative planning process that invited many voices to shape the plan. The planning process included the following strategies:

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Leading up to and throughout the public engagement process, the planning team held bi-weekly meetings with community and parks leadership to coordinate efforts, discuss process, and show progress. This Steering Committee informed the final plan and its many components, lending expertise and providing resources to the planning team.

### WORKING GROUPS & STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Early in 2021, the Steering Committee identified more than 125 individual community members and leaders to be invited to take part in Working Group or Individual Stakeholder discussions with the planning team. Initially intended to be held during the team's on-the-ground immersion week in Winchester. As the COVID-19 crisis persisted into 2021, the planning team decided to move these conversations to Zoom format to allow them to take place during the winter months in compliance with public health guidance during that time.

More than 85 of the invited individuals ultimately took part in Working Group or Stakeholder discussions, providing the planning team with candid feedback, big ideas, and input on how park and recreational assets in the City and County could be improved. Nine Working Groups were ultimately formed, with a separate discussion with the planning team held for each via Zoom (meeting dates noted below):

- Art, Culture & Heritage (March 10, 2021)
- Community Services (February 23, 2021)
- Parks, Nature and Conservation (February 25, 2021)
- Education & Youth Leadership (February 24, 2021)
- Government Leadership (February 23, 2021)
- Living & Working in Winchester (March 4, 2021)
- Philanthropy (February 25 and March 4, 2021)
- Public Health (March 4, 2021)
- Youth: Middle School Students (March 24, 2021)

## IMMERSION

A visit to Winchester by the planning team was originally intended to kick off the project in spring 2020 but was delayed for more than a year due to COVID-19. While Omnes began to get to know Winchester from afar during the first year of coronavirus crisis, a visit became possible in summer 2021 following the national rollout of vaccines. The team ultimately visited for a week-long immersion in July 2021 to experience the parks in-person, meet with leadership and key stakeholders, and host a series of "Pizza and Pops in the Parks" community events. This immersion deepened the team's relationships with the community and culture of Winchester. It also allowed for impromptu discussions with residents in parks and other public spaces where they already gather, with the planning team hearing the community's concerns, complaints, stories of community, and big ideas for change.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### 1. "Pizza and Popsicles in the Parks": June 22-25, 2021

With assistance from Steering Committee members and community volunteers, WCCPR and the planning team hosted a series of events where the BLOOM team went to meet the community in their own spaces. These pop-up events were hosted as neighborhood park parties with free popsicles and pizza. Community members gave feedback by completing individual park surveys, talking with the planning team, and taking part in engagement games, photobooths, and craft







# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

activities. These fun pop-ups encouraged neighbors to come out to the parks and impart their needs and desires to the planning team. These events included:

**Monday, June 21, 2021, 10am-Noon**

- “Longest Day of Play” at Legacy Grove Park

**Tuesday, June 21, 6-8pm**

- Wiseman/Holiday Hills Park
- Melbourne Park

**Wednesday, June 23, 6-8pm**

- Massie Park
- Lykins Park

**Thursday June 24, 2021, 6-8pm**

- Heritage Park
- College Park

**Friday, June 25, 2021, 6-8pm**

- Community & Harmon Parks (at Harmon Park)
- Fairfield Park

**2. WCCPR Board Meeting: June 21, 2021**

The planning team attended the June 2021 meeting of the WCCPR Parks Board at the Clark County Fiscal Court Chamber. The Board imparted information about parks history, budgets, and background, and conveyed concerns and priorities about facilities and operations. The Mayor and County Judge also attended and took part in the meeting discussion.

## SURVEYING

In May 2021, BLOOM Winchester launched public community surveys to solicit feedback on the master planning process and learn how residents, workers and visitors feel about parks in Winchester spaces. An Overall Parks Survey asked questions about the entire parks system, while shorter separate surveys related specifically to individual parks.

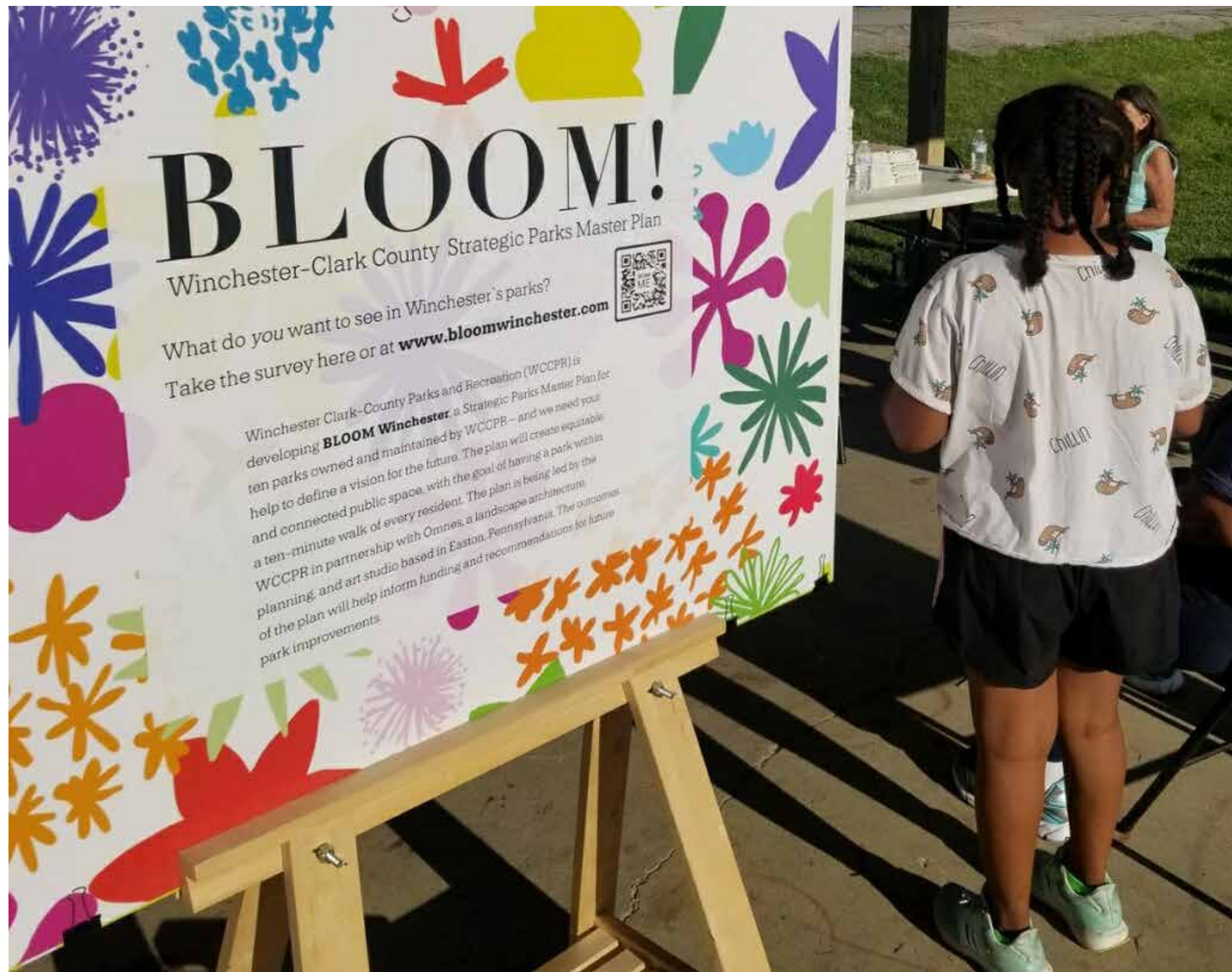
The Overall Parks Survey received a total of 552 responses during the survey period, while individual park surveys received a total of 308 responses across the ten parks. Both the Overall and individual park surveys were available at [www.BLOOMWinchester.com](http://www.BLOOMWinchester.com) and in paper format at various engagement events

throughout the planning period.

16 students from Winchester’s George Rogers Clark High School also completed a Youth Parks Survey, which was created when time and scheduling restrictions prevented the students from meeting with the planning team via Zoom. The Youth Parks Survey invited students to answer open-ended questions specifically about their own experiences and impressions of parks.

## COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. [www.BLOOMWinchester.com](http://www.BLOOMWinchester.com) was designed by the planning team as a central hub for project information, surveys, and updates about the parks included in the scope of work. The website served as a place where the community could make known their ideas and desires for public space, and also get in direct contact with the planning team.
2. Social media was central to getting the word out to the public about input and feedback opportunities. In addition to posting information on the project website, Omnes and WCCPR worked together to create social media stories and posts that encouraged people to take the project survey, visit the website, and attend meetings within the parks. Outlets used included Facebook, Instagram post and stories, and Twitter.
3. Facebook advertisements were also utilized to draw park users to the project website and survey, ultimately reaching the eyes of more than 7,088 users and resulting in 135 survey clicks.
4. Local media were invited to feature stories about BLOOM and make feedback opportunities known to the public during the project. The Winchester Sun included coverage of the project in print and online editions.
5. Lively paper invitations for the “Pizza and Pops in the Parks” events were hand-delivered by Steering Committee members and project volunteers to the homes and residences surrounding each park included in the plan’s scope. The 150 residences nearest each park were identified and received invitations to “Pizza and Pops” the week before their neighborhood event, with more than 1,200 invitations ultimately distributed.
6. Schedule fliers, created in English and in Spanish, listing all the “Pizza and Pops” events were also distributed in print and digital formats at community hubs and events and by Working Group members to their constituents, colleagues, and communities.
7. 30 colorful, weatherproof signs were installed in the parks to inform the public of the project and encourage them to visit the website and take the survey.



# THE PARKS





CONNECTIVITY

PLAY

COMMUNITY

EQUITY

# PARK IMPROVEMENTS IMPLEMENTATION

The master plan is focused on ten parks in Clark County that are owned and maintained by WCCPR. The following pages outline feedback that the planning team received directly from park users. Omnes developed conceptual plans for each of the parks.

In concert with recommendations in the previous chapters, the following pages outline capital improvements to parks that should be implemented to achieve BLOOM Winchester’s vision. These are all urban strategies related to connectivity, equity, maintenance, identity, and ecology that will allow WCCPR’s park system to become spaces deserving of Winchester’s vision for itself.

Omnes has outlines recommendations for the phasing of the parks plans, relating directly back to discussions of equity in earlier chapters.

WHAT PHASING IS RECOMMENDED?

1. The splash pad at Harmon Park must be built! This was one of the top pieces of feedback from the community. WCCPR received a generous \$250,000 grant from the Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund, and the City of Winchester has agreed to match the funds in their 2022 budget. This project, in addition to other improvements at Harmon/Community Parks, should be a priority to bring water play to these neighborhoods.

2. Heritage Park should be one of the first parks to receive improvements. This park is part of the Historic District and trailhead to the African American Heritage Trail. It has important historical significance for Winchester and is a center for Black community.

3. Almost on par with Heritage Park, based on goals for equitable park development, the parks most in need and where improvements will have the greatest impact include:

Melbourne Park

Wiseman (Holiday Hills) Park

Fairfield Park

Massie Park

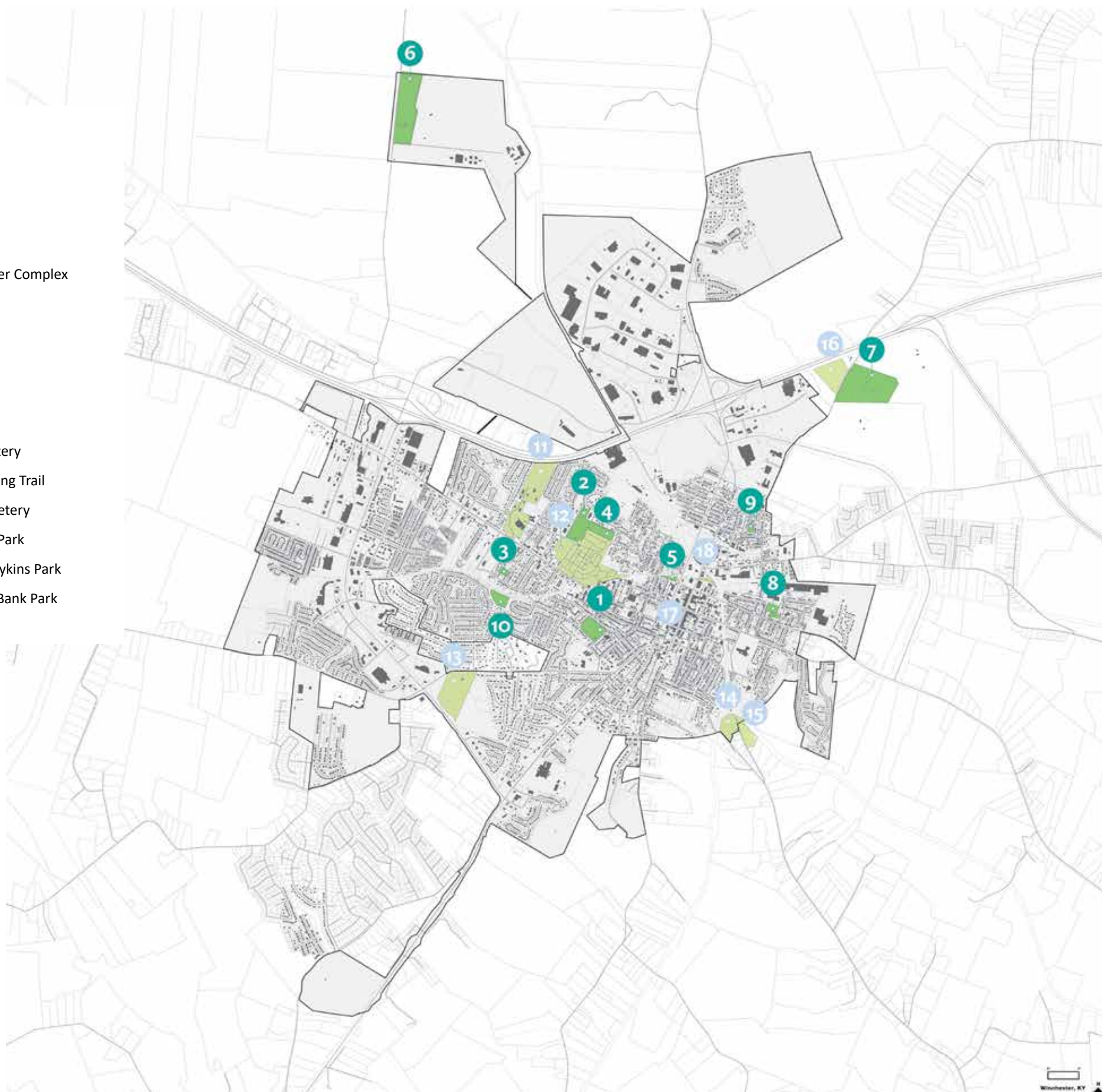
4. Though not part of this study, plans for improvement of Union Street Depot should be undertaken in partnership with Winchester Design Studio and KY to improve downtown through cultural development, events, and access to healthy food.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Throughout the plan, concepts and considerations for future parks space improvements have been outlined. A broad range of considerations will determine costs of implementation, however general estimates can be made based upon best practices and an understanding of future improvements that centers community concerns:

- \$28.50/SF for capital improvements of programmed park space
- \$10/SF for unprogrammed park spaces such as meadows, lawns, forests, etc.
- Assume \$8 to \$10/SF for design and engineering fees for initial implementation of the parks
- Assume 3-5% of capital cost for continued annual maintenance

- 1 College Park
- 2 Community Park
- 3 Fairfield Park
- 4 Harmon Park
- 5 Heritage Park
- 6 Kroger Youth Soccer Complex
- 7 Lykins Park
- 8 Massie Park
- 9 Melbourne Park
- 10 Wiseman Park
- 11 Legacy Grove Park
- 12 Winchester Cemetery
- 13 Winchester Traveling Trail
- 14 Daniel Grove Cemetery
- 15 Reeves Memorial Park
- 16 Practice Field for Lykins Park
- 17 Community Trust Bank Park
- 18 Farmers' Market





# THE OVERALL PARKS SURVEY

## METHODOLOGY

A critical component of the engagement process for the master plan was the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey, which invited all Winchester residents and visitors to provide feedback about their impressions and experiences of WCCPR parks. The 16-question survey launched on Monday, May 17, 2021, and closed on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, receiving a total of 552 responses during the engagement period.

(Separate Individual Park surveys were also developed to give community members the opportunity to provide feedback about the each specific park within the project scope; results of the Individual Park surveys can be found in the section for each park within this plan. The Individual Park surveys received a combined total of 308 responses.)

The Overall Parks Survey allowed the planning team to glean specific information on how parks are perceived by their users. The survey utilized question formats that included yes/no, multiple choice, rating/ranking, and fill-in-the-blanks. Additional write-in questions allowed survey respondents to provide open-ended feedback about parks and Winchester as a whole. To discover trends within the open-ended response data, the wealth of information obtained from this exercise was distilled into categories of concern based on the content of the response. The breakdown of this data is found on the following pages.

The BLOOM Overall Parks Survey was promoted through the project website, social media advertising and posts, Working Group emailers, articles in the Winchester Sun, BLOOM team outreach at community events, and weatherproof in-park signage directing visitors to the survey and website. Both the Overall and individual park surveys were available at [www.BLOOMWinchester.com](http://www.BLOOMWinchester.com) and in paper format at various engagement events throughout the planning period. To promote participation, users who took the survey were offered a free one-day pass to the College Park Fitness Center.



**“I usually feel welcome at the parks . . . however there are not enough things for older children.”**

**“Only the main parks are nice; the little parks are run down [and] don’t feel safe.”**

“There aren’t many [parks] with nice shady areas, or curated paths. Lots of focus on sports [in Winchester parks], but not for those just wanting to enjoy the outdoors.”

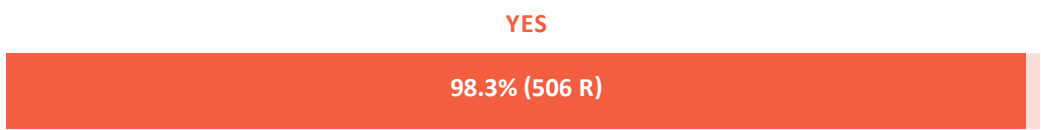


“The summer program for kids price increase was entirely too much for families.”



# THE OVERALL PARKS SURVEY: RESULTS

DO YOU LIVE OR WORK IN WINCHESTER OR CLARK COUNTY?



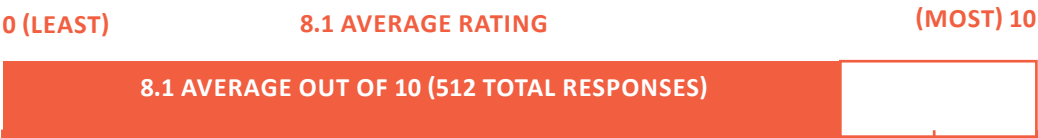
DO YOU LIVE IN WALKING DISTANCE OF A PARK?



HOW DO YOU USUALLY GET TO PARKS IN WINCHESTER?



HOW WELCOME AND RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN WINCHESTER’S PARKS?



HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN WINCHESTER’S PARKS?

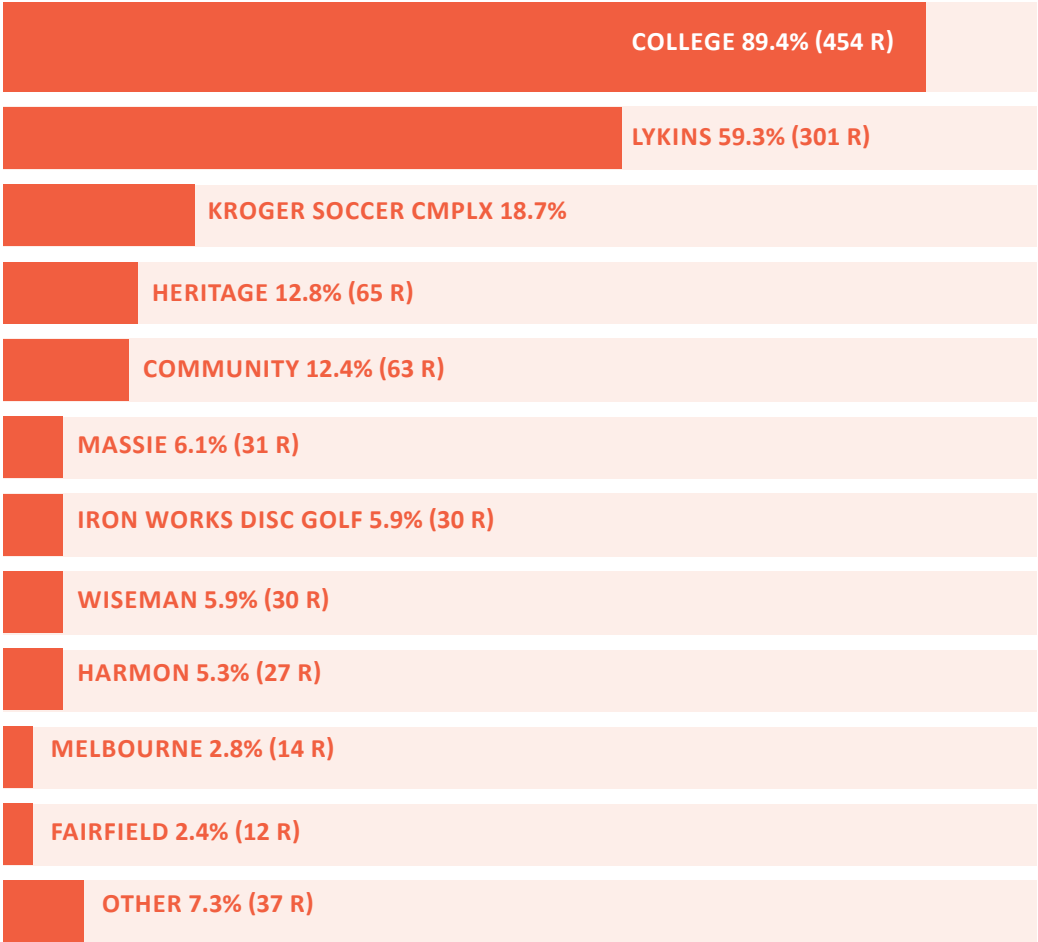


HOW EASY/DIFFICULT IS IT FOR YOU TO ACCESS AND USE WINCHESTER’S PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES?





WHICH PARKS DO YOU VISIT IN WINCHESTER?



WOULD YOU SUPPORT A NEW WALKING TRAIL OR “RAILS-TO-TRAILS” PROJECT IN WINCHESTER?



DEMOGRAPHIC RESPONSES

RACE

AMERICAN INDIAN

ASIAN

BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN

NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER

SOME OTHER RACE

TWO OR MORE RACES

WHITE

UNSPECIFIED

(0 RESPONSES)

(0 RESPONSES)

(13 RESPONSES)

(1 RESPONSE)

(4 RESPONSES)

(6 RESPONSES)

(381 RESPONSES)

(117 RESPONSE)

AGE

UNDER 18

18-24

25-40

41-56

(11 RESPONSES)

(18 RESPONSES)

(214 RESPONSES)

(142 RESPONSES)

57-75

76+

UNSPECIFIED

(93 RESPONSES)

(6 RESPONSES)

(38 RESPONSES)

ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



# THE OVERALL PARKS SURVEY: RESULTS

Open-ended survey questions allowed users to respond with short subjective answers. The planning team reviewed responses to these questions and organized each by category of concern, with an analysis of responses by category of concern presented below.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU VISIT PARKS IN WINCHESTER? (ACTIVITIES)

1.	<b><i>Play/Playground</i></b>	<b>(255 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Walking	(193 RESPONSES)
3.	Sports/Recreation	(93 RESPONSES)
4.	Picnics/Social Gathering	(93 RESPONSES)
5.	Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment	(89 RESPONSES)
6.	Exercise	(51 RESPONSES)
7.	Dog Walking	(38 RESPONSES)
8.	Water Play/Pool	(31 RESPONSES)
9.	Programs/Special Events	(27 RESPONSES)
10.	Biking	(16 RESPONSES)

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT PARKS IN WINCHESTER? (EXISTING CONDITIONS)

1.	<b><i>Legacy Grove*</i></b>	<b>(99 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment	(67 RESPONSES)
3.	Cleanliness/Maintenance	(61 RESPONSES)
4.	Play/Playground	(60 RESPONSES)
5.	Open/Green Space	(56 RESPONSES)
6.	Social Opportunities	(46 RESPONSES)
7.	Accessibility	(35 RESPONSES)
8.	Amount/Variety	(35 RESPONSES)
9.	Sports/Recreation/Exercise	(27 RESPONSES)
10.	Programs/Special Events	(08 RESPONSES)

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT PARKS IN WINCHESTER? (CONCERNS)

1.	<b><i>Equipment/Facilities</i></b>	<b>(111 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Cleanliness/Maintenance	(93 RESPONSES)
3.	Park Amenities (seating/bathr. etc)	(76 RESPONSES)
4.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(75 RESPONSES)
5.	Trails & Connectivity	(54 RESPONSES)
6.	Children/Youth Needs/Program.	(45 RESPONSES)
7.	Programming	(41 RESPONSES)
8.	Safety + Unwanted Behavior	(41 RESPONSES)
9.	Nature/Natural Focus	(34 RESPONSE)
10.	Accessibility	(34 RESPONSES)

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR PARKS AND COMMUNITY?

1.	<b><i>Amenities &amp; Facilities</i></b>	<b>(39 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Maintenance & Operations	(35 RESPONSES)
3.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(35 RESPONSES)
4.	Leadership & Vision	(33 RESPONSES)
5.	Accessibility & Equity	(25 RESPONSES)
6.	Connectivity	(24 RESPONSES)
7.	Programming	(23 RESPONSES)
8.	Safety	(18 RESPONSES)
9.	Children + Youth	(18 RESPONSES)
10.	Nature	(13 RESPONSES)

**“I would love to attend a Parks and Rec meeting, or have a chance to observe how decisions are made related to the changes, upkeep, and care, of our community parks.”**



**“[There should be] Increased safety measures and equity of investment between the parks.”**



**“Winchester powers-that-be take TOO LONG to take action.”**

**“I’m pleased with the amount of parks, but I would like to see more investment in safe and ADA accessible playground equipment.”**



# VOICES OF WINCHESTER



“Parks should consist of handicap-accessible equipment and restroom facilities [with a] reliable playground that is maintained to assure safety for everyone.”

“I love that there are a variety of green spaces [in Winchester parks] – excited to see that accessibility to expand.”

“[There should be] Financial investment in all parks owned by Parks and Rec, not just College Park Gym, College Park, and Lykins. Make Parks and Rec a department of City government.”



“Our Black Heritage Committee has held numerous events in the [Heritage Park] (with excellent attendance). There have been no restroom facilities. Very limited seats. No tables. We’ve had to bring our own. Limited electric outlets. The sun has at time been sweltering with no shade. Heritage Park has become a Meeting place for the Black community however there are no suitable facilities. It . . . has become an afterthought.”

“Winchester parks need more things for teenagers to do!”

“If I could make anything happen in Winchester, I would like to have a water park.”

“The lack of a public outdoor pool for adults and families is a major deficit in our community’s park system. This should be seriously evaluated by all in leadership. A comprehensive plan to offer the same opportunities as our surrounding communities should be an emphasis for future planning.”

“We are fortunate to have many parks in our community. But we need more parks in the fast growing west side of town, and existing parks should be updated and better maintained. I would strongly support a tax increase to provide adequate funding for our parks. They are a vital part of the community.”



# WISEMAN PARK

## WISEMAN PARK

155 Holiday Road, Winchester, KY 40391  
~ 4.2 acres

Wiseman Park, also known as Holiday Hills, comprises more than 4 acres of land nested in a residential neighborhood in the western section of Winchester. The park is well used by neighborhood children for recreational activities, however neighborhood residents have noted that the park could be better utilized by the community. Existing features include a tree-covered shelter area and a gated entryway. Wiseman’s location along an old rail line corridor makes it a great candidate for a rails-to-trails connection point along a potential east-west trail system.



STREAM RUNNING THROUGH LENGTH OF PARK

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- **No ADA Access**
- **Hidden Entry**
- **Unclear circulation / no path**
- **Shelter feels disconnected**
- **Potential connection to a Rail-to-Trail system**

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

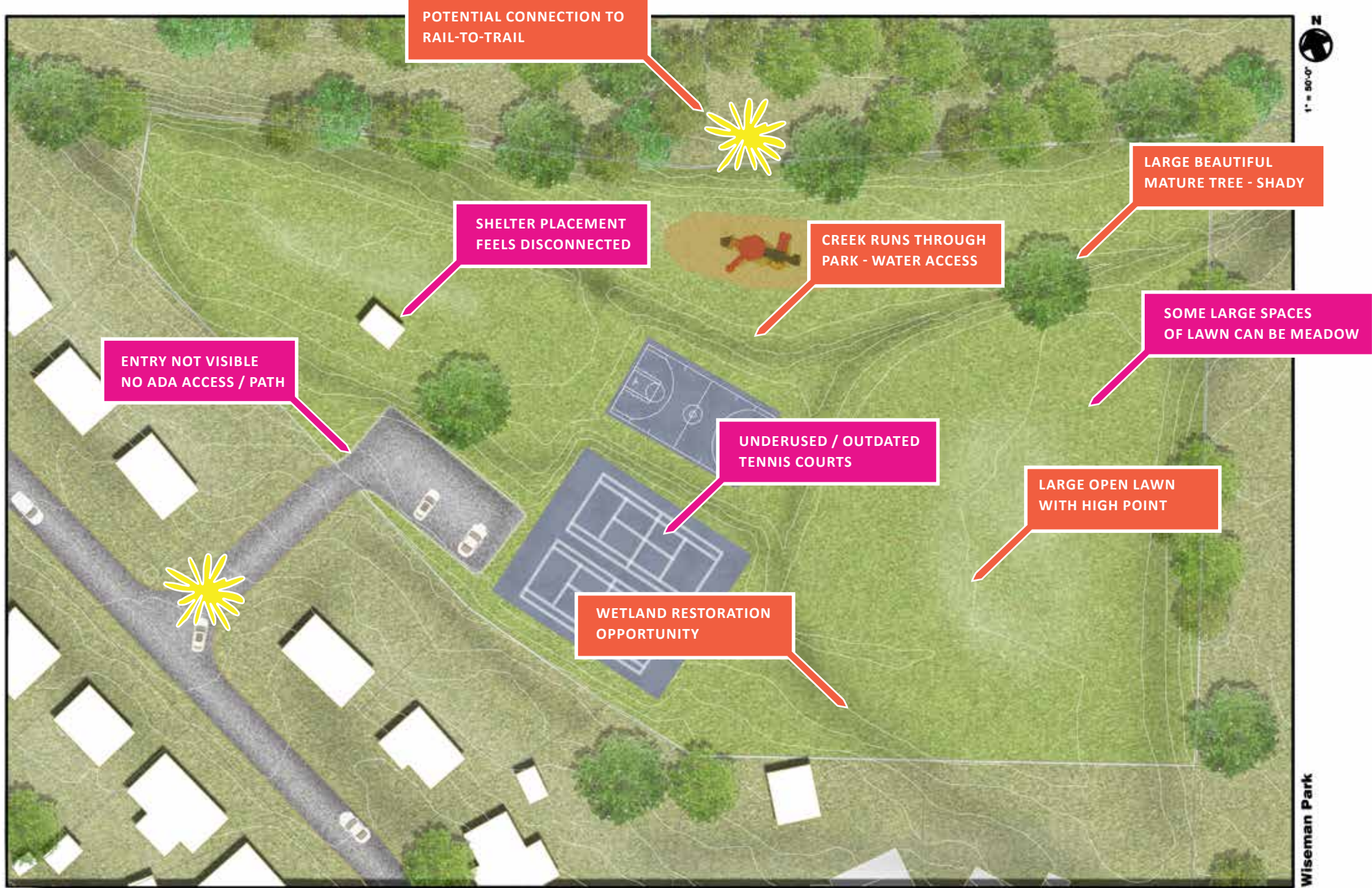
- **Sports / Basketball**
- **Passive recreation**
- **Playground**



UNDERUSED / OUTDATED TENNIS COURTS



# SITE ANALYSIS



KEY



ASSET / OPPORTUNITY



NEED / CHALLENGE



THRESHOLD / ENTRY

# WISEMAN PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

The first “Pizza and Pops in the Park” community input pop-up events were held concurrently at Wiseman Park and Melbourne Park on the evening of Tuesday, June 22, 2021, kicking off four nights of public engagement in the parks with the BLOOM planning team. The Wiseman Park pop-up was well-attended by people living in the neighborhood, with approximately 75 residents completing surveys, taking part in engagement exercises, or sharing input about their impressions and experiences of the park. Across paper and online versions, the Wiseman Park Survey received a total of 52 responses. Wiseman Park was also mentioned in 8 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey (which was available online throughout the duration of the planning period).

Wiseman received among the lowest average ratings by park-goers concerning how welcome and respected they feel in the park (of the ten parks, only Massie Park was rated lower). Wiseman also received the lowest average rating of all the parks by respondents in terms of impressions of feeling safe in the park.

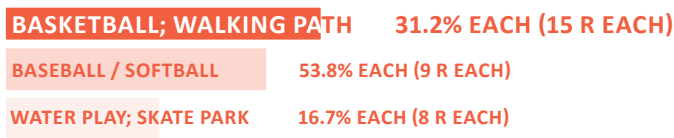
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)



\* Basketball and Walking Path tied at 31.2% ; Water Play and Skate Park tied at 16.7%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	(2 RESPONSES)
	SOME OTHER RACE	(1 RESPONSE)
	TWO OR MORE RACES	(1 RESPONSE)
	WHITE	(20 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(27 RESPONSES)
AGE	UNDER 18	(11 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(0 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(10 RESPONSES)
	41-56	(7 RESPONSE)
	57-75	(6 RESPONSE)
	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(18 RESPONSES)

### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“Change name to Holiday Park, and add more stuff for older kids.”



“I would love to see this park succeed.”



“It is wonderful to have such a convenient park in our neighborhood that we can walk to.”





# WISEMAN PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

In the Wiseman Park Survey and at the “Pizza and Pops” event at the park, community members primarily expressed concerns about the state of existing facilities at the park, centering largely on the cracked and run-down sport courts at the park. Many called in particular for resurfacing or updating the courts for basketball, which was also the top-ranked type of recreation that residents want to see at Wiseman. A need for play equipment for toddlers and younger children was also indicated by residents.

Community members noted their appreciation for the somewhat secluded location of Wiseman Park, which one resident called “hidden in the trees.” While many have a positive impression of the park as a natural setting for relaxing and playing along the creek, residents did note problems with drainage and the need to address flood conditions. For some, the park’s out-of-the-way location and hidden views also create concerns about safety and the potential for unwanted activity.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

- |     |   |                       |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment</i></b> | <b>(16 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Accessibility                               | (9 RESPONSES)         |
| 3.  | Sports/Recreation                           | (8 RESPONSES)         |
| 4.  | Play/Playground                             | (7 RESPONSES)         |
| 5.  | Open/Green Space                            | (7 RESPONSES)         |
| 6.  | Social Opportunities                        | (3 RESPONSES)         |
| 7.  | Clean/Maintained                            | (2 RESPONSES)         |
| 8.  | Kid/Youth-Friendly                          | (2 RESPONSES)         |
| 9.  | Programs/Special Events                     | (0 RESPONSES)         |
| 10. | Walking/Trails                              | (0 RESPONSES)         |

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

- |     |                                     |                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Equipment/Facilities</i></b>  | <b>(20 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Play/Playground                     | (13 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Cleanliness/Maintenance             | (7 RESPONSES)         |
| 4.  | Park Amenities (seating/bathr. etc) | (6 RESPONSES)         |
| 5.  | Programming                         | (5 RESPONSES)         |
| 6.  | Water/Splash Pad/Pool               | (5 RESPONSES)         |
| 7.  | Nature/Natural Focus                | (3 RESPONSES)         |
| 8.  | Safety + Unwanted Behavior          | (3 RESPONSES)         |
| 9.  | Trails + Connectivity               | (1 RESPONSE)          |
| 10. | Accessibility                       | (0 RESPONSES)         |
| 11. | Leadership + Vision                 | (0 RESPONSES)         |

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT WISEMAN PARK?

- |     |                          |                      |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Safety</i></b>     | <b>(4 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Amenities + Facilities   | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Maintenance + Operations | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Water/Splash Pad/Pool    | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Accessibility + Equity   | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Nature                   | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Programming              | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 8.  | Children + Youth         | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Connectivity             | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Leadership + Vision      | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“My daughter and I love this park because it’s quiet but we both love water and would love to see water activities at all parks!”



“Hold more events, there are some people who do not know about this park!”



“[Wiseman needs] a bike rack, more trees . . . more shade, more frogs.”





# WISEMAN PARK

## WISEMAN PARK PROPOSAL

One of the first changes proposed is to re-name this park to “Holiday Hills” which is the name most neighbors refer to it as. The name “Wiseman” was given after the gentleman that donated the land to WCCPR, and has no other resonance with the community.

The concept proposal for Wiseman highlights some of the park’s unique features including the natural creek that runs through it as well as its proximity along the potential Rail-to-Trail pathway that connects to other parks in Winchester.

The proposal includes a concept to bring more legibility to the park by highlighting the entrance through painted streets, sidewalks, or signage. Since the park is embedded within a neighborhood and it’s entrance is hidden down a driveway, it can be helped by efforts to highlight it’s location.

Community input influenced the implementation of walking paths within the park, as well as creekside stone installations to encourage interaction with the creek as a way of addressing the interest in water activities. Along with the



MEADOW AND CREEK SIDE WATER INTERACTION

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

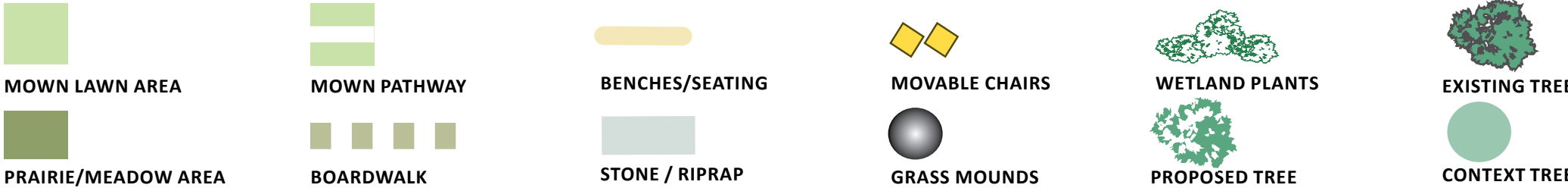
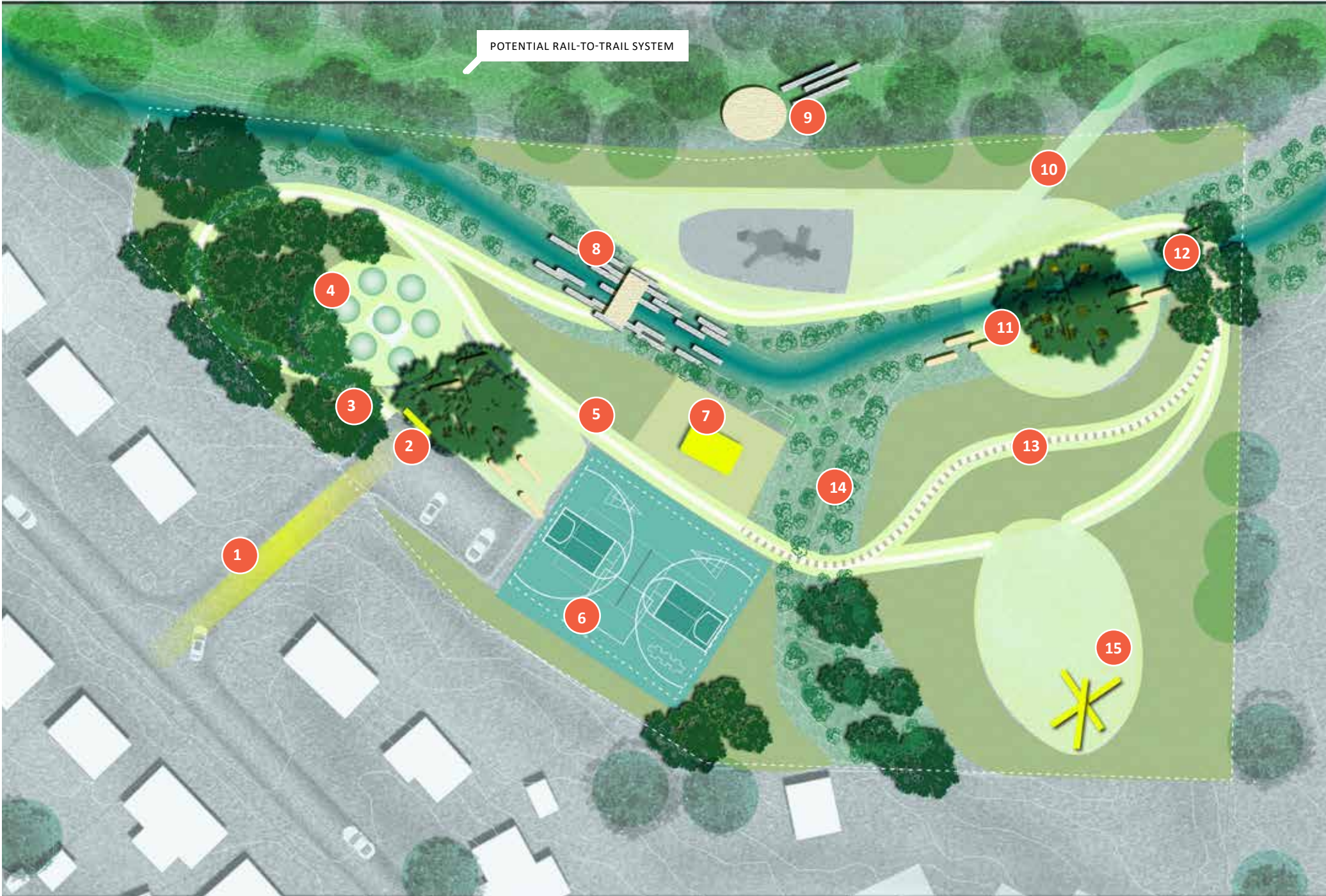
1. **Painted Entrance for Park Identity and Legibility**
2. **New Park Sign + Community Board**
3. **ADA Access Entrance + Walking Path**
4. **Grass Mounds in Woodland Grove for Teen gathering area**
5. **Designated Walking path with Mown Edge**
6. **Refurbished Court with Multi-Sport Usage**
7. **Newly Painted Shelter moved to Central Location**
8. **Stone Riprap for playing + sitting close to creek**
9. **Platform + Stone hangout area to activate + Visually Connect Rail Trail**
10. **Mown path connection to Rail Trail**
11. **Benches and moveable seating under large shade tree**
12. **Wood Bridge through tree grove**
13. **Elevated path/boardwalk through prairie and wetland zones**
14. **Restored wetland vegetation along lowland and creek**
15. **Large open lawn space for picnics, events, play with sculptural element**



PATHWAY LEADING TO RAIL-TO-TRAIL CONNECTION



# CONCEPT PLAN



1" = 50'-0"  
N  
Wiseman Park



# WISEMAN PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW

POTENTIAL  
CONNECTION TO  
RAIL-TO-TRAIL

ROCKS NEAR  
CREEK FOR  
CASUAL SITTING

CLEAR PATHWAY

POTENTIAL CENTRAL  
SITE FOR SHELTER

WATER PLAY  
IN CREEK

WETLAND  
RESTORATION  
OPPORTUNITY

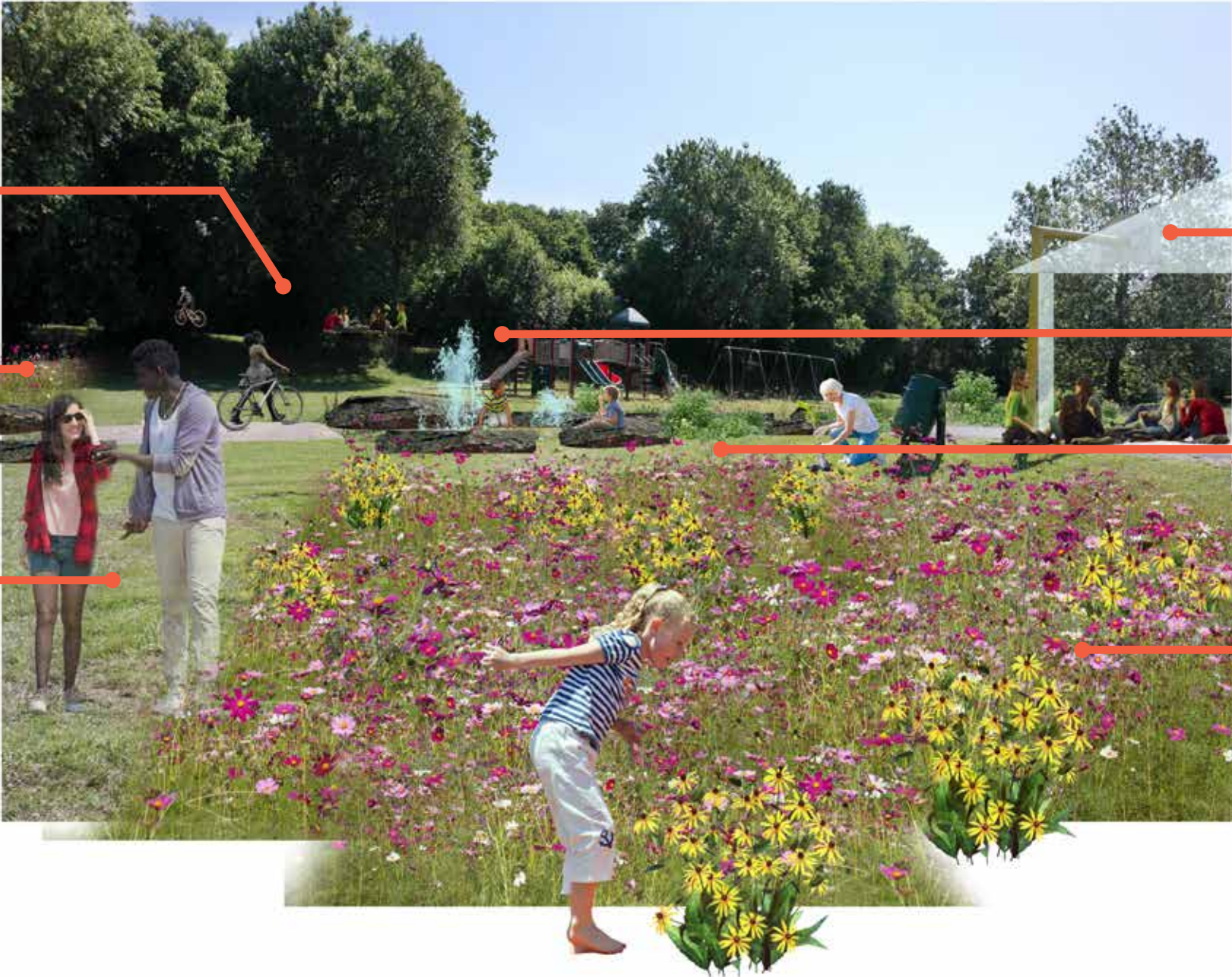
SOME LARGE SPACES  
OF LAWN CAN BE  
MEADOW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS





## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

Walking trails within the park connect to the old rail line and proposed Rail-To-Trail pathway.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

A diversity of experiences area created by implementing community suggestions such as passive rest and nature enjoyment through walking paths and biodiverse planting. Gathering and rest areas are placed to activate views, creek interaction, shady and sunny areas.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

Planted prairie meadow areas enhance the beauty, biodiversity and ecological health of the park. A planted riparian buffer along the creek restores ecosystem function, preventing erosion and aiding storm water retention.



# THE PARKS - WISEMAN PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW: RAILS-TO-TRAILS AT WISEMAN



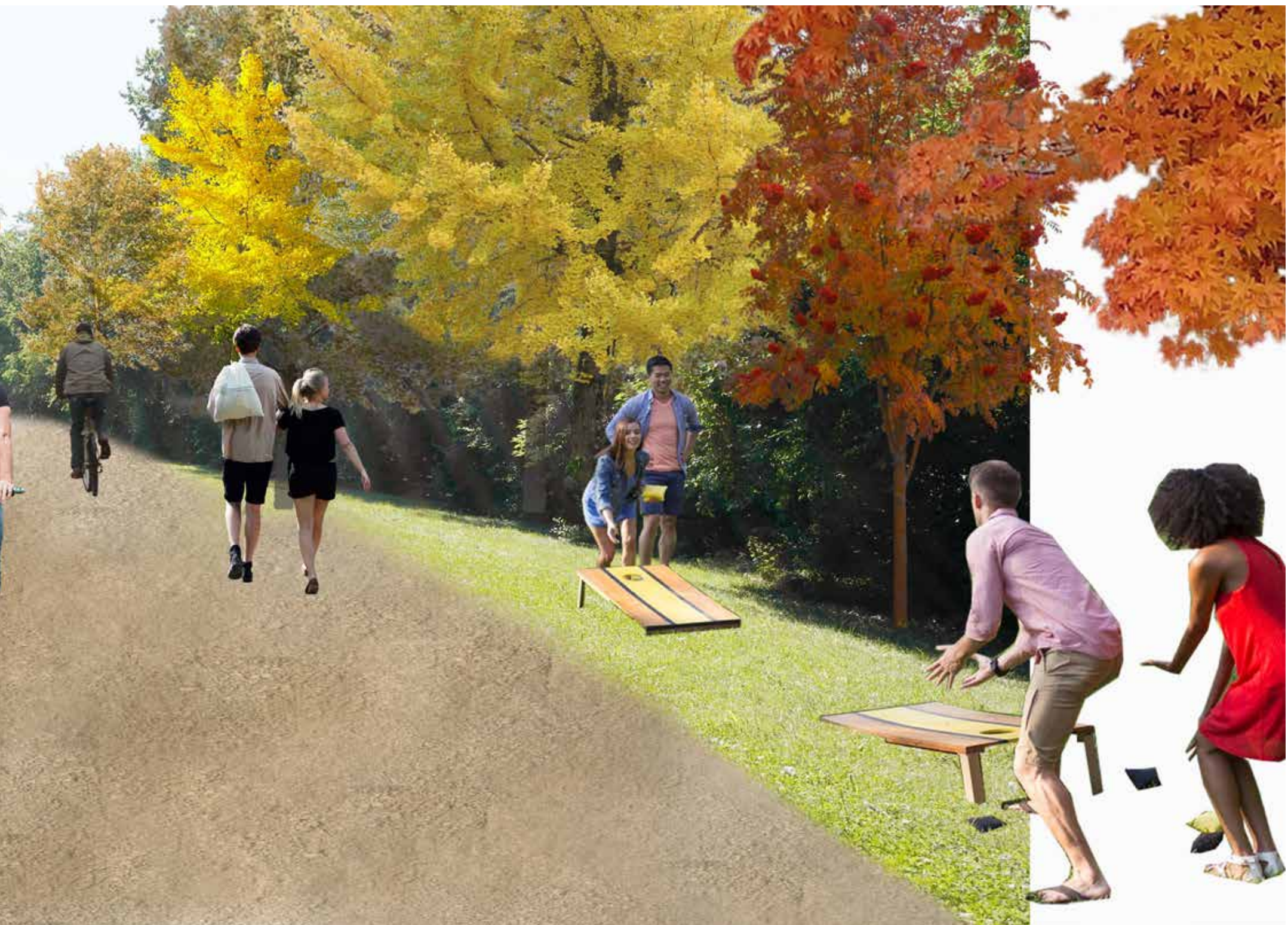
PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS









# COMMUNITY PARK + HARMON PARK

## COMMUNITY PARK + HARMON PARK

### Community

201-204 C. G. Stephenson Dr, Winchester, KY 40391  
~11.3 acres

### Harmon

2-98 Meadow Street, Winchester, KY 40391  
~4.7 acres

Both parks are located in the center of Winchester adjacent to the Winchester Cemetery bordering both southern and eastern edges. They are next to the Head Start and Early Head Start centers and are located near a senior center.

Community Park has more than 11 acres of open space with trails that link to natural areas and connections to downtown Winchester. Community Park is home to the first public pool in the area that was decommissioned in 2010 and has been closed since. Recreation areas include a lighted softball field, two tennis courts, older playground equipment, and twelve horseshoe courts that are not often used. The park will be home to a new splash pad, for which WCCPR received a \$250,000 grant from the Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund, a federal program to support recreational development. The grant requires an equal match, which WCCPR anticipates will be met by the City of Winchester.

Harmon Park is a 4.7 acre park. It is commonly used as a cut-through pathway by bikers and pedestrians travelling to and from downtown shopping areas. The park includes recently resurfaced basketball courts, a walking path, softball field, restrooms, and picnic shelter.

### EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Two parks next to each other - disconnected
- Topographic variation
- Large swaths of lawn
- Large Horseshoe area overgrown
- Unique shelter with many tables (Community)
- Large parking lot in Harmon

### CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

- Sports: Softball, Baseball ; Basketball
- Playgrounds
- Shelter
- Cut-through pathway to downtown area



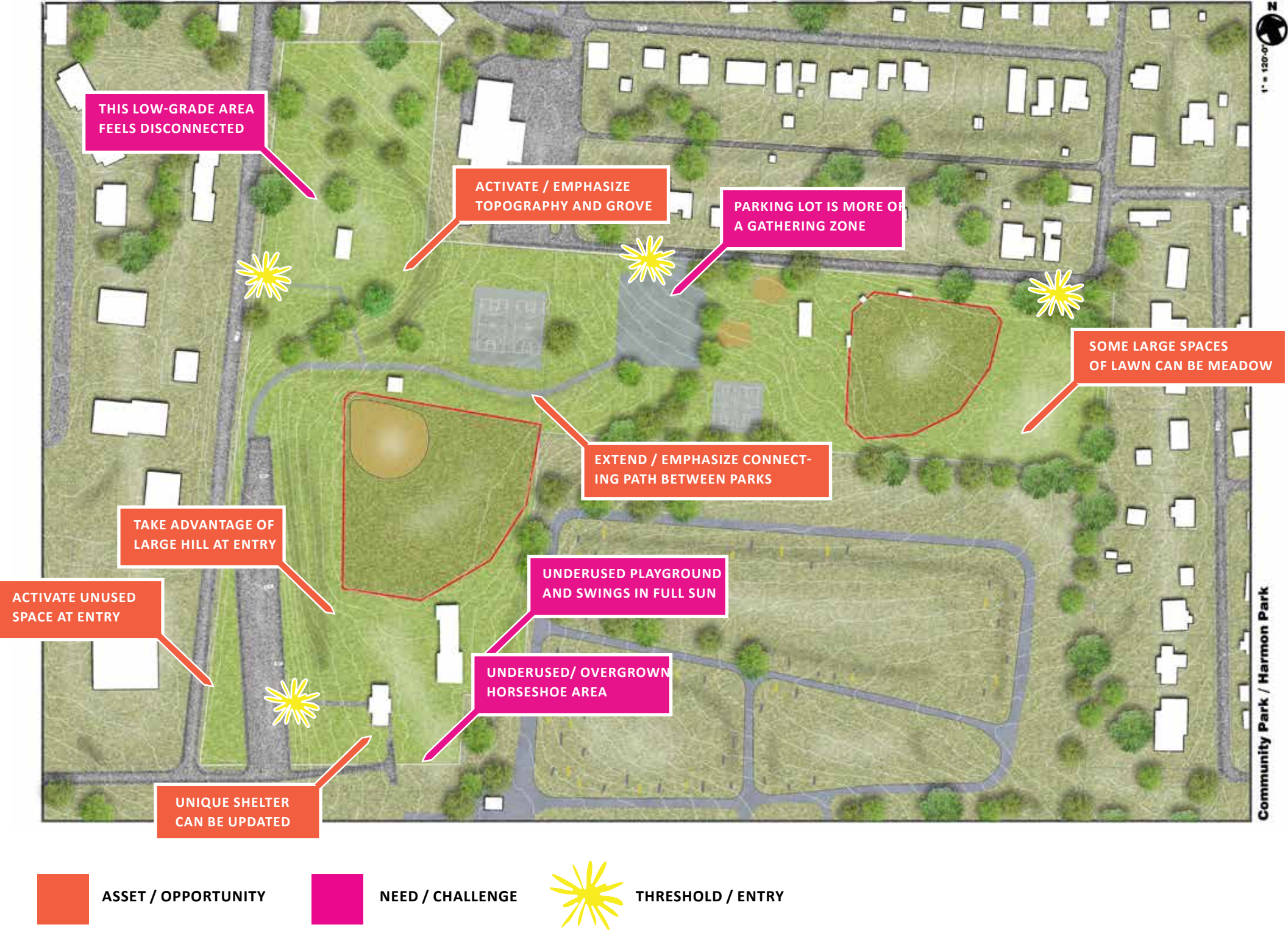
UNDERUSED PLAY AREA AT COMMUNITY IN FULL SUN EXPOSURE



SWINGS, SHELTER AND PLAYGROUND AT HARMON



# SITE ANALYSIS



# COMMUNITY PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

The “Pizza and Pops” pop-up for Community Park was held as part of a combined event at Harmon Park on Friday, June 25, 2021, the last of four nights of engagement events in the parks. The event was well-attended by more than 50 community members. Across paper and online versions, the Community Park Survey received a total of 13 responses. Community Park was also mentioned specifically in 8 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey (which was available online throughout the duration of the planning period).

As at many of the parks, much of the resident input for Community Park touched on the need for outdoor water play in Winchester. Water play (eg. splash pad or pool) was the most-desired recreation by park-goers at Community Park.

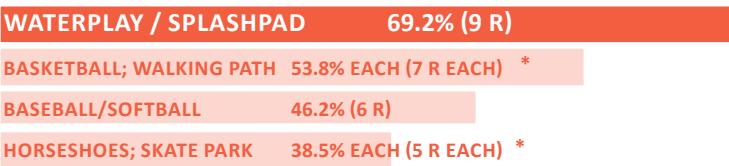
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)



\* Basketball and Walking Path tied at 53.8% ; Horseshoes and Skate Park tied at 38.5%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN			(6 RESPONSES)
	TWO OR MORE RACES			(1 RESPONSE)
	WHITE			(2 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED			(4 RESPONSES)
AGE	UNDER 18	(2 RESPONSES)	57-75	(1 RESPONSE)
	18-24	(1 RESPONSE)	76+	(1 RESPONSE)
	25-40	(5 RESPONSES)	UNSPECIFIED	(1 RESPONSE)
	41-56	(2 RESPONSES)		

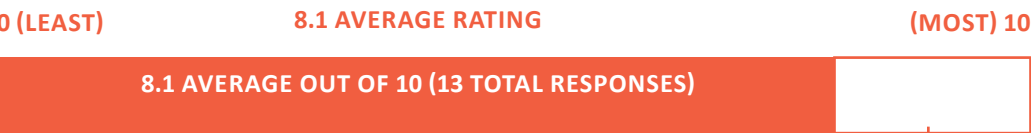
### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





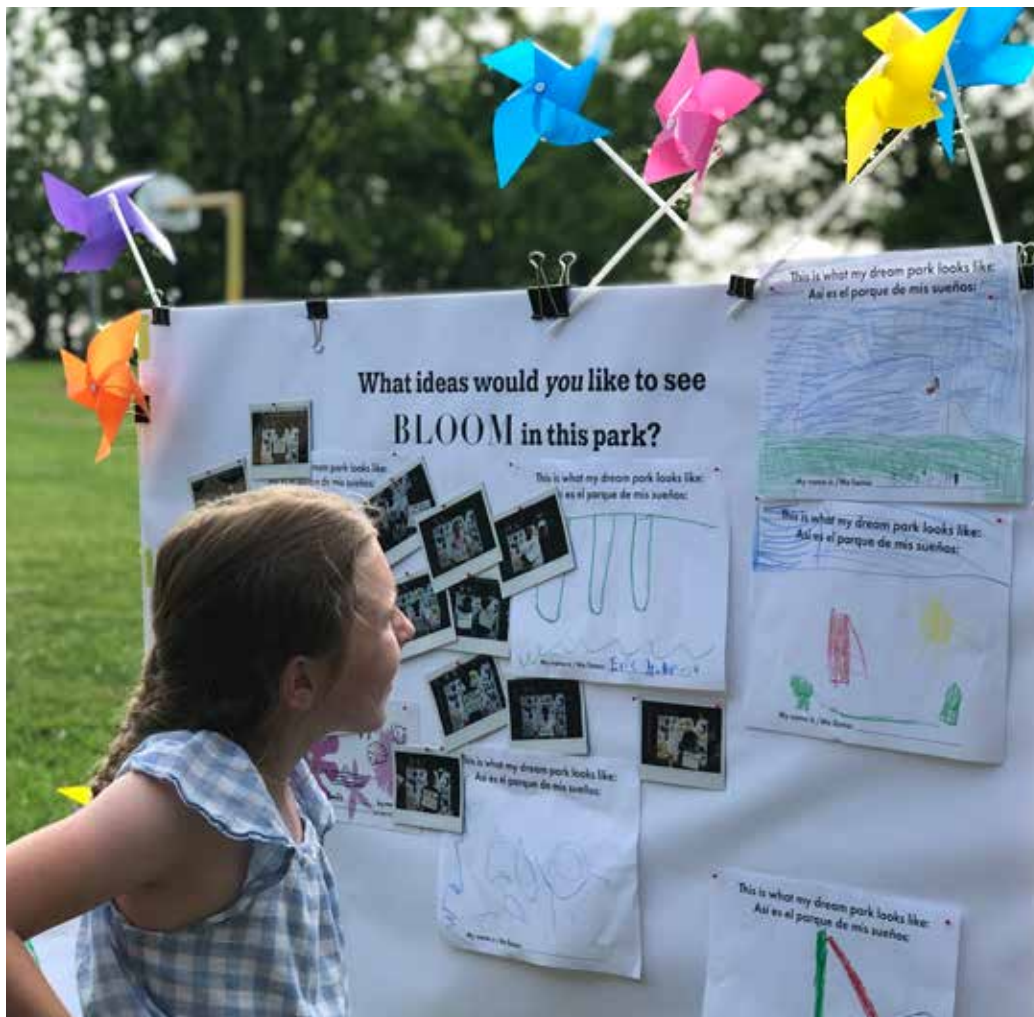
## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“The promised splash park at Community Park has never happened — this does not help develop trust in our community that all people are included and valued. What can be done to address this?”

“Put the pool back!”



“Please invest more in low income communities. Community Park gets everything and we don’t get anything!”



# COMMUNITY PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Many residents see Community Park as a place to gather for special social events such as birthday parties and family reunions, but not necessarily as a place they visit for regular recreation or enjoyment. In the Community Park individual survey and in discussions with the planning team, community members noted a need for WCCPR-led programming at Community Park. Residents called for “more to do” and “more community interaction,” with particular emphasis on programming for youth and young children.

Outdoor water play was also among top concerns for visitors of Community Park, with respondents to the survey requesting to “Put the pool back!”

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

- |     |                                     |                      |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Programming</b>                  | <b>(6 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Water / Splash Pad / Pool           | (4 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Park Amenities (seating/bathr. etc) | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Equipment/Facilities                | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 5.  | Play/Playground                     | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Safety & Unwanted Behavior          | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Accessibility                       | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 8.  | Cleanliness/Maintenance             | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Nature/Natural Focus                | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Trails & Connectivity               | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

- |     |                               |                      |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Social Opportunities</b>   | <b>(3 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | <b>Sports/Recreation</b>      | <b>(3 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 3.  | Open/Green Space              | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Clean/Maintained              | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 5.  | Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Play/Playground               | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Walking/Trails                | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 8.  | Kid/Youth-Friendly            | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Accessibility                 | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Programs/Special Events       | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT COMMUNITY PARK?

- |     |                          |                      |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Safety</b>            | <b>(4 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Amenities + Facilities   | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Maintenance + Operations | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Water/Splash Pad/Pool    | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Accessibility + Equity   | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Nature                   | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Programming              | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 8.  | Children + Youth         | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Connectivity             | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Leadership + Vision      | (0 RESPONSES)        |



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“More seating for adults around play.”



“The equipment could use an update.”



“I did this survey to say that two elected officials were having a conversation in front of me and remarked, ‘No one is going to use a splash pad there.’ They are out of touch, obviously.”

# HARMON PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

The “Pizza and Pops” pop-up for Harmon Park was held as part of a combined event at Community Park on Friday, June 25, 2021. The event was well-attended by more than 50 community members. Across paper and online versions, the Harmon Park Survey received a total of 34 responses. Harmon Park was also mentioned specifically in 6 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey (which was available online throughout the duration of the planning period).

Reflecting what one user called the park’s “community-friendly” character, Harmon received one of the highest average ratings (behind only Kroger Soccer Complex) in response to the question, “How welcome and respected do you feel in the park?” At the same time, it was among the three parks rated lowest (behind only Fairfield and Massie) in response to the question “How easy is it for you to access and use the park?”

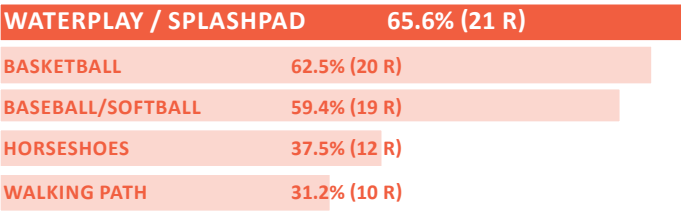
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



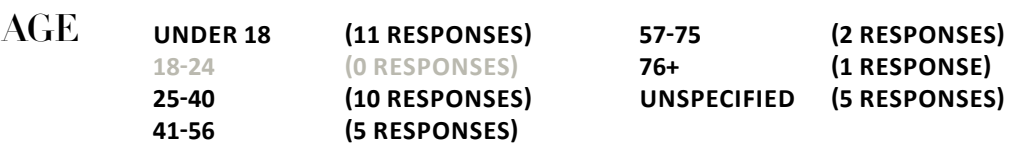
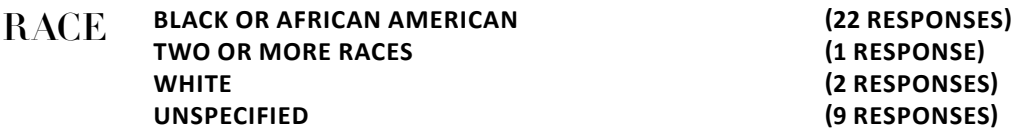
### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)



## DEMOGRAPHICS



### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“All people, especially children / youth, should be able to enjoy every park, relax, play . . . Good for good living and a well mind.”

“Help make it better for the kids.”



“[Harmon Park] needs more work done, it’s getting old and worn down.”



# HARMON PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Users of Harmon Park see it as an important place for community and social gathering for the entire neighborhood, with residents noting that “the people” are one of the best things about Harmon.

While the park has been a significant space for generations of park users, community members noted a number of concerns for improvement with a particular emphasis on the need for play equipment and programming “to make it more child-friendly.” Water play was also a major concern identified in feedback, with residents naming a splash pad or pool as the most desired recreation at Harmon Park. Residents also called for better maintenance and upgrades to park facilities, especially the much-used basketball courts. Reflecting both the park’s popularity and its central place in the social life of the neighborhood, community input also suggested a strong desire for public restrooms and/or hand-washing stations at Harmon.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

1.	<b><i>Sports/Recreation</i></b>	<b>(12 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Social Opportunities	(9 RESPONSES)
3.	Play/Playground	(7 RESPONSES)
4.	Accessibility	(6 RESPONSES)
5.	Kid/Youth-Friendly	(4 RESPONSES)
6.	Open/Green Space	(3 RESPONSES)
7.	Walking/Trails	(3 RESPONSES)
8.	Clean/Maintained	(1 RESPONSE)
9.	Programs/Special Events	(1 RESPONSE)
10.	Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment	(0 RESPONSES)

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

1.	<b><i>Equipment/Facilities</i></b>	<b>(11 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(9 RESPONSES)
3.	Play/Playground	(8 RESPONSES)
4.	Programming	(6 RESPONSES)
5.	Park Amenities (seating/bathr/etc.)	(5 RESPONSES)
6.	Safety & Unwanted Behavior	(3 RESPONSES)
7.	Cleanliness/Maintenance	(1 RESPONSE)
8.	Accessibility	(0 RESPONSES)
9.	Nature/Natural Focus	(0 RESPONSES)
10.	Trails & Connectivity	(0 RESPONSES)

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT HARMON PARK?

1.	<b><i>Children &amp; Youth</i></b>	<b>(3 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Accessibility & Equity	(1 RESPONSE)
3.	Amenities & Facilities	(1 RESPONSE)
4.	Maintenance & Operations	(1 RESPONSE)
5.	Programming	(1 RESPONSE)
6.	Safety	(1 RESPONSE)
7.	Connectivity	(0 RESPONSES)
8.	Leadership & Vision	(0 RESPONSES)
9.	Nature	(0 RESPONSES)
10.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(0 RESPONSES)



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“[Make it] more kid / safe friendly [with a] splash park since we haven’t had a pool in years.”



“More stuff for kids.”



“This is a great park. Kids love it, there is plenty of space to have fun and rejoice.”





# COMMUNITY + HARMON PARKS

## COMMUNITY + HARMON PARK PROPOSAL

The proposal emphasizes connections between Community and Harmon parks that connect them as one unified park. This also includes a recommendation to rename both parks under the name “Harmon Park” in order to unify and clarify identity.

Integrated in the plan is the current proposal to implement a splash pad on the north west corner of the park in the area that was formerly the site of a public pool. This site was specifically deeded for the integration of a water element. The master plan proposes to integrate a slide grove adjacent to the splash pad - this would take advantage of the existing hilly topography and integrate it into the play area.

Overall the park is unified by walking paths that wind through and connect existing pathways, as well as the addition of ADA accessible paths. Meadow planting enhances the natural beauty of the land, and designated lawn areas become places for gathering. The central parking lot at Harmon is reshaped to accommodate a conversational seating area, and the loss in parking spaces is accommodated by the additional parking lot space proposed by the Splash Pad design.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Water Play / Splash Pad play area (based on current proposal)**
2. **Walking Path Extends into each area of the park**
3. **Patches of Meadow/Prairie break up large swaths of lawn**
4. **Slides and Tree Grove - Slides take advantage of sloped topography**
5. **Hangout area for older kids with playful seating area**
6. **Meandering path through Tree Grove and Meadow areas**
7. **ADA Accessible pathways**
8. **ADA Access Parking Lot**
9. **Parking lot adjusted**
10. **Large Shade Tree with Swing at top of slope**
11. **Lawn Game area with shade trees**
12. **Updated /Painted Shelter - Lawn area acts as extension of event space**
13. **Updated / Painted Shelter**
14. **Seating around swing and play area**
15. **Fenced in Dog Run area**





# CONCEPT PLAN





# COMMUNITY + HARMON PARKS

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

ADA Accessible pathways and multiple designated walking paths wind through both parks.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

Update existing facilities based on community feedback - update shelter and furniture. Add a diversity of experiences: activating open lawn areas with meadows; planting a large tree with a swing on the hill top; rearranging and updating outdoor furniture.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

Planted prairie meadow areas enhance the beauty, biodiversity and ecological health of the park.



# COMMUNITY + HARMON PARKS

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

Gravel pathways wind through the new play area connecting it to the rest of the park.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

The splash pad integration fulfills the water play need most asked for by the community. It is integrated into the park through pathways and is surrounded by additional play areas.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

Meadow areas and added trees enhance the natural beauty of the park while adding the ecological health and providing shade and habitat.



# MELBOURNE PARK

## MELBOURNE PARK

45 Melbourne Street, Winchester, KY 40391  
~0.9 acres

Melbourne Park is a small park, measuring just under 1 acre in size, embedded in a residential neighborhood in east Winchester. Melbourne Park is the oldest, existing park in Winchester. It was established in October 1890, as part of the North Winchester Addition Subdivision. The park and surrounding streets currently lack sidewalks, limiting pedestrian access. Melbourne Park has a two-net basketball court, a playground, and a picnic shelter.

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- **Lack of shade**
- **Lack of seating**
- **Moist-wet ground conditions in lawn and play areas**
- **No sidewalks or barrier to road**
- **No parking lot**

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

- **Basketball**
- **Playground, swings**



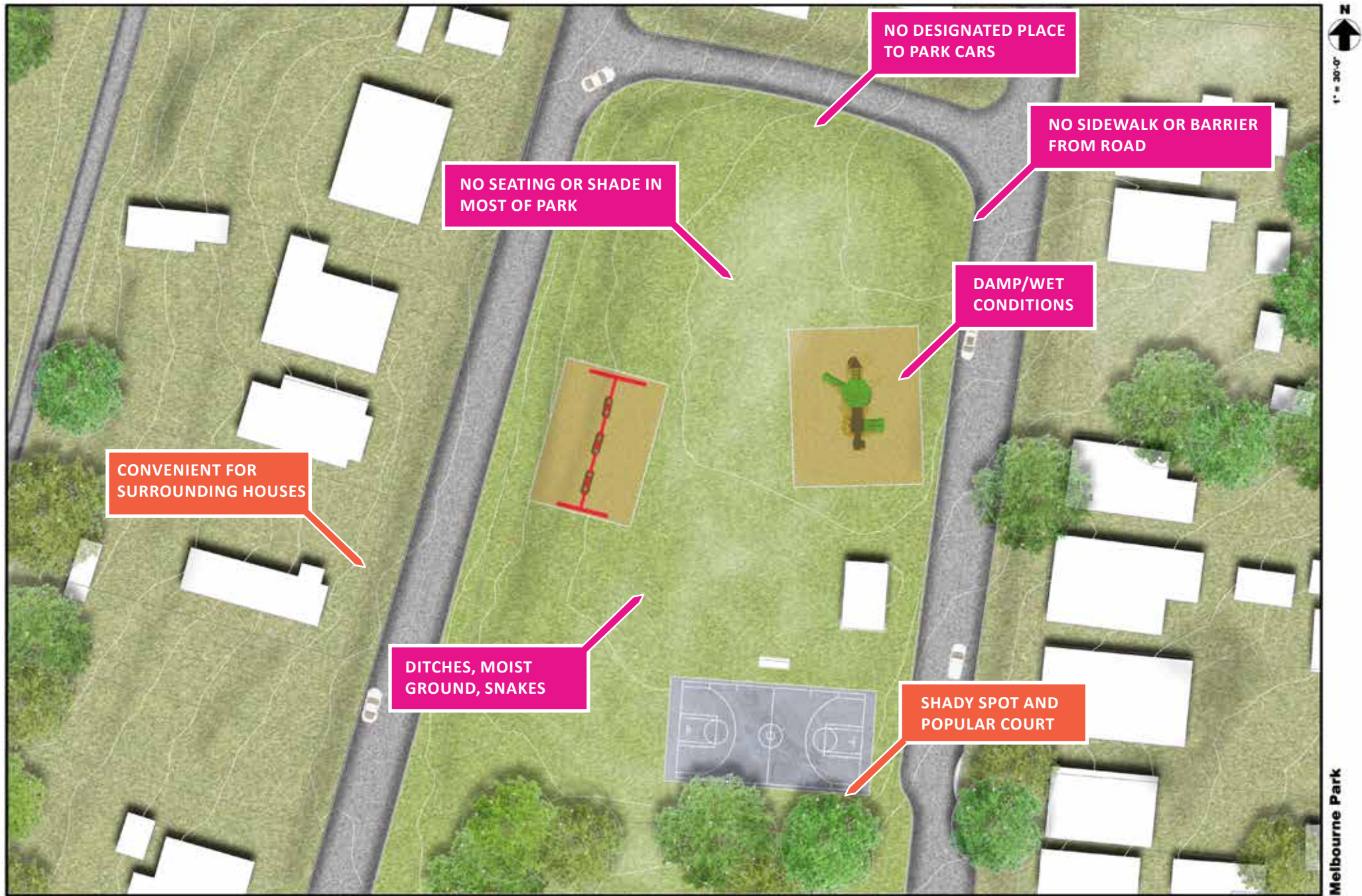
OLD SWINGSET WITH NO PLAY SURFACE



PLAYGROUND IN MOIST SOIL



SITE ANALYSIS



ASSET / OPPORTUNITY



NEED / CHALLENGE



THRESHOLD / ENTRY (NO DESIGNATED ENTRY TO THIS PARK)

# MELBOURNE PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

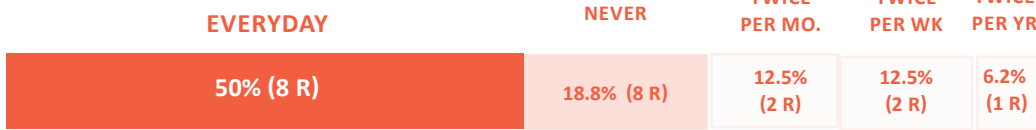
The “Pizza and Pops” pop-up event at Melbourne Park was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, with approximately 25 members of the public attending. Though the crowd at Melbourne was smaller than at some of the other “Pizza and Pops” park pop-ups, it was composed largely of children and teenagers who stayed and engaged with the BLOOM planning team throughout the duration of the event. Across paper and online versions, the Melbourne Park Survey received a total of 16 responses. The park was not mentioned in any responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey.

Melbourne was well-rated by park-goers for ease-of-use. As at many of the parks, much of the resident input for Melbourne Park touched on the need for outdoor water play, which was the most-desired recreation at the park.

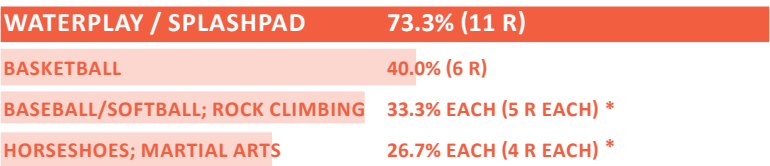
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)\*



\* TOP 6 : Baseball/Softball and Rock Climbing tied at 33.3% ; Horseshoes and Martial Arts tied with 26.7%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	AMERICAN INDIAN	(1 RESPONSE)
	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	(1 RESPONSE)
	SOME OTHER RACE	(2 RESPONSES)
	WHITE	(10 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(2 RESPONSES)
AGE	UNDER 18	(6 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(3 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(1 RESPONSE)
	41-56	(0 RESPONSES)
	57-75	(6 RESPONSES)
	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(0 RESPONSES)

### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“We need more lights around streets close to the park and more parking.”



“We need our benches back, and we need something to do down here.”



“The park needs shade, the playground needs much, so does the swing. Need water drains, basketball court needs work. Something for little kids.”



# MELBOURNE PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Melbourne Park is a frequent hangout of small groups of neighborhood children and teenagers who consider it “their park” and visit to play or socialize for extended periods nearly every day.

In response to the Melbourne Park Survey and in discussions with the BLOOM planning team at the “Pizza and Pops” event at the park, community members strongly emphasized a need for shaded seating. Young neighborhood residents note that there were more benches in the park at one time but they had been removed by WCCPR following incidents of vandalism. Input also indicated community desire for programming in the park for children and families, with residents noting that they do not have transportation to access better-programmed parks like Lykins or College Park.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

- |     |                                 |                      |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Sports/Recreation</i></b> | <b>(5 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Social Opportunities            | (4 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Accessibility                   | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Open/Green Space                | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Play/Playground                 | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Clean/Maintained                | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Kid/Youth-Friendly              | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 8.  | Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment   | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Programs/Special Events         | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Walking/Trails                  | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

- |     |   |                      |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Park Amenities (seating/bathr/etc.)</i></b> | <b>(5 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | <b><i>Play/Playground</i></b>                     | <b>(5 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 3.  | Programming                                       | (4 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Cleanliness/Maintenance                           | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Equipment/Facilities                              | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 6.  | Water / Splash Pad / Pool                         | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 7.  | Safety & Unwanted Behavior                        | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 8.  | Accessibility                                     | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Nature/Natural Focus                              | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Trails & Connectivity                             | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT MELBOURNE PARK?

- |     |  |                      |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Amenities &amp; Facilities</i></b> | <b>(2 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | <b><i>Programming</i></b>                | <b>(2 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 3.  | Maintenance + Operations                 | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 4.  | Nature                                   | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 5.  | Safety                                   | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Water / Splash Pad / Pool                | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Accessibility & Equity                   | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 8.  | Children + Youth                         | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Connectivity                             | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Leadership + Vision                      | (0 RESPONSES)        |



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“We need more benches.”

“Bring benches back.”



This is what my dream park looks like:  
Así es el parque de mis sueños:



My name is / Me llamo: Sarah Allen

“All the neighbors watch the park  
and take care of some of the needs.”





# MELBOURNE PARK

## PARK PROPOSAL

The proposal for Melbourne Park centers on the integration of a rain garden that addresses the uneven and wet ground at the site, in addition to beautifying it through diverse planting. Different pathways across the rain garden add to a diversity of experiences and interactions.

Community input influenced the need for proper water drainage, more shade, seating, and play spaces. Concerns about safety are addressed with the proposal to integrate a tree lined streetscape that adds shade and walkways while also offsetting the edge of the park away from the street. Rockwall structures add another element of play and an added water spigot gives the potential for water play through the use of sprinklers in the summertime.

The park is framed by a designated parking area and stacked rockwall that creates an entrance and legible marker for Melbourne Park within the neighborhood.



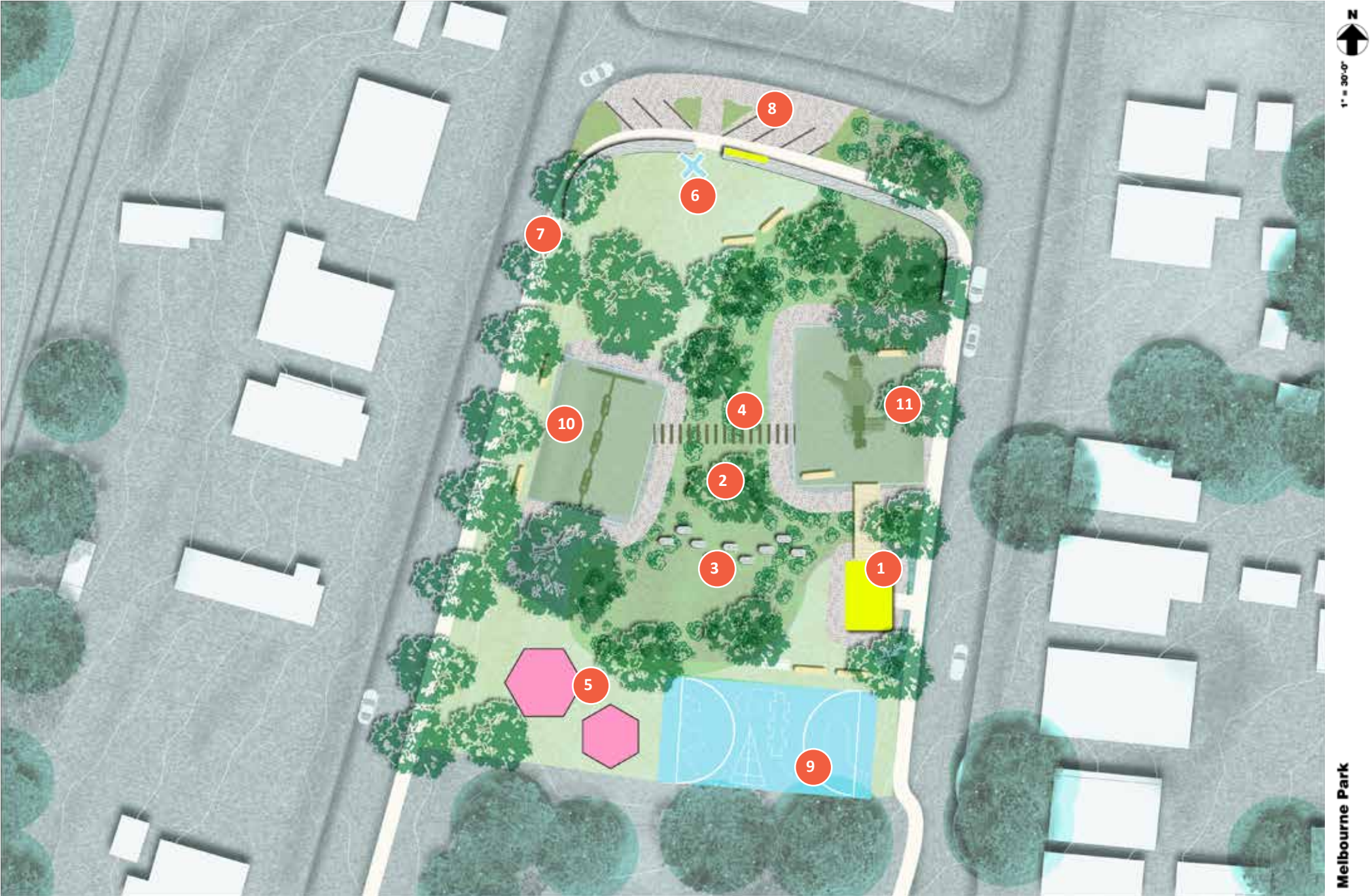
## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Restored and painted shelter, with ramp to enter and gravel surrounding for drainage**
2. **Rain garden with butterfly and bird friendly wetland plants**
3. **Playful stepping stone walkway across raingarden**
4. **Raised boardwalk from playground to swing area**
5. **Three-dimensional rock wall playing structures**
6. **Add Water spigot for Sprinklers / water play in lawn area**
7. **Sidewalk / pathway that also acts as a buffer from the street**
8. **Designated parking spaces on permeable surface**
9. **Restored basketball court**
10. **Swing area resurfaced with permeable material, gravel border**
11. **Play area resurfaced with permeable material, gravel border**





# CONCEPT PLAN





# MELBOURNE PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

A variety of walking surfaces connect the different areas of the park going over or through the rain garden. Streetscape provides a sidewalk along the perimeter.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

ADA accessible pathways connect the playgrounds that are surrounded by low, wet ground. Play areas are updated and filled with a safe mulched ground surface. A new play element is provided with the rock climbing structures.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

The planted raingarden includes a variety of blooming and habitat enhancing plants that add to the natural beauty of the park as well as aid in flood prevention.



# MASSIE PARK

## MASSIE PARK

125 Park Ave, Winchester, KY 40391  
~2.7 acres

Massie Park is a smaller 2.7-acre site located on the east side of Winchester adjacent to residential blocks and business facilities. Massie Park is the second oldest park. It was established in February 1894, and deeded to the City of Winchester “to be used only by said town as public park or pleasure ground.” The park has a softball field, playground, basketball court, shelter, and restrooms. It is located near the old rail-line corridor, which has the potential to connect to a larger rail-to-trail system across the city.

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- **Softball field is dominant feature**
- **Recently resurfaced basketball court**
- **Small underused playground**
- **Hidden entries, lack of sight lines**
- **Stormwater wetland areas**
- **Broken bridge**

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

- **Softball**
- **Basketball**



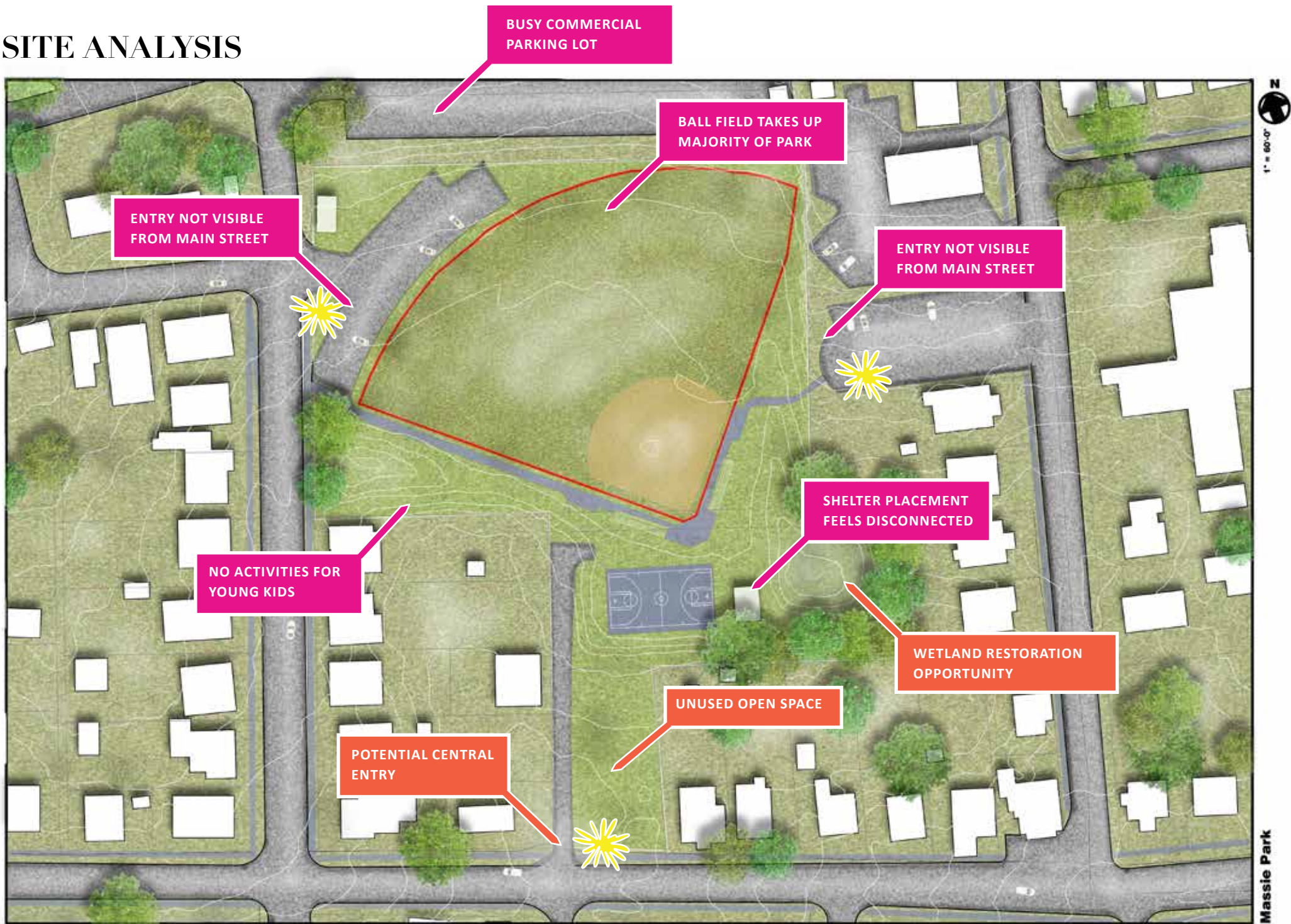
BRIDGE IN NEED OF REPAIR



NARROW WALKWAY BETWEEN FENCES



# SITE ANALYSIS



# MASSIE PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

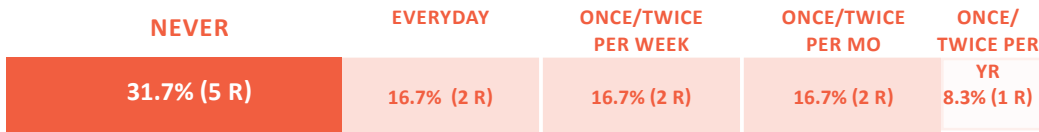
The “Pizza and Pops” pop-up event at Massie Park was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, with approximately 20 members of the public attending. Low attendance at the Massie pop-up reflected both the park’s difficult-to-access location and negative community perceptions about the park. Across paper and online versions, the Massie Park Survey received a total of 13 responses. Massie was also mentioned specifically in 6 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey.

Of the ten parks included in the plan’s scope, Massie received the lowest average rating (6.7) for users’ ease of access and use. It also received the lowest average ratings by park-goers for perceptions of safety and in response to the question “How welcome and respected do you feel at the park?”

### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)\*



\* Walking Path and Water Play tied at 25% ; Basketball and Horseshoes tied at 16.7%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	(1 RESPONSE)
	SOME OTHER RACE	(1 RESPONSE)
	TWO OR MORE RACES	(1 RESPONSE)
	WHITE	(7 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(3 RESPONSES)
AGE	UNDER 18	(0 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(0 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(6 RESPONSES)
	41-56	(1 RESPONSE)
	57-75	(3 RESPONSES)
	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(3 RESPONSES)

### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





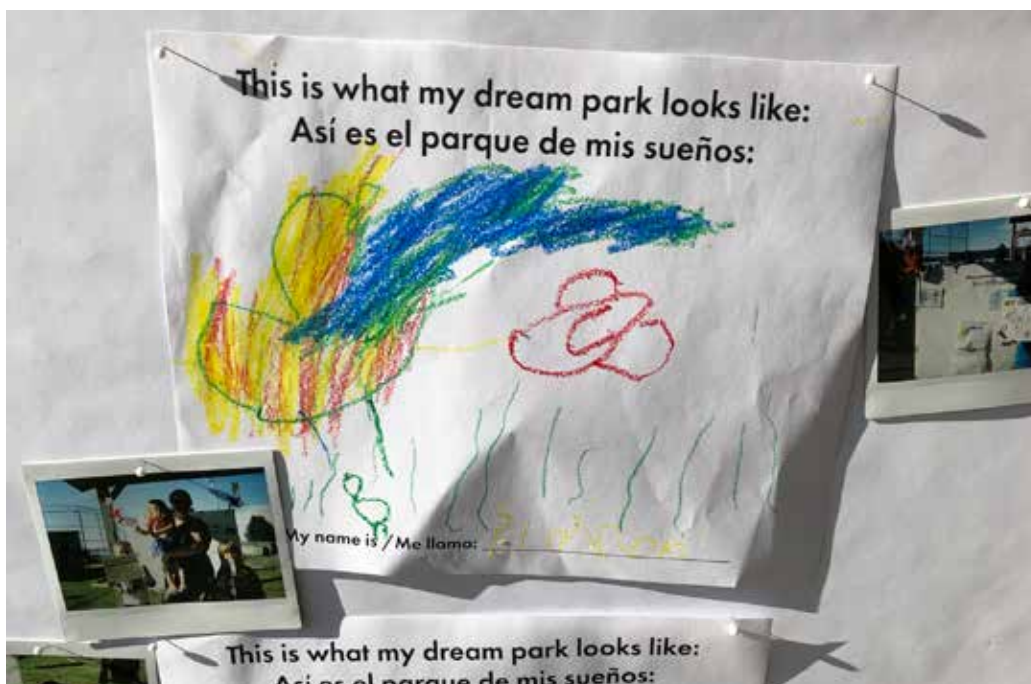
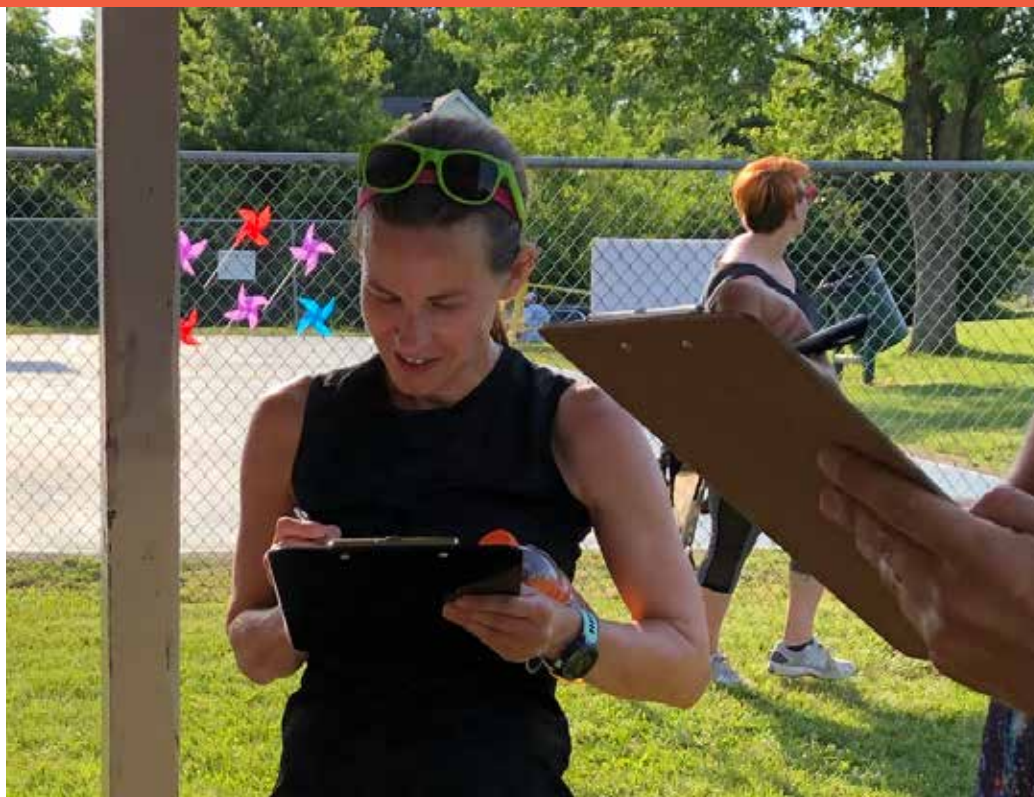
## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“... needles on playground ... no safe walking areas near Washington St..”

“Needs to be inviting and attract more visitors.”



“The baseball/softball field is almost unusable from neglect other than mowing.”



# MASSIE PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Community members expressed a number of concerns about Massie Park. Much of the park feedback centered on a perception that the park’s tucked-away location and neglected maintenance lend it to unwanted activity such as drug use, making park users feel unsafe when they visit. Residents called for updates to make the park feel more open and inviting. Regarding existing facilities, community members noted the deteriorated state of the baseball field, calling it “sad” and “almost unusable from neglect.” Feedback also indicated a desire for a greater portion of the park be devoted to play.

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

- |     |                                     |                      |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Equipment/Facilities</b>         | <b>(3 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Play/Playground                     | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Programming                         | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Safety & Unwanted Behavior          | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Park Amenities (seating/bathr/etc.) | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Trails & Connectivity               | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Accessibility                       | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 8.  | Cleanliness/Maintenance             | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Nature/Natural Focus                | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Water / Splash Pad / Pool           | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

- |     |                               |                      |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Accessibility</b>          | <b>(5 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Sports/Recreation             | (4 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Kid/Youth-Friendly            | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 4.  | Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 5.  | Play/Playground               | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Social Opportunities          | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Clean/Maintained              | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 8.  | Open/Green Space              | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Programs/Special Events       | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Walking/Trails                | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT MASSIE PARK?

- |     |                           |                      |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Safety</b>             | <b>(3 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Amenities + Facilities    | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Leadership & Vision       | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 4.  | Maintenance & Operations  | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 5.  | Programming               | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Accessibility & Equity    | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 7.  | Connectivity              | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 8.  | Nature                    | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Children & Youth          | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Water / Splash Pad / Pool | (0 RESPONSES)        |



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

**“Make signs to show the park location downtown.”**

**“More community activities.”**



**“The ball field at Massie is a little sad right now and grass is growing where dirt should be.”**



# MASSIE PARK

## PARK PROPOSAL - OPTION 1

The first option for Massie Park attempts to integrate play areas and enhance the safety of the park by rearranging elements to address sight lines and an open feeling. With the limited space in Massie, due to the sizable softball field, the proposal recommends replacing the basketball area with a playground and expanding into the land to the south of that area.

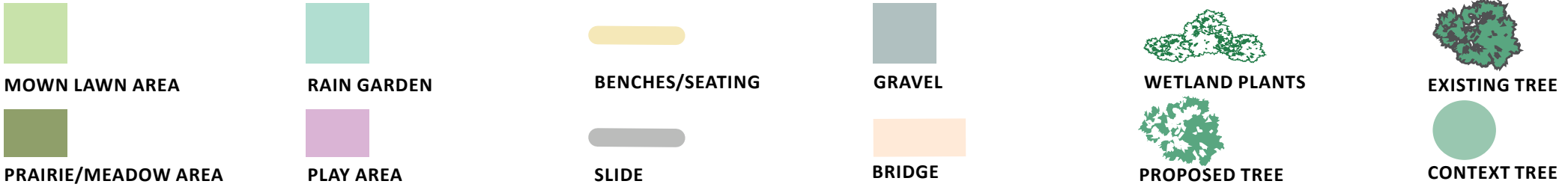
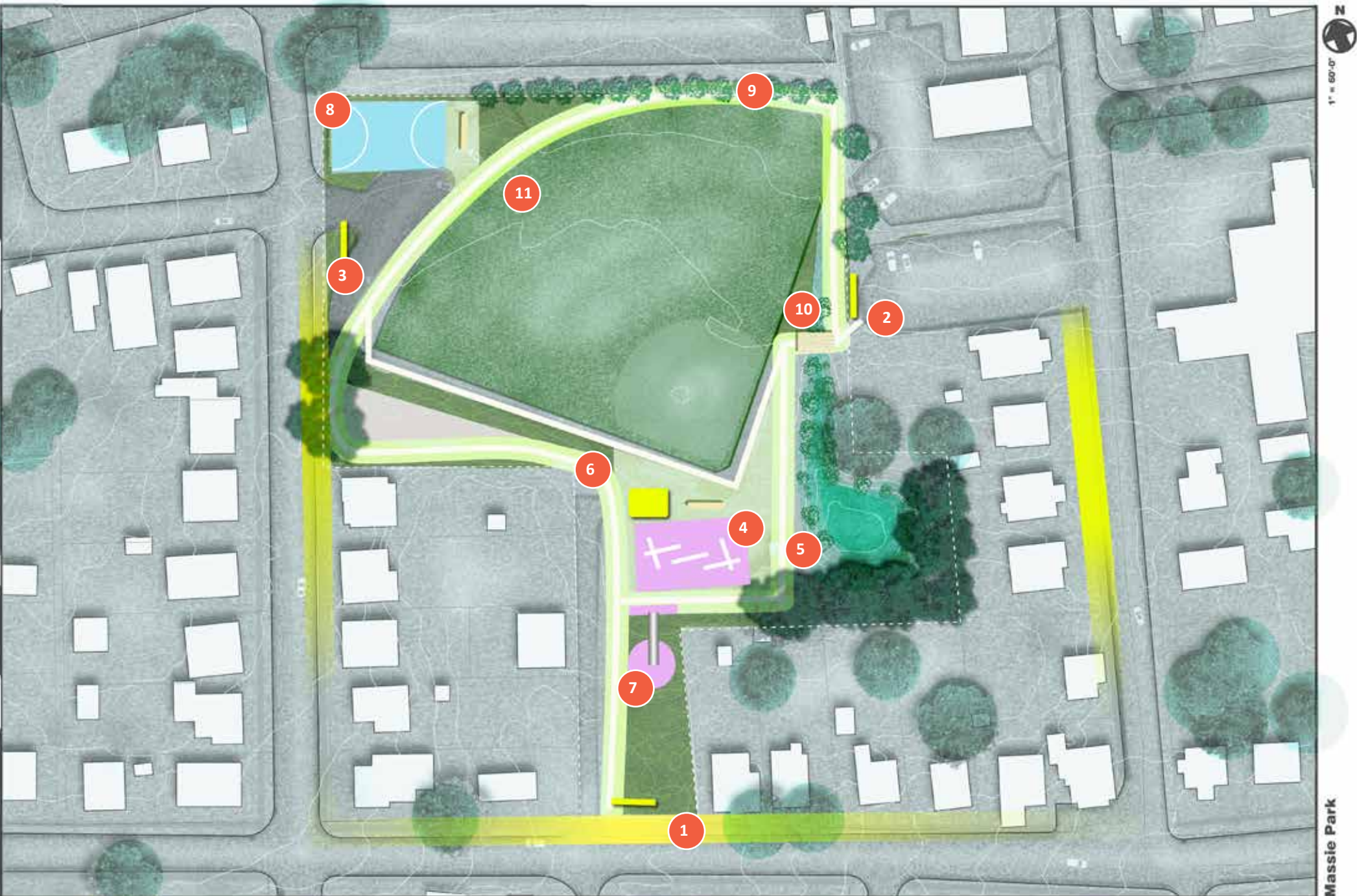
Signage and visibility are integrated on multiple sides of the park to bring awareness of its location within the neighborhood. A walking path fits around the softball field and crosses through all sides of the park.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Central public entry point with painted sidewalk, signage, paths**
2. **Highlighted public entry point with painted sidewalk, signage**
3. **Highlighted public entry point with painted sidewalk, signage**
4. **Playground and play area with horseshoes, ping pong**
5. **Shelter removed to free up space for play area and path**
6. **Walking path meandering through park**
7. **Big slide going down hill**
8. **Relocated Basketball Court**
9. **Planted Buffer from adjacent parking lot**
10. **New/fixed bridge over wetland area**
11. **Softball fence removed for continuity + opportunity for multi-use field**



# CONCEPT PLAN - OPTION 1





# MASSIE PARK

## PARK PROPOSAL

The second option for Massie Park does away with the softball field to address the community's wants and needs - specifically more play and walking areas. This option opens up space to include a full playground, splash pad area, and winding walking path.

A designated batting practice area on the north east corner serves the need for softball practice, which can be played in the fields provided by other parks.

On the north side of the park - the plan recommends that a portion of the land is sold to the adjacent owners in order to help finance these park improvements.



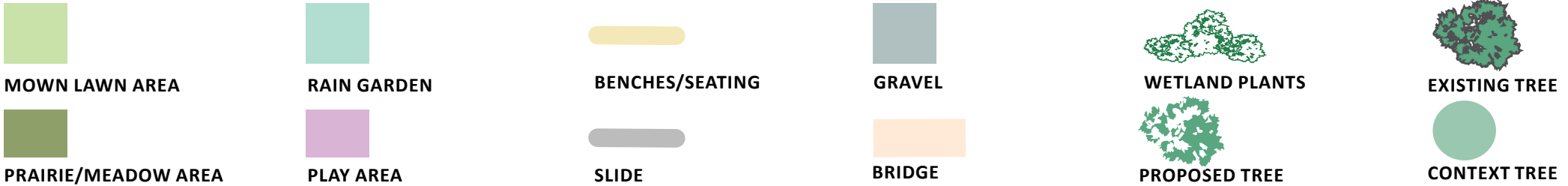
## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Central public entry point with painted sidewalk, signage, paths**
2. **Highlighted public entry point with painted sidewalk, signage**
3. **Highlighted public entry point with painted sidewalk, signage**
4. **Fised up shelter**
5. **Shelter moved east for visibility**
6. **Walking path meandering through park**
7. **Wing and slides mound**
8. **Rocky water play and splashpad area**
9. **Plot sold to fund park improvements**
10. **Planted Buffer from adjacent parking lot**
11. **New/fixed bridge over wetland area**
12. **Batting practice area**





# CONCEPT PLAN - OPTION 2





# MASSIE PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

Winding pathways connect and traverse through different areas of the park.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

A diversity of play areas are integrated into the park for a variety of experiences. Shade trees and splash pad add cooling areas during hot weather.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

Planted wildflower areas enhance the beauty around the perimeter of the park and planted trees provide much needed shade.



# LYKINS PARK

## LYKINS PARK

1907-2103 Mt. Sterling Road, Winchester, KY 40391  
~40.2 acres

Lykins Park comprises more than 40 acres of open space on the eastern edge of the Winchester, just moments outside of the city limits. The park hosts Little League games and recreation events such as the Turkey Trot and 5K runs, as well as the Annual Bicycle Rodeo, which offers bicycle safety workshops and free bike give-aways. It is surrounded by farmland and is situated just across the road from the Lykins Park Practice Field.



CREEK NEXT TO BALL FIELD

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- **Hilly terrain with creek running through**
- **Multiple ball fields**
- **Multiple sports/recreation areas**
- **Mix of shady and sunny areas**
- **Large swaths of lawn, lack of variety in vegetation**
- **Broken/old bridges over creek**
- **No marked running/walking route**

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

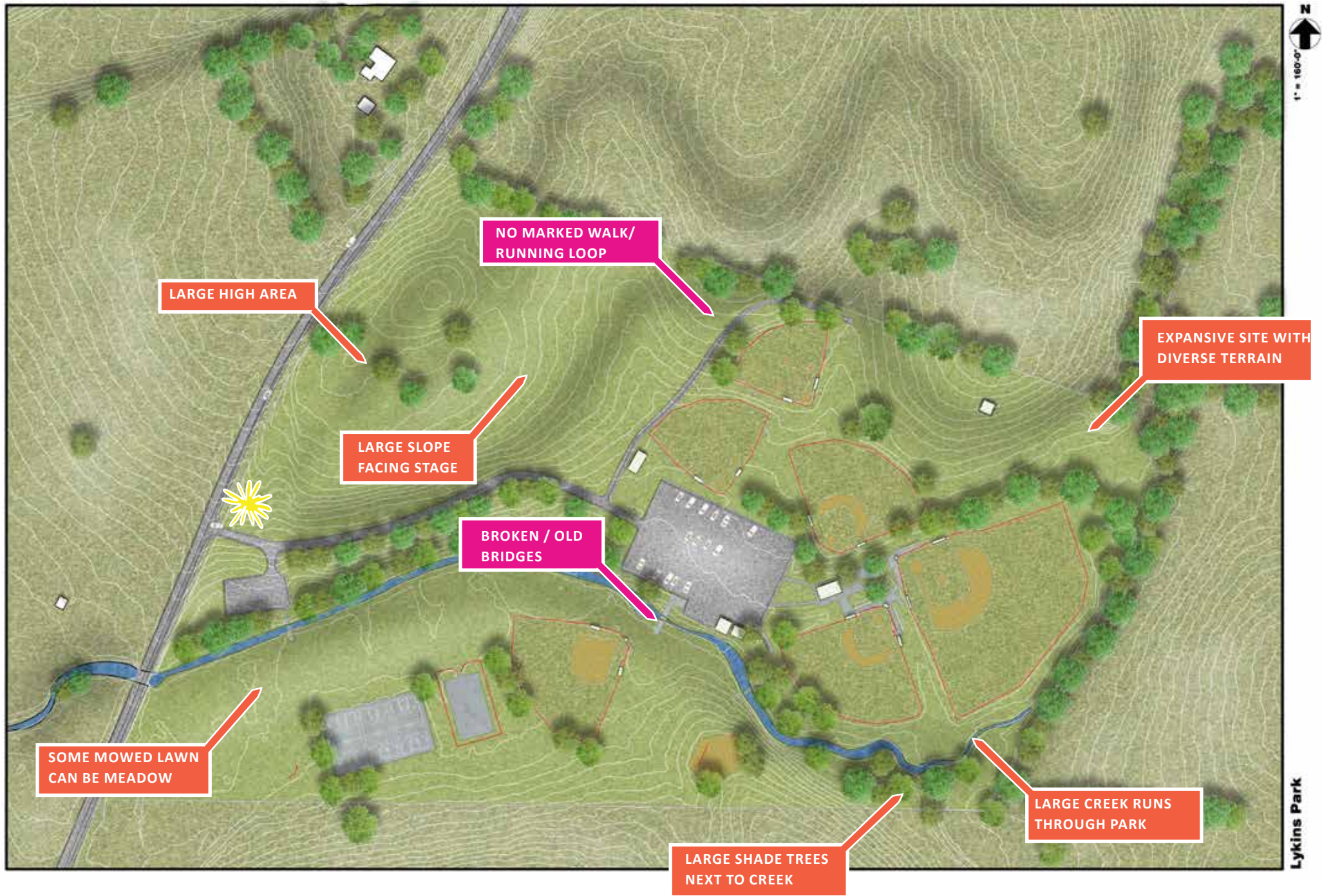
- **Softball and baseball**
- **Running, 5K**
- **Skateboarding, Basketball**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Outdoor events and performances**



HILLY TOPOGRAPHY



SITE ANALYSIS



- ASSET / OPPORTUNITY
- NEED / CHALLENGE
- THRESHOLD / ENTRY

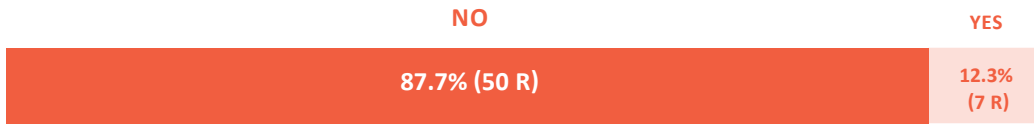
# LYKINS PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

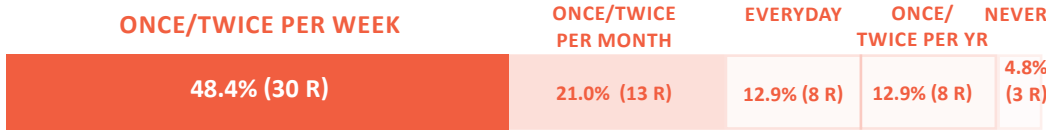
The “Pizza and Pops” pop-up at Lykins Park was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. The event welcomed about 75 members of the public to provide feedback during the event, including players and supporters of girls’ softball and boys’ baseball at the park. Across paper and online versions, the Lykins Park Survey received a total of 62 responses. Lykins was also mentioned specifically in 44 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey.

Much of the community input at Lykins concerned the park’s baseball, softball, and skate park facilities, though – as at nearly every park included in the plan’s scope – a sizable portion of users indicated a desire for outdoor water recreation.

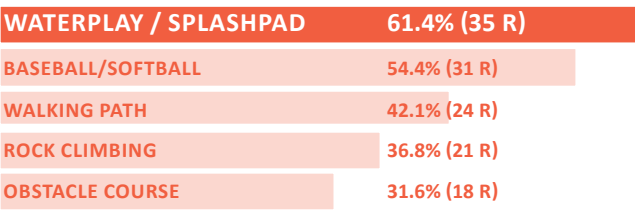
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)



## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN			(2 RESPONSES)
	TWO OR MORE RACES			(2 RESPONSES)
	WHITE			(36 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED			(22 RESPONSES)
AGE	UNDER 18	(21 RESPONSES)	57-75	(5 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(0 RESPONSES)	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(16 RESPONSE)	UNSPECIFIED	(11 RESPONSES)
	41-56	(9 RESPONSES)		



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“Softball field needs lights; boys have lights.”



“We love the natural surrounding and the creek also.”



“[Make it] More of an inclusive park. Very hard to get to the park if you have any injury or disability”



# LYKINS PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Community members recognize Lykins Park as Winchester’s place for baseball and softball, and feedback about the park was largely centered on those sports and their facilities. A sizable portion of survey responses and discussions with community members mentioned the disparity between the boys’ baseball fields having nighttime lighting and the girls’ softball fields being unlit. Beyond the practical problem of preventing softball play into evening hours, users noted the social effect of as one that “makes the girls feel less important.”

The skate park was also mentioned in much of the community feedback, including expressions of appreciation for its existence, desire for updates, and frustration about its location. Many users consider the skate park too remote to be useful, as skaters are likely to be younger users without independent transportation to Lykins’ rural location.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

1.	<b><i>Sports/Recreation</i></b>	<b>(26 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Open/Green Space	(16 RESPONSES)
3.	Play/Playground	(13 RESPONSES)
4.	Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment	(12 RESPONSES)
5.	Kid/Youth-Friendly	(8 RESPONSES)
6.	Accessibility	(4 RESPONSES)
7.	Programs/Special Events	(3 RESPONSES)
8.	Social Opportunities	(2 RESPONSES)
9.	Clean/Maintained	(1 RESPONSE)
10.	Walking/Trails	(0 RESPONSES)

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

1.	<b><i>Play/Playground</i></b>	<b>(23 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Equipment/Facilities	(16 RESPONSES)
3.	Park Amenities (seating/bathr/etc.)	(11 RESPONSES)
4.	Accessibility	(10 RESPONSES)
5.	Cleanliness/Maintenance	(5 RESPONSES)
6.	Programming	(4 RESPONSES)
7.	Safety & Unwanted Behavior	(2 RESPONSES)
8.	Nature/Natural Focus	(1 RESPONSES)
9.	Trails & Connectivity	(1 RESPONSE)
10.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(1 RESPONSE)

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT LYKINS PARK?

1.	<b><i>Amenities &amp; Facilities</i></b>	<b>(6 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Maintenance & Operations	(5 RESPONSES)
3.	Programming	(4 RESPONSES)
4.	Children & Youth	(2 RESPONSES)
5.	Connectivity	(2 RESPONSE)
6.	Accessibility & Equity	(1 RESPONSE)
7.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(1 RESPONSE)
8.	Safety	(0 RESPONSES)
9.	Nature	(0 RESPONSES)
10.	Leadership + Vision	(0 RESPONSES)



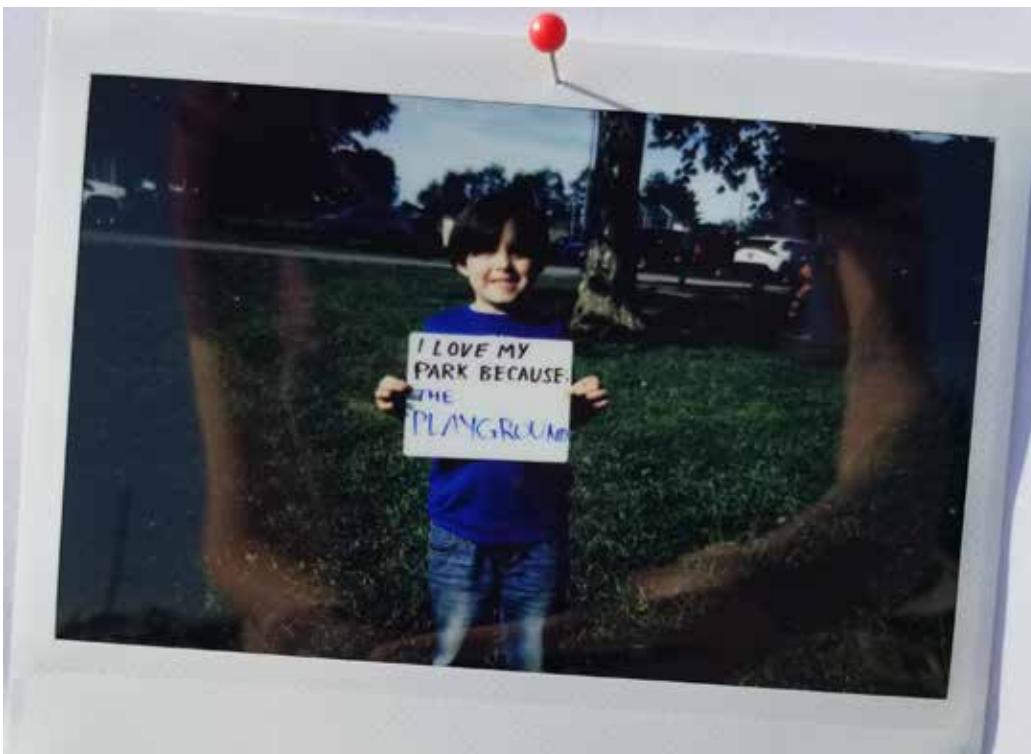
## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“Update for more diversity and attract other visitors.”

“Overall Lykins Park is neglected for the sake of baseball.”



“[Put] Lights on softball field; makes the girls feel less important when all baseball fields have lights.”





# LYKINS PARK

## PARK PROPOSAL

The concept design for Lykins works to enhance the existing elements including the creek and variable topography. This park is well used already and can be enhanced with a few elements and changes.

A designated path system addresses the current use for recreational running, as well as providing multiple smaller walking paths. Creek play areas are enhanced with large stepping and sitting stones that bring you closer to the water.

An obstacle course is integrated at the top of the hill on the northwest corner to create a new adventure play area and activate the topographic element.



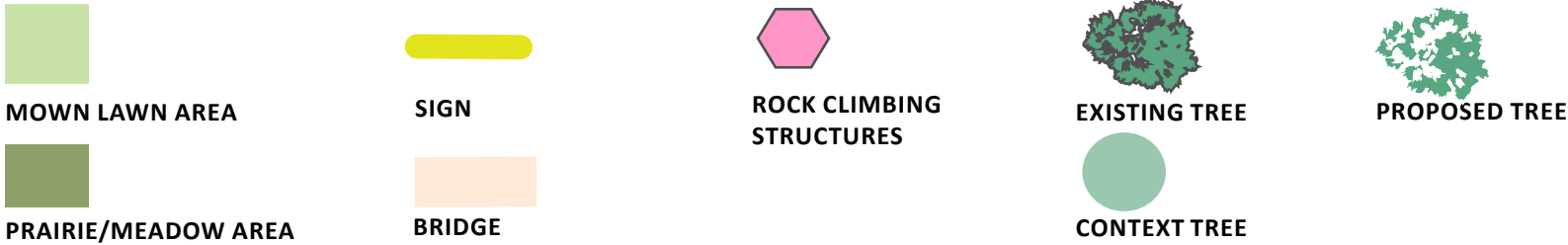
## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Designated walking/running path that loops through the different areas/terrains of the park**
2. **Play grove at high point with obstacle course and rock climbing structures**
3. **Sloped lawn amphitheater facing stage**
4. **Creek play area with large step stones going down to water**
5. **Shaded creek play area with large step stones going down to water**
6. **Meadow / prairie areas to break up large swaths of lawn**
7. **Fixed/ restored bridges**





# CONCEPT PLAN





# LYKINS PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW



WINDING PATH TO PLAY HILL, OBSTACLE COARSE, ROCK CLIMBING STRUCTURES



SHADY CREEK PLAY ON STEPPING STONES AND SITTING ROCKS



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



# CONCEPTUAL LENSES



## ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

A winding path with multiple smaller loops connect the large park with accessible ADA areas, walking, running, and biking areas.



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

The existing elements of the park are enhanced to provide more experiences including creek access, and an adventure area with rock climbing.

## BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

Large areas of the park are converted from lawn to meadow, enhancing the biodiversity and ecological health of the site as well as enhancing the natural beauty.

# KROGER SOCCER COMPLEX

## KROGER SOCCER COMPLEX

Kroger Lane, Winchester, KY 40391  
~24 acres

The Kroger Soccer Complex is 24 acres of recreational space mainly consisting of large lawns and multiple playing areas. It is situated on the northern tip of Winchester proper, surrounded by farmland and adjacent to the North East Re-tention Basin, a 60-acre pond once used for waste-water overflow. The complex is primarily used by families for soccer recreation and is a source of revenue for the WCCPR. Extensive lawns on the site require significant efforts by parks main-tenance and operations teams to care for the site.

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- **Large 60 acre pond**
- **Multiple soccer fields lacking shade**
- **Hidden entry/ driveway**
- **Large swaths of lawn**
- **Low/wet area near soccer fields**

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

- **Soccer practice and tournaments**



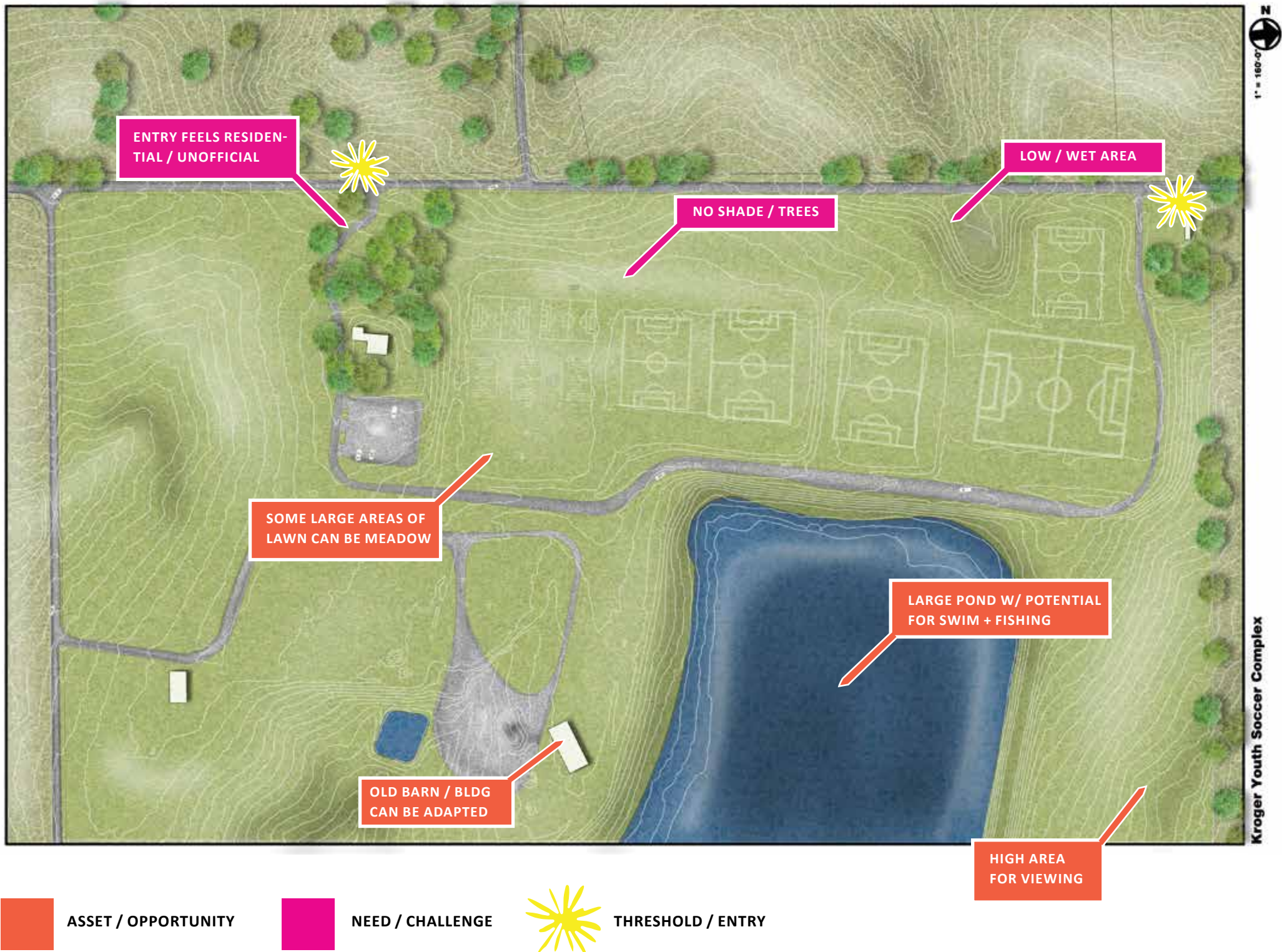
RETENTION POND



SOCCER FIELDS WITH NO SHADE



SITE ANALYSIS



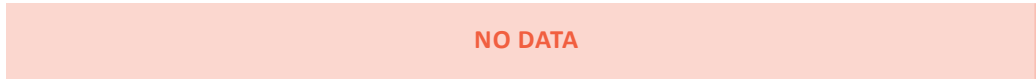
# KROGER SOCCER COMPLEX

## COMMUNITY INPUT

Because Kroger Soccer Complex is not regularly open to the public, and no soccer events were taking place during the BLOOM community engagement pop-up week, WCCPR and the BLOOM team decided not to hold an in-person public engagement event for Kroger Soccer Complex.

The individual Kroger Soccer Complex Survey received only 4 responses, but the park was mentioned specifically in 10 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey. Kroger was also mentioned by community members in conversations with the design team throughout the engagement week. Those conversations reflected similar feedback received from the surveys, centered on users’ desire for better maintained facilities, shade, and greater availability for public use.

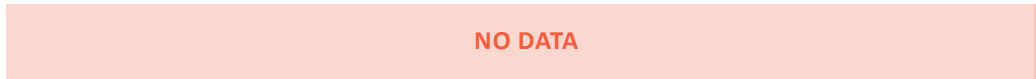
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)



Notes: No data recorded for walking distance or sports and recreation preferences

## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	WHITE	(1 RESPONSE)
	UNSPECIFIED	(3 RESPONSES)
AGE	UNDER 18	(0 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(0 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(3 RESPONSES)
	41-56	(0 RESPONSES)
	57-75	(0 RESPONSES)
	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(1 RESPONSE)

### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

**“The complex is in very poor condition and miserable to sit in to watch soccer.”**



**“Kroger should be developed to bring tournaments and tourism.”**

**“I did a 10K starting [at Kroger] and that was great! What other programs could be out there to show of Clark County?”**





# KROGER SOCCER COMPLEX

## PARK PROPOSAL

The Kroger Soccer Complex has the potential to expand to include a recreational pond and trail system. The pond is a former waste water retention pond, and will need considerable rehabilitation before recreation can occur, but this is already being looked into by the parks board.

The proposal for a recreational pond includes a boardwalk loop that activates different areas of the water: on the west side of the boardwalk is a designated beach and swimming area; on the eastern side is a fishing area; in the center of the boardwalk is a “living machine” composed of phyto-remediation wetland planting that continue to clean and enhance the quality of the water. The existing barn can transition into a beach house / visitor center.

Current complications relating to who can use the space need to be addressed before moving forward with any improvements to this park.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Walking/biking path**
2. **Swimming beach area**
3. **Beach house - changing/restrooms/visitor center**
4. **Boardwalk loop for walking, jumping (on beach side), fishing (on non-beach side)**
5. **View lookout / wildlife viewing tower**
6. **Meadow/Prairie area**
7. **Trees for shade**
8. **Raingarden / wetland planting**
9. **Public Transport Drop-off**





# CONCEPT PLAN



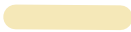
Kroger Youth Soccer Complex



MOWN LAWN AREA



RAIN GARDEN



BOARDWALK



BEACH HOUSE



RIPARIAN PLANTS



EXISTING TREE



PRAIRIE/MEADOW AREA



BEACH AREA



LIVING MACHINE



WILDLIFE OVERLOOK



PROPOSED TREE



CONTEXT TREE



# KROGER SOCCER COMPLEX

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

Trails area integrated around the perimeter of the pond, as well as an ADA accessible boardwalk loop that hovers above the water.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

A public outdoor swimming area provides the only public outdoor swimming in Winchester Clark County. A public fishing spot and natural trail provide additional experiences.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

The restoration of the pond enhances the health of the water body while also providing a way for the community to interact with a natural body of water.



# KROGER SOCCER COMPLEX

## CONCEPT AERIAL VIEW









# HERITAGE PARK

## HERITAGE PARK

131 W. Washington Street, Winchester, KY 40391  
~1.4 acres

Heritage Park is a centrally located 1.4-acre park adjacent to downtown Winchester. It is situated right along the old rail-line corridor, making it a great candidate for a connection point along a potential rail-to-trail path system. The park features a sitting area, walking path, and monument to the West Washington Business and Social District.



FLOWER PLANTERS

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Pathways and gathering areas
- Historic African American Heritage Trail signage and Monument
- Planted flower pots
- Lack of parking
- No shelter (only park with no shelter)
- Low wet area, adjacent to creek
- Former rail on east end - potential rail to trail connection
- No play areas for kids

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

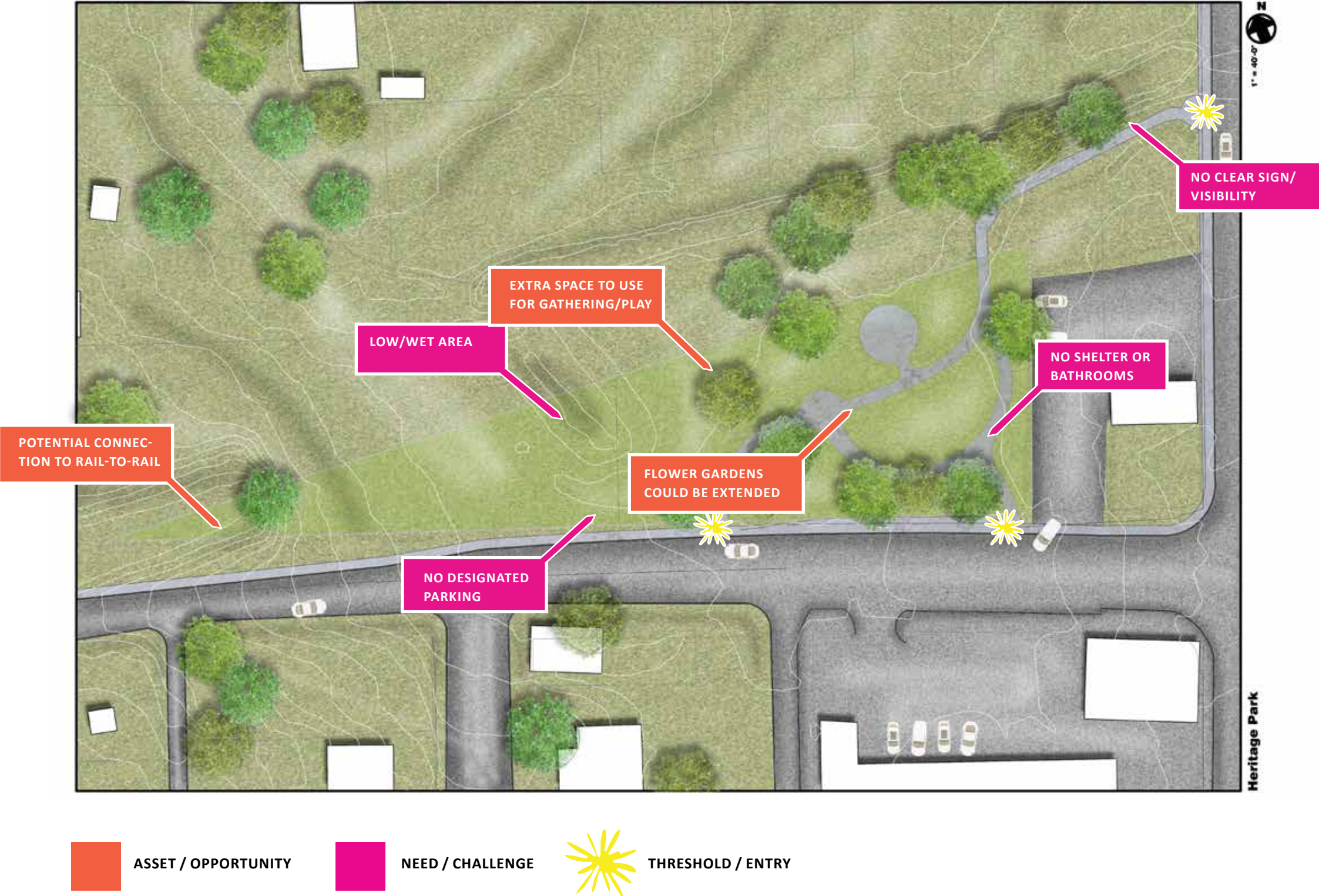
- Gathering space
- Rest and relaxation



MAKE-SHIFT SEATING AREA



# SITE ANALYSIS



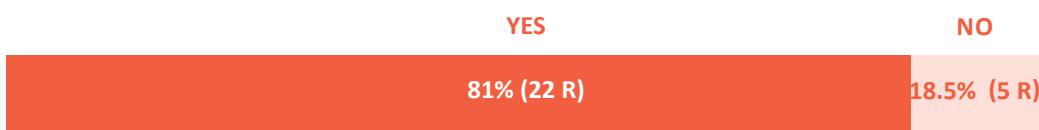
# HERITAGE PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

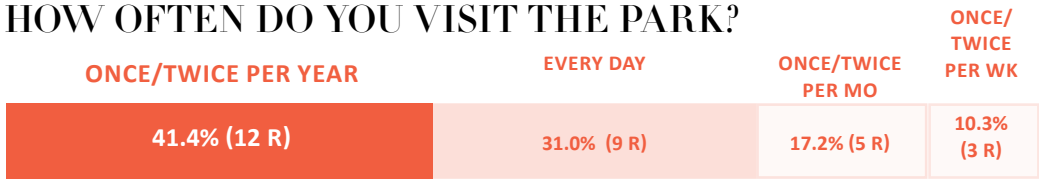
The “Pizza and Pops” event at Heritage Park was held on Thursday, June 24, 2021, with approximately 40 members of the public engaging to provide input during the pop-up. Across paper and online versions, the Heritage Park Survey received a total of 31 responses. Heritage was also mentioned specifically in 15 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey.

Of the ten parks included in the plan’s scope, Heritage received the highest average ratings in all categories by users concerning their perceptions of the park. Users find the park easy to access and enjoy in their own neighborhood. And at more than any other park in the plan’s scope, input indicated that visitors at Heritage feel welcome, respected, and safe.

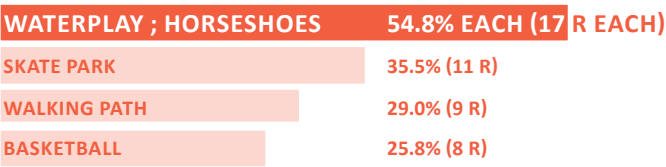
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5) \*



\*Horseshoes and Water Play tied at 54.8%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	(18 RESPONSES)
	TWO OR MORE RACES	(1 RESPONSE)
	WHITE	(6 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(6 RESPONSES)

AGE	UNDER 18	(0 RESPONSES)	57-75	(11 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(1 RESPONSES)	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(9 RESPONSE)	UNSPECIFIED	(4 RESPONSES)
	41-56	(6 RESPONSES)		

### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU? PREFER NOT TO ANSWER



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“Add swings and slides, maybe a splash area.”

This is what my dream park looks like:  
Así es el parque de mis sueños:



My name is / Me llamo: Alana

“Needs a stage and splash park would be nice.”



“Make it kid friendly.”



# HERITAGE PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Neighborhood residents see Heritage Park as an important space for gathering and reflection, as well as a source of civic and community pride. Though users rated the park highly in all categories, input also indicated community desire for updates at Heritage. Community members want amenities such as shade and electricity that support both everyday use and bigger community and social gatherings throughout the year, including those hosted by the Black History and Heritage Committee.

Much of the community feedback for Heritage also concerned the needs of children, with community members asking to “make it kid friendly” with play equipment and park views that allow caregivers to monitor children as they play. And as at many of the parks included in the plan, Heritage users also indicated a strong desire for outdoor water play in the summer months.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

1.	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>(14 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment	(11 RESPONSES)
3.	Clean/Maintained	(5 RESPONSES)
4.	Social Opportunities	(3 RESPONSES)
5.	Open/Green Space	(2 RESPONSES)
6.	Programs/Special Events	(2 RESPONSES)
7.	Walking/Trails	(2 RESPONSES)
8.	Kid/Youth-Friendly	(1 RESPONSE)
9.	Play/Playground	(0 RESPONSES)
10.	Sports/Recreation	(0 RESPONSES)

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

1.	<b>Play/Playground</b>	<b>(11 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Park Amenities (seating/bathr. etc)	(8 RESPONSES)
3.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(7 RESPONSES)
4.	Accessibility	(4 RESPONSES)
5.	Equipment/Facilities	(4 RESPONSES)
6.	Programming	(3 RESPONSES)
7.	Cleanliness/Maintenance	(0 RESPONSES)
8.	Nature/Natural Focus	(0 RESPONSES)
9.	Safety & Unwanted Behavior	(0 RESPONSES)
10.	Trails & Connectivity	(0 RESPONSES)

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT HERITAGE PARK?

1.	<b>Leadership &amp; Vision</b>	<b>(4 RESPONSES)</b>
2.	Children & Youth	(3 RESPONSES)
3.	Safety	(3 RESPONSES)
4.	Amenities & Facilities	(2 RESPONSES)
5.	Maintenance & Operations	(2 RESPONSES)
6.	Programming	(2 RESPONSES)
7.	Accessibility & Equity	(1 RESPONSE)
8.	Nature	(1 RESPONSE)
9.	Water / Splash Pad / Pool	(0 RESPONSES)
10.	Connectivity	(0 RESPONSES)



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER



“I think Heritage should always be welcoming and at it’s best. Heritage Park is the first park that people see when entering our City. It should be decorated all year around, it is a tourist attraction.”

“Although it’s nice enough now, it could use some structure. It’s an incredibly historic area. It would be good to see some investments to showcase that history.”

“Add more things for children to be active while here.”

“More activities for all ages.”



# HERITAGE PARK

## PARK PROPOSAL

Heritage park is at the center of the Winchester Clark-County Parks system - it is a critical lynch pin for the Rail-to-Trail system to connect the parks and an important historical and cultural marker for Winchester’s Black community. For these reasons, this park must be a high priority for improvements.

The proposal integrates a much needed playground area and shelter, as well as a performance stage, walking paths, and picnic areas. Sculpture signage and/or art installations mark the park as a celebrated place, highlighting it as an integral part of Winchester’s history and future.

It must be noted that this park lies within a floodplain - and that this area experienced a major flood in 1909. The current proposal addresses flooding by implementing permeable surfaces, a raised stage, and lots of planted vegetation. Overall there must be more attention to the flood potentials of this site before any construction or changes are implemented.



RENDERING OF CONCEPT DESIGN SHOWING STAGE ON A SUNNY DAY

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Art/Signage at Maple St / Prominent Street entrance - connects to other art/signage located in park**
2. **Picnic and bbq area**
3. **Raised stage (min. 36”) and shelter**
4. **Round seating bench**
5. **Moved monument**
6. **Restroom structure**
7. **Natural adventure play area for kids with logs and natural structures**
8. **Raingarden / wetland planted area**
9. **Connection to Rail-to-Trail and urban bike/walk path**
10. **Planting bed to extend existing planters along sidewalk/entrances**
11. **Designated parking spots**
12. **Potential connection to rail-to-trail system**



FLOOD SCENARIO

THIS PARK LIES WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN AND THE AREA EXPERIENCED A MAJOR FLOOD IN 1909. CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES THE CHANCES OF THIS LAND FLOODING AGAIN - THEREFORE THE PARK MUST BE DESIGNED WITH FLOODING IN MIND.



# CONCEPT PLAN



					
MOWN LAWN AREA	RAIN GARDEN	EXISTING AFRICAN AM. HERITAGE TRAIL SIGNS	BBQ PITS	WETLAND PLANTS	EXISTING TREE
					
PRAIRIE/MEADOW AREA	PLAY AREA	SCULPTURAL SIGNAGE	PICNIC TABLES		CONTEXT TREE

## PARK PROPOSAL

Skating has a theatrical quality that is great for people watching. Throughout the plan, a few users suggested that a skate park in a centrally-located area downtown would be a great place for kids of all ages to play. Because of grading and space constraints in other parks, as well as proximity to single-family houses where noise is a concern, a skate park was not feasible. Heritage Park is a potential location that could be developed, and it could integrate a sense of play and gathering that many asked for within Heritage Park.

Ultimately this proposal was not Omnes' key recommendation, as it poses challenges for developing within the floodplain and introducing a large amount of pervious surface next to the existing stream. The effects of building within the floodplain should be a primary concern for Heritage Park and its long-term resiliency in the face of more frequent flooding disasters in coming decades.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Art/Signage at Maple St / Prominent Street entrance - connects to other art/signage located in park**
2. **Picnic and bbq area**
3. **Raised stage (min. 36") and shelter**
4. **Play area**
5. **Restroom structure**
6. **Natural adventure play area for kids with logs and natural structures**
7. **Raingarden / wetland planted area**
8. **Connection to Rail-to-Trail and urban bike/walk path**
9. **Planting bed to extend existing planters along sidewalk/entrances**
10. **Skate Park**
11. **Designated parking spots**
12. **Potential connection to rail-to-trail system**



# ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT PLAN





# HERITAGE PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

Pathways in the park connect to the Rail-to-Trail System. This park is a central point on the overall system of park connections.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

A performance area and play area meet the communities requests for event accommodation and areas for kids to play. The concept is sensitive to the flood risk at the site by proposing floodable designs.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

Wildflowers and wetland plants line the riparian corridor that runs through the site, providing some flood prevention as well as adding natural beauty.

# FAIRFIELD PARK

## FAIRFIELD PARK

120 Lindberg Road, Winchester, KY 40391  
~1.5 acres

Fairfield Park is a smaller neighborhood park, approximately 1.5 acres in size and embedded in a residential neighborhood in western-central Winchester. A natural creek that runs through the site assists stormwater management. The park includes a newly implemented playground that was completed in 2019, funded by the Clark County Fiscal Court and improvement funds from WCCPR. Currently the park is lacking sidewalks along the perimeter of the site making pedestrian access quite difficult. The community has discussed the idea of incorporating a walking trail within the park that has the potential to connect it to the greater community and streetscape network.

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- **Exposed/Sunny play areas**
- **New playground area**
- **Old swings and play dome**
- **Uneven wet ground**
- **Creek runs through site**
- **Large lawn area**

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

- **Playground, basketball**



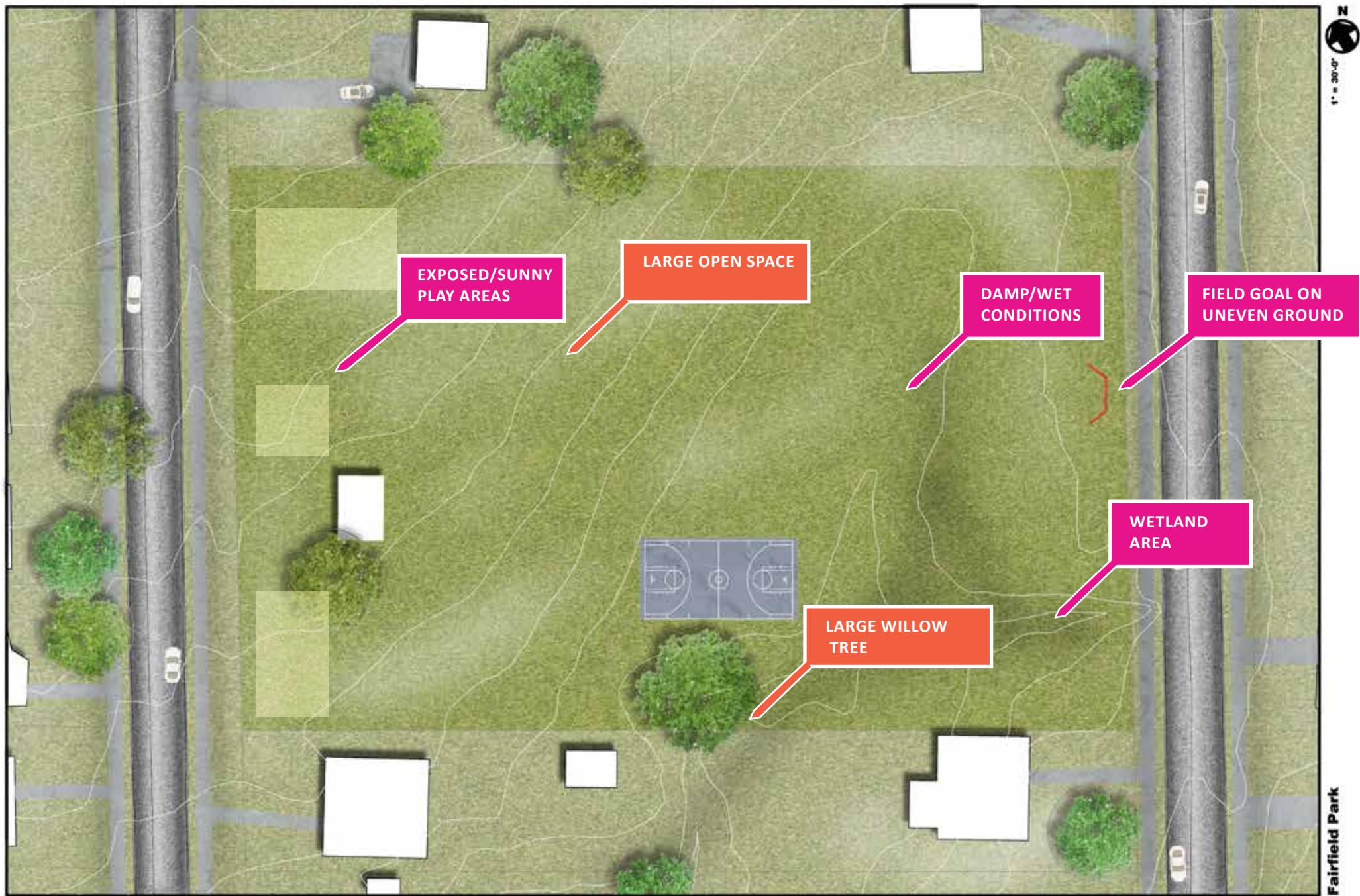
OPEN UNDULATING LAWN



SHELTER NEXT TO NEW PLAY AREA



# SITE ANALYSIS



# Fairfield Park

## Community Input

The “Pizza and Pops” event at Fairfield Park was held on Friday, June 25, 2021, with approximately 20 members of the public engaging to provide input during the pop-up. Across paper and online versions, the Fairfield Park Survey received a total of 14 responses. Fairfield was also mentioned specifically in 2 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey.

Of the ten parks included in the plan’s scope, Fairfield received the second highest average rating (9.1) from users for safety, however it received the second lowest rating (7.6) for ease of access and use. These ratings may reflect the wide open views but relatively steep slope of the park.

## Demographics

RACE	WHITE	(12 RESPONSES)		
	UNSPECIFIED	(1 RESPONSE)		
AGE	UNDER 18	(1 RESPONSE)	57-75	(2 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(1 RESPONSE)	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(7 RESPONSES)	UNSPECIFIED	(0 RESPONSES)
	41-56	(2 RESPONSES)		

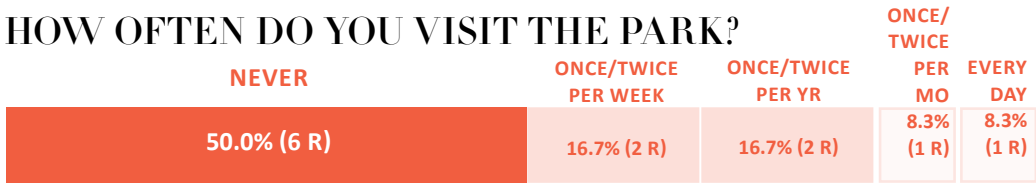
### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)\*



\*Top 6: Basketball; Horseshoes; Skate Park; Soccer; Walking path tied at 23%

### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“Fence around it . . . newer swing set, toddler friendly play equipment.”



“Add a drinking fountain.”

“[The park needs] updated swings, sidewalk to connect to Lindberg Road so you don’t have to walk through mucky grass.”



# FAIRFIELD PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Community concerns about Fairfield Park center largely on the playground. As at many of the parks included in the plan, users asked for “more things for kids to play on” and play equipment for a range of ages. The need for replaced swings and updates to the basketball court were mentioned repeatedly by park users both in survey responses and in conversations with the BLOOM planning team.

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

- |     |                                     |                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Play/Playground</i></b>       | <b>(20 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Equipment/Facilities                | (3 RESPONSES)         |
| 3.  | Water / Splash Pad / Pool           | (3 RESPONSES)         |
| 4.  | Nature/Natural Focus                | (1 RESPONSE)          |
| 5.  | Safety & Unwanted Behavior          | (1 RESPONSE)          |
| 6.  | Trails & Connectivity               | (1 RESPONSE)          |
| 7.  | Accessibility                       | (0 RESPONSES)         |
| 8.  | Cleanliness/Maintenance             | (0 RESPONSES)         |
| 9.  | Park Amenities (seating/bathr/etc.) | (0 RESPONSES)         |
| 10. | Programming                         | (0 RESPONSES)         |

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

- |     |                                |                      |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Open/Green Space</i></b> | <b>(4 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | <b><i>Play/Playground</i></b>  | <b>(4 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 3.  | Accessibility                  | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Sports/Recreation              | (3 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Kid/Youth-Friendly             | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 6.  | Social Opportunities           | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 7.  | Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment  | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 8.  | Clean/Maintained               | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Programs/Special Events        | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Walking/Trails                 | (0 RESPONSES)        |

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT FAIRFIELD PARK?

- |     |  |                      |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Maintenance &amp; Operations</i></b> | <b>(3 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Accessibility & Equity                     | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 3.  | Amenities & Facilities                     | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 4.  | Children & Youth                           | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 5.  | Connectivity                               | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 6.  | Leadership & Vision                        | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 7.  | Nature                                     | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 8.  | Programming                                | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 9.  | Safety                                     | (0 RESPONSES)        |
| 10. | Water / Splash Pad / Pool                  | (0 RESPONSES)        |



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER



“More lighting. I grew up in this neighborhood in this park. I would just like to see it updated with more of the jungle gym / play castle type features.”

“Add animal waste pick up stations and signs for people who walk pets in park!”

This is what my dream park looks like:  
Así es el parque de mis sueños:



“Replace the roof on pavilion.”





# FAIRFIELD PARK

## PARK PROPOSAL

The proposal for Fairfield Park includes a dynamic ADA accessible walking path that winds through the park, creating pockets of different activities in the spaces carved by the pathway.

The park's low-lying topography is enhanced by integrating wetland planting, stepping stones, sitting rocks, and earth mounds to create a dynamic natural play area. A stacked rockwall cuts across the path creating a sitting wall, and an identifying landmark for the park and references a history of rock wall building in the bluegrass region.

Community input influenced the walking path that has the potential to connect the park to a larger trail system, and nearby Wiseman Park across the proposed Rail-to-Trail system. Legacy Grove park is also in close proximity and could be walked if a path were to be implemented. The community desire for water play in the park is met by the installation of a water spigot that can be activated with sprinklers in the summertime.



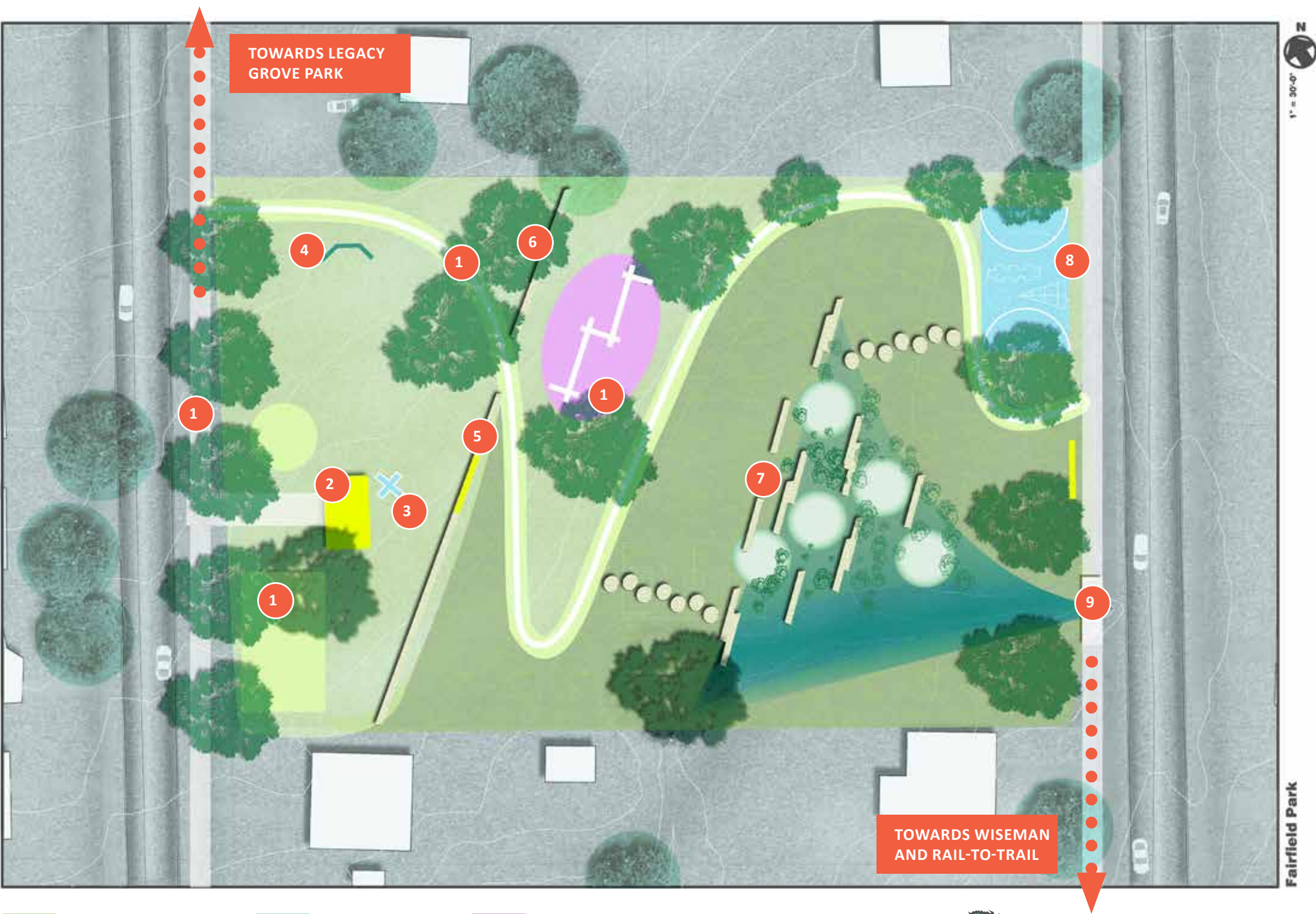
## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Add sidewalks and trees, set back from street**
2. **Repair and update shelter**
3. **Add water spigot for connecting sprinklers for water play**
4. **Add small play goal - consider regrading area to be more flat**
5. **Build a decorative and multifunctional rockwall with embedded signage - can double as seating and retention wall if wanting to flatten/regrade lawn area**
6. **Rock wall in shaded area - can double as seating**
7. **Wetlands and creek adventure area**
8. **Move Basketball court and paint with games**
9. **Raised sidewalk area above pond**





# CONCEPT PLAN



- |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| MOWN LAWN AREA  | RAIN GARDEN   | PLAY AREA  | WETLAND PLANTS  | EXISTING TREE   |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| PRAIRIE/MEADOW AREA   | STONE   |  | PROPOSED TREE   | CONTEXT TREE  |



# FAIRFIELD PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

An ADA pathway winds through the park and connects to a sidewalk system leading to the Rail-to-Trail and nearby Wiseman Park.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

A variety of experiences are added with the ADA pathway, stepping stones, sitting rockwall. Natural play in the rain garden as well as new swing sets and a spigot added for water play events.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

A rain garden is planted with a diversity of wetland plants that provide ecosystem function as well as natural beauty.



# COLLEGE PARK

## COLLEGE PARK

15 Wheeler Ave, Winchester, KY 40391  
~9.7 acres

College Park is an open space of more than 9.5 acres centrally located in a residential neighborhood just west of downtown, and across the street from the College Park Fitness and Aquatics Center. This park has been the focus of the Parks’ system for many years, and has benefitted from investment and attention. Amenities include picnic areas and shelter, a playground, basketball court and playing field, as well as a walking trail.

## EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- **Diverse terrain with hills**
- **Shady and sunny areas, mature trees**
- **Diverse amenities for sports and recreation**
- **Indoor amenities facility for**

## CURRENT USE + ACTIVITIES

- **Basketball, playgrounds**
- **Story /book walk**
- **Large events and public programming**
- **Indoor pool and fitness facilities**



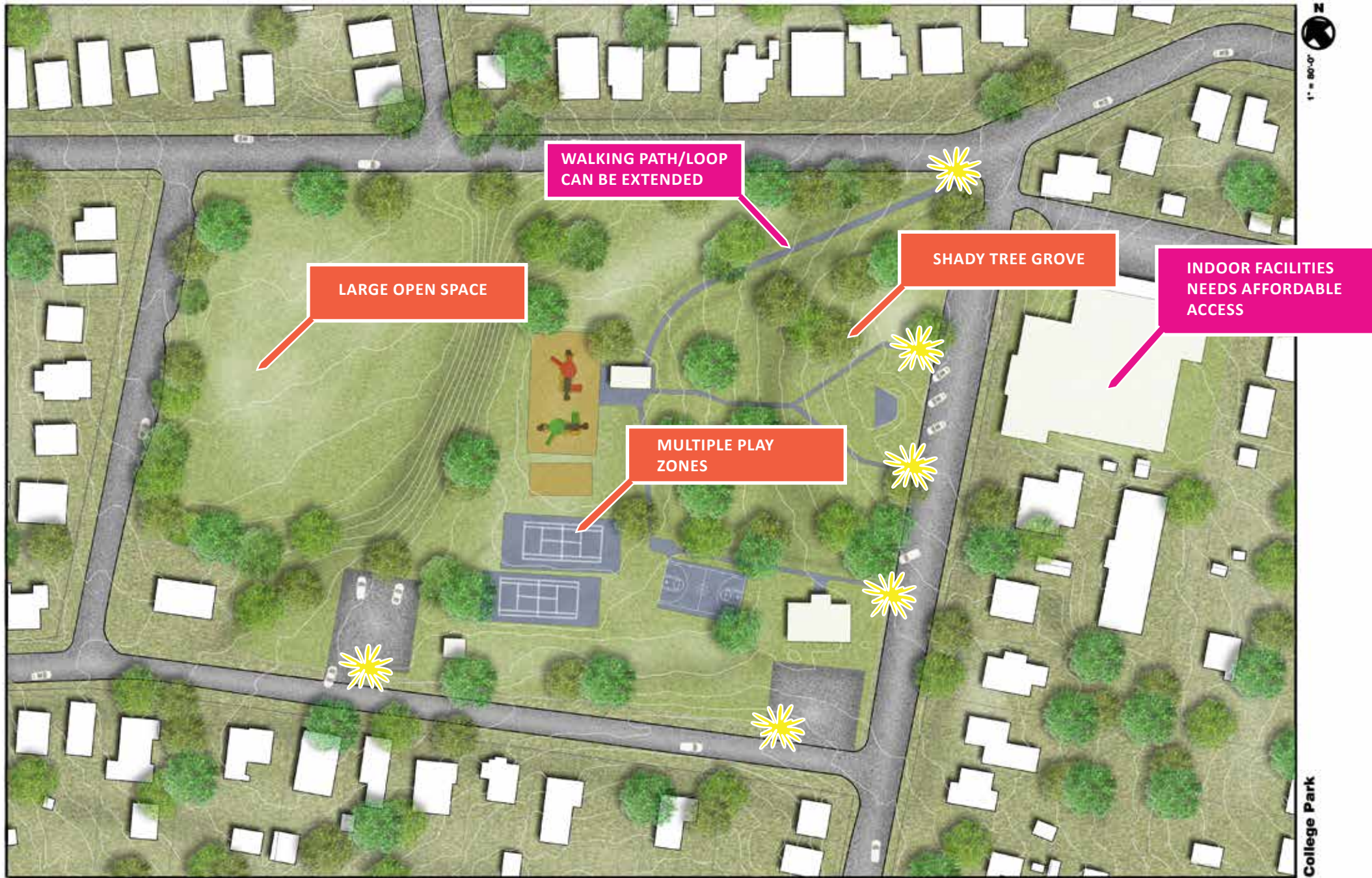
WELL USED PARK WITH MANY AMENITIES



LARGE LAWN AND SLOPE



# SITE ANALYSIS



ASSET / OPPORTUNITY



NEED / CHALLENGE



THRESHOLD / ENTRY

# COLLEGE PARK

## COMMUNITY INPUT

The “Pizza and Pops” event at College Park was held on Thursday, June 24, 2021, with approximately 100 members of the public engaging to provide input. Reflecting the park’s popularity, across paper and online versions, the College Park Survey received a total of 69 responses. College Park (and the College Park Fitness Center) was also mentioned specifically in 199 responses to the BLOOM Overall Parks Survey.

College Park was highly rated by users concerning their perceptions of ease of access and of feelings of welcomeness and respect in the park. Of the parks in scope, respondents to the College Park survey were among some of the most likely (more than 3 out of 4 respondents) to live within walking distance of the park of their response.

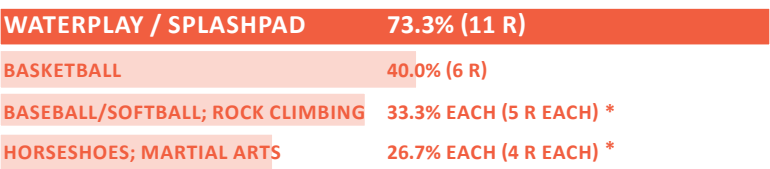
### DO YOU LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE PARK?



### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



### WHAT SPORTS/RECREATION WOULD YOU LIKE? (TOP 5)



## DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE	AMERICAN INDIAN	(1 RESPONSE)
	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	(3 RESPONSES)
	SOME OTHER RACE	(1 RESPONSE)
	TWO OR MORE RACES	(2 RESPONSES)
	WHITE	(38 RESPONSES)
	UNSPECIFIED	(24 RESPONSES)

AGE	UNDER 18	(17 RESPONSES)	57-75	(7 RESPONSES)
	18-24	(5 RESPONSES)	76+	(0 RESPONSES)
	25-40	(26 RESPONSES)	UNSPECIFIED	(8 RESPONSES)
	41-56	(6 RESPONSES)		

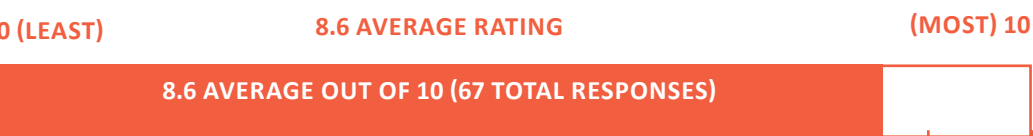
### ARE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING WITH YOU?



### HOW WELCOME + RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO ACCESS + USE THE PARK?





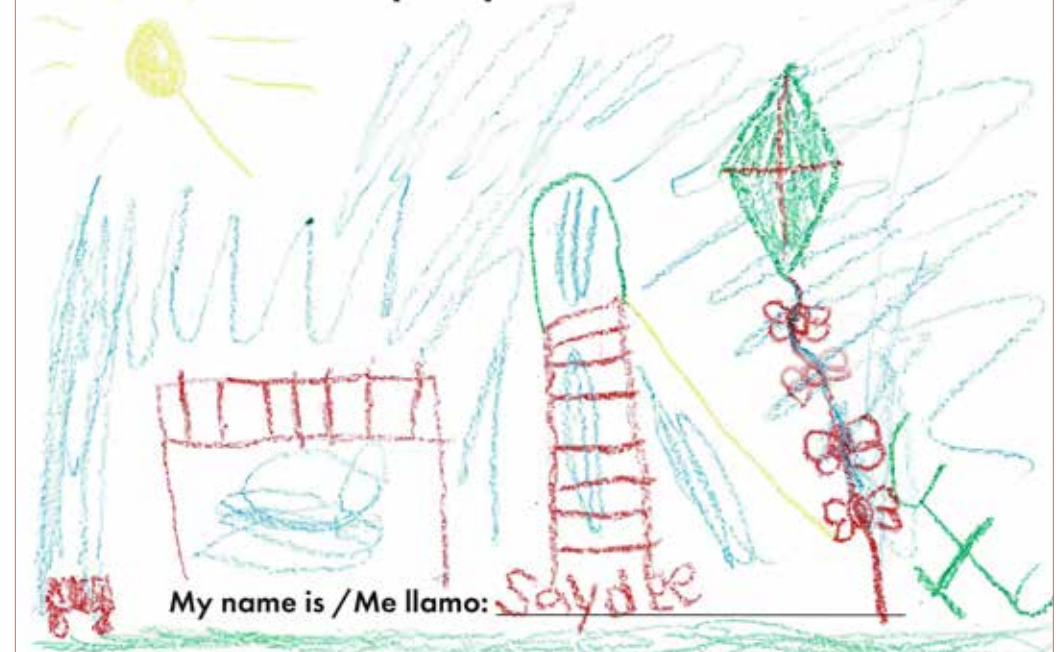
## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

**“College Park is nice, but would be better with paved trails.”**



**“I love the variety of activities at College Park.”**

**This is what my dream park looks like:  
Así es el parque de mis sueños:**



**“The membership fees at College Park are too high for public parks.”**



# COLLEGE PARK

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Many residents are overall satisfied with the facilities and offerings at College Park, and in fact many noted that College Park seems to receive too much attention compared to other parks in the WCCPR system. Concerns about equity also came up about the College Park Fitness Center, with some residents noting that it was too expensive for many too access. In terms of facilities, feedback that was repeated by many residents concerned outdated play equipment at College Park, which WCCPR is already in the process of replacing.

## WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

- |     |                                     |                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Equipment/Facilities</i></b>  | <b>(25 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | Play/Playground                     | (19 RESPONSES)        |
| 3.  | Programming                         | (11 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Safety & Unwanted Behavior          | (9 RESPONSES)         |
| 5.  | Park Amenities (seating/bathr/etc.) | (6 RESPONSES)         |
| 6.  | Nature/Natural Focus                | (2 RESPONSES)         |
| 7.  | Trails & Connectivity               | (2 RESPONSES)         |
| 8.  | Accessibility                       | (1 RESPONSE)          |
| 9.  | Water / Splash Pad / Pool           | (1 RESPONSE)          |
| 10. | Cleanliness/Maintenance             | (0 RESPONSES)         |

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE? (EXISTING COND.)

- |     |                               |                       |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Accessibility</i></b>   | <b>(16 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | <b><i>Play/Playground</i></b> | <b>(16 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 3.  | Passive Rest/Nature Enjoyment | (11 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Sports/Recreation             | (10 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Programs/Special Events       | (9 RESPONSES)         |
| 6.  | Social Opportunities          | (8 RESPONSES)         |
| 7.  | Kid/Youth-Friendly            | (8 RESPONSES)         |
| 8.  | Open/Green Space              | (7 RESPONSES)         |
| 9.  | Walking/Trails                | (4 RESPONSES)         |
| 10. | Clean/Maintained              | (3 RESPONSES)         |

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT COLLEGE PARK?

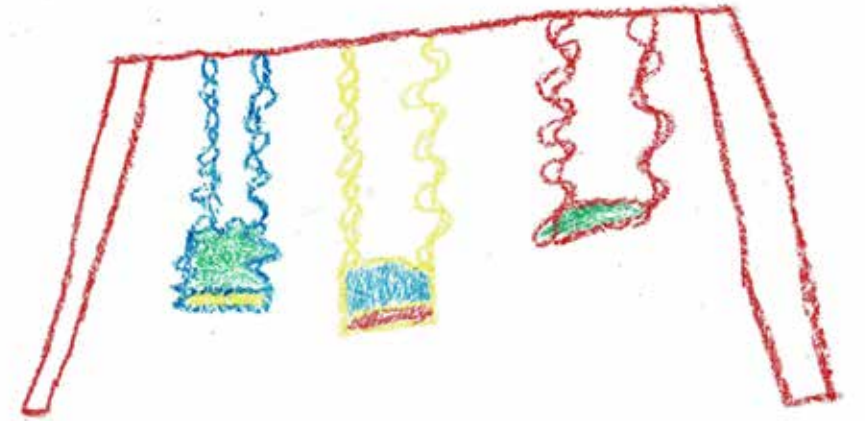
- |     |  |                      |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><i>Amenities &amp; Facilities</i></b>   | <b>(3 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 2.  | <b><i>Maintenance &amp; Operations</i></b> | <b>(3 RESPONSES)</b> |
| 3.  | Programming                                | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 4.  | Accessibility & Equity                     | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 5.  | Children & Youth                           | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 6.  | Programming                                | (2 RESPONSES)        |
| 7.  | Connectivity                               | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 8.  | Leadership & Vision                        | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 9.  | Safety                                     | (1 RESPONSE)         |
| 10. | Water / Splash Pad / Pool                  | (1 RESPONSE)         |



## VOICES OF WINCHESTER

“We love the playground and open spaces/trees at College Park.”

This is what my dream park looks like:  
Así es el parque de mis sueños:



My name is / Me llamo: Leighanna

“More sidewalks and safe walkways in this county would be great. I would love to walk to College Park but there are not enough sidewalks all the way from my house to the park.”



# COLLEGE PARK

## PARK PROPOSAL

College Park is a well used park that is already in the process of improving its existing features. Therefore, the proposal enhances the site with simple integrations of walking/ running paths, meadows, and places to relax in hammocks.

Additional recommendations include addressing the need for more affordable and accessible programming in the recreational facilities as well as the summer camp – these concerns were evident in the community input for this park.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Walking paths and loops throughout park**
2. **Designated lawn area for recreation and public programming**
3. **Hammock grove - attach to trees or provide hammock stands**
4. **Provide free days for public pool and facilities**
5. **Provide affordable summer camp and year-round programming**
6. **Free community events using stage area**









# COLLEGE PARK

## CONCEPT VIEW



PERSPECTIVE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



## CONCEPTUAL LENSES



### ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

New pathways connect to the existing paths in the park creating large loops for traversing the site.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

Existing features of the park are enhanced, and recommendations for more affordable and accessible programming is proposed.

### BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY

Portions of the open lawn are converted to meadow, providing natural beauty, habitat and ecosystem function.









COMMUNITY + HARMON PARKS



LYKINS PARK



KROGER YOUTH SOCCER COMPLEX



MELBOURNE PARK



FAIRFIELD PARK



HERITAGE PARK



WISEMAN PARK



MASSIE PARK



COLLEGE PARK





# APPENDIX

# APPENDIX

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

### WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1. The goals of BLOOM Winchester should be embraced by leadership and adopted in full in order to guide plan implementation.
2. To address common misconceptions among members of the public about park funding, governance, and decision-making, WCCPR should make the annual Park Audit publicly available. To request a copy, visit: [https://kydlgweb.ky.gov/entities/16\\_SpgeHome.cfm](https://kydlgweb.ky.gov/entities/16_SpgeHome.cfm)
3. WCCPR has been successful with recent grant applications, and should continue to apply for grant funding for public space improvements. BLOOM Winchester should be used as a guide for development and tool for grant applications.
4. Governance should utilize BLOOM Winchester to work with communities in order to deliver quality public open space that serves residents and enhances public and ecological health. As evidenced by this plan's community engagement, there is widespread support for public space enhancements that promote equity.
5. During Working Groups and community engagement exercises, the planning team heard a strong desire for progress in public space enhancements, and a more active role for the Parks Board and Parks and Recreation. WCCPR should evaluate the pros and cons for dissolution of the Parks Board and incorporation into the City of Winchester governance. When discussed during the master planning process, many stakeholders cited the establishment of a food & beverage tax as a mechanism that would allow this transition to take place. All of these options should be evaluated in order to provide the taxpayers of Winchester with the most effective governance possible.
6. The planning team recommends that WCCPR and the Parks Board evaluate the proportion of City -vs. County-appointed Parks Board Members to more equitably represent funding for parks.

### WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1. Determine prioritization of the implementation of plan improvements through the guiding principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, proactively centering the needs of populations that may be experiencing intersectional barriers to park access.
2. Communities with the greatest need should be identified and prioritized in funding decisions. Disadvantaged communities often face barriers to quality parks due to land use-regulations and policies that have historically adversely affected poor communities and communities of color. This can manifest in smaller park sizes, and less allocation of funding for maintenance and programming in these areas. WCCPR should implement strategies that guide capital investments and operations and maintenance expenditures to communities with the greatest needs and barriers to park use and access.
3. Building on the notion that parks decisions should be both representative of community wishes and made in consideration of the areas of greatest need, the splash pad at Harmon Park must be built. Throughout the engagement process, park users identified the need for the return of water play at Harmon and Community over and over again. The construction and care of a community splash pad at Harmon will demonstrate a commitment to the needs of all residents and Winchester, and help to rebuild trust within the community concerning parks operations and decision-making.
4. Historically disadvantaged communities, especially communities of color, are often more vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to historical planning and policy inequities. Park designs should address how current and future climate change will affect these areas, and focus on creating legible designs that both mitigate and adapt to the changing climate. In places like Heritage Park, which both lies within a floodplain and is understood as an important gathering space for Black community in Winchester, study and consideration must be given to the potential for future flooding and other environmental change before future construction or changes are implemented.
5. Strategies for economic development created by investment and improvements should be implemented to benefit existing residents and mitigate the potential negative impacts of such development such as displacement.



6. Develop park amenities and programming that are culturally appropriate and respond to the needs and wishes of community members, with a concerted effort to give people of all ages and life experiences a say in what happens in their parks. Respond to the needs and desires identified in the BLOOM community engagement process, and continue the dialogue with community members and organizations about their needs, wishes, and dreams for parks and publicly-owned vacant land. Adopt the approach of listening and supporting rather than prescribing program. This is a great way to support neighbors who will be most impacted by these spaces, and build long-lasting partnerships that allow the neighborhood to take ownership over the space for years to come. A Citizen Steering Committee could be formed as a catalyst for engaging with broader communities that are not currently well-served by parks.
7. The City should adhere strictly to ADA accessibility standards and codes to create inclusive public spaces that can be fully experienced and engaged by people of all abilities. This consideration should extend to layout, material choices, view sheds, and sensory input. If space allows, public spaces should have social gathering places, as well as quiet places for respite; this is appreciated especially by those who have sensory disabilities and need to step away from stimuli.
8. Actively adopt anti-racist policies for investing in, caring for, surveilling (or not), and maintaining public spaces. There are also opportunities to recognize spaces that are utilized by majority white people, and integrating program, site elements, and design strategies that can invite broader multi-cultural use. For more general ideas, an excellent resource for inclusive landscapes and design processes is the Gehl Institute's *2020 Report, Inclusive Healthy Places, A Guide to Inclusion & Health in Public Space: Learning Globally to Transform Locally*.
9. Establish new play spaces and spaces/activities for multi-generational families. Many community members who attended BLOOM outreach events were grandparents raising grandchildren. These residents expressed a desire for park designs that would allow them to comfortably watch over children while they play, but also for programming that would provide social opportunities and allow them to interact with their children at the park.

## ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACE

### WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

To understand connectivity, the planning team mapped a series of data sets that reveal patterns of public space and their relationship to economic and social forces. Overlapping this physical data with the data sets in the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” chapter, it’s possible to understand which neighborhoods may be more/less advantaged, and those that have better access to higher quality public space. To enhance connectivity, the plan recommends:

1. Establishing sidewalk and trail improvements to create connected public space network as outlined in this chapter. Focus on gap areas within these maps that identify the highest need for public space improvements.
2. Improving parks most in need, considering not only the physical improvements of the parks but also their impact in communities that are comparatively less connected and with lower-incomes and housing values to allow these neighborhoods to realize social and economic benefits of public space enhancement. (See “Equitable Park Development: Per Capita Income” in the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” chapter).
3. Work with property owners adjacent to the old rail line to implement a rails-to trails connector within the City that can link all of the parks and connect, eventually, to Lexington.
4. Create a trail that connects all parks and the rails-to-trail greenway. Shown on the next page, this trail network links parks and also establishes a “lynch pin” in downtown by connecting with the existing African American Heritage Trail and Black Business District, as well as Union Depot Farmers Market and Plaza.

# APPENDIX

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

### BEAUTY & IDENTITY

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1.

Operating expenditures are well below national averages, and parks need to be better funded to enhance the quality of life in Winchester. (see exhibits at left) Work with the City and County to allocate more funds for park improvements as well as deferred maintenance. This should be an ongoing discourse that empowers WCCPR to advance the goals of BLOOM Winchester.

2.

In tandem with Winchester Youth Soccer League an the Softball/Baseball leagues, WCCPR should audit the costs for maintenance and operations at Lykins and Kroger Youth Soccer complex. Throughout the plan, the team heard that there is an unfair allocation of funds, and that WCCPR contributes maintenance to land that is not for public use, but instead by private clubs. By increasing contributions or lessening maintenance commitments, more energy can be devoted to the maintenance and operations of public parks within Winchester.

3.

A re-evaluated maintenance schedule can help parks workers to become more attentive and in tune with the parks. Rather than visiting each park everyday, a schedule that visits half of the parks every other day will allow more time to attend to park needs, making care visible. An adjusted schedule will also give the maintenance crew more time within the parks rather than time commuting between parks.

4.

Focus on re-wilding portions of parks to build habitat and resiliency, while lessening the burden of maintenance on the WCCPR crew. This strategy has economic benefits while contributing ecosystem services and a sense of beauty within the parks.

5.

View parks maintenance and operations holistically, balancing the cleanup and maintenance of the park with active programming that has an impact on the community. Evaluate opportunities for park programming that can also enhance maintenance, such as painting days or clean-up days. This lessens the burden on WCCPR, especially for seasonal maintenance, while also creating a sense of stewardship in the community. (See next chapter for more information).

6.

Have all play structures inspected by a Certified Play Safety Inspector who has been certified by the NRPA. All play structures should have structural integrity, no rusty or broken parks, and adequate safety material within fall zones, among other criteria. WCCPR’s insurance policy pays for this service annually, and it should be undertaken each year to keep equipment safe and up to date.

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1.

Implement uniform signage with an updates aesthetic, which sends the message that Winchester’s parks are evolving as a cohesive system.

2.

Celebrate the historic identity of Winchester, and implement park concepts and trails that link the most important assets of history, such as Heritage Park or Union Depot.

3.

Introduce more programming such as pop-ups, games, cultural events, food truck nights, movie nights. etc. that get neighbors out into parks. These events will be particularly well attended in the summer, but can also activate parks year-round.

4.

Host events to assist WCCPR with park improvements, such as clean-up days and painting parties, where residents can gain a sense of stewardship for their parks.

5.

In the re-wilding of spaces, integrate native wildflowers that enhance habitat and lend a sense of season beauty into parks. These also provide opportunities for environmental education and play.

6.

Involve residents in defining designs and activiies for parks, using community feedback from BLOOM Winchester as a point of departure. This lets residents know they’re listened to, and allows them to infuse their parks with meaning, memories, and relevance.



# CULTURAL ECOLOGY

## WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

1. Make decisions about parks with cultural ecology in mind, understanding the greater regional and historic context. This helps Winchester to ensure its public spaces continue to be relevant resilient into the future.
2. Plant native, low-water, drought (or flood) tolerant species that are appropriate to the site. These species will enhance the level of ecological function, providing value ecosystems services and habitat.
3. Remember, trees make the oxygen we breathe! We are inextricably linked to the earth through the landscape, and we need to treat it with the same importance and respect as we place on social and economic activity.

# PARK PHASING





































































































## WHAT PHASING IS RECOMMENDED?

1. The splash pad at Harmon Park must be built! This was one of the top pieces of feedback from the community. WCCPR received a generous \$250,000 grant from the Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund, and the City of Winchester has agreed to match the funds in their 2022 budget. This project, in addition to other improvements at Harmon/Community Parks, should be a priority to bring water play to these neighborhoods.
2. Heritage Park should be one of the first parks to receive improvements. This park is part of the Historic District and trailhead to the African American Heritage Trail. It has important historical significance for Winchester and is a center for Black community.
3. Almost on par with Heritage Park, based on goals for equitable park development, the parks most in need and where improvements will have the greatest impact include:
  - Melbourne Park
  - Wiseman (Holiday Hills) Park
  - Fairfield Park
  - Massie Park
4. Though not part of this study, plans for improvement of Union Street Depot should be undertaken in partnership with Winchester Design Studio and KY to improve downtown through cultural development, events, and access to healthy food.

# APPENDIX

## INDIVIDUAL PARKS: WELCOMENESS PERCEPTIONS\*

On a scale of 1-10, **HOW WELCOME AND RESPECTED DO YOU FEEL** at the park?

KROGER SOCCER	10	         
HARMON PARK	9.3	         
HERITAGE PARK	9.2	         
COLLEGE PARK	9.2	         
FAIRFIELD PARK	9.1	         
LYKINS PARK	8.9	         
COMMUNITY PARK	8.6	         
MELBOURNE PARK	8.5	         
WISEMAN PARK	8.1	         
MASSIE PARK	7.6	         





































































































1 = I feel totally **UNWELCOME & DISRESPECTED**  
10 = I feel totally **WELCOME & RESPECTED**

\*SOURCE: BLOOM WINCHESTER INDIVIDUAL PARK SURVEY RESPONSES, 2021



# INDIVIDUAL PARKS: SAFETY PERCEPTIONS\*

On a scale of 1-10, **SAFE DO YOU FEEL** in the park?

HERITAGE PARK	9.3	         
FAIRFIELD PARK	9.1	         
KROGER SOCCER	8.8	         
LYKINS PARK	8.8	         
COLLEGE PARK	8.6	         
MELBOURNE PARK	8.5	         
HARMON PARK:	8.2	         
COMMUNITY PARK	8.1	         
MASSIE PARK	8.1	         
WISEMAN PARK	7.9	         





































































































1 = I feel completely **SAFE**  
10 = I feel completely **UNSAFE**

\*SOURCE: BLOOM WINCHESTER INDIVIDUAL PARK SURVEY RESPONSES, 2021

# APPENDIX

## INDIVIDUAL PARKS: ACCESS/USE PERCEPTIONS\*

On a scale of 1-10, **HOW EASY/DIFFICULT** is it for you to access and use the park?

HERITAGE PARK	9.7	         
COLLEGE PARK	9.4	         
MELBOURNE PARK	9.2	         
KROGER SOCCER	9.2	         
WISEMAN PARK	8.7	         
LYKINS PARK	8.6	         
COMMUNITY PARK	8.5	         
HARMON PARK:	8.3	         
FAIRFIELD PARK	7.6	         
MASSIE PARK	6.7	         

1 = It is **VERY DIFFICULT** to access and use.  
10 = It is **VERY EASY** to access and use.

\*SOURCE: BLOOM WINCHESTER INDIVIDUAL PARK SURVEY RESPONSES, 2021



# INDIVIDUAL PARKS: SPORTS/REC PREFERENCES\*

What kind of **sports or recreation** would you like to see at the park?

*(Top 3 selections by percent of individual park survey responses)*

- COLLEGE PARK **69 RESPONSES**

Splash Pad/Pool: 59%

Skate Park: 33%

Walking Path: 33%

- COMMUNITY PARK **13 RESPONSES**

Splash Pad/Pool: 69%

Basketball: 53%

Walking Path: 53%

- FAIRFIELD **14 RESPONSES**

Splash Pad/Pool: 46%

Basketball: 23%

Horseshoes: 23%

- HARMON **34 RESPONSES**

Splash Pad/Pool: 66%

Basketball: 63%

Baseball/Softball: 59%

- HERITAGE **31 RESPONSES**

Horseshoes: 55%

Splash Pad/Pool: 55%

Skate Park: 36%

- LYKINS PARK **62 RESPONSES**

Splash Pad/Pool: 61%

Baseball/Softball: 54%

Walking Path: 42%

- MASSIE PARK **13 RESPONSES**

Baseball/Softball: 42%

Walking Path: 25%

Splash Pad/Pool: 25%

- MELBOURNE PARK **16 RESPONSES**

Splash Pad/Pool: 73%

Basketball: 40%

Baseball/Softball: 33%

- WISEMAN PARK **52 RESPONSES**

Basketball: 31%

Walking Path: 31%

Baseball/Softball: 25%

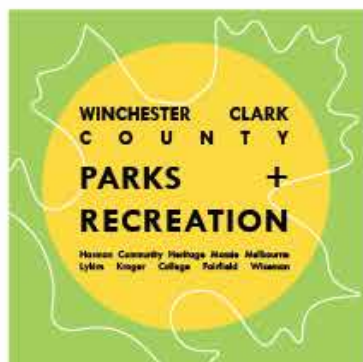
\*SOURCE: BLOOM WINCHESTER INDIVIDUAL PARK SURVEY RESPONSES, 2021

# APPENDIX

## SIGNAGE CONCEPT STUDIES







BLO





BLOOM WINCHESTER WAS LED BY:



[WWW.OMNES.STUDIO](http://WWW.OMNES.STUDIO)

+ FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[WWW.BLOOMWINCHESTER.COM](http://WWW.BLOOMWINCHESTER.COM)