

Meeting Notes – Public Open House #1

March 11, 2020 Lingle Hall at Reid Hospital 1100 Reid Parkway Richmond, IN 47374

Public engagement is a vital component of the 2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. The first public open house was held on March 11, 2020 at Lingle Hall at Reid Hospital from 5:30pm to 7:00 pm. The public open house was advertised through postcards and social media invitations. The project master planning team and focus groups were also advised of the date during their respective meetings and were given postcards to share.

In total, 60 individuals signed in using the open house sign-in sheets.

The meeting was an open house format, which allowed attendees to filter through the various stations at their own pace. Each station had opportunities for feedback. The open house featured seven station topics:

Welcome Station

The Welcome Station featured a sign-in sheet and instructions for participants to use while visiting each station. Participants were greeted by the project team and were asked to read the exercise instructions at each station to provide their input and ideas. Those who hadn't already taken the community survey were asked to take a community survey card so that they could take the digital survey following the meeting. To ensure that the project team was engaging people of all ages, a children's coloring sheet was also provided, where children were asked to draw their ideal park.

Did You Know?

The "Did You Know?" Station was comprised of three boards and was informative in nature. A system-wide map of Richmond's park properties, recreational areas, and trail facilities provided an overview of the parks, open spaces, and trails managed and maintained by the Richmond Parks and Recreation Department. Basic facts about the Richmond Community and its parks, open spaces, and recreation system were also provided.

Existing Conditions

Challenges and barriers can greatly undermine any progress the Richmond Parks and Recreation Department has made. The Existing Conditions Station was comprised of three boards, where participants were asked to provide answers to a series of questions using the post-it notes provided. The comments received are detailed below:

What are the CHALLENGING or CONCERNING areas within Richmond's parks, open space and recreation system?

Staff

Need to hire interns from colleges across Richmond, not just from Earlham College.
 Students from Ivy Tech and IU East have good input as well!

Parks (System-Wide)

- Resources are spread too thin. There are too many parks for the city to maintain, and not enough funding, support, or staff to do so. Funds used for unknown or lessor-used parks should be redirected towards more well-known, frequently-used parks. In other words, focus on the best assets and maintain them well.
- Need improved fundraising efforts to support park needs for programming, events, and facilities.
- o The community needs to take ownership to preserve and protect their parks.
- Need improved security to reduce vandalism and dumping activities.
- Need improved marketing to publicize park programming and events.
- Social media trolls present a real problem on park pages.
- Need improved system-wide maintenance. Particular maintenance needs cited by residents include the springs, playgrounds, pickle ball courts, trails, restrooms, and seasonal planters.
- Need additional multi-use paths and trails to support active transportation opportunities such as walking and biking.
- Existing park programming has become stale. Consider new ideas to provide fresh and innovative programming.
- Litter is a real problem on streets without bike paths.
- o There is a lack of youth and family involvement in the parks.
- Need Urban Forest Management. Snags (dead trees) are good for wildlife, but may be hazardous to the public. Consider removing dead trees to improve public safety. If a tree is removed, plant a replacement.
- o There is a lack of emphasis on the importance of walking.

Pickle Ball

- Need to provide additional and maintain existing pickle ball courts.
- Need additional pickle ball parking.

• Clear Creek Park

Need to provide additional and maintain existing restrooms at Clear Creek Park.

McBride Stadium

- o McBride Stadium needs funding for major improvements.
- Need improved maintenance on ball fields, lighting, score boards, and fencing.

• Winter Farmer's Market

o Consider other locations for the Winter Farmer's Market.

Greenhouse

- Need additional full-time staff at the greenhouse.
- Need additional greenhouse classes.

• Whitewater Valley Gorge Park

Need improved security of the Starr-Gennett Medallions at Whitewater Valley Gorge
 Park. There are consistent issues with vandalism.

• Glen Miller Park

 Glen Miller Park needs improved walkability. Speed limits need to be enforced to reduce traffic violations and video camera monitoring or roundabouts should be considered to slow traffic.

• Elstro Plaza

- Need to open the restrooms at Elstro Plaza.
- The handicap parking spots on the south side of Elstro Plaza are too steep at the curb.
 Curbs need to be cut.
- Existing west exit bump out on the north side needs to be removed. When turning right, drivers can't see and collide with it.

Environmental

- o Manage system-wide invasive plant species removal. In particular, removal efforts should be focused on Veteran's Park and Middle Creek Reservoir.
- Landscape with native plantings.

What is your BIG IDEA for improving Richmond's parks, open spaces and programs in the future?

• Parks (System-wide)

- We need fewer, but better parks. In order to focus funds where they are most needed, consider selling lessor-used parks such as Wernle, Scantland, Berryfield, and Springwood.
- o Improve fundraising efforts to raise money for the parks.
- Hire interns from Ivy Tech and IU East.
- o Provide better and more sustainable utilization of our parks and waterways.

Programming

- Provide a community calendar of events. Consider additional programming for young adults to get them outdoors and supporting Richmond parks.
- o Provide baby animal yoga.
- o Create a farm-to-table dining event.
- o Provide additional summer programming.
- Provide for programs for seniors to participate with youth.
- Host additional sports leagues and tournaments with proceeds going back towards maintaining and improving sports fields.
- o Program the parks system-wide as part of the city of Richmond's rich history. Provide programs to celebrate the city's cultural diversity.
- Provide additional programming to unite the community, such as the Meltdown Ice Festival.
- o Provide group hiking or biking events to bring members of the community together.
- o Provide events and other programming opportunities for geocaching.
- o Establish a non-profit children's group to assist with park maintenance and clean-up.

• Amenities/Facilities

- o Provide additional dog parks with safe opportunities for people and dogs to interact.
- Provide an ultimate frisbee field.
- Establish a pollinator garden as an educational and interactive experience for park patrons.
- o Provide a youth sports complex that captures the teens.
- o Provide outdoor full-fitness stations.
- o Provide bathroom access where appropriate for patron convenience.
- o Provide treehouse shelters for exploration.
- Utilize vacant city lots as community gardens to be maintained by volunteers for victory gardens or flower plots.
- Provide concessions at sporting events.
- o Provide unpaved hiking and tree identification trails.
- o Provide additional educational facilities.
- o Provide an all-ages community center.
- o Provide additional programming for adults, not just youth or senior populations.
- o Provide ice skating rinks or trails.
- Provide unique meeting spaces for members of the community to rent out for personal and business use.
- o Provide a year-round indoor downtown public market.
- o Move the Winter Farmer's Market to a more centralized, downtown location.
- Bring back the Lincoln Tablet and make it accessible to visit with Limestone Blocks that straddle the creek.
- o Provide parklets utilizing unused pavement in the Central Bus District.
- o Provide a bicycle pump track.
- o Provide pickle ball court at locations other than Clear Creek Park.
- Provide a waterpark and splash pad.

Multi-Use Trails

- o Establish a network of multi-use paths and trail facilities to connect Richmond's parks.
- Establish a multi-use trail link between Earlham College and the Loop. Call it the "Art Link."
- Provide bike-sharing programming for bike rentals for park patrons to move around Richmond and explore the community.

Environmental

- o Implement prairie restoration strategies and no-mow areas.
- Work towards regaining Richmond's Tree City, USA designation.
- o Institute a tree management program.
- o Manage for improved forest health, when appropriate. Continue to work towards eliminating invasive species, such as honeysuckle, from the parks system-wide.

• Clear Creek Park

- Provide food trucks at Clear Creek Park
- Provide additional pickle ball courts at Clear Creek Park. Additionally, provide lighting and shade structures to make the courts safer and more comfortable for park patrons.

Elstro Plaza

o Provide more covered shade areas within the plaza.

Fossil Park

 Expand and improve upon the fossil park by engaging the community in the rich history of Richmond's geology.

• Glen Miller Park

- Increase safety at Glen Miller Park by providing additional police presence.
- o Provide a dog park at Glen Miller Park.
- o In order to eliminate speeding, speed bumps need to be installed.
- o Mitigate bank erosion.
- o Remove vegetation from the pond and install two additional foundations.
- o Dredge the main area between the pond and the stream.
- Close the park one hour after dark.
- Enforce fines for littering.
- o Improve flower displays sponsored by civic clubs and retail organizations.
- Improve Roosevelt Hill for winter programming, such as sledding.
- Provide a concert venue on Roosevelt Hill. One precedent would be the Fraze Pavilion, a 4,300-seat outdoor amphitheater in Kettering, Ohio.
- o Provide additional seating to rest while walking.

Greenhouse

o Make flower sales from the Greenhouse open to the public.

Whitewater Valley Gorge Park

- Develop wayfinding signage to direct people to the Starr-Gennett Building and the gorge to increase tourism and educate park patrons on local history.
- Develop the Starr-Gennett Walk of Fame Medallions as a destination. Consider moving them out of the ground and making them more prominent.
- Construct a replica of the Starr-Gennett recording studio as the Gennett Records Museum.
- Clear overgrowth in designated areas of the Whitewater Valley Gorge area along the Starr-Gennett building to establish a Riverwalk for park patrons to enjoy. This would also increase visibility and decrease the amount of vandalism and other criminal activities.
- Establish an outdoor amphitheater along the riverfront.
- Build upon the Starr-Gennett history at the Whitewater Valley Gorge Park.
- Establish an adventure park in the Whitewater Valley Gorge Park for activities such as ziplining, tubing, kayaking, and canoeing.
- Provide more covered shade areas within the parks.

Mark Scott Park

Provide a community orchard at Mary Scott Park.

McBride Stadium

 Update McBride Stadium. Consider public/private investment opportunities in order to accomplish this.

• Middlefork Reservoir

o Provide additional docks at Middlefork Reservoir for water programming.

What are your FAVORITE Richmond Parks and Recreation places, amenities and programs?

Parks

- o (1) 10th Street Park
- o (1) Cardinal Greenway
- o (5) Clear Creek Park
- o (1) Clark Creek Park Playground
- o (2) Cordell Municipal Pool
- o (15) Elstro Plaza
- o (2) Festivals at Elstro Plaza
- o (13) Farmer's Market at Elstro Plaza
- o (12) Glen Miller Park
- o (5) Splash Pad at Glen Miller Park
- o (4) Greenhouse and Classes
- o (3) The Loop Bike Path
- o (1) Mary Scott Park
- o (2) McBride Stadium
- o (10) Middlefork Reservoir
- o (2) Hill's Bark Park at Middlefork Reservoir
- o (3) Rose Garden
- o (2) Springwood Park
- o (2) Thistlewaite Falls
- o (3) Veteran's Park
- o (8) Whitewater Valley Gorge Park
- o (5) Starr-Gennett Walk of Fame Medallions at Whitewater Valley Gorge Park
- o (3) Logo Building at Whitewater Valley Gorge Park

Amenities

- o (3) Basketball
- o (2) Multi-Use Paths
- o (1) Community Gathering Spaces
- o (4) Disc Golf
- o (2) Golf
- o (1) Open Space
- o (17) Pickle Ball Courts
- o (6) Playgrounds
- o (1) Ponds
- o (2) Restrooms (Warm)
- o (1) Seasonal planters
- o (1) Softball Fields
- o (2) Walking the dog
- o (3) Tennis Courts
- o (1) Volleyball

Programming

o (1) Bloom and Glow

- o (2) Celebration of Lights
- o (1) JUKO
- o (1) Richmond Annual Fireworks Display at Glen Miller Park
- o (2) Free Programming and Events
- o (1) Walking Club
- Other
 - o (1) Park Improvements
 - (2) Variety of park types
 - o (1) Community engagement
 - o (2) Convenient access
 - o (1) Event partnerships
 - o (1) Hard work put in by staff
 - (1) Making memories with friends and appreciating nature

Community Aspirations

The parks master planning process works to determine the best way the community can remain successful moving forward. The Community Aspirations Station was comprised of four boards and focused on the future of Richmond Parks and Recreation. Using the dot stickers provided, participants were asked to vote on a series of 'yes' or 'no' aspirational questions relating to existing and future parks and recreation facilities, programming and amenities. Some participants identified as being neutral by placing the sticker on the line between the 'yes' or 'no' boxes. The responses received are detailed below:

Are parks important to your quality of life?

Yes: 50No: 1Neutral: 0

Is it important the you have a park within walking distance of your home?

Yes: 15No: 30Neutral: 4

Does the City of Richmond need more parks?

Yes: 11No: 39Neutral: 1

Do you feel that the City should work to reduce the number of parks and open space within the City?

Yes: 15No: 7Neutral: 28

Does the City of Richmond need more recreational programming options?

• Yes: 31

No: 8Neutral: 6

Does the City of Richmond need more rental facilities such as shelters and community rooms?

Yes: 16No: 30Neutral: 8

Does the City adequately maintain existing parks and open space facilities?

Yes: 1No: 35Neutral: 11

Does the City of Richmond need more trails or pathways?

Yes: 29No: 14Neutral: 8

Floor Map

The Floor Map Station was comprised of a large-scale floor map that asked participants to identify the locations where they recreate using the dots provided.

Community Priorities

Park systems are funded through a variety of means, but the majority of the revenue comes from City property tax dollars. The Community Priorities Station was comprised of two boards focused on tax investment, with the second board being a duplicate of the first. Participants were asked to invest \$1,500 in Richmond's park, open space, and recreation system by deciding how to spend it. Using the stickers provided, participants were asked to indicate their top three investment areas for the future. They were allowed to invest all of their tax dollars in a single category if they preferred. The responses received are as follows:

Maintain Existing Parks and Facilities: \$29,500
Add or Enhance Facilities/ Amenities: \$20,500
Add or Enhance Recreational Programs: \$8,500
Improve Access to and through Parks: \$6,500

• Acquire New Property: \$4,000

Community Needs

The parks master planning process helps to determine the best way the community's parks, open space and recreational system can remain successful moving forward. The Community Needs Station was comprised of three boards and asked participants to indicate their top three answers to a series of questions using the stickers provided. The comments received are detailed below:

What are your top three FACILITY and CAPITAL improvement needs for Richmond's parks and open space facilities?

- (17) Fitness and/ or exercise facilities
- (17) Indoor courts/ facilities
- (13) Playground equipment
- (13) Pickleball courts
- (12) Splash pads/spray parks
- (12) Softball fields
- (11) Fishing areas
- (9) Basketball courts
- (7) Volleyball courts
- (6) Baseball fields
- (5) Picnic Shelters
- (5) Soccer Fields
- (3) Tennis Courts
- (2) Football Fields

What are your top three PROGRAMMING needs for Richmond's parks and recreational system?

- (18) Nature programs and activities
- (14) Music and cultural events
- (14) Family oriented festivals/ events/ activities
- (10) Parent and child classes
- (10) Senior programs (age 50+)
- (8) Educational programs
- (8) Fitness classes
- (7) Intramural YOUTH sport leagues
- (6) Youth camps
- (5) Intramural ADULT sport leagues
- (5) Dog park events
- (4) Arts and crafts classes
- (4) Aquatic activities/ classes
- (4) Performing arts classes

What are your top three MAINTENANCE and OPERATION needs for Richmond's parks and open space facilities?

- (24) Improved or more frequent maintenance within the parks
- (23) Continued parks and facilities updates
- (21) Additional full-time staff
- (19) Additional funding
- (16) More volunteers
- (14) More partnerships with public/ private schools
- (13) More partnerships with community organizations

- (13) Improved marketing of programs and events
- (7) Competitive fees for programs and facilities
- (6) Online program registrations and reservations
- (6) Increased safety measures
- (4) Additional staff training and continued education



PLEASE SIGN IN!

Project: Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan

PUBLIC WORK SHOP: March 11, 2020 | 5:00-7:30pm

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PUBLIC WORK SHOP: March 11, 2020 | 5:00-7:30pm

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Project: Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan

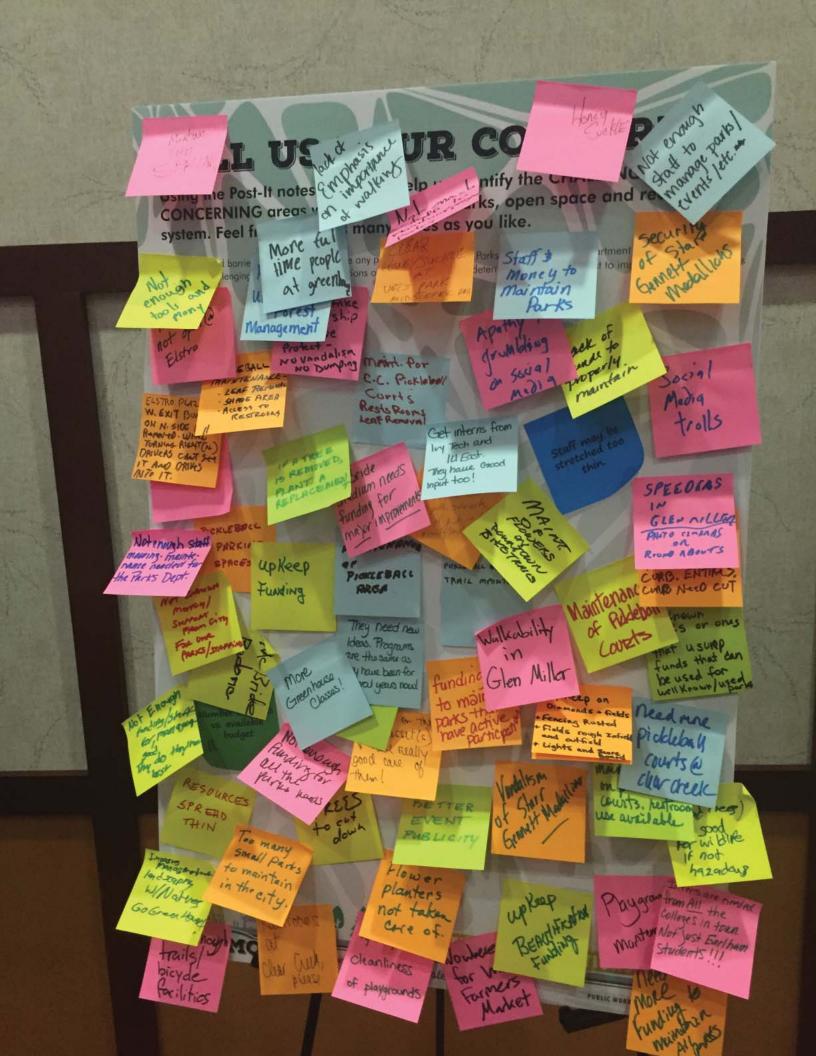
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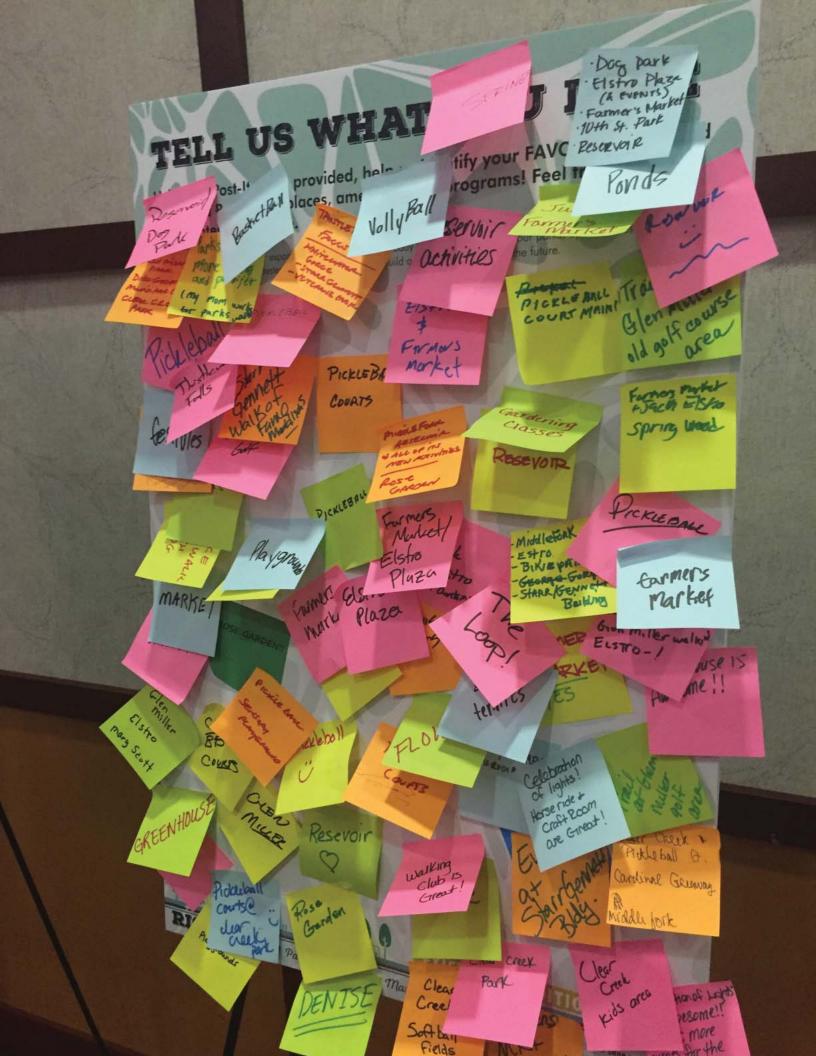
— I can draw—

Show us your passion for parks! Using the space provided, draw your ideal park.







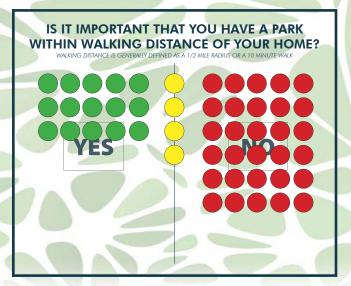


WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE...

Using the dot stickers provided, please vote on the following questions. The dot color does not matter for this exercise.

The parks master planning process will work to determine the best way the community's parks, open space and recreational system can remain successful moving forward. By establishing a common vision for the future we can better align recommendations and community resources in the future.









COMMUNITY DREAMS STATION

RICHMOND Parks and Recreation Master Plan

what would you like to see...

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DO YOU FEEL THAT THE CITY SHOULD WORK TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PARKS AND **OPEN SPACE WITHIN THE CITY?**









COMMUNITY DREAMS STATION

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COMMUNITY DREAMS STATION

RICHMOND Parks and Recreation Master Plan



information with the available Post-It notes so we know what is important

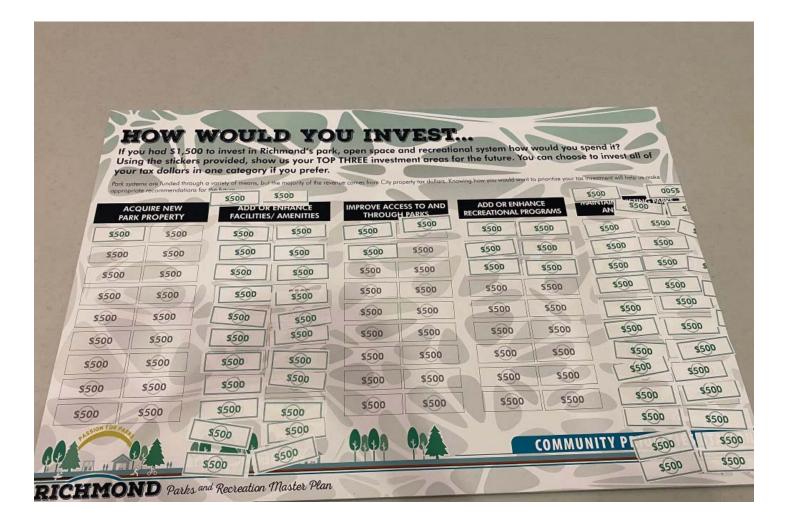


HOW WOULD YOU INVEST...

If you had \$1,500 to invest in Richmond's park, open space and recreational system how would you spend it?
Using the stickers provided, show us your TOP THREE investment areas for the future. You can choose to invest all of your tax dollars in one category if you prefer.

Park systems are funded through a variety of means, but the majority of the revenue comes from City property tax dollars. Knowing how you would want to prioritize your tax investment will help us make appropriate recommendations for the future.

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RICHMOND NEEDS MORE ...

Using the stickers provided, indicate your top three FACILITY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT needs for Richmond's parks and open space facilities.

The parks master planning process will work to determine the best way the community's parks, open space and recreational system can remain successful moving forward. Your ideas are important to this process and your ideas could make a huge impact!

PROJECT OR IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY NEED VOTING AREA	
Fitness and/ or exercise facilities		17
Playground equipment	••••••••	13
Splash pads/ Spray Parks	0000000000	12
Picnic Shelters		5
Fishing Areas	000000000	11
Baseball Fields		6
Softball Fields	••••••••	12
Soccer Fields		5
Tennis Courts		3
Volleyball Courts		7
Pickleball Courts	•••••••••	13
Basketball Courts	00000000	9
Indoor courts/ facilities		17
Football Fields		2





COMMUNITY NEEDS STATION

RICHMOND NEEDS MORE ...

Using the stickers provided, indicate your top three PROGRAMMING needs for Richmond's parks and recreational system.

The parks master planning process will work to determine the best way the community's parks, open space and recreational system can remain successful moving forward. Your ideas are important to this process and your ideas could make a huge impact!

PROJECT OR IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY NEED VOTING AREA	
Arts and crafts classes		4
Aquatic activities/ classes		4
Educational programs	0000000	8
Fitness classes	••••••	8
Intramural ADULT sport leagues		5
Intramural YOUTH sport leagues		7
Music and cultural events	000000000000	14
Nature programs and activities	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	18
Parent and child classes	000000000	10
Performing arts classes		4
Senior programs (age 50+)	•••••••	10
Youth camps		6
Family oriented festivals events/ activities	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	14
Dog Park Events		5





COMMUNITY NEEDS STATION

RICHMOND NEEDS MORE ...

Using the stickers provided, indicate your top three MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION needs for Richmond's parks and open space facilities.

The parks master planning process will work to determine the best way the community's parks, open space and recreational system can remain successful moving forward. Your ideas are important to this process and your ideas could make a huge impact!

PROJECT OR IMPROVEMENT	PRIORITY NEED VOTING AREA	
More volunteers	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	16
Additional full-time staff	00000	21
Improved or more frequent maintenance within the parks	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	24
More partnerships with community organizations	000000000000	13
Additional funding		19
Online program registrations and reservations		6
Continued parks and facilities updates	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	23
Additional staff training and continued education		4
More partnerships with public/ private schools	••••••••	14
Improve marketing of programs and events	0000000000000	13
Competitive fees for programs and facilities		7
Increased safety measures		6





COMMUNITY NEEDS STATION