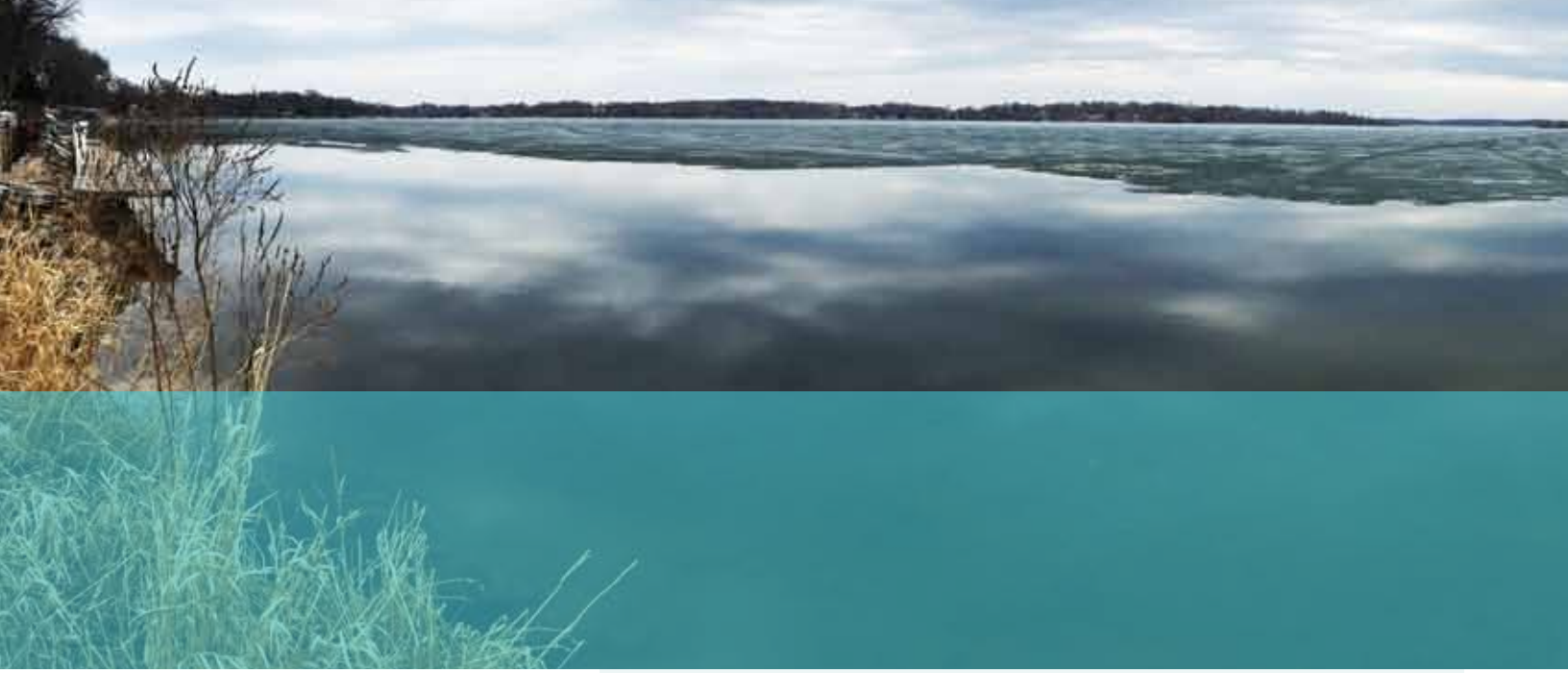
CITY OF MOUND

SURFSIDE PARK MASTER PLAN

DECEMBER 2018



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The City of Mound

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Images in this document are courtesy of City of Mound and HKGi, unless otherwise noted.

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CITY OF MOUND

01. INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Of the 26 parks in Mound, Surfside Park serves as the Community Park for the city, and plays a central role in the park, open space and recreation system. As the Community Park, Surfside Park offers community gathering areas in a central location with passive and active recreation opportunities and access to the water. A boat launch, beach, playground, rentable community building, fishing pier and picknicking area make Surfside Park a beloved asset for the City of Mound residents, and visitors.

The park was originally platted in 1881 as two parcels. Subsequent parcels were purchased over the next 80 years, with the remaining lot purchased in 1962 to complete the park area as it is known today. Originally, Surfside Park was used in combination with the neighboring Chapman House Hotel, located to the east of the park where the Chapman Place Condominiums are located today. When the Chapman House Hotel closed in the 1920s, a boathouse was built in its place, offering bowling, billiards, food, rollerskating and musical performances. At this time, Surfside Park complimented the boathouse, providing a popular attraction for young people for all over the area until the mid 1980s. As ownership of the land changed hands over the years, the name of the park changed frequently, although most consistently referred to as 'Surfside'. As development occurred throughout the area, the purpose of the park shifted to provide a family-friendly gathering space for the entire community. Through local efforts, the park was dedicated as Surfside Park and Beach in 2012.

A historical marker at Surfside Park detailing the history of the surrounding area

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

While the park has continued to be a popular destination over the years, there is a need to identify and strategize future improvements and upgrades to meet the changing needs of the community.

The goals of this Master Plan and process are to:

» Guide future park improvements and investments
» Establish and build community consensus for the future plan of the park
» Determine a phased implementation strategy for the next 10 years
» Estimate future costs and identify potential funding sources

In the following chapters, the following issues are addressed at Surfside Park:

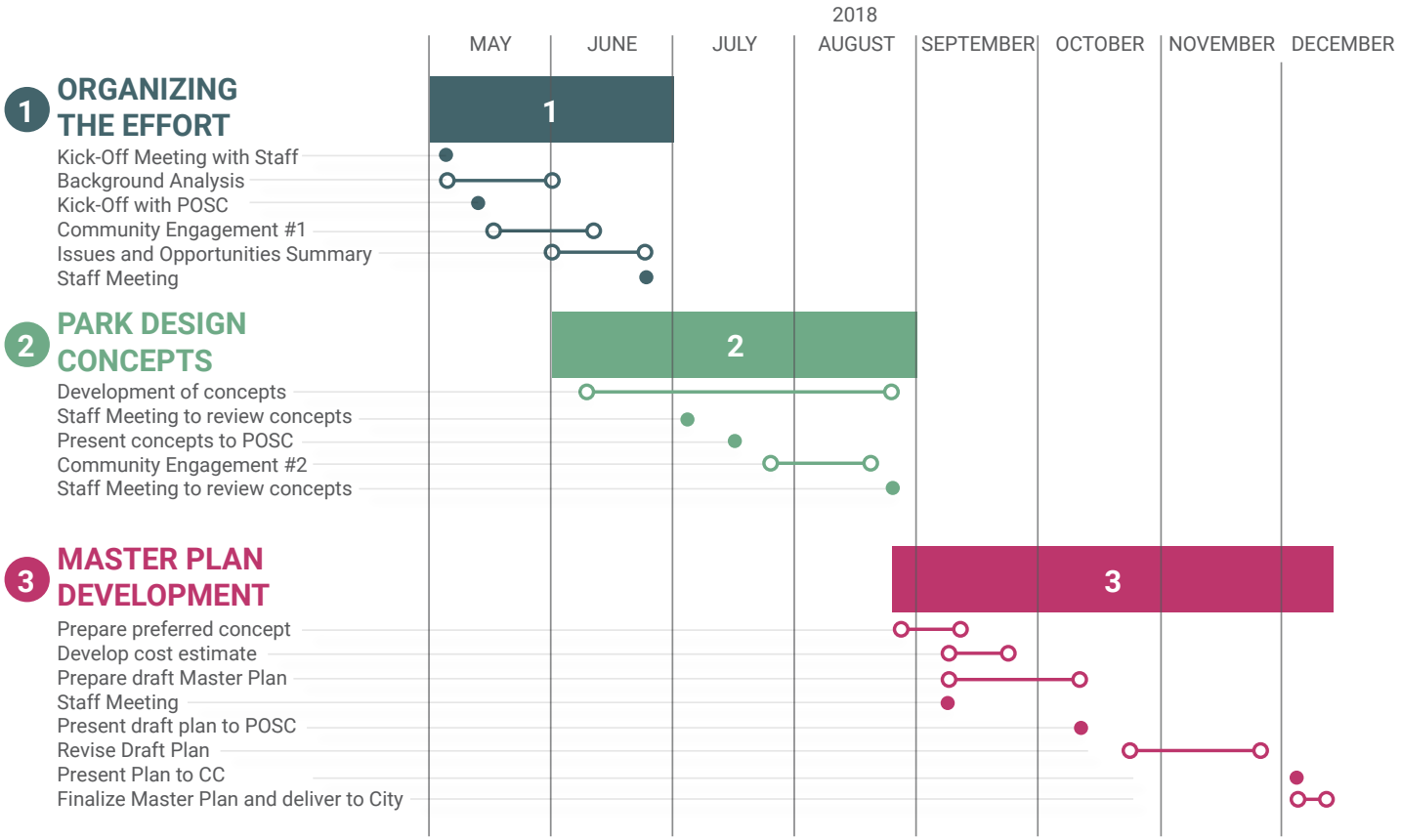
» Circulation and access to and throughout the park
» Recreational and programming opportunities
» Existing and future facilities
» Maintenance
» Stormwater management
» Placemaking and identity of the park

Surfside Beach
Photo: Amanda Schwarze

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The Master Plan process for Surfside Park begain in the spring of 2018 and concluded in the fall of 2018.

TABLE 1.1 PROJECT SCHEDULE



Adults and children enjoying Music-in-the-Park at Surfside Park. Photo: aplaceinmound.com

Bicyclist take advantage of the newly constructed Dakota Rail Trail in downtown Mound

DEMOGRAPHICS

The American Community Survey estiamted the population of Mound to be 9,249 in 2015, a slight increase from the census population of 9,052 people in 2010. Historical population figures show significant growth in Mound between 1950 and 1980, reaching its peak in 1990 as the city transitioned from a developing community to a fully-developed community. Since 1990, the population has staired fairly consistent between 9,000 and 9,500 residents. The 2040 forecasts for the region, provided by Metropolitan Council, show Mound's populations remaining consistent. On a regional level, both Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Area are expected to see population increases.

The age distribution inthe City of Mound is slightly older than the rest of Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Area. Over one-half of the population in Mound is between 35 and 64 years old, with the median age being 42.9 years in 2015 (*American Community Survey, 2015*). Children age 19 and younger make up just 15.6% of the population.

The population of Mound will continue to influence the type of activities and facilities needed at Surfside Park and other parks in the community.

TRENDS

An increasing consiousness for health, fitness and active living is influencing current recreational trends for informal and individual activieis, such as running, walking, and cycling. High quality pedstrian and bicycle connections within cities and to popular destinations foster active living environments.

As urban areas are developed further, and as poeple spend more time in front of computers and indoors for work, public parks, open spaces and natural areas are becoming increasingly valued as places where people can 'unplug' and connect to the outdoors and surrounding environments. Convenient access to parks and open spaces provide free or low-cost places for residents to partake in physical activity everyday. Another trend that is rising in public parks is the integration of educational and interpretive elements to inform and engage park users with stormwater systems, ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and cultural or historical aspects of the land.

Non-motorized boating and water sports, such as kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding, have increased in popularity. These sports compliment motorized boating, jet-skiing, and water-skiing that are popular today in the Mound area.

Other trends relevant to Surfside Park include an increasing demand for public gathering spaces for a variety of uses. Picnicking for larger family groups as an all-day destination is growing in popularity. This type of park activity requires places to prepare and serve large meals, shelters and seating, as well as restroom facilities and parking. Providing flexible, multi-purpose green space, in combination with electrical service and convenient parking and loading areas make hosting larger community events and festivals possible in parks like Surfside Park.

RELEVANT PLANNING EFFORTS

2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Master Plan for Surfside Park is compatible with the concurrent planning effort for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update for the City of Mound. One of the actions identified in the Parks, Open Space and Recreation chapter of the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan is to conduct a Master Plan for Surfside Park. The policies outlined in this chapter, as well as the established community vision for the 2040 Comprehensive plan align with the goals and outcomes of this Master Plan for Surfside Park.

MOUND VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Mound's Vision Statement was formed based on previous comprehensive plans, input from the community, and on discussions with the Planning Commission, Parks and Open Space Commission, and City Council. The Vision Mound defines for its future is:

"Located on the western shores of Lake Minnetonka, Mound is a full-service commnity that recognizes and appreciates its unique setting. Its strong neighborhoods, quality schools, walkability and lake access make it a desireable place for residents of all ages. In the heart of the community, Downtown is easily accessible with places for people to live,shop, work and gather. Our commitment to preserving the natural environment ensures everyone can enjoy the community's four lakes and numberous wetlands, varied topography, open spaces and parks. "

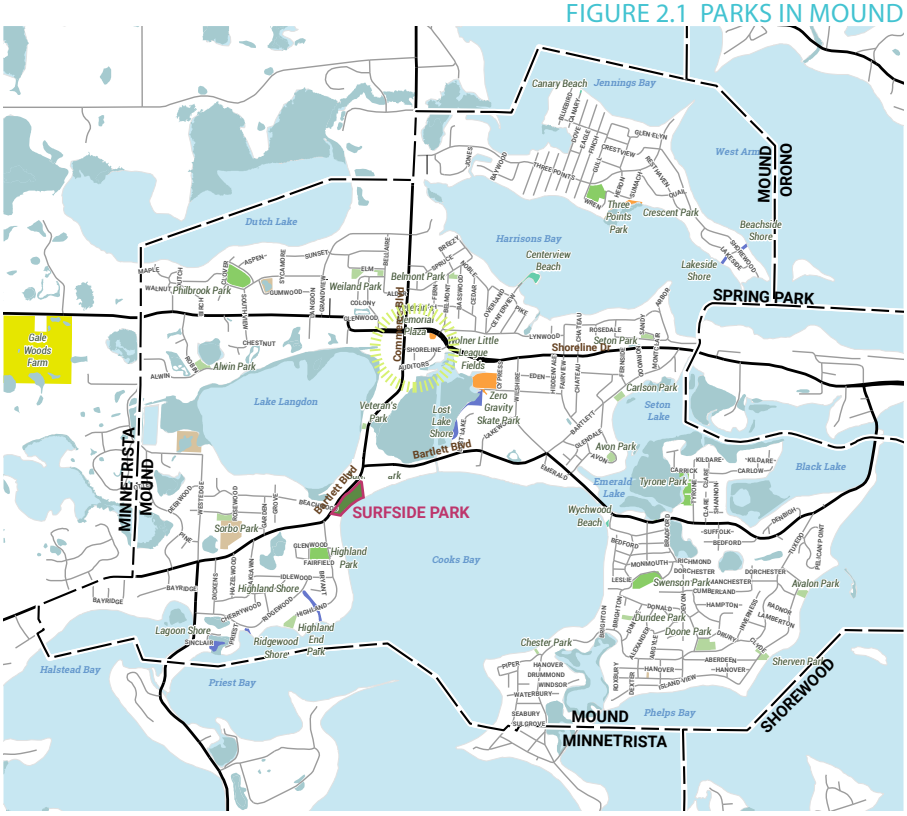
SURFSIDE PARK

02. SITE ANALYSIS

CONTEXT

Surfside Park in Mound, Minnesota, is located on the northwest shore of Cooks Bay. The park is accessed via Bartlett Boulevard, a county roadway, approximately one mile south of Mound's downtown area. A local bituminous trail borders the park along Bartlett Boulevard and connects to sidewalks along Commerce Boulevard to the north and Highland Boulevard to the south. At 3.3 acres, Surfside Park serves as one of the larger parks in Mound. The land use surrounding Surfside Park is primarily single family residential, with a multi-family residential building immediately adjacent to the east and commercial uses along Bartlett Boulevard and Commerce Boulevard.

FIGURE 2.1 PARKS IN MOUND



Parks in Mound

- *Community Park*
- *Neighborhood Park*
- *Pocket Park*
- *Public Beach*
- *Special Use Park*
- *Open Space*
- *Public Shore*
- *Regional Park*

- *Surfside Park*
- *Downtown Mound*

SITE CONDITIONS + ANALYSIS

The following are descriptions and inventory of existing conditions at Surfside Park.

Sidewalk connecting to trail along Bartlett Boulevard

CIRCULATION/ACCESS

For pedestrians accessing Surfside Park, there exists today a bituminous trail along the south side of Bartlett Boulevard, which connects to sidewalks to the north and south of the park.

Interior circulation at Surfside Park consists of concrete walking paths connecting the west parking lot to the Mound Depot Building. All other pedestrian circulation within the park exists informally along the turf or sand beach. This can pose a barrier to park users with mobility challenges, especially with uneven and sloped ground conditions.

During the Spirit of the Lakes Festival, there is heavy foot traffic throughout the park, generally along an east-west route north of the beach area. This causes erosion and sediment issues at the water's edge, as well as damages the turf.

Open green space
Photo: The Cove

OPEN GREENSPACE / PICNICKING

The majority of Surfside Park is dedicated to open green space, with a mowed lawn surface. Throughout this space there are scattered picnic tables, a few benches, electricity hook-ups, trash cans and barbecue pits. In general, picnicking occurs in the northeast area, under the canopy of large 'legacy' trees (a mix of oak and maple trees which are beginning to show signs of age). A few younger trees have been planted more recently closer to the beach area.

The site furnishings are functional today. However, most are dated and there is a lack of continuity in style/material with benches, seating, and trash cans. The local Jaycee group has shown interest in providing some funding for a future pavilion to provide shelter for picnickers.

Existing play area

PLAYGROUND

The playground is located to the southeast of the west parking lot. The equipment consists of a central jungle gym playset with three slides, a tower/drawbridge, a rope ladder, and a few platform stations. There are three spring riders and a set of bars next to the jungle gym. The play area surface consists of sand with a perimeter edge made of timber. Because of the proximity to the beach area, sand is the reasonable choice for surface, for ease of maintenance and cost.

Today, the playground equipment is in need of replacement, as it has outlived the typical lifespan of the equipment. Considerations for future playground design include considering other options for location, surface type, playset design and components, integrating nature-based play, and evaluating handicap accessible designs.

The playground is one of the most popular and well-used elements of Surfside Park today.

Open green space
Photo: The Cove

BEACH / SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT

The beach area is located along the lakeshore, extending approximately 60 feet from the water's edge from the boat launch on the east. South of the Mound Depot building, the sand beach tapers to a narrow strip about 20 feet wide with a stone retaining wall. For the majority of the beach area, there is no formal edge separating the sand from turf grass.

The beach is one of the most popular and well-used elements of Surfside Park, and the majority of maintenance performed at the park is dedicated to keeping the beach area clean. Milfoil growth along the lakeshore, along with the prevalence of geese along the water's edge require daily cleaning of the beach by park maintenance staff.

The swimming area in the water is marked with rope buoys, with an attempt to keep swimmers out of conflict with motorized boats at the launch area.

The sand volleyball court is located adjacent to the beach area, south of the east parking lot. This area also requires regular maintenance, to keep the surface level for playing, and to keep the sand from migrating from the court area into the turf.

Beach and sand volleyball court

PARKING

There are two existing parking lots serving Surfside Park. Both surface lots are accessed from Bartlett Boulevard. The west lot has 18 stalls, with one handicap loading zone. This lot primarily serves users of the playground, beach volleyball court, and the Mound Depot. The east lot has 17 stalls with one handicap loading zone, in addition to 7 pull-through boat trailer stalls. This lot primarily serves motorized and non-motorized boat users, as well as picnickers and beach-goers. Trailer parking is not currently permitted on weekends and holidays, to give priority of stalls to park users. The east parking lot is used often by customers of the boat rental business, which is located just northwest of the surface lot. The west parking lot is adjacent to, and shares an entrance with, Chapman Condominiums.

On a daily basis, the existing parking meets the needs of the community, with ample stalls available. However, during large events, such as Music-in-the Park or Spirit of the Lakes Festival, more parking is needed, as well as loading zones for equipment. More handicap accessible stalls are also needed, especially during events. Currently, there is no parking allowed along Bartlett Boulevard. Through signage in the east parking lot, park users are encouraged to seek on-street parking on Beachwood Road across from the Depot or along Commerce Boulevard north of Bartlett Road. Since the construction of structured parking along Shoreline Drive, a shuttle service has been provided between the parking garage and Surfside Park.

While it is acknowledged that more event parking is needed at Surfside Park, there is little support for increasing the amount of surface parking, as it would decrease the amount of usable park space.

West parking lot

East parking lot

MOUND DEPOT BUILDING

Mound Depot Building : porch and perennial garden

The Mound Depot Building is available for rental by groups for small and medium-sized gatherings. A small kitchen, along with restrooms and a large indoor gathering space, as well as an outdoor porch facing the east are the amenities provided at the building. The majority of users are local church groups, and the building provides some storage for movable park components such as a stage and picnic tables. A perennial garden along the east edge of the building is maintained by the Westonka Jaycees.

The size of the interior space and the limited kitchen appliances pose as barriers for some people wishing to use the space. A series of interior renovations slated for 2018-2019 should address most of these existing concerns.

The condition of the exterior is lacking curb appeal; many Mound residents don't identify the building as part of Surfside Park because of it's modest exterior. Another challenge with the Mound Depot Building exists along the western and southern edge of the building. Here, a steep slope, tree canopy cover, and regular vehicle use has contributed to erosion and a bare soil surface.

Erosion near boat launch

FISHING PIER / MAKE-READY DOCK /BOAT LAUNCH

A tie up dock and fishing pier is located just south of the Mound Depot building. A temporary, modular (Make-Ready) dock is located to the west of the boat launch, which is accessed from the east parking lot. In general, non-motorized boat users tend to use the beach area to the west of the boat launch for drop-in and beaching.

On a daily basis during spring and summer months, park maintenance vehicles use the boat launch to access the beach for clearing of milfoil. Due to the popularity of the boat launch, oftentimes park maintenance staff are waiting to access the beach; a separate entrance for maintenance vehicles is a staff-recommended desire.

Notably, the area near the boat launch experiences a large amount of erosion on a seasonal basis. This is due to topography--most of the surface water from the park and adjacent roadway and properties slopes towards this area of the park--as well as due to heavy use as staging area during the annual MN Wakesurf Competition, which occurs in conjunction with the Spirit of the Lakes Festival.

Entryway sign

SIGNS/WAYFINDING

A large entryway sign is located along Bartlett Boulevard, which identifies the park clearly from the roadway. A landscaped area surround the sign, which displays a history of the park's namesake.

A historical marker is located just south of the west parking lot. This marker provides a brief history of the lake area, dating back to the late 1800s.

The east and west parking lots have standard regulatory signage informing users about park hours. The east parking lot has signage from DNR regarding regulations for watercraft use and fishing.

EVENTS/PROGRAMMING

SPIRIT OF THE LAKES FESTIVAL

The Spirit of the Lakes Festival is a yearly festival held at Surfside Park, and is hosted by the Spirit of the Lakes Committee. The festival is held over two days in July, and is held in conjunction with the MN Wakesurf Competition, also at Surfside Park.

Over the two-day festival, there are a variety of food vendors, business showcase vendors, special kids activities, live music performances, a beer garden, games and a parade. The festival culminates with a fireworks show.

This event is one of the most popular reasons for people to visit the park, and draws thousands of visitors from Mound and the surrounding area. During this festival, the majority of the open green space is taken up with booths and tents, and parking is completely maximized.

OTHER EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Other smaller events and informal gatherings occur at Surfside Park. The Mound Depot Building is generally rented for these events through most weekends of the summer.

An informal group of sand volleyball players use the volleyball courts on a regular basis throughout the summer months.

Typical arrangement of Spirit of the Lakes Festival activities

MUSIC-IN-THE-PARK

Music-in-the-Park is a weekly event that takes place over the spring and summer at Surfside Park. Organized through Independent School District 277, this event is held on Thursday evenings and features a different local musical act. This event is very family friendly, drawing parents along with young children to listen to music, play in the open green space and use the playground. A temporary stage is set up to the east of the west parking lot, facing southeast, and the 'audience' brings chairs or sits in the grass throughout the open green space.

This event is very popular, often drawing hundreds of visitors to Surfside Park.

Children playing during Music-in-the-Park performance at Surfside Park
Photo: Tom Linkert

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

After completing inventory and analysis of the existing site elements and programs, a list of issues and opportunities were compiled. These issues and opportunities provide a foundation for concept and Master Plan development. City staff guidance, as well as stakeholder interviews and community engagement feedback contributed to the ideas listed below.

MOST POPULAR ACTIVITIES

- Spirit of the Lakes Festival
- Enjoying the open green space
- Swimming and beach area
- Music-in-the-Park
- Playground

FEATURES TO UPGRADE / MODIFY

- Playground equipment
- Drainage/stormwater features
- Park signage
- Dog policy
- Mound Depot building

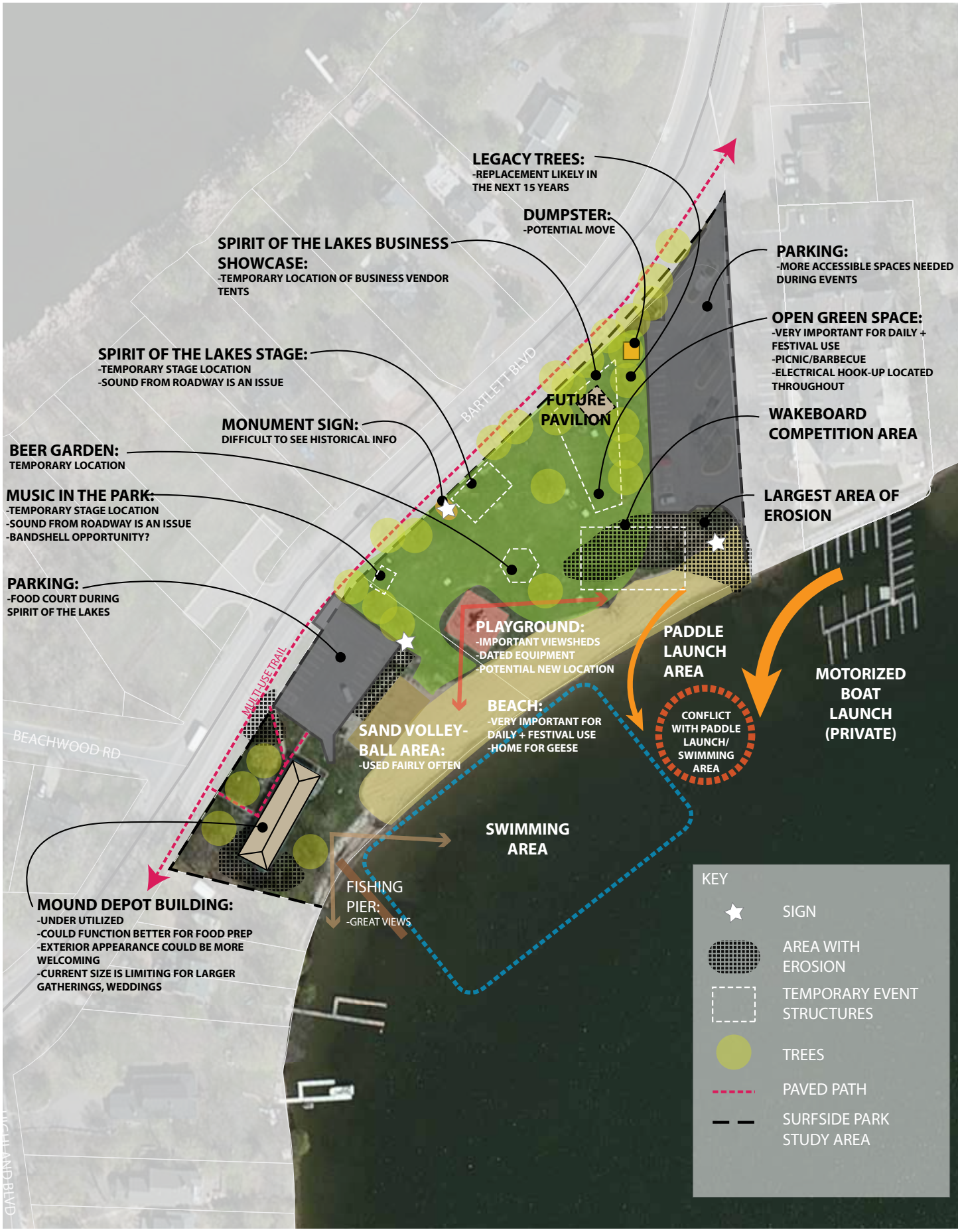
ISSUES

- Need for more open, green space, especially during festivals and events. Currently, the playground and existing tree locations impede circulation, views.
- Mound Depot building is not used to its fullest potential. The building is lacking a welcoming presence from the street, and is difficult for hosting large gatherings due to the lack of working / functional kitchen or food preparation space, as well as limiting layout of the space.
- Stormwater and erosion are issues throughout the park, especially near the boat launch area, the southwest side of the Mound Depot building, and along the east side of the west parking lot. Rainstorms during festival and event days are particularly
- There is a conflict between motorized boats, paddle boats, and swimming areas being very close to each other
- Monument sign for the park has historical/interpretive information that is difficult to read; informational signage near the boat launch area is unsightly/easy to miss
- Dog policy is unclear and unenforced today; many residents would like to be able to bring their dogs to Surfside Park
- Geese congregate on the beach frequently
- Music-in-the-Park can be difficult to hear due to noise from the road
- Set up for events is dependent on electrical power locations, which are scattered throughout the park and don't always meet the needs of users

OPPORTUNITIES

- Look for spaces and opportunities to provide concessions during events
- Playground upgrade for age-separated and handicap accessibility. Potential for location change to free up open space
- Create more drop-off / loading areas for events, as well as more handicap parking
- Find ways to use the future pavilion for multiple purposes, events
- As legacy trees are replaced, consider organization to increase open space and provide shade for specific areas
- Use vegetated buffers to separate beach areas, as well as address stormwater/erosion, deter geese, and provide interpretive opportunity
- Create a drop-in dock for paddle boats, use as a way to separate water uses
- Revise the dog policy at Surfside Park to allow dogs (on-leash) with special provisions for larger events
- Convert erosion area near paddle launch to vegetated bioswale or other type of Best Management Practice (BMP) for filtering surface water and controlling erosion

FIGURE 2.2 ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES DIAGRAM



03. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY INPUT + THE PLANNING PROCESS

Community engagement was a very important part of the planning process. Input gathered informed the direction of site analysis, as well as influenced the creation of schematic design concepts and the final Master Plan with prioritized implementation strategy.

Community Engagement was split into two phases. During the first phase, an online community survey was launched. This survey aimed to understand how the community views the park, how often people visit, and favorite activities and facilities. The community response to this survey was impressive; over a thousand people participated. Public outreach about the project plan, community surveys and events were rigorously advertised through flyers placed at parks, social media and print media. This effort, led by the city, along with overall community appreciation for Surfside Park, contributed to the overwhelming response to the Phase 1 community survey.

The feedback gathered during the first phase of community engagement informed the creation of multiple concept plans for Surfside Park. These concepts were shared at a Pop-up Open House hosted at Surfside Park, as well as shared through another online survey. Feedback from the second round of community engagement informed the final Master Plan and implementation strategy.

The Parks and Open Space Commission served an advisory role throughout, providing feedback and reviewing materials. Members of the Parks and Open Space Commission also helped to spread the word about community engagement events and surveys through social media. The Parks and Open Space Commission met three times over the course of the project to review and discuss project progress. These meetings were all held as public meetings, open to the general public for comment.

Input was also solicited from stakeholder groups who are primarily involved in the organization of the two largest events held at Surfside Park: Music-in-the-Park and Spirit of the Lakes Festival.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PHASE 1

The robust effort by the City of Mound to collect as much community feedback during the first round of community engagement resulted in a total of **1,067** responses to the online survey!

ONLINE SURVEY

The City of Mound launched an online survey from May 14th-June 8th, 2018 as a means to gather initial thoughts, ideas, and preferences for the existing facilities and programs at Surfside Park. The online survey was advertised through a number of media outlets:

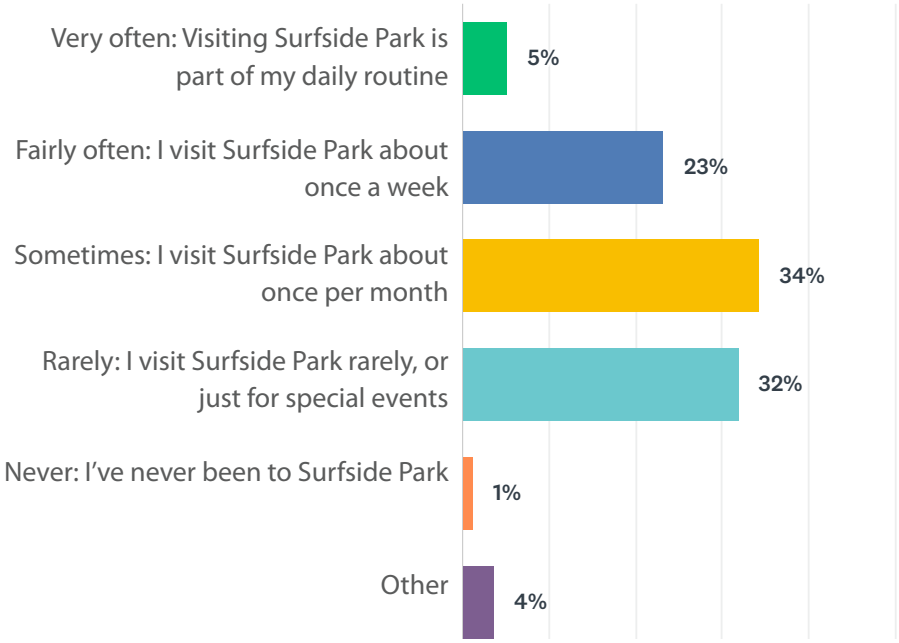
- published newspaper article
- flyer with QR code distributed at Surfside Park and other community destinations
- email announcements through Code Red, the City of Mound's email communication
- social media, such as facebook, twitter and Nextdoor

Additional stakeholder conversations were held with organizers of **Spirit of the Lakes Festival** and **Music in the Park**

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

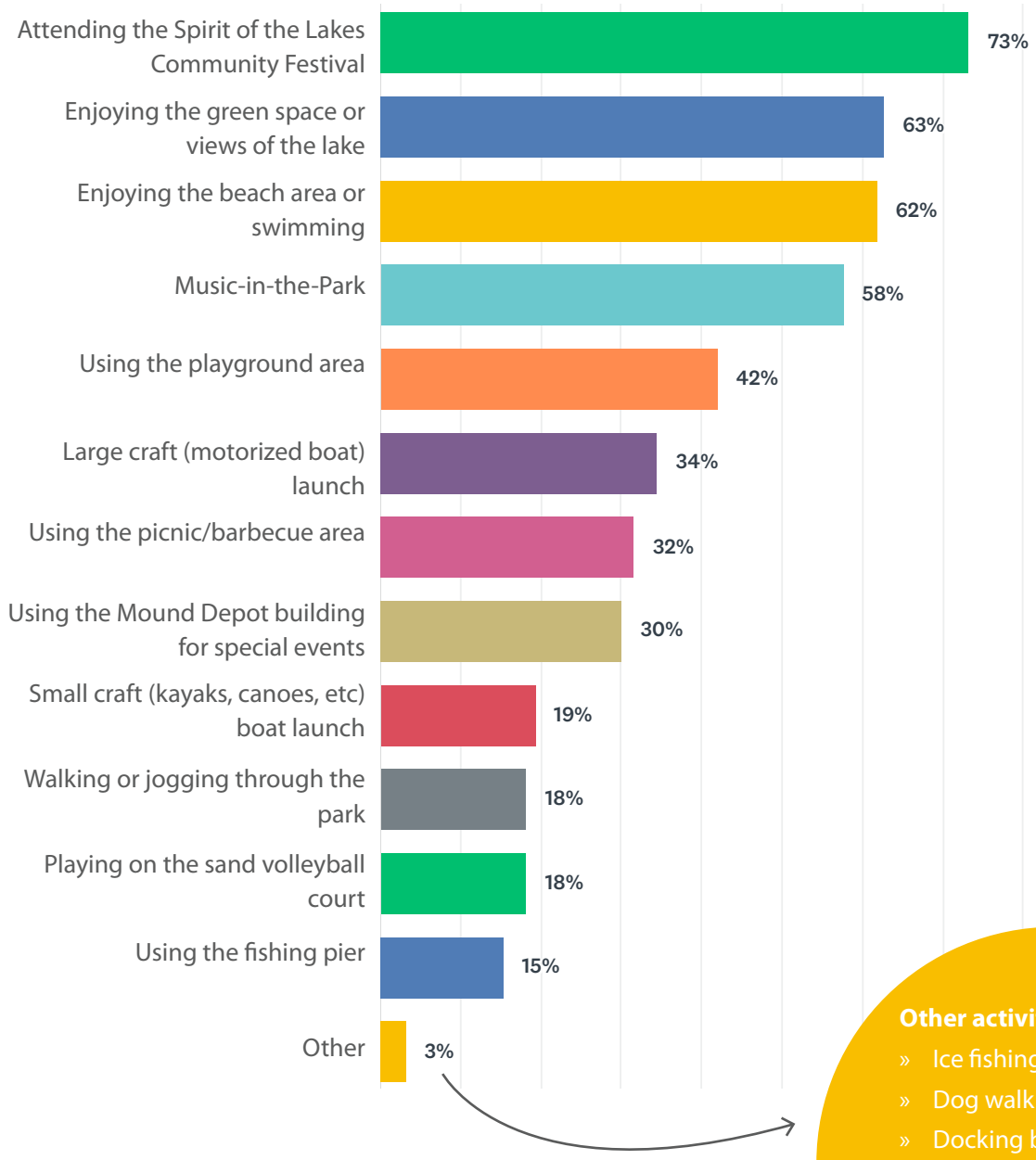
The 1,067 people who participated in the online survey provided the following question responses:

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT SURFSIDE PARK?



WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITIES AT SURFSIDE PARK?

(Note: survey participants could choose all that apply)



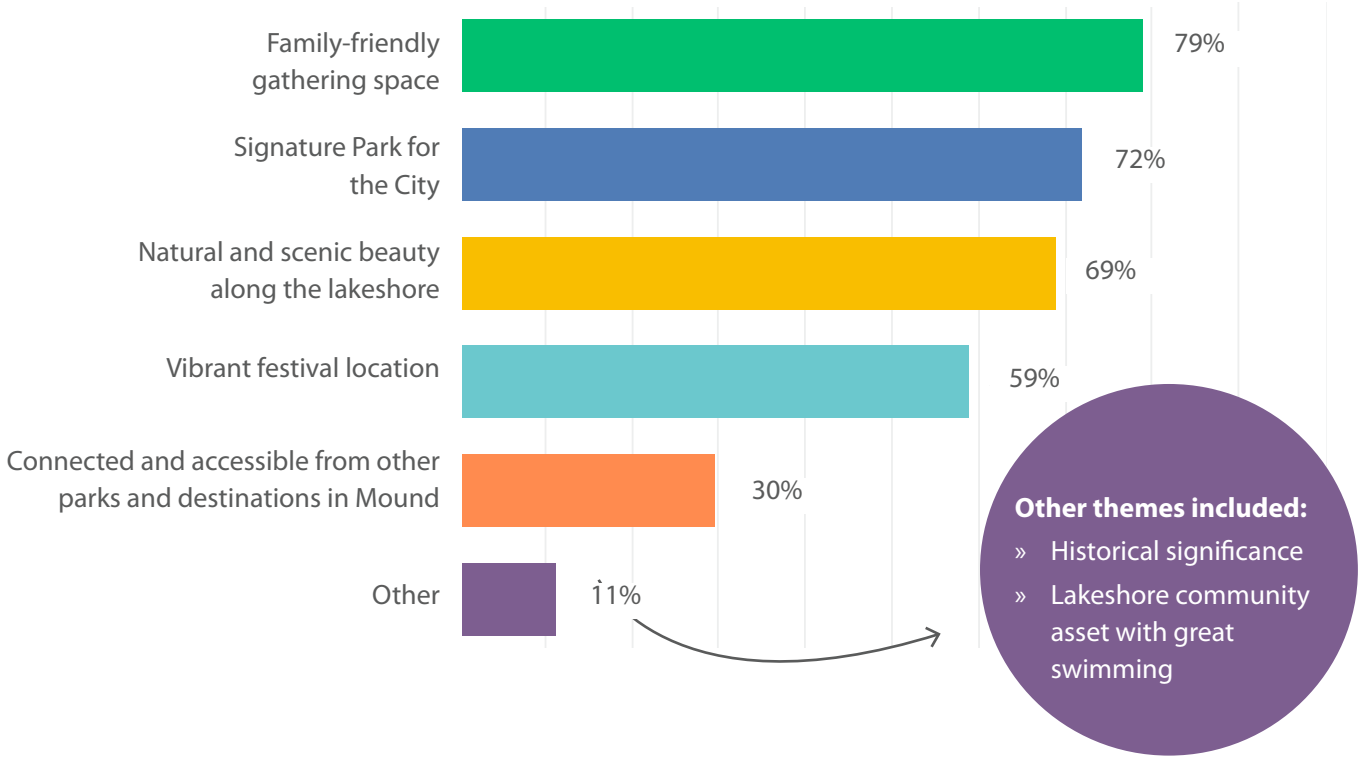
Other activities included:

- Ice fishing
- Dog walking
- Docking boats to the fishing pier / using the portable restrooms
- Enjoying the view during daily commutes

WHAT WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE SURFSIDE PARK?

WHICH THEMES ALIGN WITH YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF SURFSIDE PARK?

(Note: survey participants could choose all that apply)



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DOGS AT SURSFIDE PARK?

65%
"I think that dogs should be allowed at Surfside Park, if they are to remain on-leash and owners are required to clean up after the dogs"

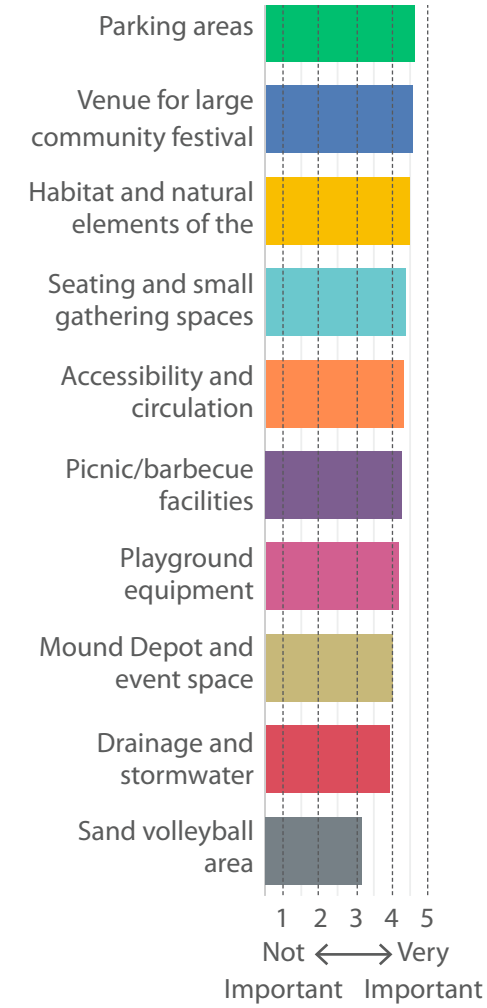
The City of Mound requires dogs to be on-leash whenever off of its owner's property. Currently some Mound parks allow dogs on-leash, and some do not allow dogs at all. Today, dogs are not allowed at Surfside Park.

15%
"I don't think that dogs should be allowed at Surfside Park, and I think this policy should be better enforced"

20%
"I don't think that dogs should be allowed at Surfisde Park, and no change is needed"

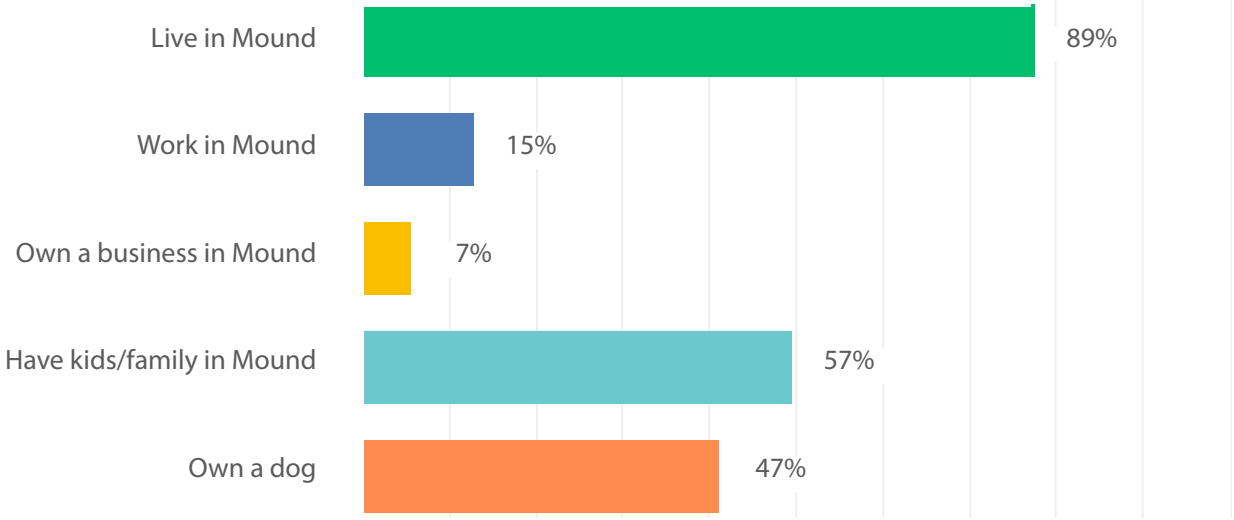
HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU ARE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF SURFSIDE PARK?

(Note: survey participants could choose all that apply)



ABOUT THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS:

(Note: survey participants could choose all that apply)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ROUND 2

POP-UP OPEN HOUSE AT SURFSIDE PARK

A pop-up open house was hosted at Surfside Park on Thursday, July 26th. The purpose of a pop-up open house was to share two developed concept drawings, as well as gather feedback and comments from the community. Understanding busy schedules of families in Mound, especially over the summer, the open house was scheduled in coordination with Music in the Park at Surfside Park. This allowed the City of Mound to collect community feedback from folks, in person, at the park. City staff, along with the project consultant and members of the Parks and Open Space Committee were able to speak with many Mound residents, face-to-face, and answer questions and discuss alternative ideas.

Over the 2-hour pop-up open house, the following were collected:

168 dots were placed next to items and

12 comments were left on the boards

Four informational boards presented:

» Information about the project, including project schedule/timeline and the purpose of the Master Plan

» Report on 'What we Heard' from community engagement round #1 online survey results

» Concept A, including an illustrative plan and precedent images to explain future improvement ideas

» Concept B, including an illustrative plan and precedent images to explain future improvement ideas

Participants were encouraged to review the concepts and provide feedback by placing green dot stickers next to ideas that they were in support of, as well as place red dots next to ideas that they were not in support of. Sticky notes were provided for people to share other ideas or feedback and place directly on the boards.

The number of people who participated in the pop-up event was estimated to be between 40-60 people.

While attending Music-in-the-Park at Surfside Park, residents were able to provide feedback on two Master Plan concepts through dot-voting

ONLINE SURVEY

In coordination with the pop-up open house at Surfside Park, an online survey was launched July 26th - August 13th, 2018 as a means to continue to gather community input on the concept diagrams.

The online survey was advertised through a number of ways:

- Business cards with a QR code distributed at the pop-up open house and distributed in other community destinations
- Flyer with QR code posted at Surfside Park and other community destinations
- Email announcements through Code Red, the City of Mound's email communication
- Social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor

The online survey launched as part of community engagement round #2 yielded

354

community responses!

SURFSIDE PARK MASTER PLAN

The City of Mound is seeking **YOUR** input on draft Master Plan Concepts for Surfside Park. With your feedback, these concepts will be refined into a single Master Plan, which will guide improvements and develop a community vision for the future of Surfside Park!

Please take a few minutes to complete an online survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/surfside-park-concept-survey

or

scan the QR code here to go directly to the survey

The survey will be open from
July 26th - August 12th, 2018

Flyer with QR code that was posted to advertise the online survey for community engagement round #2

WHAT WE HEARD

Concept A and B were provided for the public to comment and respond to prompted questions through the Pop-up Open House and online survey. The following summarizes what was presented to the community for each concept, and the feedback gathered.

It should be noted that both concepts contain a few elements that are the same:

- maintenance drive design
- shoreline restoration
- perennial gardens at Mound Depot building
- expanded green space / tree planting strategy
- portable toilet move / screening

The following elements are unique to Concept A:

- beach shade structures
- accessible and age-separated playground equipment
- playground moved to the southwest and the volleyball court is removed
- pavilion location in the northeast corner under the tree canopy

CONCEPT A

1

PERENNIAL GARDENS
Raised beds with pollinator and/or native plants to increase curb appeal of the Mound Depot Building. *Considerations:*
- *Raised beds*
- *Handicap accessible garden beds*
- *Garden club or other community group to steward*

2

BEACH SHADE STRUCTURES
Tensile shade structures, installed throughout the beach, to provide both shade and enhance the identity of Surfside Park as a beach destination
Considerations:
- *Placement / relationship to the playground*
- *Potentially blocking views to the water*
- *Appropriate number and spacing*

③

ACCESSIBLE AND AGE-SEPARATED PLAYGROUND

To provide more open greenspace, a new playground is shown here (current location of the sand volleyball court). With an expanded footprint from the existing playground, (2) age-separated areas can be built, with specific equipment for younger and older children. The age separated areas also provide the opportunity for handicap accessible equipment. Seating and shade trees are shown around the perimeter.

Considerations:

- *Removal of existing sand volleyball court*
- *Playground surfacing*
- *Proximity to the beach*
- *Type and size of equipment*

④

MAINTENANCE DRIVE

Park maintenance staff need to access the beach nearly everyday during the summer for routine milfoil removal, to keep the beach clean. This proposed drive would allow a truck to back onto the beach for this purpose. Kayakers, canoers, and other paddlers could use this drive as walk-in access.

Considerations:

- *Removable bollard, road design, and signs to keep from being used as an additional boat launch*

⑤

PORTABLE TOILET MOVE / SCREENING

This concept shows the portable toilets moved to the northeast corner of the park, closer to the proposed pavilion location, and accessed by a concrete walk. Perennial plants, like native-style prairie grasses can screen the toilets, dumpster enclosure, and parking areas throughout the park.

Considerations:

- *Further location from the beach may be difficult to see for boaters*
- *Potential view of portable toilets from Bartlett Blvd*
- *Access for maintenance*
- *Increased parking stalls for handicap accessible stalls on the south end of the parking lot (where the portable toilets exist today)*

⑥

EXPANDED GREEN SPACE

Open green space is one of the most important features of Surfside Park today. In the near-term, this green space can be expanded by moving the playground in the future. In the long-term, this open space can be expanded through limiting replacement tree planting to the perimeter of the park.

Considerations:

- *Turf maintenance*
- *Erosion*

⑦

SHORELINE RESTORATION

In an effort to address erosion throughout Surfside Park, especially near the boat launch area, a shoreline restoration plan is proposed. This concept combines the use of tolerant native plants with deep roots to keep soil and sand in-place, with rocky swales for areas with consistent erosion problems today. This proposal will also deter geese, improving the beach experience.

Considerations:

- *Loss of some sand beach area*
- *Establishment of vegetation may take 1-3 years*

⑧

PAVILION AND PICNIC AREA

This concept shows the placement of a new pavilion in the northeast area of the park. This pavilion is intended to serve as a multi-purpose gathering area. Here, the design is integrated with a continuous concrete walk and accessible open-air picnic tables. The intention of this element is to provide a handicap-accessible and shaded shelter for picnicking and community events.

Considerations:

- *Proximity to the playground area*
- *Views to the beach and other areas of the park*
- *Potential uses during large community events*

Summary of feedback for Concept A:

» Support shown for perennial gardens

» People seem to really like the idea of shade structures

» Age-separated play is generally liked

» Mixed reactions for the shown location of the playground

» Some support for removing the sand volleyball court, but not enough to warrant removing the amenity

» General support for location of new pavilion as shown

» Feedback on the shoreline restoration and maintenance drive is positive

Additional suggestions provided:

» Need more beach amenities

» Need more restrooms, permanent if possible

» Add more picnic tables/seating

The following elements are unique to Concept B:

- nature-based playground
- playground moved to the east side of the park
- boardwalk shown crossing the shoreline restoratoin area
- pavilion location in a central location near the volleyball court

It should be noted that both concepts contain a few elements that are the same:

- maintenance drive design
- shoreline restoration
- perennial gardens at Mound Depot building
- expanded green space / tree planting strategy
- portable toilet move / screening

CONCEPT B

①

PERENNIAL GARDENS

Raised beds with pollinator and/or native plants to increase curb appeal of the Mound Depot Building.

Considerations:

- *Raised beds*
- *Handicap accessible garden beds*
- *Garden club or other group to steward*

②

NATURE-BASED PLAYGROUND

To provide more open greenspace, a new playground is shown here, moved to the east side of the park, accessed by a new walk from the parking area. This playground concept can relate to the shoreline restoration area with nature-based play. Nature based play could involve a number of design components: using natural materials such as wood and stone, encouraging play that involves building and making, or integrating conventional playground equipment within a natural setting, or combining the play area with interpretive or educational components.

Considerations:

- *Type and style of nature-based playground*
- *Playground surfacing and handicap accessibility*
- *Proximity to the beach, shoreline restoration area*

③

BOARDWALK

A raised boardwalk, connected to the concrete walk alongside the parking area, could provide a handicap accessible and scenic path to the beach area, and enforce the beach identity of Surfside Park. The boardwalk would cross the shoreline restoration and drainage area, and interpretive signs could be integrated into the experience.

Considerations:

- *Potential for raised gathering area or observation deck*
- *Coordination with maintenance routine*
- *Connection to the make-ready dock*

④

MAINTENANCE DRIVE

Park maintenance staff need to access the beach nearly everyday during the summer for routine milfoil removal, to keep the beach clean. This proposed drive would allow a truck to back onto the beach for this purpose. Kayakers, canoers, and other paddlers could use this drive as walk-in access.

Considerations:

- *Removable bollard, road design, and signs to keep from being used as an additional boat launch*

⑤

PORTABLE TOILET MOVE / SCREENING

This concept shows the portable toilets moved to the northeast corner of the park, closer to the proposed pavilion location, and accessed by a concrete walk. Perennial plants, like native-style prairie grasses can screen the toilets, dumpster enclosure, and parking areas throughout the park.

Considerations:

- *Further location from the beach may be difficult to see for boaters*
- *Potential view of portable toilets from Bartlett Blvd*
- *Access for maintenance*
- *Increased parking stalls for handicap accessible stalls on the south end of the parking lot (where the portable toilets exist today)*

⑥

EXPANDED GREEN SPACE

Open green space is one of the most important features of Surfside Park today. In the near-term, this green space can be expanded by moving the playground in the future. In the long-term, this open space can be expanded through limiting replacement tree planting to the perimeter of the park.

Considerations:

- *Turf maintenance*
- *Erosion*

⑦

SHORELINE RESTORATION

In an effort to address erosion throughout Surfside Park, especially near the boat launch area, a shoreline restoration plan is proposed. This concept combines the use of tolerant native plants with deep roots to keep soil and sand in-place, with rocky swales for areas with consistent erosion problems today. This proposal will also deter geese, improving the beach experience.

Considerations:

- *Loss of some sand beach area*
- *Establishment of vegetation may take 1-3 years*

⑧

PAVILION AND PICNIC AREA

This concept shows the placement of a new pavilion in the northeast area of the park. This pavilion is intended to serve as a multi-purpose gathering area. Here, the design is integrated with a continuous concrete walk and accessible open-air picnic tables. The intention of this element is to provide a handicap-accessible and shaded shelter for picnicking and community events.

Considerations:

- *Proximity to the playground area*
- *Views to the beach and other areas of the park*
- *Potential uses during large community events*

Summary of feedback for Concept B:

» Support shown for perennial gardens

» People like the idea of nature-based play

» Negative feedback regarding moving the playground to the location shown

» Mixed reactions for the shown location of the playground

» Mixed support for keeping the sand volleyball court

» Support for location of new pavilion as shown

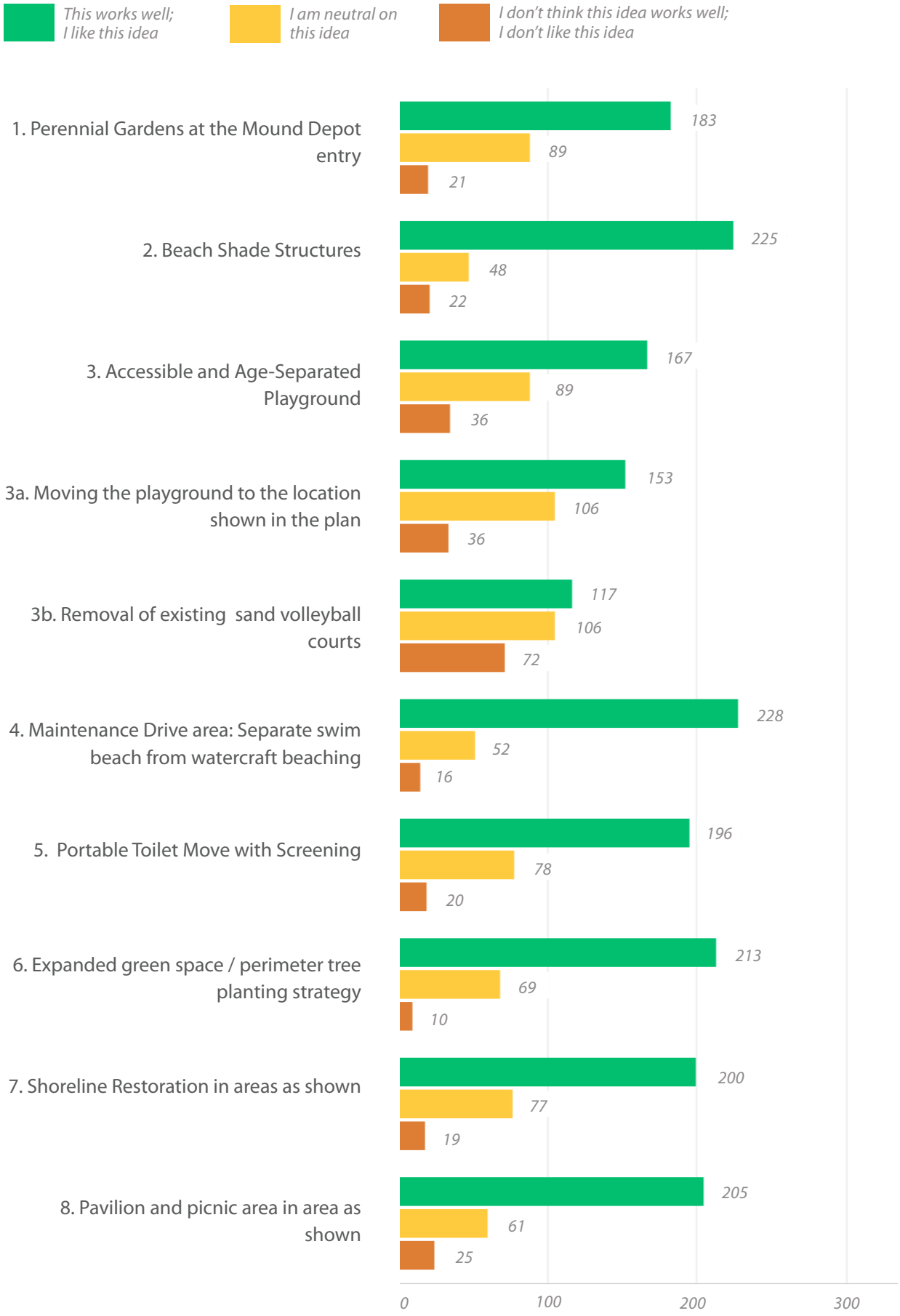
» Feedback on the shoreline restoration and maintenance drive is positive

Additional suggestions provided:

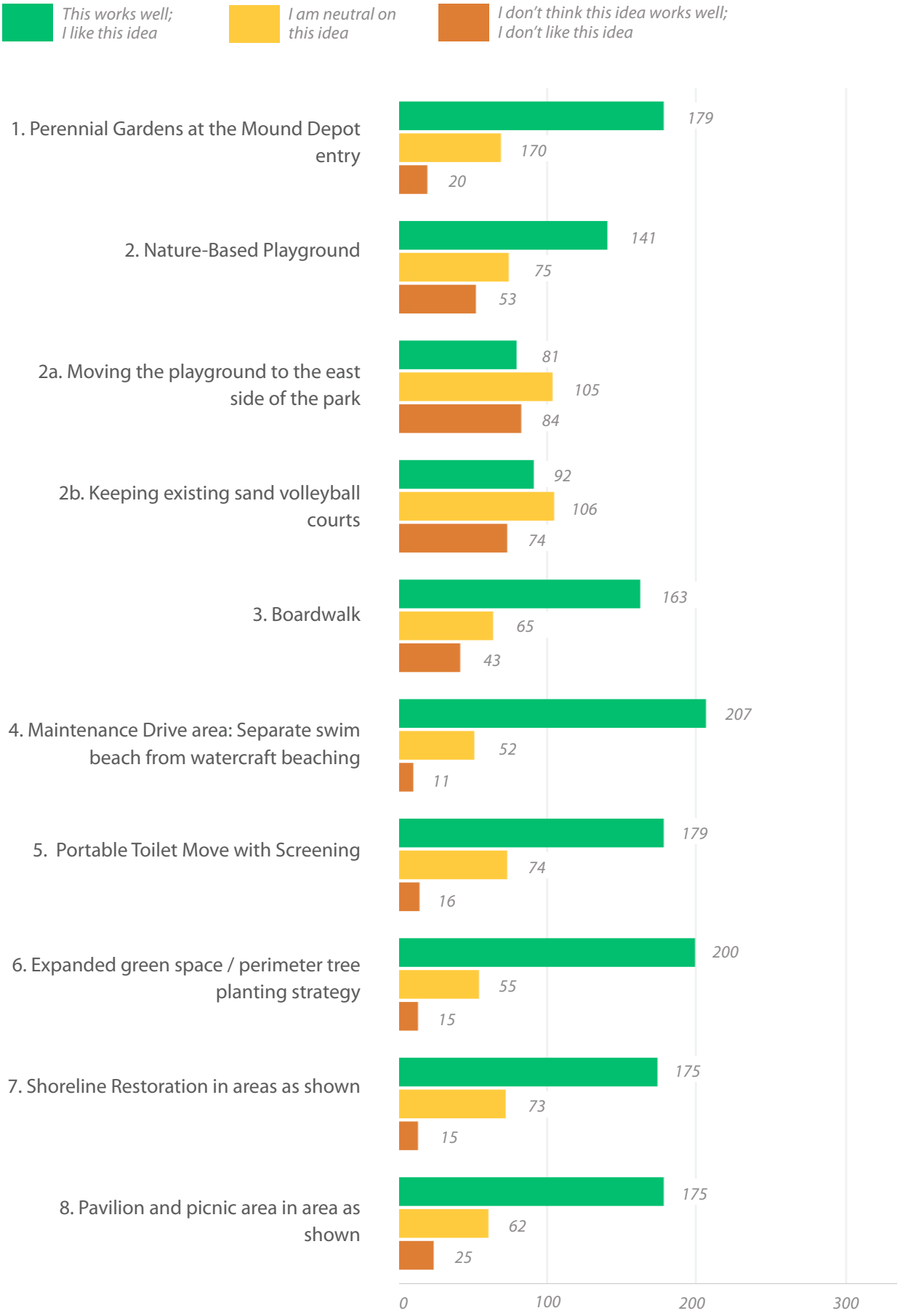
» Need more restrooms, permanent if possible

» Add more educational or interpretive elements

PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU THINK WORKS WELL AND WHAT DOES NOT WORK WELL IN CONCEPT A?



PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU THINK WORKS WELL AND WHAT DOES NOT WORK WELL IN CONCEPT B?



04. MASTER PLAN

PARK MASTER PLAN AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Master Plan for Surfside Park is based on the site analysis and input gathered through community engagement as well as feedback and recommendations from city staff and the Parks and Open Space Commission. The plan addresses issues and opportunities that were identified in earlier stages of the planning process.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

The following concept objectives were developed during the site analysis and community engagement process. These objectives represent the priorities identified by the community and served as guidance for the final Master Plan and phasing strategy.

1. *Strengthen the identity of Surfside Park as family-friendly gathering place and the signature park for Mound*
2. *Leverage existing assets, such as open green space, lawn and parking*
3. *Address stormwater and erosion issues*
4. *Address circulation and accessibility*
5. *Add select amenities and refresh existing to improve the overall performance of the park as it is currently used*
6. *Maximize open space and increase opportunities for festivals and events*

FIGURE 4.1 SURFSIDE PARK MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN KEYED ELEMENTS

The following elements are keyed on the Master Plan diagram, as shown on the opposite page. These elements are also keyed in the cost estimate on page 4-37.

Examples of shed roof design for a picnic shelter

A. PICNIC SHELTER

New picnic shelter to be intended to serve as a multi-purpose gathering area, with an approximate 20'x20' footprint. The design of the picnic shelter could have a shed roof (example in image above), with the open side oriented towards the green space (to the east) with the ability to use this space as the 'stage' area for community events or festivals. Final design and siting of the picnic shelter should consider the existing site slopes, which fall away towards the east and south sides of the park.

Future rental or reservation policies regarding a new picnic shelter may need to be created in order to provide fair use of the new park amenity for events or gatherings.

Examples of outdoor furniture in parks

B. PICNIC AND PARK AMENITIES

Additional park benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, barbecue grills and pet waste stations should have a unified design and be constructed of consistent materials, to provide functional amenity to Surfside Park, while contributing to placemaking, identity, and accessibility throughout. Above are examples of park furniture styles that could fit at Surfside Park.

Examples of shoreline restorations and a dry creekbed stormwater channel

C. SHORELINE RESTORATION PLANTING + EROSION CONTROL

In an effort to address erosion, the areas shown on the plan will be restored with native, flood and drought-resistant plants with deep root zones. These areas will provide habitat, filter pollutants in runoff, absorb wave action to decrease shoreline erosion, provide deterrent for geese along the shoreline, and will help to delineate the walk-in paddle launch area from the motorized boat launch and the swimming area. On the western edge of the park, the restoration planting area will help to stabilize the slope. Preferred species for this area would include deep-rooted shrub species such as dogwood or willow.

The shoreline restoration will require removing the existing vegetation in the areas indicated (mainly existing turf grass), and planting (either by seeding or with plugs) emergent lakeshore species such as burreed, softstem, hardstem bulrush, pickerel weed and arrowhead. Native flowering plants, such as milkweed and liatris can be mixed into the shorelne restoration area for color and visual interest. Restored areas should remain undisturbed to allow for plant establishment.

The existing surface stormwater channel near the boat launch can be protected from further erosion with a stabilized channel, constructed with 6-8" boulder mulch. The end result will be a dry creekbed aesthetic and will be integrated with the shoreline restoration planting strategy.

Any planting or alteration of the shoreline below the Ordinary High Water Line (OHWL) may require special permitting through the DNR or other regulatory agencies.

D. MAINTENANCE DRIVE

The proposed asphalt-surfaced drive will provide exclusive access for park staff to perform daily maintenance along the beach. The 8-10' wide drive will be intentionally curved, as shown on the plan, to deter boat launch use. The maintenance drive will double as walk-in access for kayakers, canoes, and paddle boarders. A split-rail fence and a (potential) removable bollard will deter foot traffic throughout the restored area and non-authorized use of the maintenance drive.

Example of low-profile paddle launch

E. PADDLE LAUNCH

The installation of a low-profile paddle launch will provide additional water access for non-motorized boaters, as well as further delineate the swimming area from the walk-in paddle launch area. There are a variety of kayak launch designs to consider; the example above is located along Minnehaha Creek in Minneapolis.

Examples of information and interpretive kiosks

F. INFORMATION / INTERPRETATION

A simple, well-designed kiosk will provide a place to post essential information for boat launch users, such as DNR warnings and policies, as well as provide a place to post park policies, as well as historical or cultural interpretation. Currently, the story of Surfside Park is displayed on the monument sign along Bartlett Boulevard. This information, along with historical information about the area could be displayed on another kiosk near the playground area, and either compliment or replace the existing historical marker.

Example of paved walk leading to playground

G. PAVED WALK

A continuous concrete walk along the perimeter of the west parking lot will provide access to the new picnic shelter,the fishing pier and the future playground area and sand volleyball area, which will be moved slightly to align with the lake shoreline and include a perimeter buffer around the court. A continuous concrete walk along the west perimeter of the east parking area will connect park users to the portable toilet, dumpster area, and future ADA accessible picnic tables. These walks will also connect to the existing multi-use trail along Bartlett Boulevard and provide an accessible path to the portable toilets.

Example of vegetated screening with Karl Foerster grass (left), a sand rinse station with drinking fountain (middle), and a cedar plank enclosure (right)

H. PORTABLE TOILETS + DRINKING FOUNTAIN/ SAND RINSE STATION

The Master Plan shows moving the existing portable toilet further from the beach area, as well as adding another accessible portable toilet on the west side of the park to provide amenity for beach and playground users. Screening for these toilets, as well as for the existing dumpster will include planting of perennial grasses (Karl Foerster grass, preferred) as well as the construction of a cedar plank enclosure for each. Further perennial grasses are proposed along the north side of the west parking area to screen the parking area from the roadway and multi-use trail. A drinking fountain and sand rinse station are integrated into the portable toilet area near sand volleyball court to provide additional amenity for beach and playground users.

Example of raised bed garden with perennial plants

J. PERENNIAL GARDEN

Raised beds to be planted with pollinator-friendly perennial plants will be installed along the lawn area in front of the Mound Depot building to provide an inviting entrance to the park as well as provide habitat value for pollinators. Perennial plants are preferred over annuals to reduce the long-term maintenance required by park staff.

Example of tensile shade structure over a playground

K. SHADE STRUCTURES

Tensile shade structures, installed along the beach and integrated with the new playground will provide shade for beach and playground users, as well as enhance the identity of Surfside Park as a beach destination.

Mound Depot Building today, east facade

L. EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MOUND DEPOT BUILDING

While funds have been appropriated for 2019 to renovate portions of the interior of the Mound Depot Building, future improvements are also proposed in this plan for the exterior of the building, such as re-staining and painting of railings and upgraded exterior light fixtures.

Examples of a variety of nature-based playground styles for a variety of ages and abilities

M. NATURE-BASED PLAY AREA

A replacement play area to be built in a similar location to the existing play area will have a natural theme. Community input showed that indicates a playground constructed with natural materials such as wood and stone is preferred. Also, a preference for age separated areas, as shown in the Master Plan, as well as the integration of components that encourage the building or making of spaces, was identified through community engagement. Surfacing of the play area will be either sand or wood/mulch, and an integrated perimeter walk will provide ADA accessibility to play components.

The play area is one of the most popular elements of Surfside Park. Design considerations for the future playground potentially include:

- Providing an appropriate amount of ADA accessible components, as well as age-separated components to meet a variety of ages (ideally, 2-12), with the understanding that Surfside Park is a play area destination, and a unique, signature element for the city
- With proximity to the sand beach, surface material choices are limited to sand or possibly wood mulch (with adequate edging)
- Maintaining views from the playground to other areas of the park, as well as keeping a low profile with future components to maintain views of the water from other areas of the park

The City of Mound may consider forming an advisory committee, made up of local residents and/or design professionals to determine the final playground design.

PHASING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Full implementation of the Master Plan for Surfside Park is dependent on several factors, including demand, cost, and construction phasing. The following is a proposed phase approach to capital improvements over the next five years. Each phase is defined by an anchor project. These projects are intended as larger, costlier, or more intensive elements of the Master Plan. The anchor projects will help to drive the associated placemaking projects. Placemaking projects are smaller, and intended to contribute to the overall identity and daily-use function of Surfside Park. Placemaking projects are bundled with anchor projects, generally by location, within the phasing plan.

The phases were determined by imminent funding sources, need, and overall costs. The cost estimate in the following section is keyed to these phases.

PHASE 1: MAINTENANCE DRIVE + RESTORATION

Phase 1 kicks off the Master Plan implementation with addressing the shoreline and erosion issues at the boat launch area and along the west side of the park. The ability for park staff to efficiently maintain the beach area is a top priority. Further study and design of the shoreline/erosion seed mixes may be necessary before construction begins during Spring of 2019.

PHASE 2: PICNIC SHELTER + PARK AREAS

Phase 2 of the Master Plan will consist of construction of the new picnic shelter with seating and adjacent barbecue grill(s) and the addition of more seating and picnic tables along the beach and shaded area on the west side of the park. This phase also integrates new pet waste stations, per updated park policy to allow leashed pets. The design and construction of the new picnic shelter is dependent on near-term funding provided by the local Jaycees and supplemental funds from the City or other sources.

PHASE 3: ACCESSIBILITY + VISIBILITY AT SURFSIDE PARK

Phase 3 of the Master Plan addresses mobility and circulation throughout the park with the construction of paved paths connecting to newly constructed features, such as the picnic shelter, as well as sets the stage for future elements to be constructed in Phase 4 (such as the playground). Phase 3 also includes constructing a number of placemaking elements, such as the perennial gardens along the Mound Depot building, screening for portable toilets and parking areas, and construction of a sand washing station with information kiosk and drinking fountain.

PHASE 4: PLAYGROUND AND BEACH

While the replacement of the playground is a top priority for Surfside Park, design and construction of this anchor element will be the most costly item within the Master Plan. For this reason, the nature-based playground and associated placemaking elements, such as screening and additional seating, were placed in Phase 4. An appropriate level of funding needs to be secured, either through City-driven funds or potentially through grant-writing or other sources, as well as additional community input for the final design.

FIGURE 4.2 SURFSIDE PARK PHASING PLAN

Example of a parking lot stormwater BMP with permeable pavers and an integrated vegetated swale.

Existing legacy trees at Surfside Park, planted along the east perimeter of the green space.

LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS

A number of long-term projects were identified during the Master Planning process. These projects should be considered when revisiting a Master Plan update in future years.

PARKING LOT STORMWATER BMPS

» Both the east and west parking lots have the potential to provide stormwater infiltration through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as using permeable paving, vegetated swales or catchment areas, or integrating adjacent raingardens or vegetated filter strips. Through grants or other funding sources, these parking lots could be re-designed and constructed to filter or treat surface runoff before it enters the lake.

EXTERIOR RENOVATION OR ADDITION TO MOUND DEPOT BUILDING

» This Master Plan identifies some short-term maintenance projects for the exterior of the Mound Depot Building, such as painting/staining of the wood deck and rails and/or updating exterior light fixtures. As use of the Depot Building increases or changes in the future, there may be a potential need for a building addition or re-design of the exterior. At this time, building rental and restroom policies should be re-visited to meet the future needs of park users.

PERIMETER TREE PLANTING STRATEGY

» The existing tree-cover at Surfside Park provides shade for picnic areas, while providing an open green space that is suitable for large community events. As older trees die out, replacement trees should be planted along the perimeter of the park to preserve the open green space.

COST ESTIMATES

The cost estimate was developed through cost comparison with similar projects in the metro area. A low and high quantity and unit cost were used for each anchor and placemaking element, in order to develop a range of total costs. In general, costs in the estimate reflect a general assumption of modest material choices suitable for a neighborhood or community park setting. The estimate is a planning level cost estimate and is intended to assist with capital investment forecasting and fund raising; more detailed costs may need to be determined as the Master Plan is implemented.

TABLE 4.1 SURFSIDE PARK CAPITAL COST ESTIMATES

PHASE 1: MAINTENANCE DRIVE + RESTORATION

Type	Improvement	Tag	Unit	Quantity Min	Quantity Max	Unit Cost (Low)	Unit Cost (High)	Total (Low)	Total (High)
Anchor	Shoreline restoration planting	C	Ac	0.5	0.5	$4,000	$6,000	$2,000	$3,000
Anchor	Erosion control	C	SF	2000	3000	$3	$8	$6,000	$24,000
Anchor	Maintenance drive	D	LF	100	120	$25	$35	$2,500	$4,200
Anchor	Fence/rail + removable bollard	D	LS	1	1	$1,500	$3,000	$1,500	$3,000
Placemaking	Paddle launch	E	EA	1	1	$1,000	$5,000	$1,000	$5,000
Placemaking	Information kiosk	F	LS	1	1	$1,000	$3,000	$1,000	$3,000
							Phase1 Totals	**$13,000** (Low)	**$39,200** (High)

PHASE 2: PICNIC SHELTER + PARK AREAS

Type	Improvement	Tag	Unit	Quantity Min	Quantity Max	Unit Cost (Low)	Unit Cost (High)	Total (Low)	Total (High)
Anchor	Pavilion	A	EA	1	1	$30,000	$50,000	$30,000	$50,000
Placemaking	Benches	B	EA	2	4	$800	$1,500	$1,600	$6,000
Placemaking	Picnic tables	B	EA	2	4	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$8,000
Placemaking	Barbecue grills	B	EA	1	3	$300	$600	$300	$1,800
Placemaking	Trash receptacles	B	EA	3	5	$1,000	$1,500	$3,000	$7,500
Placemaking	Pet waste stations	B	EA	1	2	$500	$1,000	$500	$2,000
							Phase 2 Totals	**$37,400** (Low)	**$75,300** (High)

PHASE 3: ACCESSIBILITY + VISIBILITY

Type	Improvement	Tag	Unit	Quantity Min	Quantity Max	Unit Cost (Low)	Unit Cost (High)	Total (Low)	Total (High)
Anchor	Paved walk	G	SF	3000	4600	$5	$8	$15,000	$36,800
Placemaking	Vegetative screening	H	LS	1	1	$1,200	$2,400	$1,200	$2,400
Placemaking	Cedar wood screen for toilets	H	LF	60	120	$45	$45	$2,700	$5,400
Placemaking	Sand rinsing station	H	LS	1	1	$3,000	$7,000	$3,000	$7,000
Placemaking	Information kiosk	F	LS	1	1	$1,000	$3,000	$1,000	$3,000
Placemaking	Perennial garden at Mound Depot	J	LS	1	1	$6,000	$10,000	$6,000	$10,000
Placemaking	Ext. improvements to Mound Depot	L	LS	1	1	$1,500	$3,000	$1,500	$3,000
							Phase 3 Totals	**$30,400** (Low)	**$67,600** (High)

PHASE 4: PLAYGROUND + BEACH

Type	Improvement	Tag	Unit	Quantity Min	Quantity Max	Unit Cost (Low)	Unit Cost (High)	Total (Low)	Total (High)
Anchor	Design, installation of playground	M	LS	1	1	$80,000	$150,000	$80,000	$150,000
Anchor	Playground surfacing	M	LS	1	1	$25,000	$50,000	$25,000	$50,000
Anchor	Playground paved walk	M	SF	1200	2000	$5	$8	$6,000	$16,000
Placemaking	Shade structures	K	EA	2	5	$10,000	$20,000	$20,000	$100,000
Placemaking	Benches	B	EA	1	3	$800	$1,500	$800	$4,500
							Phase 4 Totals	**$131,800** (Low)	**$320,500** (High)

All Phases Totals	**$212,600** (Low)	**$502,600** (High)

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SURFSIDE PARK MASTER PLAN