

# SOUTHSIDE - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

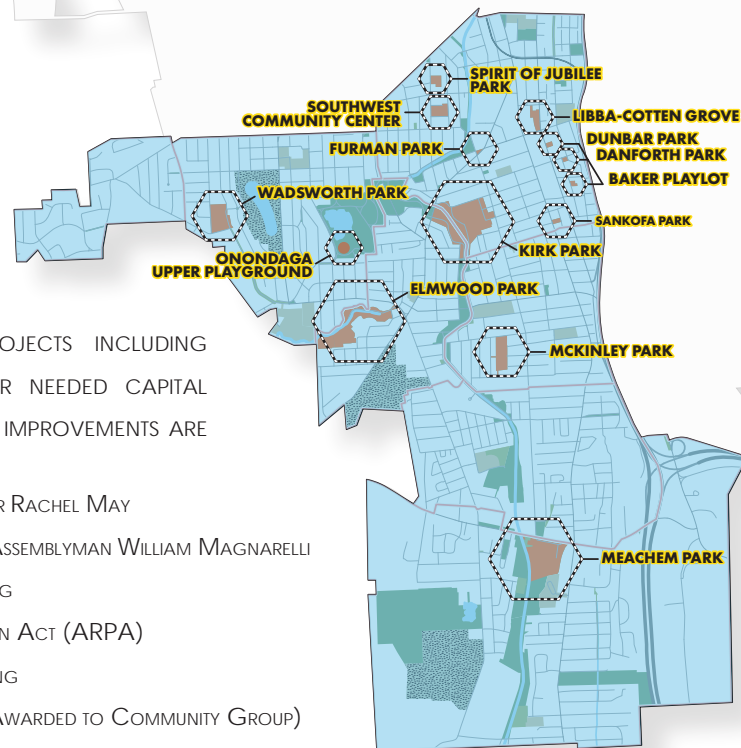
CITY OF SYRACUSE | DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION



## PROGRAM SUMMARY

BETWEEN THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MONTHS IN FALL, 2022, THE CITY OF SYRACUSE PARKS DEPARTMENT HOSTED THREE (3) 'SOUTHSIDE PARKS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMITS' TO GATHER INPUT AND FEEDBACK ON 14 SOUTHSIDE PARK SPACES. THROUGH SEVERAL COMBINED FUNDING SOURCES TOTALING CLOSE TO ONE-MILLION DOLLARS, STAFF SUCCESSFULLY SOLICITED OPEN ENDED FEEDBACK ON A VARIETY OF PROJECTS INCLUDING PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENTS, MEMORIAL DESIGN, AND OTHER NEEDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS. DOLLARS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC PARKS AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE LISTED BELOW:

- **SANKOFA PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT: \$100,000** | GRANT - NYS SENATOR RACHEL MAY
- **UPPER ONONDAGA PARK PLAYGROUND: \$150,000** | GRANT - NYS ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM MAGNARELLI
- **SPIRIT OF JUBILEE PARK PLAYGROUND: \$150,000** | PARKS CIP FUNDING
- **KIRK PARK VETERANS MEMORIAL: \$250,000** | AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
- **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: \$300,000.00** | PARKS CIP FUNDING
- **FURMAN PARK: \$25,000.00** | NATIONAL GRID PROJECT C GRANT (AWARDED TO COMMUNITY GROUP)



THREE 'SUMMIT' STYLE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS WERE USED AS A PILOT FOR THIS ROUND OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. AT EACH LOCATION, PARKS STAFF HAD NINE (9) 34" X 22" PRESENTATION BOARDS INCLUDING PROMPT QUESTIONS TO GUIDE AN OPEN DISCUSSION. THE BOARDS HELPED GUESTS IDENTIFY WITH PARKS THEY HAD INTEREST IN, ALLOWING FOR COMMENT ON DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH DIALOGUE WITH STAFF OR IN WRITTEN FORM. WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE SUBMITTED ANONYMOUSLY TO COMMENT BOXES AND ONLINE SURVEYING. LOCATIONS FOR THE SUMMIT SESSIONS ARE LISTED BELOW:



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 - 5 TO 7PM**  
**DUNBAR COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 1453 S. STATE STREET, 13205



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - 5 TO 7PM**  
**SOUTHSIDE INNOVATION CENTER**  
 2610 S. SALINA STREET, 13205



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 - 12 TO 2PM**  
**SEALS COMMUNITY CENTER AT KIRK PARK**  
 300 W. BORDEN AVE, 13205



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## PROGRAM RESULTS

TALLYING OF SUBMITTED COMMENTS AND ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE SHOWED THAT APPROXIMATELY 60 COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE ENGAGED BY PARKS STAFF THROUGH THE THREE (3) SUMMITS, ONLINE SURVEYING, AND IN-PERSON SITE VISIT DIALOGUE.

### NUMBER OF SUBMITTED COMMENTS

(COMMENTS ARE LOCATED IN REPORT APPENDICES)

SANKOFA PARK - 22 COMMENTS

FURMAN PARK - 22 COMMENTS

DUNBAR PARK - 14 COMMENTS

**BAKER PLAY-LOT - 16 COMMENTS**

**DANFORTH PARK - 13 COMMENTS**

**McKINLEY PARK - 29 COMMENTS**

ELMWOOD PARK - 15 COMMENTS

ONONDAGA PLAYGROUND - 21 COMMENTS

(NOT INCLUDING SEPARATE ONLINE SURVEY)

**SPIRIT OF JUBILEE PARK - 16 COMMENTS**

**KIRK PARK - 27 COMMENTS**

WADSWORTH PARK - 8 COMMENTS

MEACHEM PARK - 8 COMMENTS

LIBBA-COTTEN GROVE - 19 COMMENTS

**SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER - 4 COMMENTS**

REND TRACT - 1 COMMENT

HEATH PARK - 1 COMMENT

### PROGRAM FEEDBACK PROCESS

#### STAGE 1 - COMPLETE

*Surveying, Park Observations,  
& Stakeholder Meetings*

#### STAGE 2 - COMPLETE

*Feedback Analysis*

#### STAGE 3 - COMPLETE

*Improvement Design Development*

#### STAGE 4

*Reporting  
& Administrative Approval*

#### STAGE 5

*Public Announcement, Contracting,  
& Construction*

#### STAGE 6

*Public Announcement, Contracting,  
& Construction*

### EXAMPLE COMMENTS

"PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES. CURRENTLY, THE PLAYGROUND IS ONLY FOR SMALL CHILDREN." | **BAKER PLAY-LOT**

"LIGHTING, SEATING, NEW SIDEWALKS. (PICNIC/BENCHES)" | **DANFORTH PARK**

"FLAGS OF EACH COMPONENT; A WALL LIKE THE DC MONUMENTS" | **KIRK PARK**

"I LIKE TO SEE THE FOOTBALL AND TENNIS COURTS REDONE; THE COVERED BASKETBALL COURT TURNED BACK INTO ROLLER SKATING RINK, WALKING TRACK PUT AROUND THE PARK, MORE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT (WORKOUT), AND A REVAMP OF THE CENTER THAT INCLUDES A CONCESSION STAND." | **KIRK PARK**

"THE PARK LOOKS GREAT!" | **MEACHEM PARK**

"LEAVE FIELD OPEN FOR PLAY" -- "PAVILION WITH AT LEAST 1 TABLE + BENCHES - NEED ROOF OVER IT" | **McKINLEY PARK**

"PLEASE GIVE US THINGS THAT NOT ONLY LOOK NICE BUT ARE USEFUL, FUNCTIONAL AND THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE USE OF THE PARKS."



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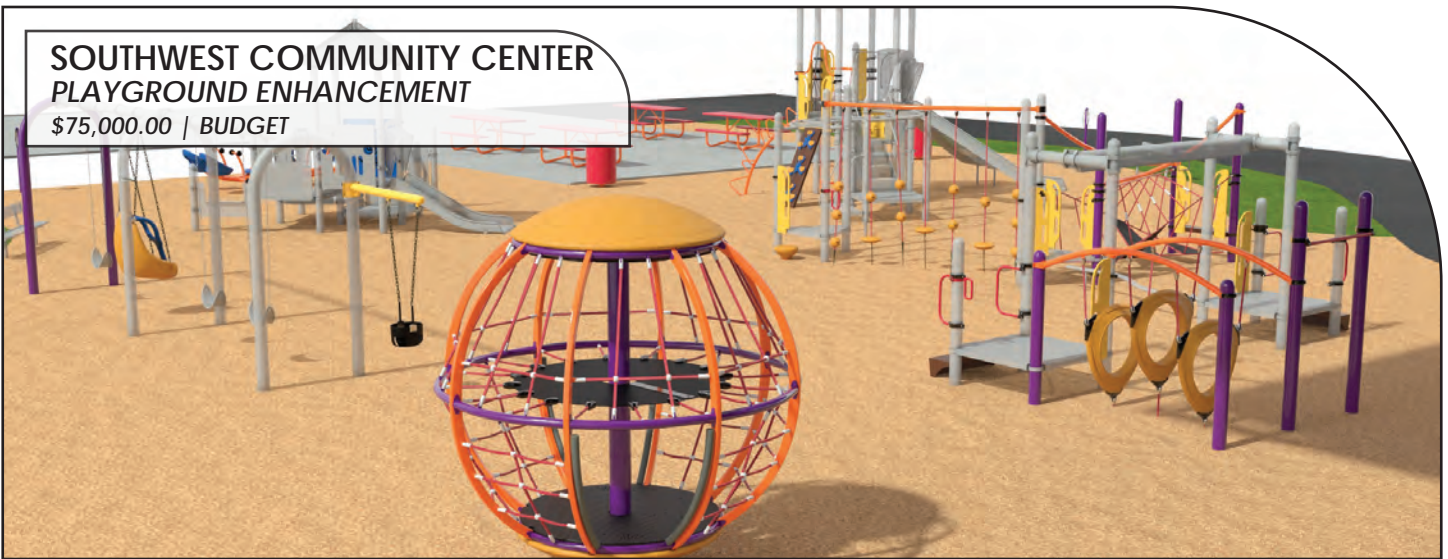
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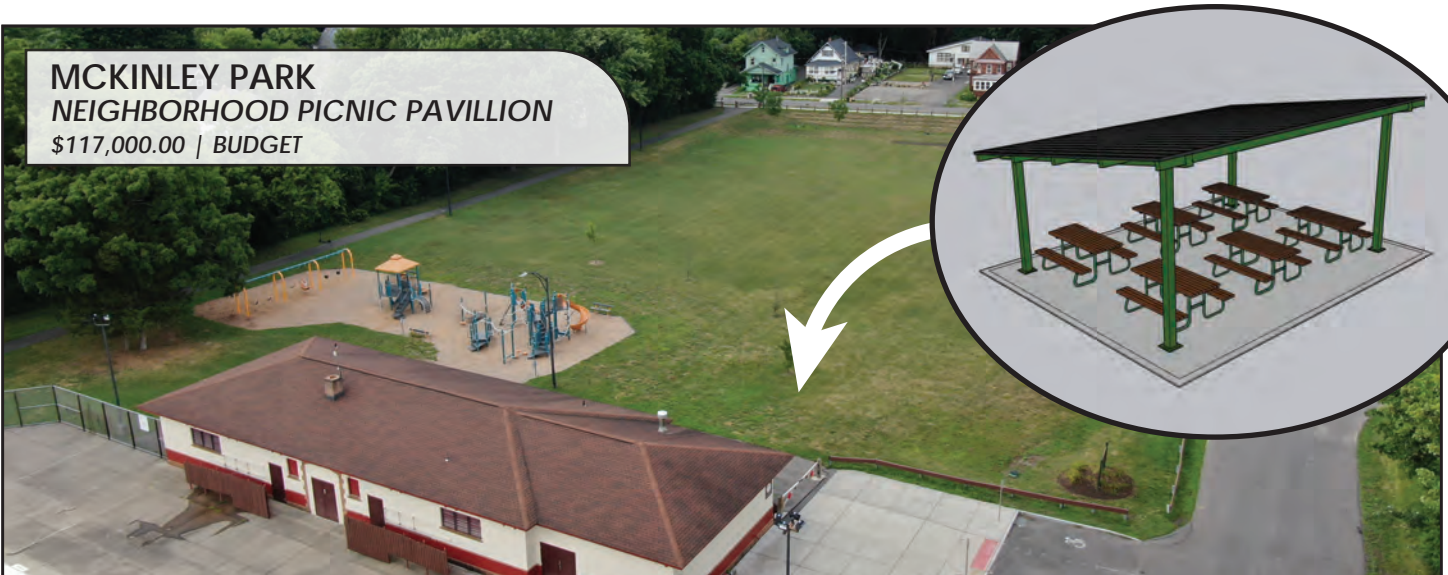
**BAKER PLAYLOT**  
NEW AGE 5-12 PLAYGROUND UPGRADE  
\$108,000.00



**SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER**  
PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENT  
\$75,000.00 | BUDGET



**MCKINLEY PARK**  
NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC PAVILLION  
\$117,000.00 | BUDGET





# SOUTHSIDE - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

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**SPIRIT OF JUBILEE**  
**NEW PLAYGROUND ADDITIONS**  
\$125,000.00 | BUDGET



**DANFORTH PARK**  
**NEW SIDEWALKS**  
\$40,000.00 | BUDGET



**KIRK PARK NEW MEMORIAL**  
**COMMUNITY DESIGN SESSION**  
**ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON!!!**



## Feedback Comments

Orange Highlight Represents Online Comments

### Dunbar:

Garden beds where splashpad is

Bathroom facilities

weather resistant pavilion/pergola gathering area

"lighting seating (picnic/benches)"

"play odyssey tower, McKinely & Baker (ames Mirica) & dunbar fields & inclusive"

resurfacing & all new equipment

try to acquire land from Oakwood for parking lot extension

Picnic area

Could use some resting areas.

Add more items to the playground and add more rims to the basketball court

Updated playground area. The playground is really unsafe and old. Workout equipment. A seating area would be nice.

Gazebo with seating, stage for performance

Shade, accessible, slides, swings, balance, spin

Everything. Swings, slide, water fountain, splash pad or sprinkler benches, cleaning, basketball court improvements, skating area

### Baker:

"all suggested items"

"lighting seating (picnic/benches)"

"play odyssey tower, McKinely & Baker (ames Mirica) & dunbar fields & inclusive"

"baker ave & surrounding streets include

playground for children of all ages. Currently, the playground is only for small children.

playsets are for very young children.

When I was a child on the street, the

park included swings for all ages. Please include

more swings"

more swings for all kids

Turn it into housing

Drinking fountain, picnic area & slides

1 or 2 trees in empty area for a little more coverage but still room to play

This shouldn't be considered a park

Slides

Shade, accessible, swings, slides, spin, balance

### Danforth:

"need signage noting that the park is named after John Danforth, and his significance/contributions, similar to Comfort Tyler Park. Nothing gawdy, but low profile"

"nothing, I foresee lots of traffic coming through with 81"

"lighting, seating, new sidewalks (picnic/benches)"

"play odyssey tower, McKinely & Baker (ames Mirica) & dunbar fields & inclusive"

Fence line, new sidewalks

Jon Danforth - history - Sanborn maps Cornell

DCAQUE' RAB - Treasured Space

Play ground

Could use some more foliage.

This shouldn't be considered a park

Skate park

Playground

Shade, accessible, swings, slides, balance, spin

## Feedback Comments

Orange Highlight Represents Online Comments

### Kirk Park:

Portable toilet (2), placed strategically

flags of each component; a wall like the DC Monuments

preference for a minority memorial theme sample letter (i) and (k)

Vet memorial; 1st R, 2nd Q, 3rd G, wayfinding signage

Pike skate park (skat borders closest to basketball); kiddie bike rodeo (middle court); resurface the "gaga" bit; fitnis stadium, netted driving range soccer field in place of tennis court; seating areas (designed) in place of tennis courts; some of the less monument seating/park ideas from kirk park board; skat park in place of tennis courts

Security cameras at all parks! It should be a sprinkler set at each location; bring back skating/roller blades at Kirk Park for summers

Keep one tennis court, turn one into a basketball court, make the third an open area? Or something else. Monuments: J, A, Q, R

Meadow brook park - fabric shade. Backside of kirk park basketball area

Please designate the Kirk Park Memorial a minority memorial dedicated location. Community synergy and sense of community pride is needed. Complete w/ memorial & flags. Herb Dunmore-Dunbar American legion 1640

tennis courts should be repurposed, box soccer or a velodrome! Or skatepark! More trees. Monuments: M, U, V, H, C

buffalo - brown - people's toilets; - monument African american; - parks - will host community

E, I, R, H, R

Gazebo with no holes

Higher than example "K" flags behind NYSORA can install solar panels

benches near creek views

skate park

"wall" like memorial, similar to war memorial

Taladega superspeedway but make it kirk superspeedway page 44 a new way to play vol 1 book

raquetball

I, O, J, I and V

Monument Types O,T, and M.

There should be a shade area near the outside basketball court

I would recommend revitalization of skating rink. Workout equipment for community members. Designated walking area around park or in large field. Remove or revitalization of tennis courts. More lighting. Sprinkler for smaller children.

There should be more places for families to spend the day

Gazebo, stage, picnic seating area

I like to see the football and tennis courts redone; the covered basketball court turned back into roller skating rink, walking track put around the park, more playground equipment (workout), and a revamp of the center that includes a concession stand.

Accessible, shade, swings, slides, spin, balance, zip lines, splash pads

Refurbish outdoor Roller skating area. Improve playground equipment and Pool and bathroom locker room area

### Additional Separate Comments:

Syracuse has grown over the decades centered around parks, the neighborhoods have great ones, but they are maintained with budget in mind only. Go to Buffalo, go to Boston, go to Philadelphia. Their parks are assets to the community, cherished and maintained like historic cathedrals, that is what Syracuse should be doing. If we want more community we need a renaissance in public PLACES, good public spaces. Spend money on them, make them experiences to live in, hire local craftsmen and women, use the local talent to craft objectively beautiful and refreshing spaces to converse in and experience natural beauty. The tacky art installations that are used downtown do not engage the community, the colorful noncontextual pipe playground equipment doesn't entice a child as much as a pile of boulders, the lack of maintenance encourages people to not cherish their community spaces. We have the foundation of some really beautiful places here in Syracuse with our parks, we need only to think about them as neighborhood assets and canvas' for the art of nature and community.

Some of the funds should be designated for continuous maintenance so existing facilities can be well cared for. More facilities across parks to accommodate different age ranges and mobility/ uses. More elements designed for the disabled communities

For the (southwest community center) Why are we getting a salt water pool for the community

Please give us things that not only look nice but are useful, functional and that would encourage more use of the parks.



## Feedback Comments

Orange Highlight Represents Online Comments

### McKinley:

"play odyssey tower, McKinley & Baker (ames Mirica) & dunbar fields & inclusive"  
Make park ADA Compliant - not very safe for seniors, women with strollers, or little children  
Replace fence on Newell Street to be more decorative, metal  
Perennial flowers or vegetation along fence on west Newell  
pavilion with at least 1 table + benches - need roof over it ( on Newell St.)  
Fix entrance to park on Newell St., need 2 railings on stairs  
Pavilion location next to access road, Newell side  
reopen tennis courts  
fitness equipment along access road  
installation of water retention garden  
DOG POOPER STATIONS  
Bath house renovation & expansion  
senior citizen sitting area with game table & benches (Newell St. Side)  
Infield Newell St. Side putting green & hop scotch pad  
additional playground equipment w/ more swings  
installation of security cameras in park  
metal fence on Newell Side street  
substantial railings on both sides of stairs  
activities: band concerts, recreation wagon  
remake or finish the "path to nowhere"  
goals in open green space for soccer/lacross, benches, pavillion  
more mountain biking trails  
leave field open for play  
large trees, fire pit, power area, picnic pavillion  
Hopscotch pad, additional playgroundn equipment  
renovate buildings as community room  
add benches, lighting, handball & tennis court  
add handicap access, pooper scoopers for dogs  
additional handrails on steps  
metal fencing  
water retention garden  
pavilion, mini putting green  
cameras, fitness equipment

### Add shelter

Trees and recreational areas in open area.  
Add a full basketball court instead of a half court  
Soccer field or turf area  
More picnic tables, planters, work on the basketball court and make bigger  
Reopen the pool next summer, more sprinklers installed/updated. More regular staff showing up to clean up trash from playground and parking lots. Perhaps a pavillion for gatherings/picnics.  
Increase play area size, sprinkler benches add playground equipment

### Elmwood:

Add a ratified trail map, fishing opportunities  
pavilion, 4-wheeler "proof" it by the use of bollards, stone, & fallen trees cut to prohibit access  
clean up, allow picnicking, create parking & lighting  
Wilbur Young Park: southwest Community Center  
Mill Building renovation into a community space & community kitchen  
Maintain brook trout habitat along furnace Brook, urban fishing for native trout, connect brook to Onondaga Creek for fish movement

Repair damaged stairs, find a real stone mason to repair not general city maintenance, it is about time we have some pride in our previous craftsmanship and maintain it properly. Add seating and tasteful lighting along the brook, turn back parking lot into raquetball courts or return to grass, install bike racks, this park would be a great location for a wild flower butterfly garden plot. This should be an Olmstead -esque, functioning as a designed space symbiotic with the nature that surrounds it, if you have a playground its form and colors should be more appropriate to the space around it. This park is one of Syracuse's gems like Onondaga and Thornden, it should be developed and maintained through the lens of creating an excellent experience for users. Use materials and spaces that evoke the place. This should be maintained like a national park, keep the natural beauty the focal point and add human developments the harmonize with it, like the stone stairs and bridge... UNLIKE the hideous light poles and, guard rails and playground set.

### Add play ground

Landmark or Monument  
this is more like a field than park  
Updated Park equipment. Actual walking trails.  
New playground! Also, picnic tables throughout, possibly a pavillion...  
There should be pavilions and grills so families can enjoy the day. Also should update the playground  
Signage indicating species of plants  
Accessible,shade,swings,slides, spin,balance

## Feedback Comments

Orange Highlight Represents Online Comments

### Wadsworth Park:

unlock the gate to the playground parking  
"How many people use all the tennis courts?"  
seating, lighting, bike racks  
Add more trees and a picnic area that has shade  
More trails and a few more trees.  
Designed, landscaped garden areas with seating incorporated  
They should add 3 basketball courts  
Basketball court

### Meachem Field:

walking path around perimeter  
pavilion on west side; pavers for walking path; benches along path  
Path Lighting!!!!!!!!!! Add bike path from Seneca Turnpike through to Clary school so we can access the bike bridge. Syracuses bike infrastructure lacks the connection between arteries and neighborhoods, adding bike paths in this park would connect Salina St with Valley Drive, Seneca Turnpike with Clary MS, the Library with the creek and the Valley Drive neighbors. A pleasant creekside walking trail with seating would make this park a top 5 city park instantly (unless of course the city does it, but does it as cheaply as they do most things) Provide hookups and space for food trucks, More seating around the park... not just bleachers. Get rid of the new red pavilion, it is on the top 10 most hideous and uncontextual structures ever build by the city in its entire history. Hire an architect next time.  
The park looks great 😊  
Some more foliage and a basketball court.  
Add basketball courts  
A walking/exercise trail around the perimeter, with street connections to the trails at Heath Park and Rand Tract.  
Turf area

### Libba Cotton:

More playground features  
Areas to sit  
shaded areas  
educational components  
Boulders to climb on in park (pg 29 in 22 playground design book)  
benches  
Acquire forested lot from Mercy Works and demonstrate what preserving forest patches can do for recreation and supporting canopy goals. Then plant natives.  
Create forest bathing extension to park.  
making the guitar more defined with a stage in the base  
property owned by Mercy Works should be less dense, plant native species  
water/sprinkler feature  
climbing course to create visual guitar straps  
human scale lighting, the city fails at this everywhere  
Add places families can sit and hang out  
More recreational areas.  
Add a roof over the basketball court  
Instruments  
Really play on the original Guitar shape of the park.  
Accessible ,shade ,swings balance, spin  
Add more play equipment..plants, benches, make larger, trail

### SW Community Center:

Benches or tables near bike racks near parking lot  
Benches on shady side near fence line  
continued maintenance for facilities  
grassy area across from park, next to building and along the edge of the park



## Feedback Comments

Orange Highlight Represents Online Comments

### Onondaga Park:

New Playground: F + G + H

A, E

Boulders climbers

"little bit of everything - Siy Heir"

Sensory (H) mixed with fitness (A)

"fiha"

F

H, sensory and inclusive coupled with B climbing

While these are beautiful, (g), F or bathroom inside

B, H

H or A

F, H, B, C, A, UMLQUE

Love this park, needs bike racks, human scale lighting and more built in seating

A,b or f

I think Onondaga park should add a little fitness/obstacle course

New playground. Removal of mulch. Update to sprinkler. Shaded seating area. Revamp of picnic areas.

Improved water feature, walking loop around the playground, shaded seating near playground

G

Updated play equipment, workout stations, update of walking trails through the park, update sprinklers; paddle boat rentals.

Accessible,swings,zip lines,slides,balance,spin,splash pad

Upgrade playground equipment add benches. Walking trail. Picnic tables and grills

### Spirit of Jubilee:

Style: modern. Feature: B, E, F

Natural; A or E

stage and arts themed apparatus. More trash receptacles. Upgrade playground, remove baseball diamond - replace with performance center

traditional/modern; climbing units, spinners, slides, instruments. Colors: pinks and yellows

"love the idea of a "natural" style play area at spirit of Jubilee to compliment the beautiful trees existing there"

F - instruments; B - Jungle Gym

Favorite playground style - natural; favorite feature type - climber

seating, lighting, bike racks

A or b

Landscaped beds with different, non-field sports

They should add the music but put some music notes for kids to quickly learn to play

Actual stage would be nice. A park that would suit kids of all ages. Workout equipment for neighbors.

Instruments

More play equipment (workout stations, swings, seesaw, climbing structures, ect.), play structures that have musical elements to it, revamp of the tennis and basketball courts, update to baseball diamond.

Accessible,shade,splash pad ,swings,slides ,spin, balance

More playground equipment, benches, picnic tables, Shelter area

### Rand Tract:

Mountain bike trails

### Heath Park:

Mountain bike trails

## Feedback Comments

Orange Highlight Represents Online Comments

### Sankofa Park:

Bathrooms (permanent fixture)  
Bike Racks  
Rock Climbing  
Climbing Tower ( as seen in Columbus Ohio metro parks)  
benches  
transform empty green space/ vacant lot on south side into dog park  
talk with Pat & Katelynn from Landbank concerns  
Board place lots for park parking & food truck/trailer area  
Skating & relaxing for improv  
the play area should be located behind the stage area to the (right) of stage  
picnic tables & programming area  
(bus stop/scooter hub)  
Playground/sandbox transition  
benches & tables  
natural play equipment to seamlessly fit nature  
It's not a park, needs seating and bike racks  
Add play ground & add trees  
Add a playground and swing sets  
Should add seating area  
Flowers  
Accessible, shade, swings, slides, balance, spin, zip lines  
Add benches plants, artwork

### Furman Park:

trees, raised beds  
more natural style playgrounds (trees, rocks, etc.)  
more art on buildings  
needs benches in park area  
flags  
semicircle planting bed of perennials "pouring" over edges  
benches  
large & small trees  
large shade canopy & bird habitat trees  
streetlights, parking spots painted on  
trees, benches trash & recycling, flags  
rain garden w/ interpretive signs  
refurbish sidewalk, add border (fence, vegetation, etc.)  
tables, benches, rain garden, trees  
Lose the parallel parking, add a fountain and a statue of historical context to the neighborhood, lose the electrical equipment box, clean up the curbing, flowering bushes and seating  
Picnic area  
More green and less concrete.  
This shouldn't be considered a park if there isn't anything to it  
Community welcome sign. Bike rack maybe.  
Large planter with flowers  
Shade, flowers swings  
What park?