YOUR CITY, YOUR PARKS
GREEN SPACE AT 32ND STREET

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Community Input for park development along 32nd Street has completed. Thank you to all who voiced their desires and concerns both in-person and online. Your input has directly influenced conceptual design opportunities that serve the needs of the community and are sensitive to plant and animal ecologies within the property.

Neighborhood Context Focus Group Meeting
- 5 Participants
- Small group discussion to preliminarily understand current needs and concerns within the community

Input Session #1: Opportunities and Concerns | August 17, 2021
- 60 Participants
- Mapping Exercise & Basic Needs Precedent Imagery

Online Survey #1: Opportunities and Concerns
- 40 Participants

Input Session #2: Concept Development | October 5, 2021
- 52 Participants
- Ecological Framework Study
- 2 Conceptual site designs presented

Online Survey #2: Concept Development
- 40 Participants

Samaritas Residents Focus Group Meeting: Concept Development
- 10 Participants
- Mapping exercise and model making

Input Session #3: Preferred Concept Presentation | November 17, 2021

A park master plan is a high-view road map for future park improvements that considers what is important about a site, records community needs and concerns, and documents how its character can be conserved and improved in the future. It is a community-driven comprehensive vision and plan that establishes a framework for a park’s use and development over the next 5 years. This framework will allow the City of Grand Rapids to provide a variety of recreational opportunities in an environmentally sound and sensitive manner. As funding becomes available and implementation phases begin, the Parks Department will conduct a robust second round of public engagement sessions that focus on specific site improvement components.

NEXT STEPS

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Winter 2022
- Submit the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Strategic Master plan to Michigan DNR, including the 32nd Street Priority Park site master plan
- Create cost estimates for improvements and determine phasing, as needed

Spring-Fall 2022
- Align planning and funding for pedestrian safety enhancements along 32nd Street in partnership with City Engineering and Traffic Safety departments
- Fundraising as needed -- DNR grants, other grants, private funding
- Formalize partnerships for research and recommendations on conservation and natural area enhancement -- Audubon Society, Land Conservancy, and/or local educational institutions (GVSU, Calvin University, MSU)
- Additional community engagement for final design of Phase 1 project

2023-2024
- Construction documents and permitting
- $250,000 Parks Millage earmarked

PARKS MILLAGE 101

Where Does Park Project Funding Come From?

In 2019, Grand Rapids voters approved a parks millage that provides the Parks & Recreation Department with a dedicated, evergreen source of funding for parks, pools, and playgrounds. Approximately $5 million per year is captured from property taxes to support:

- $4 million for continued capital improvements and rehabilitation of the City’s 76 parks
- $1 million to keep three city pools at Briggs, MLK, and Richmond parks open and operating each summer
- $1 million for increased parks maintenance
- $200,000 to support increased recreational programming and scholarship opportunities for recreation classes

$5.73/month average homeowner cost as of 2021 for permanent Park Millage

Trail improvements to Huff Park through the 2013 Parks Millage