

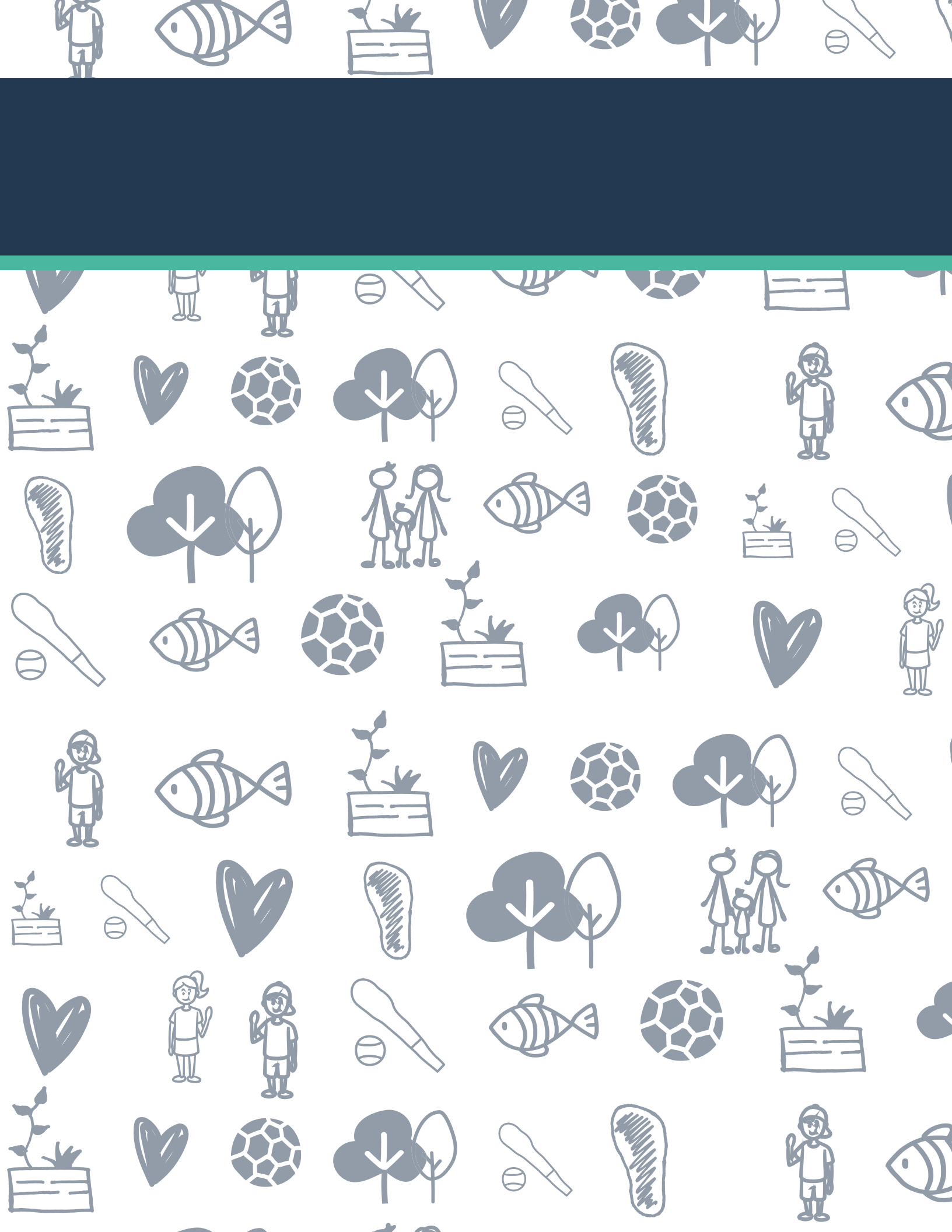
JOHN HENDRY PARK

MASTER PLAN

Phase 1 Engagement Executive Summary

February 2020





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PROJECT CONTEXT

In late summer 2019, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Vancouver Park Board) re-initiated a planning and engagement process to develop a Master Plan for John Hendry Park in Vancouver's Cedar Cottage neighbourhood.

The purpose of the master plan is to identify short, medium and long-term priorities for the park and to ensure that capital and operating investments in the park align with Park Board strategies and policies, including the People, Parks and Dogs strategy.

Engagement Process

Recognizing that this park is so well used and much loved, the Vancouver Park Board implemented a robust community and stakeholder engagement program to support development of the master plan. In order to achieve the engagement program, a number of engagement opportunities were planned over a nine-month period.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of findings from the Phase 1 engagement events, which included an open house, online survey, workshop and three deep dive sessions.

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Open House

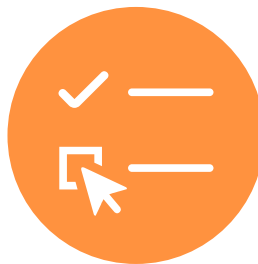
Oct 5, 2019



250
participants

Online Survey

Oct 4 - Oct 30, 2019



1150+
responses

Workshop

Nov 19, 2019



50
participants

Deep Dive: Off-Leash Area

Nov 26, 2019



30
participants

Deep Dive: Farmers Market & Community Gardens

Nov 28, 2019



15
participants

Deep Dive: Fields

Nov 28, 2019



11
participants

WHAT WE HEARD

OPEN HOUSE #1

On October 5, 2019, the Park Board held an Open House at the Trout Lake Community Centre to kick off the John Hendry Park master planning process. This event provided an opportunity for the community to provide input on the development of a new master plan for John Hendry Park. Over 250 people attended the event.

The event was set up for participants to circulate through various zones, which focused on the following:

- Vision & Principles
- Reviewing and Updating Recommendations
- Seeking Further Input
- Developing New Recommendations

REVIEWING AND UPDATING RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2015, the draft John Hendry Park Master Plan identified a number of potential recommendations, which the project team feels are still relevant.

Improve the Experience of Park Users

- 1 Develop Additional Picnic Shelters
- 2 Provide Public Washroom Access at North End of the Park
- 3 Increase Park Amenities
- 4 Install Boardwalks and Lake Lookouts in Key Locations
- 5 Improve Wayfinding, Signage & Features
- 6 Improve Services to Accommodate Events

Support & Enhance Natural Habitat

- 7 Improve Existing Natural Habitat Areas
- 8 Create New Natural Areas
- 9 Support Restoration of Trout Lake Bog
- 10 Increase Trees and Include Interpretive Elements

Improve Water Resources

- 11 Direct Internal Park Run-Off to Trout Lake
- 12 Integrate Neighbourhood Stormwater Daylighting and Management
- 13 Trout Lake Water Quality Treatment and Monitoring

Participants were invited to share their thoughts and suggestions on these recommendations to confirm and identify improvements. There was general agreement on moving forward with the majority of the recommendations.

Common opinions included:

- Balancing people and nature
- Not over developing the park,
- Incorporating better signage throughout the park
- Clarifying off-leash area boundaries
- Improving water quality
- Reconciliation
- Connecting the park to the water system.

The feedback received will be used to revise and update the recommendations.

SEEKING FURTHER INPUT

Previous recommendations from the 2015 draft plan focused on circulation and improvements to the south beach area. We feel that these are still important, but the details need to be reviewed.

Circulation

Participants were asked to help identify and map potential circulation issues within the park. Below provides a summary of the input.

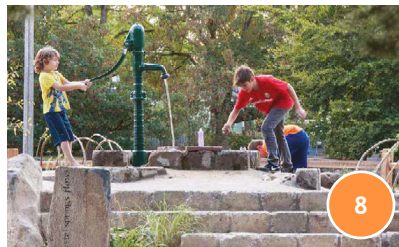
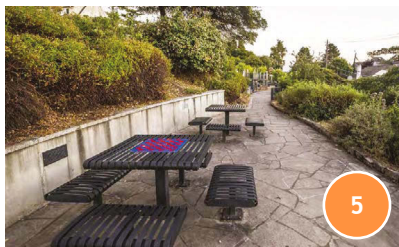
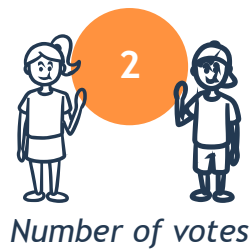
- **Most conflicts occur where multiple user groups cross or are in close contact, including:**
 - » The Lakewood Dr entry
 - » Near the south parking lot
 - » Along the BC Parkway cycle route
 - » Where pedestrian trails cross the off-leash area
- Ideas for improving connections throughout the park with the objectives of accessibility and safety.
- Desire for improved linkages to / from the Trout Lake Community Centre.
- Desire for a stronger north-south route between the northwest corner of the park to E 19th Ave.
- Suggestions for improved, multilingual signage.
- Desire for pedestrian amenities (boardwalk lookouts, seating, lighting on key routes, and a drinking fountain at the north end of the park).
- Desire for cycling amenities
- Concerns about pedestrian and cycling transitions between the park and E 19th Ave.
- Concerns about the speed of cycling through the park, especially with use of electric bikes.
- Concerns about vehicles shortcutting through lanes around the park to access parking and parking illegally in alleyways.

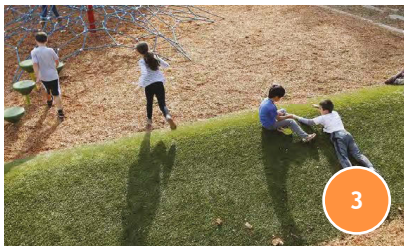
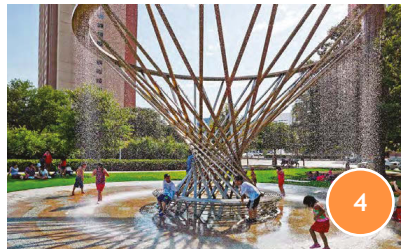
South Beach Area

In 2015, there were a number of suggestions for improving the Trout Lake South Beach Area including:

- A new South Beach Concession and Washroom Building;
- A new Playground with adjacent seating areas for small community gatherings
- Improvements to the Beach

Respondents were asked to mark the images that inspired them the most for the South Beach area.





DEVELOPING NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussions for Deeper Conversations

Four key areas required a more thorough understanding, discussion and investigation with community members:

- Community Gardens;
- Trout Lake Farmers Market;
- Dog Off-Leash Area and;
- Playing Fields.

Below are preliminary key points we heard, from participants at the open house, that helped facilitate three deep dive workshops discussed further in this report about these four topics.

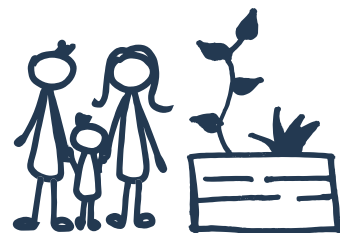
1 Community Gardens

Opinions:

- Addition of a community garden seen as a huge benefit and proposed location seen as favorable
- Communal plots/common areas a popular option
- Access to playground and provision for family gathering

Concerns:

- Copley Orchard and Hull+20th seen as potential alternate locations for the proposed community garden
- Concerns about over-development of green space



2 Farmer's Market

Opinions:

- Needs to be relocated as the current location doesn't provide enough space
- Provision of additional green space for vendors
- Make farmer's market more accessible to non-drivers
- Support market with nearby access to washrooms, bike racks and parking

Concerns:

- Will take up parking spaces
- Should be distanced from bike traffic
- Don't locate it in resident's backyard



3 Dog Off-Leash Area

Opinions:

- Need for better signage instead of fencing
- Redirect pedestrian pathway to reduce conflict
- Provide an alternate walking trail for people who don't want to interact with dogs
- Clearly defined walking and bike paths
- Possibility of a dog only trail along lake
- Alternative space for small dogs to play/roam
- Multi-use trails and playgrounds to have some form of demarcation as little children/old aged people frequent these places and tend to get scared of the big dogs

Concerns:

- Concerns about dog off-leash area being fenced
- Minimizing the existing area not a popular opinion among many
- User conflicts, especially along busy intersections



4 Playing Field

Opinions:

- Fields with marginal uses should be re-purposed or naturalized
- Upgrade the clubhouse
- Lights for night activity
- Changing rooms required in the Northeast field

Concerns:

- Protect parked cars from softballs
- Keep pedestrians off bike ways



WHAT WE HEARD WORKSHOP

On November 19, 2019, a workshop was held at the Croatian Cultural Centre. This workshop was an opportunity for members of the public to listen and learn from other participants on the following key topics so that the preferences of all interested participants can be documented and help to inform a recommendation. The four station topics were:

- My Park (capturing other topics participants felt were important to discuss)
- Dog Off-Leash Area
- Farmers Market and Community Garden
- Fields, Courts, and Playgrounds

Each station had one facilitator, one notetaker, and one graphic recorder who, in real-time, created a visual representation of the discussion.



Overall Summary

While a variety of park users attended the workshop, several common themes came through. Conflicts between park users was an issue raised in every group. While most acknowledged that conflicts exist (between cyclists and pedestrians, field users and off-leash users, off-leash users and picnickers, park users and wildlife, off-leash users and pedestrians, and off-leash users and cyclists), opinions were mixed regarding solutions to managing conflicts. While some felt that barriers and fencing would be required to solve issues, others felt that education, signage, or enforcement may be sufficient to help manage conflict.

Access to amenities was also a recurring theme, though specific priority amenities differed from group to group. All groups felt that improved washrooms access is important. Feedback on the community garden amenities focused on access to water. Feedback on the farmers market amenities prioritized access to power, seating, and transportation (i.e., better cycling parking and transit access). Fields and courts users' priority amenities included better water fountains and increased waste collection sites.

Park maintenance was also raised by many participants. Key priorities for maintenance included: maintaining natural spaces and providing a safe environment for wildlife; improving field conditions and drainage; and improving the quality of the beaches and lake.



WHAT WE HEARD

DEEP DIVE SESSIONS

In late November, a series of three Deep Dive sessions were held at the Trout Lake Community Centre. These sessions were an opportunity for stakeholders and interested members of the public to dive into the details and discuss trade-offs of some of the complex park elements including the off-leash dog area, fields, farmer's market and community garden. The purpose of these sessions was to work with participants to evaluate options, understand perspectives, listen to concerns and answer questions.

Deep Dive Session #1: Digging in the Dirt (Dogs)

Deep Dive Session #2: Playing on Dirt (Fields and Playgrounds)

Deep Dive Session #3: Don't Eat Dirt (Farmer's Market & Community Garden)



DEEP DIVE: OFF-LEASH AREA

Overall Summary

Aspects of the options that participants were most supportive of were: taking action to decrease conflict between cyclists, pedestrians, and dogs, although feedback on methods of doing this was mixed; maintaining a large size for the off-leash area; maintaining north beach access for the off-leash area; creating a boundary between the off-leash area and natural habitat areas and protecting wildlife; and maintaining a natural look and feel of the area.



The key point of divergent options was boundaries. There was a spectrum of opinions regarding boundaries, with some participants stating they do not want to see any boundaries, to others saying they would be supportive of some boundaries, especially if they are permeable and natural, to others expressing that they feel there should be a more defined, impermeable boundary around the entire area to ensure dogs are not off leash in other areas of the park.

There were also varied opinions about whether a portion of the off-leash area should be dedicated as a fully secure off-leash area. While some participants stated they would appreciate such a space for smaller or more anxious dogs, others stated it would be under-used and would cut into the space of the overall off-leash area.

Lastly, two of the options presented a potential shift to the existing north parking lot, which also received mixed reviews. Some stated that it would benefit the area overall by decreasing conflicts between motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and off-leash area users; others expressed concern about costs, which could reduce money available to be spent on other park improvements, and construction, which could impact the off-leash area and park overall for a period of time.

DEEP DIVE: FIELDS & PLAYGROUNDS



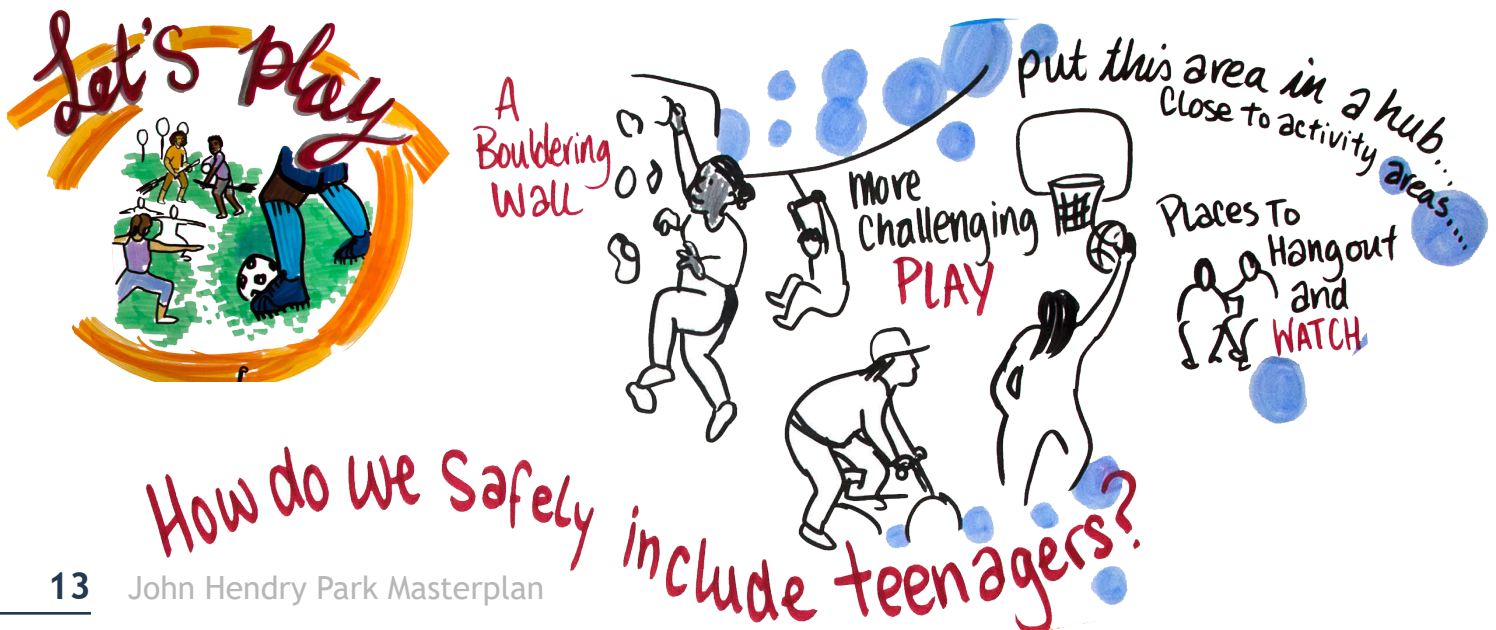
Overall Summary

During discussions, the primary concerns identified were related to potential changes to existing fields, particularly how changes may impact current specific user groups. Many groups expressed a desire to maintain fields they currently use, in part related to a perceived lack of field space overall in the area (concerns about displacement). While there was some support for many new field ideas tabled, often a specific user group had concerns about potential impacts to their use. Finding a balance of different types of fields (multi-use, softball, etc.) was a priority. It may be anticipated that trade-offs related to fields will need to be considered in the plan as it is unlikely that all user groups' desires can be fully satisfied.

There was discussion about conflicts between people using playing fields and dogs coming onto the fields from the dog off-leash area. There were suggestions from field user groups to add boundaries around the off-leash area to reduce conflict.

The most contentious discussions centred around the conversion of the existing all-weather field to synthetic turf. There were strong opinions both in support and non-support of this potential change.

The ideas tabled for court spaces and play were generally supported by all participants. Feedback suggested that participants would value more natural types of play opportunities. Input also suggested that incorporation of areas and amenities that appeal to youth are important.



DEEP DIVE: FARMERS MARKET

Overall Summary

Feedback from the session indicated that there is no clear preferred option that meets all criteria. Each location option has strengths and challenges. Some challenges could be overcome through the addition of amenities or changes to adjacent uses; others, such as parking or expansion may be more difficult to manage.



There was some divergence of views about potential locations. While some participants enjoyed that some of the location options were in areas of the park that were further away from other activity and therefore close to greenery and open space, others stated that being far away from amenities such as washrooms, water, and power creates challenges. Participants discussed ideas about minimizing vehicle traffic in the local area on farmers market days by encouraging alternative, sustainable transport (e.g., through increasing the numbers of bike racks or considering shuttles). Participants also expressed their desire for the farmers market to maintain its current “feel,” regardless of location, by ensuring that it is a welcoming space.



DEEP DIVE: COMMUNITY GARDEN



Overall Summary

While there are a few concerns about a community garden in John Hendry Park, most participants indicated the southeast corner would likely be a good fit for this use. People generally felt the area is underutilized and this activity would be compatible with nearby uses.

The design of the community garden is important to both the gardeners and other park users. There was a lot of agreement that the garden should be welcoming, inclusive, and educational - open and accessible to all visitors. There were a variety of ideas around the appropriate mix of communal and individual elements - this mix will need to be considered as design is advanced.

