



# DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS

CITY OF SYRACUSE, MAYOR BEN WALSH

## CANNON STREET COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

**Julie LaFave**  
Commissioner

**Adult Recreation**  
**Aquatics**  
**Arts & Crafts**  
**Forestry**  
**Golf/Rinks**  
**Grounds**  
**Planning & Development**  
**Senior Recreation**  
**Special Events**  
**Youth Recreation**

### Introduction

From January through October 2022, The City of Syracuse Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs Planning & Development team engaged City of Syracuse residents and park users in the Cannon Street Community Center neighborhood area to gain an understanding on what improvements and amenities will be most beneficial as the Department looks to spend \$100,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act funding allocated to the improvements at the Cannon Street Community Center.

The **engagement goals** were:

1. Be inclusive, intentional and equitable while gathering input on park amenity priorities.
2. Use a community-driven approach.
3. Use interactive activities to gain input and support for upcoming projects as well as our overall park system.

### Process

The Planning and Development team deployed a variety of interactive, qualitative, and quantitative engagement tools designed to provide community members with information needed to supply meaningful input about park improvement priorities. The engagement process was carried out in two phases that will allow the Planning & Development team to obtain a vision and make the improvements a reality:

- **Phase 1:** Gather community input & interpret community priorities
- **Phase 2:** Narrow down concepts
- **Vision:** Develop designs that reflect community input and priorities
- **Next steps:** Determine best use of budget, finalize concepts, seek quotes and develop project timelines

Syracuse Department  
of Parks, Recreation,  
& Youth Programs  
412 Spencer Street  
Syracuse, N.Y. 13204

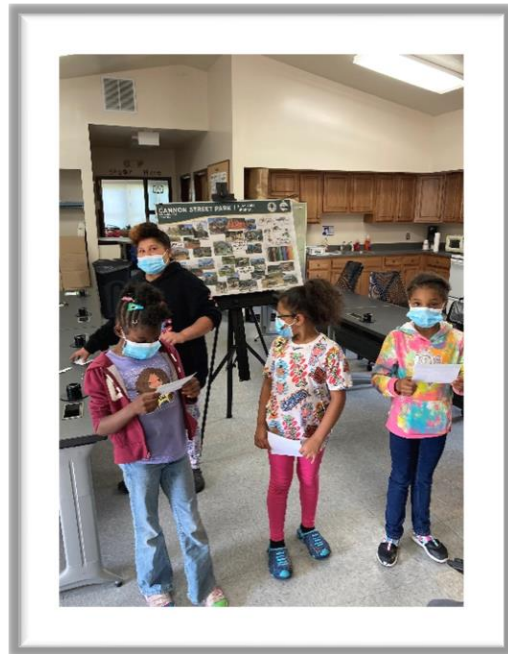
Office 315 473 4330  
Fax 315 428 8513

[www.syr.gov.net](http://www.syr.gov.net)



### Engagement Approach

- **Inclusive and Equitable:** Outreach was completed through community meetings as well as gatherings held at Cannon Street Community Center. Events and meets & greets were held at varying times of the day on both weekends and weekdays to capture the broadest possible audience.
- **Community-Drive:** The team met and partnered with community-based organizations, faith-based, educational institutions and the community at large to reach a diverse audience through a number of methods including: email, social media, press releases, and word-of-mouth.
- **Interactive:** The team created fun and accessible experiences through games, activities, “tours”, design boards, and surveys to gather feedback regardless of age or background. Google translate was used in many instances to connect and learn the needs and desires of the New American population and community members that do not speak English as a first language.



### Engagement at a Glance

- Community Meeting (TNT): 1
- Tabling Events: 2
- Paper Survey Responses: 40
- Online Survey Responses: 33

### Timeline Summary

- **October 2021:** Council approval for ARPA funds for playground rehabilitation
- **April 2022:** Open for feedback of Phase I (swing replacement)





Existing



Replacement

- **May- July 2022** Online survey duration for Phase II
- **June- July 2022** : Begin community engagements and survey
- **August/September 2022:** Finalizing design of Phase II
- **October 2022:** Installation of phase I
- **Spring/Summer 2023:** Installation of Phase II

**Special thanks to FORCE and Tomorrows Neighbors Today (T.N.T) for hosting our engagements sessions and for their continued dedication to the neighbors of Cannon Street Community Center and the City of Syracuse as a whole, THANK YOU!**

## **PHASE I: Gather community input & understand community priorities**

In this phase the team heard from neighbors of Cannon Street Community Center through in-person meet & greets and events as well as online surveys. Broad input on likes, dislikes and priorities were gathered.





**Top Priorities:** Climbing features, Sensory and Inclusion play, exercise equipment, shelters and other amenities, themed playgrounds and color choices.

**Summary of Engagements:**

- **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** Southside T.N.T meeting
- **June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** Meet and Greet at Cannon Street Community Center
- **July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** tabled at event hosted by FORCE "A chance to be seen" talent showcase which included choreographed dancing, signing, poetry and even a magic show!
- **May- July 2022:** Online survey ran concurrently with in person engagement sessions

**Online & visual board Surveys**

To reach a broad range of community members surveys were made available online and in-person. The survey was less focused on demographic information and focused more on amenity selection. The main question was "What would you like to see more of in our parks?"





**CANNON ST. PARKS UPDATE**

**WE WANT TO HEAR MORE FROM YOU, NEIGHBORS!**  
Improvements are coming to FORCE this summer! !

**Come speak with us!**  
June 9th 2022 4PM-6PM  
July 9th 2022 1PM - 4PM  
Location: FORCE  
(515 Cannon st. Syracuse, N.Y. 13205)

Phase 1: Installation of new swing set including (1) adaptive swing (1) toddler bucket seat and (3) traditional belt seat swings.  
Phase 2: Community engagement to determine park users desires for Cannon St. playscape, followed by installation of those features

**Topics**  
Theme driven playgrounds, exercise equipment, inclusive play elements, climbers and other park amenities!!

Please consider our survey Give your opinion!



SCAN QR CODE

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT BRIAN MESSE  
EMAIL: BME SSE@SYRGOV.NET      PARKS OFFICE: (315) 473-4330

Postcard with QR code



**CANNON STREET PARK** | PLAY AREA UPGRADE  
529 CANNON ST  
0.6 ACRES



Place 3 circular stickers on items you like to see at Cannon St.

## PHASE II: Narrow down design concepts with community

Phase II focused on using the community input to influence selected features for Cannon St. Community Center.

**Top selected features included:** These images are to help direct final decisions of play equipment. Due to project budget restraints, we will not feasibly be able to get all the top selected features.

### Sensory and inclusive play:



**Exercise Equipment:**



**Themed play features: Sensory:**



**Climber:**



**Conclusion:**

The neighbors and community of Cannon Street Community Center will be receiving a replacement of their existing swings as well as an expansion of the play structure. We at Parks would like to thank all of those who took the time to reach out or stop into our various public engagement's outreaches. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

**Next steps:** Finalize design and installation scheduling!

