

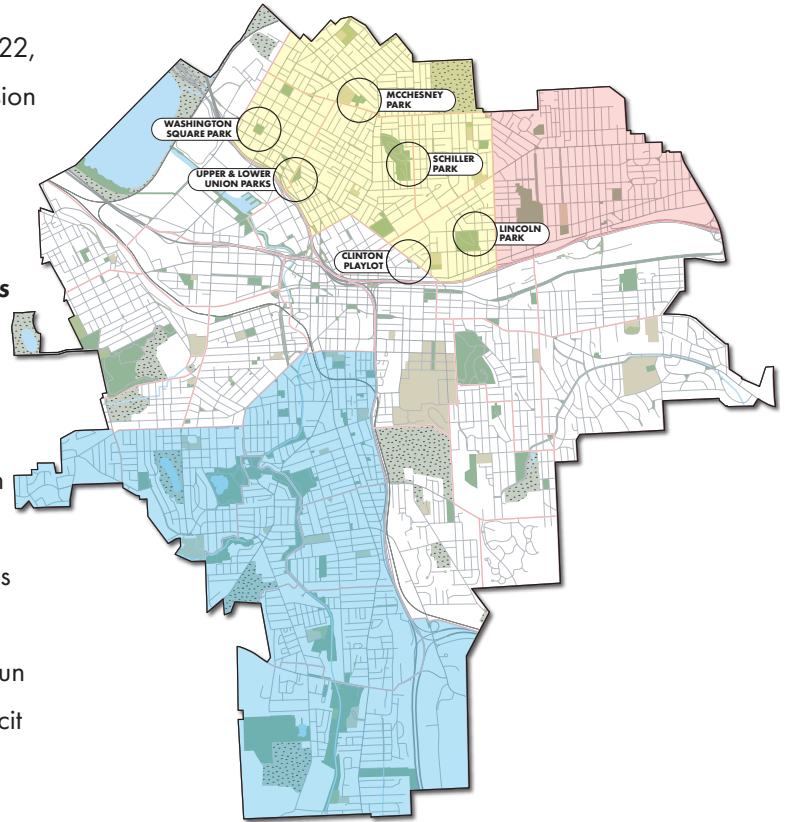
NORTHSIDE CIP IMPROVEMENTS

CITY OF SYRACUSE | DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS REPORT

- Starting in April 2022 and through the end of June 2022, the City of Syracuse Parks Department’s Planning Division carried out a robust community engagement and park observation process to help determine the best use of **\$300,000** worth of 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funds for the improvement to various parks in the **City’s Northside** neighborhood.
- Using an internally developed standard for outreach, communication, and, accountability, Parks staff participated or held approximately 20 meetings which **directly reached over an estimated 1000 people** including neighbors, businesses, institutions and various other neighborhood stakeholders.
- This report provides an overview of the second Parks-run community engagement program, implemented to solicit feedback on **15 parks, green and open spaces**.



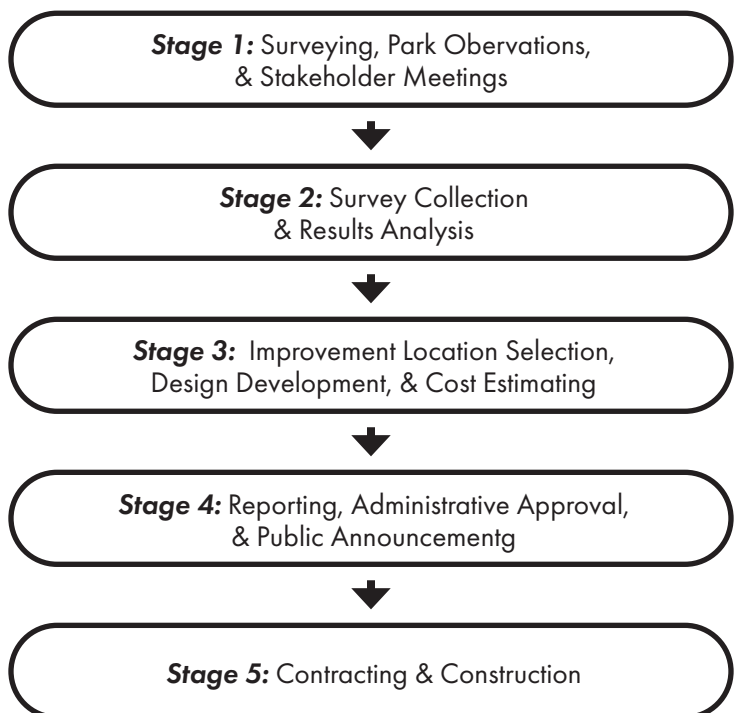
OBSERVED NORTHSIDE PARK’S LISTING

1. Alvord Park
2. Amos Park
3. Bagg Place
- 4. Clinton Playground**
5. Convent Park
6. DeMong Park
7. Dossert Park
8. Grosso Park
9. Highland Playlot
- 10. Lincoln Hill**
- 11. McChesney Park**
12. Rose Hill Cemetery
- 13. Schiller Park**
- 14. Upper & Lower Union Parks**
- 15. Washington Square Park**

(Parks Selected for Improvements based on Program Results.)

PROGRAM FEEDBACK PROCESS

The Northside’s Capital Improvement Program & community engagement program consists of five stages:



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STAGE 1 - SURVEYING, PARK OBSERVATIONS, & STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The Planning team set out to establish a presence throughout the **Northside Neighborhood Parks** to meet park users & adjacent parties. The primary goal was to communicate the role of the parks department with respect to expenditure of parks capital on future improvements. Additionally, our team’s primary outreach efforts aimed to solicit as much feedback as possible via open-ended conversations and proactive ‘meet-and-greet’ outreach. The type and number of outreach and engagement sessions are as follows:

- Community Meetings: 1
- Open House/Workshops: 2
- Tabling Events: 2
- Meet & Greets: 15
- Stakeholder Meetings: 9
- Paper Survey Responses: 408
- Online Survey Responses: 82
- Approximate # of People Reached: >1,000



Left Image: Summer seasonal Planning intern Braden Florczyk collects feedback from a constituent as part of an outreach event at White Branch Library on July 7th, 2022.

PARTNERSHIPS & STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

As part of outreach, Planning Staff met with an array of neighborhood-based business, schools, not-for-profit organizations, and municipal officials with the intent of establishing and growing a network to gather many thoughts and opinions.

The following organizations were contacted via scheduled remote, in-person, and phone meetings:

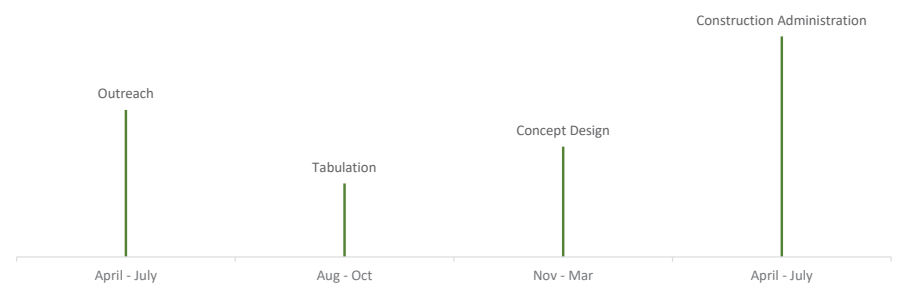
- Magnarelli Community Center
- Hopeprint
- Syracuse City School District
- White Branch Library
- Northside Learning Center
- Northside Early Education Center
- Destiny Christian Center
- InterFaith Works of CNY
- YMCA Northside Women’s Wellness Center

- Jen Schultz, Common Councilor, District 1
- ARISE
- In My Father’s Kitchen
- Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment
- Northeast Community Center
- OG’s Against Gun Violence
- Friends of Schiller Park
- Tilly’s Touch
- NEHDA

Process

PROCESS

The graph to the right explains the ratio of our community engagement program components. This roughly indicates the amount of time each component takes in relation to the others.



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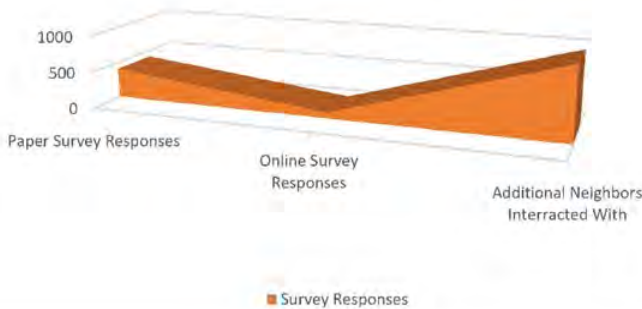
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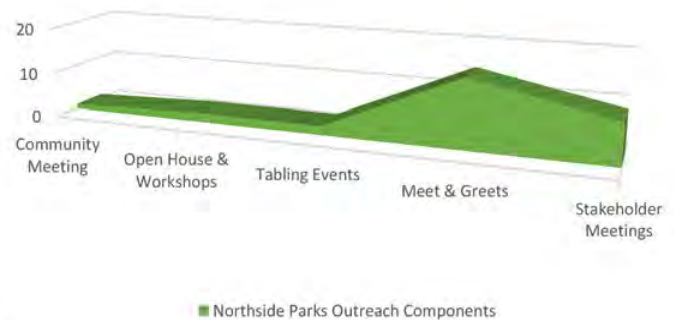
PARK 'MEET-AND-GREET' OBSERVATION DATES

5/6/22: Lincoln Park	5/17/22: Highland Playlot	5/31/22: Rose Hill Cemetery
5/10/22: Lincoln Park	5/20/22: Washington Square	6/2/22: Highland Playlot
5/12/22: Washington Square	5/21/22: Union Park	6/7/22: Union Park
5/13/22: Clinton Playlot	5/26/22: Schiller Park	6/16/22: Rose Hill Cemetery
5/16/22: Magnarelli CC	5/27/22: Clinton Playlot	6/18/22: Highland Playlot

Survey Response Formats



Outreach Components



STAGE 2 - SURVEY COLLECTION & RESULTS ANALYSIS

Parks received a total of 490 survey responses between both paper (408) and online (82) submissions. The survey was less focused on user demographic information and more focused on amenity selection – “What would you like to see more of in our parks?” was the primary question we asked.

The most requested item for Northside parks was Play Equipment. The second most selected is additional benches, third comes an events stage, followed by exercise stations and trees. This community selected items that were much different than those selected by the Eastwood community. This goes to show the variety of needs that our different neighborhood parks serve.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Play Equipment - 214 | 8. Bike Racks - 152 | 14. Ping Pong - 48 |
| 2. Benches - 211 | 9. Shaded Areas - 151 | 15. Tennis - 38 |
| 3. Stage - 188 | 10. Spray Features/WaterSprays - 133 | 16. Cricket - 25 |
| 4. Exercise Stations - 176 | 11. Walking Paths - 117 | 17. Bocceball - 16 |
| 5. Trees - 173 | 12. Basketball - 110 | 18. Pickleball - 14 |
| 6. Plantings - 148 | 13. Soccer - 61 | 19. Shuffleboard - 14 |
| 7. Dog Park - 158 | | |

Following the meet & greet program, the Planning team hosted interactive discussions regarding the design process and options for the top requested amenities. The Planning team workshopped the initial survey results directly and in partnership with the community to determine the best locations for the top amenities and what they could and should look like. Results are shown on the following pages.