

Brightmoor Area Framework Plan

Parks & Open Space Focus Group

April 11, 2024

Crowell Recreation Center, 6-7:30 pm

AGENDA

- Welcome + Introduction
- Presentation
 - Project schedule recap
 - Finish sharing information from Economic Development Focus Group - Community land trust and co-ops overview
 - Review what residents have shared about parks to date
 - Discuss the state of Brightmoor's parks today
- Discussion of parks opportunities
- Wrap up + Next Steps

OVERALL SUMMARY

Meeting participants highlighted a range of opportunities and needs for parks, open space, water quality, and related topics. Some specific areas of focus were:

- **Community land trust and co-ops:** Attendees would like more information about community land trusts to be shared at 5/2 workshop. Questions came up about how a community land trust would work in Brightmoor. (This content was originally planned for the Economic Development Focus Group but time ran out before it could be shared so it was shared at the beginning of the Parks Focus Group instead.)
- **Park Enhancements:** Attendees would like to see restrooms and picnic shelters, especially at Eliza Howell. These are improvements that the Eliza Howell Master Plan process can consider. Other desired park improvements include: youth employment and internship/career development opportunities, tennis instruction, and creating a sportsway by turning vacant lots into sports fields.
- **Improve access to parks:** Attendees would like to see sidewalk repair and more collaboration/communication between city and County about Fenkell

Bridge project, as this is making access to Eliza Howell Park more difficult. Attendees raised varied opinions about bicycle routes. Desire for improvements to the Lyndon Street Greenway.

- **DWSD Stormwater Projects:** While some attendees are glad for environmental benefits of green stormwater infrastructure, there are concerns that feedback opportunities for Fenkell stormwater gardens were limited in terms of selected site locations and design choices. Attendees emphasized the importance of planning for ongoing maintenance and to reduce risk of flood impacts to adjacent sites.
- **Arts, Culture, Events, and Wayfinding:** Although there was not time to cover these slides in the meeting, attendees shared feedback on handouts about what they would like to see. Answers included: spaces for performance art, music events, public art and branding/wayfinding along Fenkell, murals, sensory/healing arts, professional meeting spaces, and seasonal offerings.

Residents can review the slides and video from the focus group discussion on the Brightmoor Area Framework Plan webpage [here](#). If you missed the meeting and would like to share your input, you can access an online survey with the same questions discussed at the meeting at [this link](#). The survey will be open until 5/6.

DISCUSSION

Desired park improvements and ideas:

- **Restrooms**, especially in larger parks that host events.
 - GSD shared that the citywide parks strategic plan has recommended that restrooms only be considered for larger parks and not for neighborhood parks. This is because restrooms can be expensive to build and sometimes can create safety concerns so they can't add them everywhere. Restrooms at Eliza Howell could be considered as part of the upcoming park master plan process.
- Could there be opportunities for **youth jobs or internships** connected to parks?
 - Request to also be clear about what should be the city's job (ex. Restrooms maintenance)
 - Idea for teaching all jobs connected to sports to increase opportunities for youth (ex. Running scoreboard, care of facility, etc.)

- Idea for **sportsway**: turn vacant lots into sports fields!
- Existing sidewalks are not in good condition in some areas and it can be difficult to use them to get around for an able-bodied person. Need to **fix sidewalks** to improve access to parks.
- Lyndon Street Greenway today is basically like any other street except for the “greenway” signage. Would like to see **Lyndon St Greenway enhanced** as an actual Greenway
- **Different opinions about bicycle lanes**: A few participants clarified that they do not want to see any bike lanes, especially on Fenkell, Schoolcraft, and Lyndon. A few other participants said they are bikers themselves or would like to see safe ways for people to wheel around safely whether they are using a wheelchair or bicycle. Concern that the design of the bike lanes on Grand River is unsafe for bicycling.
- **The condition of Fenkell and the bridge project** makes access more difficult to Eliza Howell. Would like to see more collaboration between the County and City about the bridge, and more communication with the community about what the plan is and who to contact with questions.
- Would like to have **picnic shelters** at Eliza Howell
 - This could be another topic to include in the Eliza Howell master plan
 - How were Stoepel's picnic shelters paid for? Will picnic shelters require a permit and cost money to rent?
 - Yes, permits will be required and there is a small fee.
 - GSD will need to look up information about the funding source.
- Could there be **tennis instruction** offered at Stoepel to compliment the recent investments in physical improvements in the park?

Other Topics:

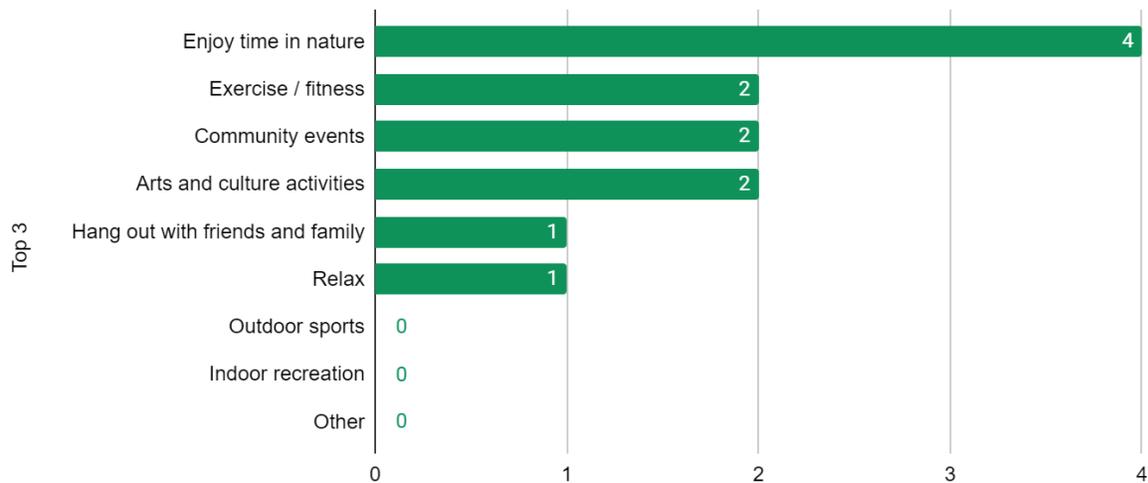
- **Community Land Trust + Co-ops**
 - Attendees would like more info about these topics to be shared at the 5/2 workshop
 - Questions about how the community land trust would work in Brightmoor. Could an outsider use this to buy up land and hold onto it?
- **Water quality** - three attendees at the meeting report that the water that comes out of their sinks has a foul odor.
 - DWSD said this isn't connected to flooding/storm water because drinking water is an entirely separate system. They haven't heard the drinking water quality problem before and wanted to get more information from the people who experienced it.

- Comments about **DWSD's stormwater projects**
 - While benefits of absorbing stormwater are appreciated, concerns that locations for Fenkell stormwater gardens were selected based on engineering calculations without choice from adjacent property owners.
 - How many public meetings have there been?
 - Four about the Fenkell stormwater gardens.
 - Concerns that feedback opportunities offered were limited in terms of choices offered.
 - Concerns about aesthetic of rain gardens and who will maintain them.
 - Larger GSI - question from an adjacent landowner - what reassurances will there be to landowners who live nearby that the project won't result in increased flooding on their lot?
- More information requested on the **Detroit Land Bank Authority**. Does the City of Detroit own it? Is it a private for profit corporation or a nonprofit?
 - It is an authority that has the responsibility to care for City of Detroit owned parcels. PDD / City will need to check on the exact legal nature of the entity and can follow up with more information .
- Would like to see how **racial equity toolkit** is being used in the project to ensure it will not perpetuate inequities.
 - City is coordinating internally on this topic.
- **Caring for community:** One business owner who opened a new restaurant on Fenkell described how he came to Brightmoor because he wanted to create jobs and make a positive difference in the community.
- Friends of the Rouge River - Rouge River is one of most degraded water bodies in Michigan. Excited about opportunities to support **cleaner water** in the river.
- Desire to **expand awareness and participation** in the planning process
 - If Advisory Committee is volunteers, concern this will limit participation to residents who can afford to volunteer time.
 - Requests to get word distributed more broadly for upcoming meeting. Reach out to Dave if you would like a yard sign advertising the 5/2 meeting.

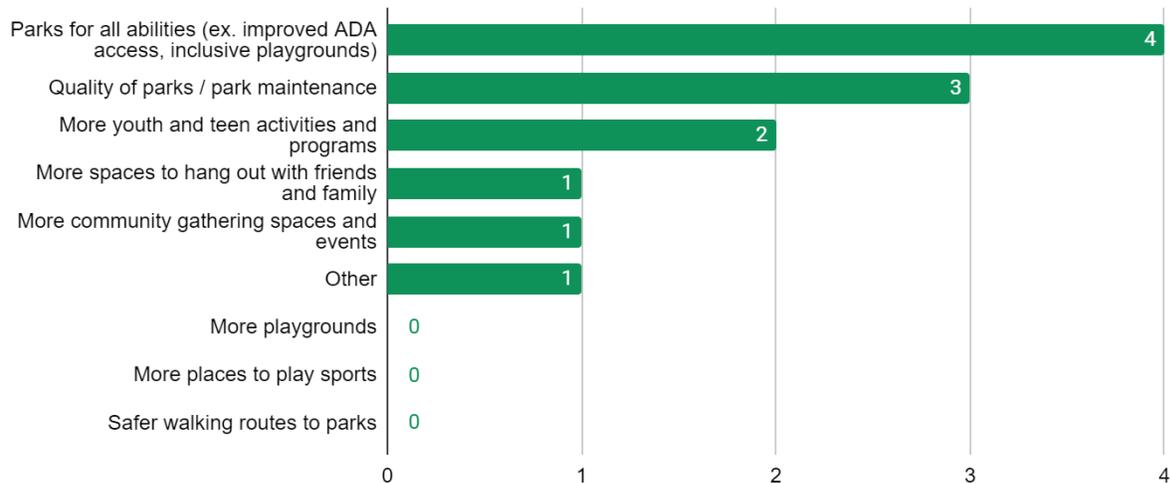
Survey Answers

- This meeting summary includes answers from the **4 paper handouts** that were completed at the meeting.
- An online survey with the same questions asked at the meeting will be open until 5/6. You can access the online survey at this link: www.tinyurl.com/BrightmoorParks
- This summary will be updated with online responses after the survey closes on 5/6.

1. What are your Top 3 favorite things to do related to parks and recreation?



2. What's missing for parks and recreation that you / your family would like to do?



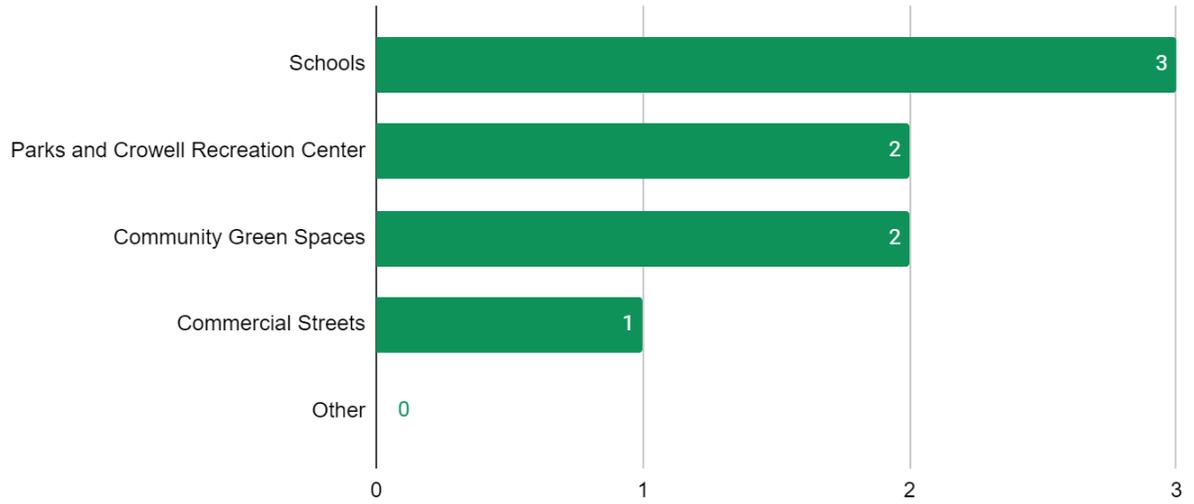
Other:

- *Nature and natural areas*

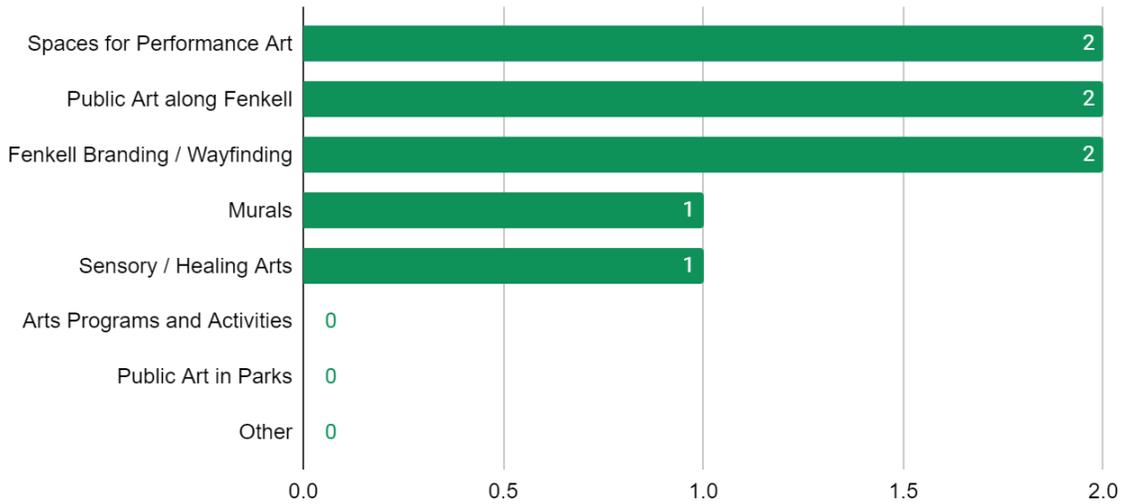
If you selected "sports" as a missing activity in the question above, which sports were you thinking of?

- *Need tennis and baseball spaces*

3. Greenway / Walking Routes: What destinations are most important to connect?



4. What types of arts, culture, and wayfinding would you like to see more of in the Brightmoor area?



5. What else would you like to see in the Brightmoor area ...

a. For parks and other public open spaces?

- *Solar Lights*
- *Water features for small kids*
- *Natural areas management; Invasive species management*

b. For recreation programs and activities?

- *Park*

c. For events?

- *Jazz in the Park*
- *Professional Meeting Spaces*
- *Seasonal offering*
- *Music Festivals*

d. For arts, culture, and wayfinding?

- *Individually owned bookstore*