



Community Conversations Report: Citizen Input Regarding Future Use of Public Greenspace

November 6, 2018

Greenwood Parks and Recreation

100 Surina Way
Greenwood, IN 46143
(317) 881-4545

greenwood.in.gov

Introduction

Greenwood Parks and Recreation exists to support and create public recreation spaces in Greenwood. The department has been steadily working to improve recreation opportunities in the city and wanted to gain community input on opportunities for future projects.

On October 3, 2018 and October 13, 2018, Greenwood Parks and Recreation hosted a public open house inviting members of the community to weigh in on potential utilizations of future recreation sites. Nearly 15 people attended the first session in the event series, and 11 individuals attended the second session.



Following the open house, Greenwood Parks and Recreation distributed an online survey requesting opinions from those who could not attend. The survey generated tremendous interest, with a total of 370 responses, 98% (365) of which live in or around the Greenwood area.

Survey Design		Responses and Status		ANALYZE RESULTS
The Future of Greenwood Parks Created on 9/24/2018		TOTAL RESPONSES 370	OVERALL SURVEY STATUS CLOSED	RESPONSE ALERTS You get them, others do not. Manage Alerts
4 QUESTIONS	1 PAGES	Collectors		

Executive Summary

Open Houses

The two open house sessions included information sharing and an interactive voting station. Each open house was staffed with Greenwood Parks and Recreation staff members who were available to discuss a variety of topics:

- In-progress Parks and Recreation projects around Greenwood
- Existing facilities, venues and programs:
 - Freedom Springs
 - Greenwood Community Center
 - Amphitheater Park
 - Movies in the Park
 - Summer Concert Series
 - Art on the Trail
 - Pickleball Courts
 - Worthsville Road Trail
 - Play Pockets
 - City Center Park/Splash Pad
- Potential uses for future greenspace additions:
 - Freedom Park
 - Old City Park
 - Former Patriot's Table property
 - Old Town Fieldhouse
 - Grassy Creek Park and the Worthsville Road trail

For the interactive activity, Greenwood Parks and Recreation provided one sticker to each attendee. Attendees were instructed to place the sticker on one of three boards that listed potential options for recreational use, which were broadly categorized as open space for civic gathering, programmed park space and natural green space.

A total of 24 Greenwood area residents attended the two open house sessions. When tallying votes, the most popular option was programmed park space, with nearly 42% selecting this option as their top choice for future parks projects.

Option:	Total Votes:
Natural Green Space	8
Programmed Park Space	10
Open Space for Civic Gathering	6

Open House Feedback:

Natural Greenspace

- Would love to enjoy butterfly and bee gardens, and also support the ecosystem with natural habitats and bird houses.
 - Love paved trails allowing access to these areas and benches.
 - Flower gardens – especially educational with the plants labeled.
 - Consider hiring a naturalist and having a nature center.

- More green space for open pastures with flowers, etc. for pollinators.
 - More trees
 - Less signs, lights, etc.
 - The creek is pretty by the amphitheater
- Madison Avenue
 - Preserve green space that is limited due to flood zones
 - Plant trees and a large butterfly or bee garden
 - Small fountain with seats
 - Brick path to walk through the gardens
- Add more plants and TLC to small green space on Worthsville by Lumber 84. It is pretty barren and ugly.
- Prairie grasses, half benches, sculptures – similar to downtown Cummins park space, across from Marion County Jail
- New park on Worthsville
 - Put in a sledding hill to provide a buffer from I-65
 - Small pavilion for shade, picnics, etc.
 - Preserve mature trees if present
 - Playground with some shade
 - Plantings for birds, bees, butterflies, etc.
- Landscaped areas with flower gardens, holiday lights, attractive lighting, fountains
- Children's nature playground (play area created using natural elements)
- Dinosaur learning exhibit (fossils)
- Natural classroom with native plants and trees
- Arts garden with sculptures and fountains (similar to Arts Garden at the Zoo)
- Wildflower gardens
- More natural and man-made shade areas in Freedom Park

Programmed Park Space

- Misters at each park like ones at the zoo near elephants and like Indians baseball field
- Dog park in downtown Greenwood
- Several more splash parks
- Please continue to add to and connect existing paths and trails
 - Try to keep them away from busy roads as much as possible
- More small parks on empty lots in town for kids to walk to
- Shade trees for Freedom Springs
- Consider adding an enclosed pool area to Freedom Springs
 - Need to expand Freedom Springs pool to have more areas to swim
 - Please do not connect the park via a road to Bright Estates
- Consider having parks department employees and volunteers make some small wood fires near the sledding hill during busy times (ie. Good snow on a week or during school closings)
- Definitely would like to have an indoor swim park for year round swimming
- More space swim at Freedom Springs (4-5 feet deep)
 - We enjoy Freedom Springs! Fantastic staff and clean
- Fountains, koi pond, water features
- More connecting trails
 - My family uses trails in Freedom Park almost daily! Thanks for the newly planted trees there.

- Extend trail along Honey Creek road up through Yorktown road up to Smith Valley road
 - Also add shade at Freedom Park at the main playground
- Ice skate facility or space for unique sports/recreation
- Pocket park with swings along Worthville Trail
- Pedestrian bridge connecting trails across US 31 near Worthville and Stop 18
- Educational areas good for field trips
 - See Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan, Wisconsin area
- Additional pocket parks and activity areas for kids along trails like Craig Park
- Skate park at future Worthville Park
- Combination of splash areas, climbing structures and playground equipment in Grassy Creek Park
 - See Maggie Daley Park in Chicago
- Nature center for kids and field trips to use
- More splash park areas
- Would like to see more accessible path from parking lot to Freedom Park playground
- Would like to see mile markers along trail system

Open Space for Civic Gathering

- Picnic areas with tables and push cart vendors on Madison Ave.
- Passive trails, lights, landscaping, gardens and nice benches
 - Refreshment carts and restrooms
- We love Freedom Fest!
- It's great to have a community amphitheater, it brings the community together!
- Extend Art on the Trail to more trails
- Whatever happened to the Veterans Park area?
- Would like to see park areas dedicated to specialized things
 - A survivor park that would include all kinds of survivors (cancer, domestic violence, etc.)
 - Could include benches and statues celebrating survival
- Holiday lights set up in Craig Park or amphitheater
 - On Saturday or Sunday evenings, could have bonfires, sell hot chocolate, have carolers, etc.
- Food trucks at town events such as the concerts
- Gardens with plant/flower labels, similar to Fellowship Riverside Gardens in Mill Creek, Ohio
 - They have open space with gazeboes and nature center for weddings and such
- Centrally located farmers market and food truck festival
- Larger music venue
- Refreshment carts and food trucks on occasion

Online Survey

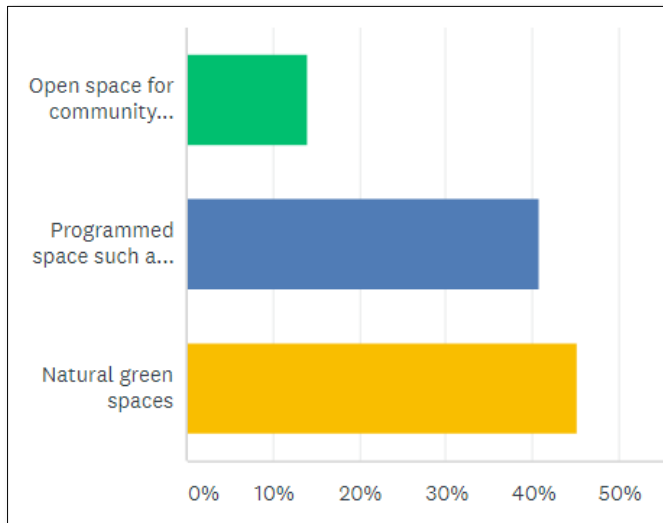
The survey asked respondents to provide their zip code, number of children in their household, preferred recreation option and to provide any additional suggestions they might have.

When providing their zip code, 98% of respondents indicated that live in the Greenwood area. The most common zip code (66%) selected was 46143, which encompasses the southern, southeast and southwest portions of Greenwood.

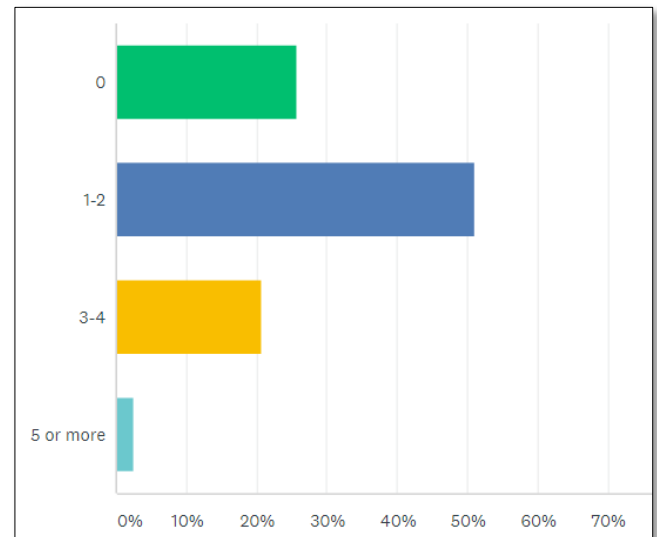
When ranking options for future parks projects, more than 45% of survey respondents chose natural greenspaces as their top choice. Programmed park space was a close second, with 41% of respondents selecting that option. Open space for civic gathering (14%) received less support.

While the majority of respondents had at least one child (74.3%), roughly 26% of respondents indicated that they had no children.

Most Desired Option



Children per Household



Additional Suggestion Examples

- Secure restrooms
- Splash pad
- More biking and walking trails (14)
 - Extend current trails
- Accessibility
 - Closer parking (2)
 - Paved trails
 - More lights (3)
 - Emergency call boxes
 - Snow and ice removal
 - Parks open year round
- Gardens
 - Flowers
 - Trees
 - Landscaping
 - Water features (2)
- Multigenerational spaces
 - Better options for younger kids
- Nature preservation
 - Native plants (2)
 - Natural resources
 - Insects (2)

- Wooded creeks
 - Clean up litter (2)
 - Natural play spaces for kids (3)
 - Fishing spots
- Unconventional recreation
 - Frisbee golf
 - Gaga ball pits
 - Festivals and farmers markets
 - Softball fields
 - Adult sports facilities