

Millersville Park- Stakeholders Meeting #2

Recreation & Parks HQ - 1 Harry S Truman Dr.

Tuesday July 11, 2023

6pm to 8pm

Agenda

Part I: Background

- Recap from the last meeting
- Traffic

Part II: Park Design

- Discuss the Options
- Survey Results
- Determine Park Elements
- Next Steps - Erica Matthews, DRP
- Close

Project Goal/Description

FY 2023/2024- P567100- This project is for the design and construction of a park that would include Bermuda and natural turf multiple-purpose fields, irrigation, field lighting, concession stand, bathrooms, utilities, stormwater management, trails, road improvements, and other park-related amenities.

Role of a Stakeholders Groups

- Provide input during the decision making process
- Provide insight and knowledge
- Be a champion for the project
- Collaboration, seeking solutions, and compromise
- Consideration is given for the greater good
- Compile feedback from the community and present it to the group for consideration
- Working towards a common goal
- Synergy- the parts as a whole should result in a greater outcome than the individual parts



Goals for Today

1. Confirmation of amenities
2. Location of dog park
3. Determination of number of athletic fields
4. Opportunities for enhancements for stormwater management
5. Have a path moving forward

Recap

- Review the memo from the last meeting
- SWM- Will be provided. The Department is open to discuss enhancements such as additional landscaping, exploring additional nitrogen pre-treatment removal for the dog park
- Aquifer- This park will not draw a significant amount of water to deplete the groundwater. We provided information on how the fields are managed including the fertilizer guidelines
- Port O POTS- There is no bathroom building. The Department will install port o pots when the fields are open and the site has a scheduled event.
- Tournaments- Excluding our larger complexes, like Bachman, Cannon, Bell Branch and Kinder, the Department hosts about 5 tournaments per year in community parks. There are the occasional clinics and camps that require additional permits.
- Costs: The range is \$7M to \$8.8M.

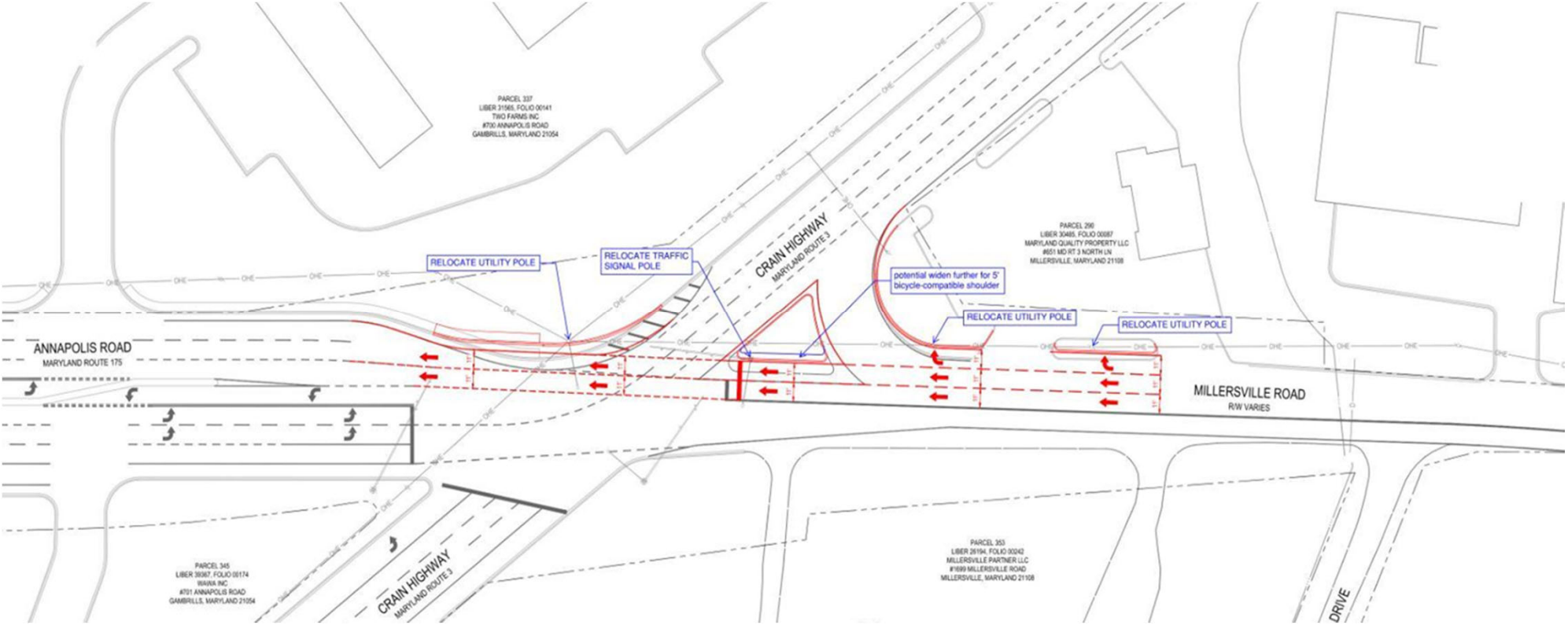
Athletic Seasons vs Traffic Impacts

<u>Months</u>	<u>Field Us</u>	<u>Community use</u>	M-F AM Traffic	M-F PM traffic	Sun	Sat
August 15th - November-15th	Fall sports	yes	Community use/ No impact to School or Commuter Traffic	Community use No impact to School Traffic , Practice starts at 5:00 pm	Community Use Games Church Traffic No commuter or school traffic	Community Use Games No Church commuter or school traffic
November 30th to March 1	No Activities on grass fields	yes	Community use/ No impact to School or Commuter Traffic	Community use/ No impact to School Traffic	Community use only	Community use only No Church commuter or school traffic
March 15- June 15th	Spring sports	yes	Community use/ No impact to School or Commuter Traffic	Community use No impact to School Traffic , Practice starts at 5:00 pm	Community Use Games Church Traffic No commuter or school traffic	Community Use Games No Church commuter or school traffic
June 15th - August 15th	Summer Camps/Open Play	yes	Community use Schools Closed Unless rented no sports	Community use Schools Closed Unless rented no sports	Community use Unless rented no sports No commuter or school traffic	Community use Unless rented no sports No Church commuter or school traffic

Responses to April Traffic Comments

- 2021 TIA considered stakeholder comments from 2018 TIA
- The TIA study limits included intersections adjacent to the site
- The site generated volumes are nominal compared to background volumes at major SHA intersections beyond the study limits
- Coordination continues between the County and SHA on capacity improvements at the two MD 3/MD 175/Millersville Road intersections
- The TIA examined traffic volumes and the influence of RenFest, Jehovah's Witness and other local churches
- Additional mitigation measures proposed to address safety and speeds along Millersville Road
- Bicycle and pedestrian data collected as part of TIA – a proposed connection to the South Shore Trail is under review

Proposed Mitigation for Park Development



- Millersville Road improvements at the proposed park entrance.
- Coordination w/ SHA on MD 3 / Millersville Road potential improvements

Park Needs-

South Shore Park- This is a much smaller park, only about 12 acres are developable. This is where the Department intends to construct a field house with indoor athletic facilities. This would be a countywide used amenity, it would be a rental site and not community based. This would take pressure off the Annapolis Feeder system, mainly the high school synthetic turf fields.

Crownsville- This Development process has just begun. This location is slated to include a variety of community services and activities including recreational opportunities. The preliminary conversations have focused on passive use (trails and gardens). Currently there are 2 fields at this location that are in use. It maybe 5 or more years before construction is completed at this location. This does not address the immediate need.

Millersville- It has been agreed upon that this will be a combination of passive and active use. It connects with the South Shore Trail. Can accommodate the current Departmental needs. This addresses the immediate community need for a park and field needs.

Survey Results

This survey provided respondents with the opportunity to share feedback on possible improvements to Millersville Park. The survey was open from 5/24/23 to 6/28/23 (5 weeks) and shared with the stakeholders from this group with the expectation that they would distribute it to their communities. To amplify reach, the survey was also shared in the Department of Recreation and Parks newsletter (21K subscribers) and social media (21K followers). The Survey was also shared in the County Executive's Weekly newsletter (40k subscribers). The survey was also posted on the CIP page.

Here are some general conclusions:

Total of **415 responses** 33% Millersville, Herald Harbor 17.1%

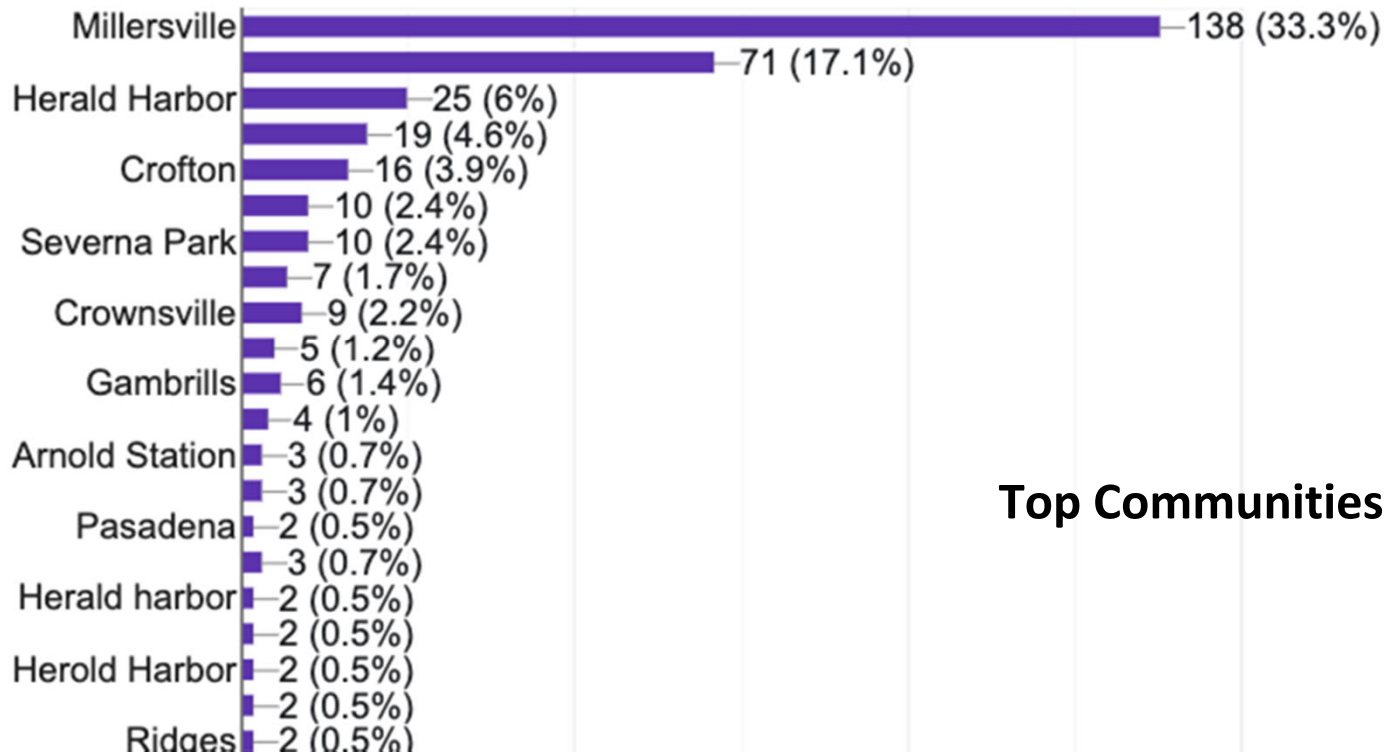
In general people are **supportive of a park**

The top uses were: **Exercise Walking- 67.3%, Sports Fields- 61.1%**, Rest and Relaxation 50.3%% Playground 48.5%, and Dog Park 28.6%

Survey Results:

What community do you live in?

415 responses

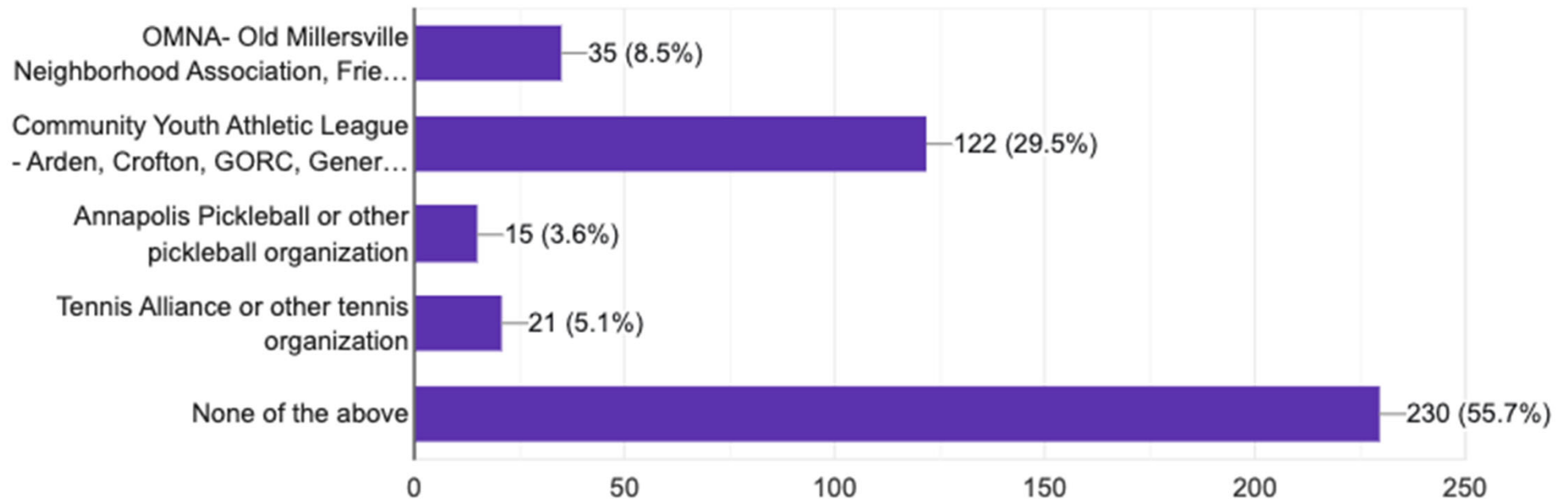


Top Communities

Survey Results:

Are you or a member of your house a member of an organized group? (check all that apply)

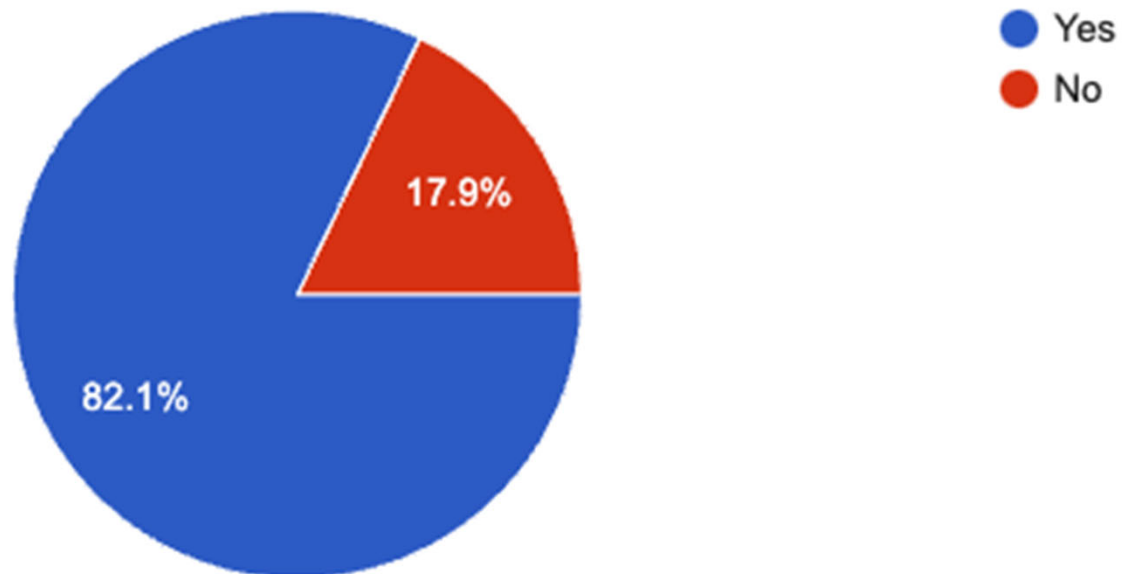
413 responses



Survey Results:

In general are you supportive of a new park in the community?

413 responses

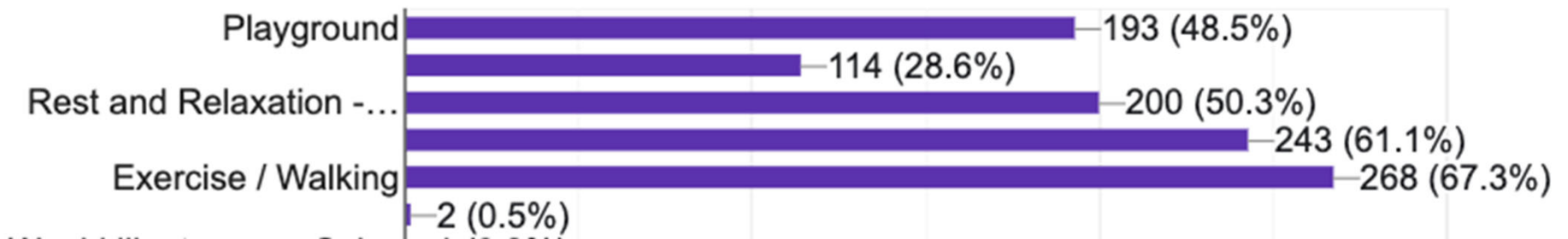


Survey Results:

How do you and your household intend to use the park? (check all that apply)

Top Responses

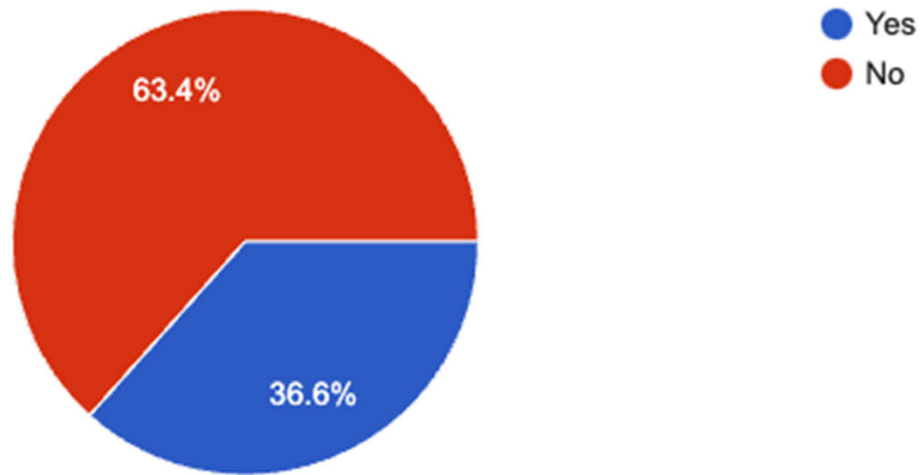
398 responses



Survey Results:

Were you aware that the County is proposing road improvements as part of this project?

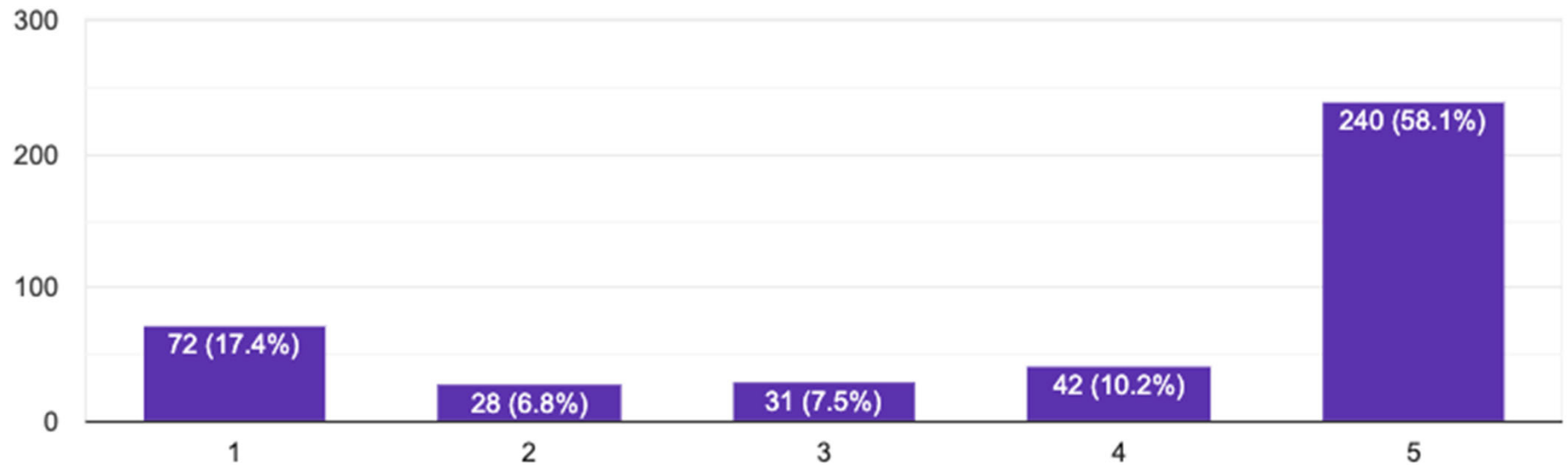
415 responses



Survey Results:

With the understanding that the traffic resulting from the park development will be mitigated, how do you feel about the park development?

413 responses



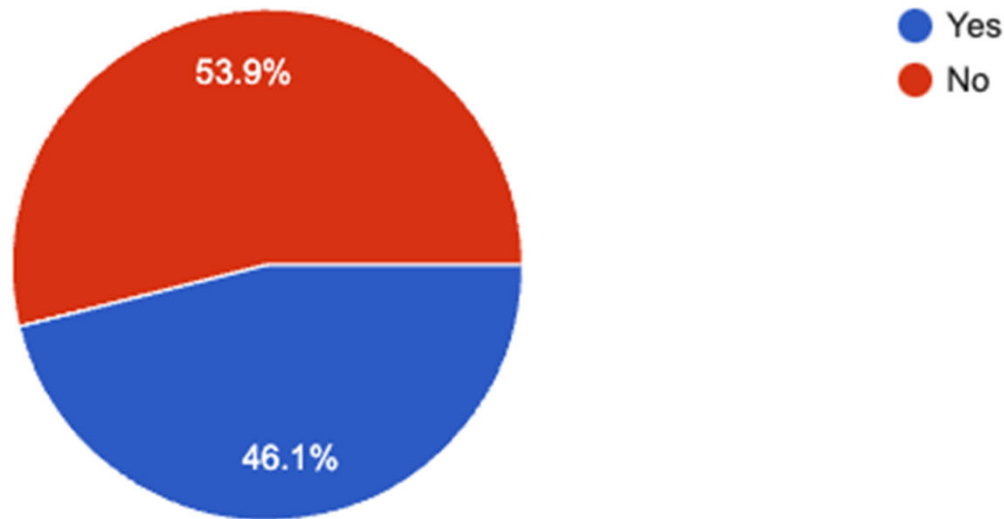
Do not support the park development

Support the Park Development

Survey Results:

Were you aware that the park development will include stormwater management to treat runoff before it leaves the site?

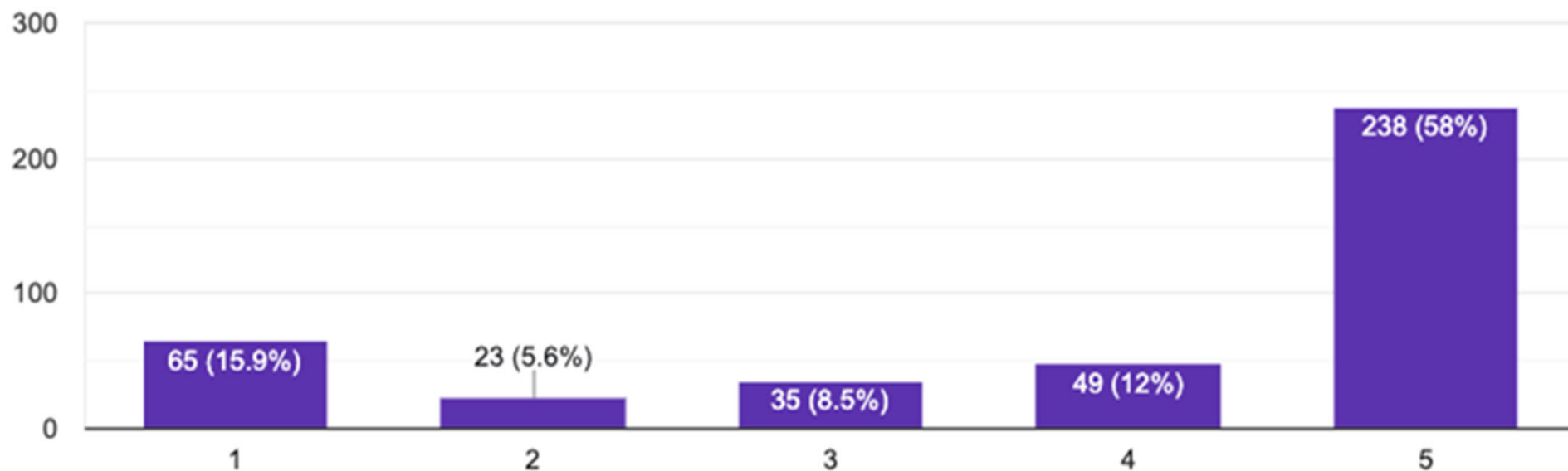
414 responses



Survey Results:

With the understanding that adequate stormwater management will be provided how do you feel about the park development as it relates to stormwater runoff

410 responses



Do not support the park development

Support the Park Development

Survey Results:

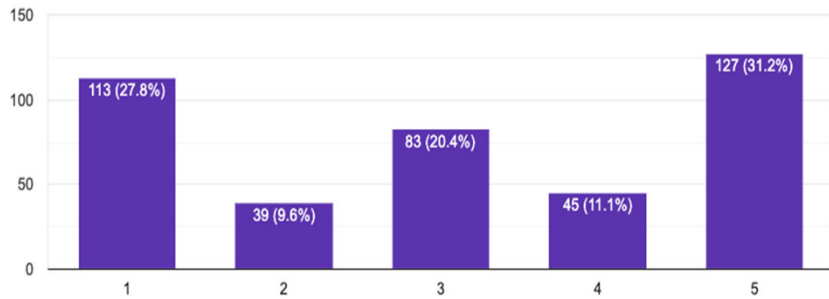
Field Concepts

Scale



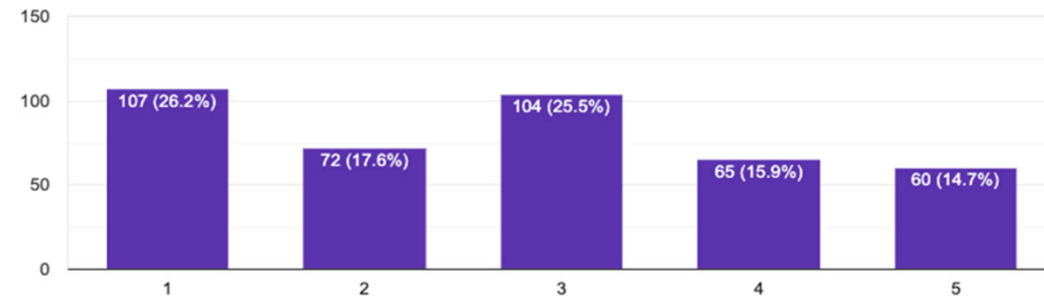
Two Fields

407 responses



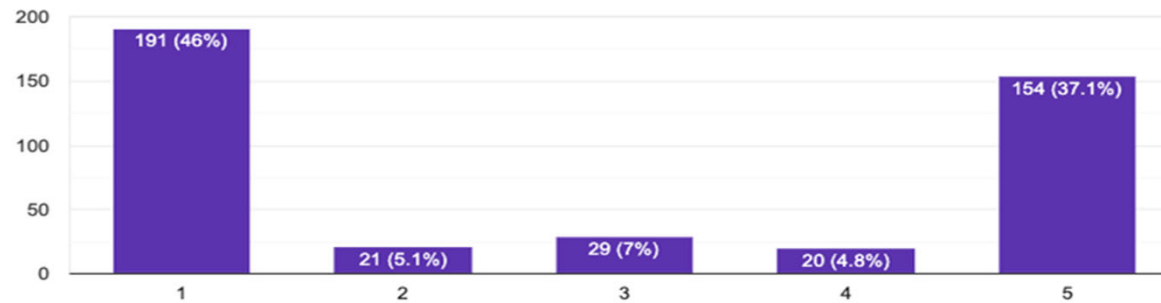
Three Fields

408 responses



Four Fields

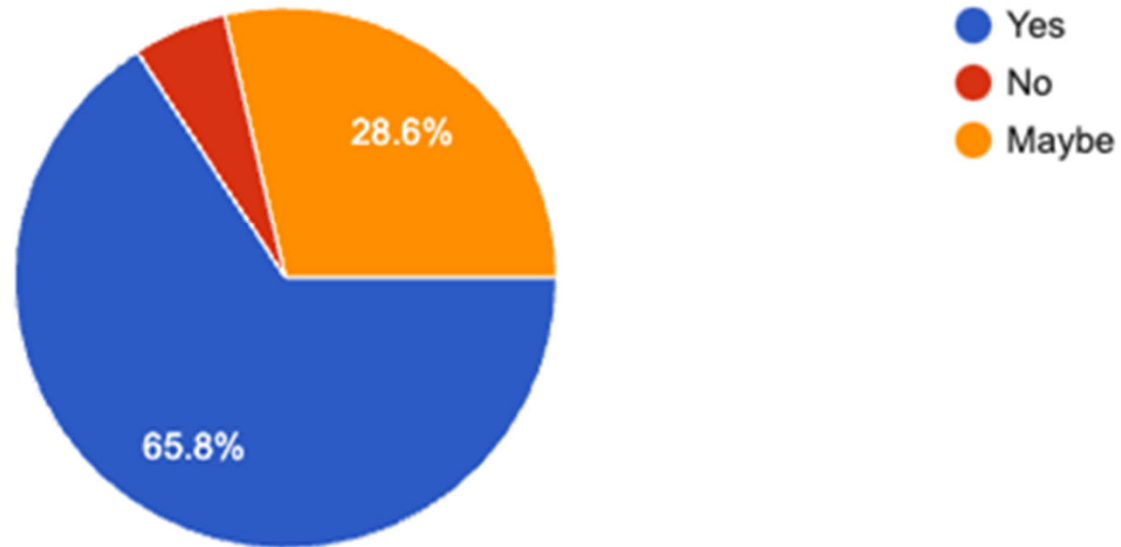
415 responses



Survey Results:

Are the concepts consistent with the project description listed above?

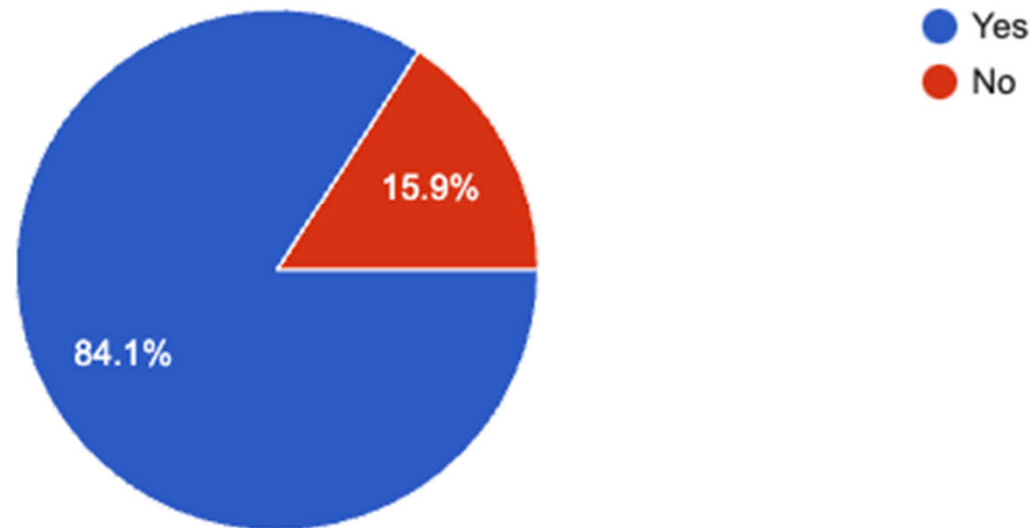
409 responses



Survey Results:

Do the concepts have a variety of amenities that would provide recreational enjoyment to a wide variety of users?

403 responses

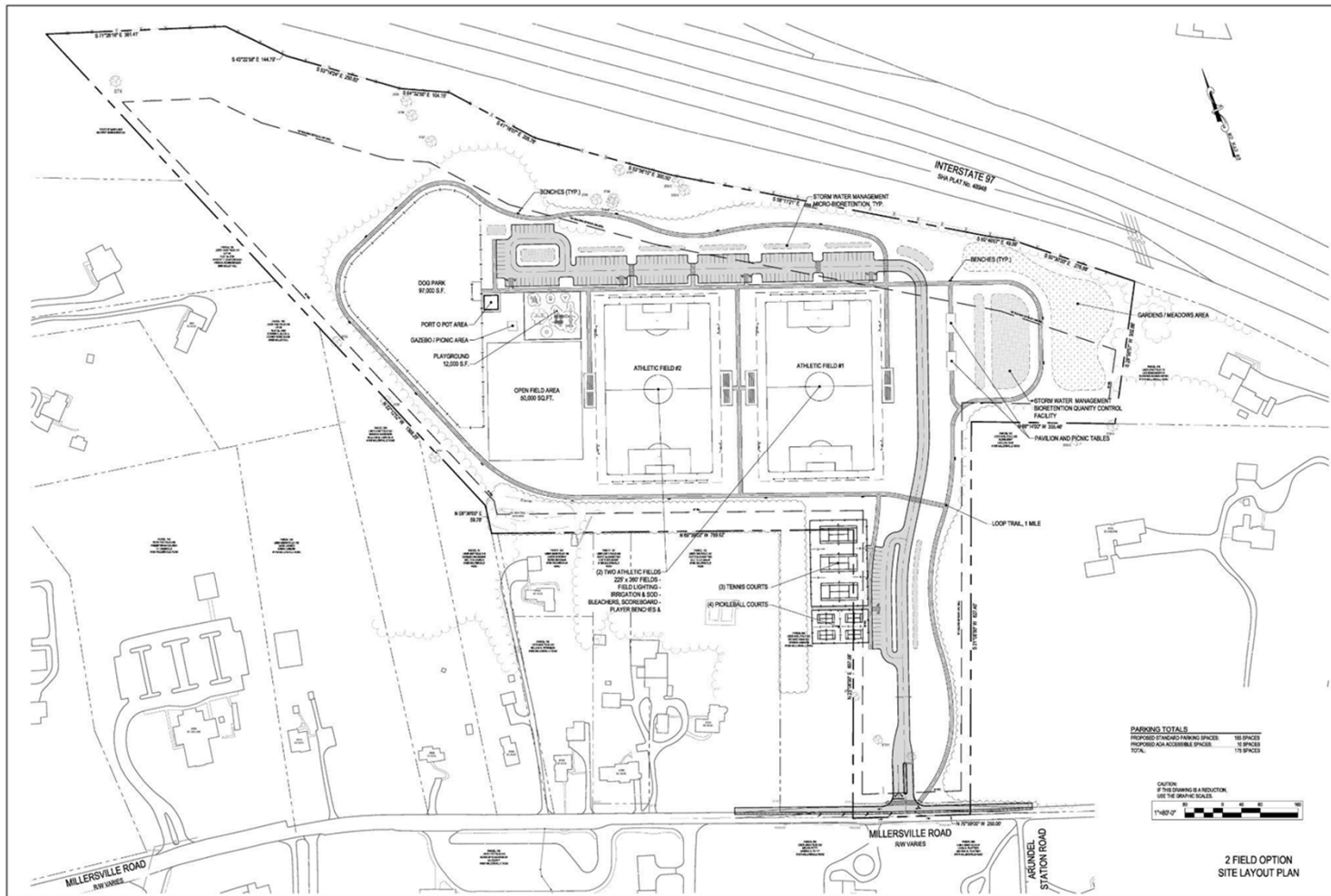


Park Design

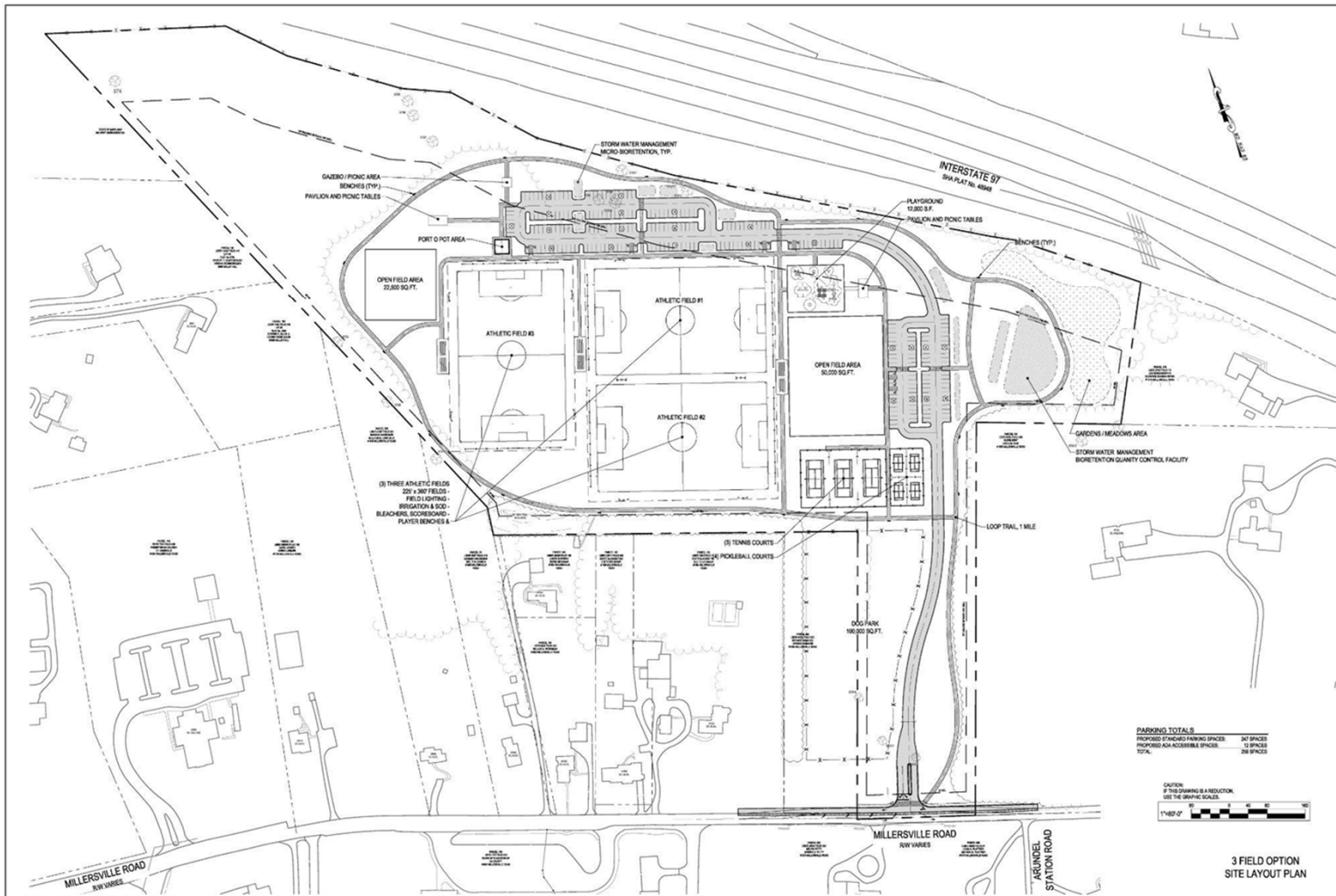
All Concepts:

- Create a cohesive park that includes passive and active recreational areas.
- The forested area that is located in the northwest area of the park remains intact.
- There is a sidewalk connection at Millersville Rd that will allow you to walk into the park and immediately access the internal park trail.
- Stormwater Management that will address water quality has been included. The full design comes later.
- As requested the road improvements are not isolated to one homeowner
- Were the top 5 items from the Arden Survey included? - yes
 - Trails - Each concept provides a 1-mile internal paved loop trail. If the stakeholder group wants, we can revisit the idea of natural trails in the NW area of the park. Or it can be held for public discussion.
 - Natural Areas - the Forested Areas in the NW are preserved. Gardens and open grass spaces were provided.
 - Community gardens - Garden areas were provided. These were not community gardens. These are more like wildlife meadows This is something that can be discussed further with the stakeholders.
 - Playgrounds- Yes!
 - Picnic Tables and Pavilions- Yes

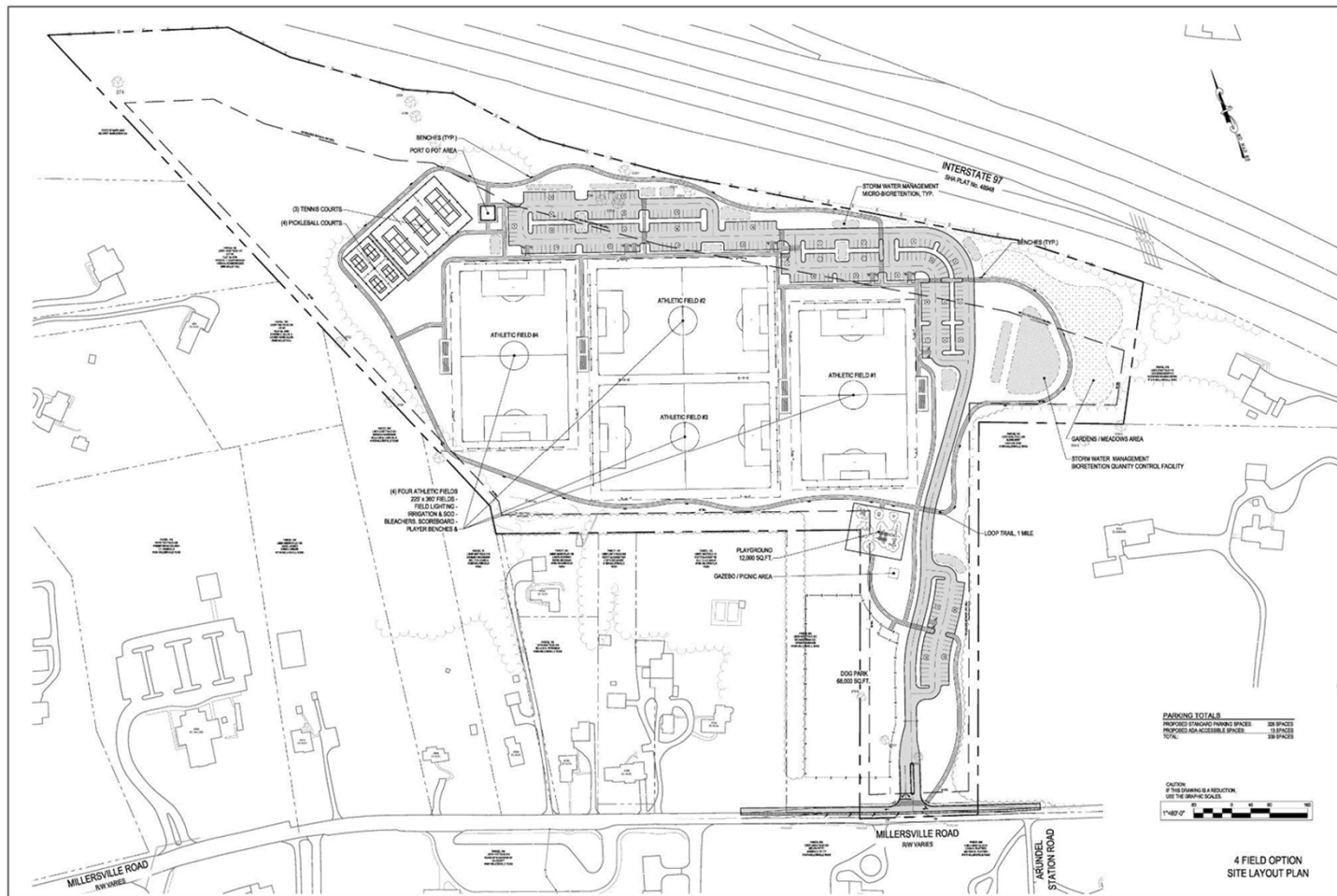
Options for Discussion- 2 Fields



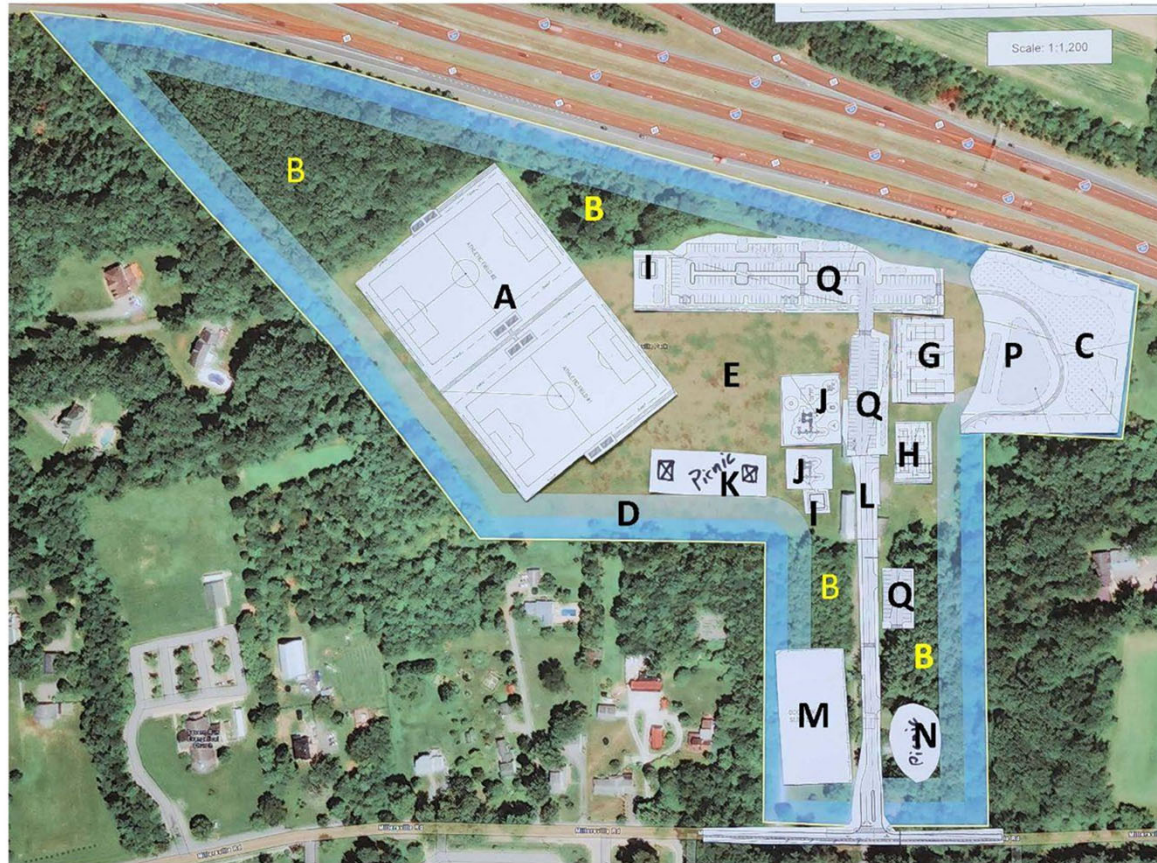
Options for Discussion- 3 Fields



Options for Discussion- 4 Fields



Options for Discussion- OMNA



Park Elements Discussion



What do we:

Agree on:

1. Buffer along the park's perimeter
2. Keeping the NW forest intact
3. Key elements of the park
4. Zones for Passive and Active Rec
5. Landscaping and Screening
6. Amenities are similar

Need to Discuss

1. Location of Dog Park
2. Opportunities for Enhancement of SWM
3. Expansion of Natural Trails
4. Number of Fields
5. Entrance Location

Open Discussion

Next Steps- Stakeholder Process

3rd stakeholder meeting- virtual (Zoom) – Aug- Sept

- Revised concept and answers will be emailed to the Stakeholders in advance of the meeting.
- Please be prepared to discuss so the concept can be finalized

Next Steps- Public Process

Consultant begins design based on selected concept. September/ October

Larger Public Meeting- In person – October/ November

Notification – Based on Current Process

The County will notify the neighbors within 300 ft of the parks boundary in accordance with OPZ guidelines

The County asks that stakeholders publicize the meeting in their newsletters and social media

DRP will post it on our website, social media and weekly newsletter

We will ask that the CE's office and members of County Council to put in their respective newsletter

Format

Similar to this meeting Background, Stakeholder process, present concept, Comments

County will prepare meeting minutes

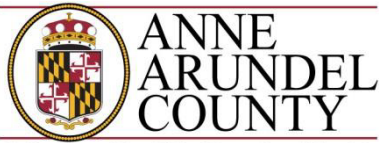
Next Steps- Permit to Construction

- Consultant to refine concept based on feedback from the public meeting and apply for permits. Updates posted on County website , email notifications to the stakeholders
- Bid and Award
- Pre Construction Public meeting
- Construction



Goals for Today

1. To leave today with a number of fields and key community park elements
2. Have a path moving forward



M A R Y L A N D

Department of Recreation and Parks

County Executive, Steuart Pittman

Jessica Leys, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Millersville Park Stakeholders

CC: Lisa Rodvien, Councilwoman District-6
Vincent Moulden, Director, CECS
Jessica Leys, Director, DRP
Khadija Abdur-Rahman, P.E. Engineer Manager DPW
Bruce Bruchey- Chief of Planning and Construction, DRP

FROM: Erica Jackson Matthews, Deputy Director,

DRP SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2023

DATE: 09/15/23

The following summary will aid in your review and sharing of information with the members of your organizations and community.

Project Description: This is based on the approved County Budget. This project is for the design and construction of a park that would include natural turf multi-purpose fields, irrigation, field lighting, concession stand, bathrooms, utilities, stormwater management, trails, road improvements, and other park-related amenities.

Budget Update: As discussed, the County has updated the Program Open Space grant to reflect the currently approved description of the project. The FY24 budget request is for the construction money needed to build the park and to purchase additional right of way for road improvements. This budget request is a placeholder based on historical data for park development, the addition of prevailing wage and current pricing for similar projects as well as a factor for inflation to account for cost when the project moves into

construction. The entire burden for the park construction is on the county as there is no longer a partner to offset expenses.

Based on the current schedule, it is anticipated that this project could go out to bid at the end of FY24, which is why the Department is asking for additional funding now. This request does not supersede the stakeholder or public input process, as a final list of amenities has not been determined.

Background Information:

- Information related to the project can be found at:
<https://www.aacounty.org/recreation-parks/capital-projects/millersville-park>
- This update, along with the survey and concepts, will also be posted this week on the website.

Meeting notes:

- Attendees:
 - Scott Blacketter, Friends of Millersville Park
 - Deborah Weller, Old Millersville Neighborhood Association
 - Note: Elizabeth Sorka, a non-voting member, was present and allowed to participate because she attended the 1st meeting on behalf of ONMA in place of Deborah Weller
 - Dan Judge, Member at Large #1
 - Rudy Brown, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Board
 - Michael Pozdal, GORC Representative
 - Jeff Levy, Arden Recreation Representative
 - Randall Hughes Design Consultant, WBCM
 - Erica Matthews, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
 - Bruce Bruchey, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
 - Khadija Abdur-Rahman, Dept. of Public Works
 - Vincent Moulden, Office of the County Executive, Community Engagement & Constituent Services,
- Attached is the presentation from the in-person meeting held at 1 Harry S. Truman Parkway.

General Discussion:

- The meeting started with the Department of Recreation and Parks presenting a recap of the last meeting. (Refer to Slides 1-5).
- Bathrooms and concession stand- The County reiterated that there would be no bathroom or concession stand at this location, but the project description above reflects what is in the budget.
- Tournaments were discussed- The community voiced a concern about the site

being used for tournaments. The concern is based on fields in other parts of the county rented from DRP for lacrosse and soccer tournaments that bring in large numbers of spectators. The County indicated that the DRP, on average, has five (5) tournaments in community parks per year. OMNA mentioned the growth of the Lax tournament and its increased use of community parks. The County stated that the current tournaments have homes, and developing a new park would not mean new tournaments would come to the county. The DRP does not believe there would be a tournament at this site regularly. The primary use would be Monday to Friday for evening practice and weekend games. (Refer to slide 6).

- The Friends and OMNA are still questioning the validity of the traffic study. Specific concerns were voiced that the traffic study does not compare the impact of two vs three vs four fields. These concerns are summarized in the Old Millersville Neighborhood Association – Position Paper on the Number of Fields at Millersville Park presented at the July 11, 2023, Stakeholder meeting. Despite their concerns, the community would agree to two (2) fields. The County agreed to review OMNA's comments on the traffic when the project moves into design and is no longer based on hypothetical scenarios and has a real plan for the park.
- The project has always included road improvements associated with the park's development. DRP presented a new idea to expand capacity that would help address the pre-existing concerns about traffic in the area. This work would occur at RT 3 and Millersville Rd. MDSHA has seen this idea, and they are generally supportive of the approach. DRP does need to submit additional documents to MDSHA to get concept approval and then move into design. DRP would hope to have concept approval by Fall. This effort was the County acknowledging that the community's concerns about traffic (lack of capacity and backups along Millersville Rd.) was heard, and this is an attempt to find a solution that helps the community beyond addressing the direct impact on traffic from the park. The Department was clear that this additional road work would only happen in the immediate future if the park project moved forward. Typically, this level of effort is not something that is included in a DRP project because this is not a problem that resulted from park development. If this project does not move forward, these concerns will be addressed later by OOT and DPW. (Refer to slides 8- 9). The community members expressed support for the proposed changes at the intersection of RT 3 and Millersville Rd. and asked that more significant improvements be considered, specifically elongating the proposed new right turn lane on Millersville Rd. The Community felt this would add capacity and make a more significant difference. It was agreed that this would be considered. OMNA acknowledged this effort and noted this effort does not address the other traffic concerns and stressed that there should be a balance between the size of the park and additional traffic infrastructure. OMNA expressed concerns that the traffic study underestimated the existing traffic and did not account for all sources of traffic. OMNA stated the study

also underestimates the traffic generated from the park development. (Refer to OMNA's position paper for details). The County stated that the most recent traffic study was based on actual counts at the property and included the local churches, schools, and festivals in the area.

- DRP discussed why other parks are unavailable for field development to offset the current demand. (Refer to slide 10).
- DRP went over the survey. See below for more details. There was a discussion on why these concepts that reflected 2 or 4 fields was polarizing. There was a general discussion about the survey. (Refer to slides 11-22). The general feeling of OMNA and the Friends was that the results need to be taken with some caution. A discussion was had on the influence of the Friends website, sign at the site, and their ongoing campaign for two (2) fields. This may have been why many people felt strongly about the two vs four (2v4) field concepts.
- OMNA and the Friends voiced that an expert public opinion survey service should have been used to prepare and analyze the survey. The County indicated that the survey was used to gauge the public's understanding and knowledge of the project and to gain broader feedback from the community. It should be noted that the questions posed in the County's survey were reviewed by the stakeholders and modified based on their comments before posting. It should also be noted that the County accepted the Community's survey without question, which was not professionally prepared. The "Arden" Survey was the basis of the amenities listed in the survey and verification that the project reflects the amenities the community requested in the park.
- The discussion moved to what aspects of the concepts all parties agreed upon. (Refer to slides 23-27).
- Each person was asked to state which number of fields preferred and why. The group did not come to a unanimous decision on the number of fields.
 - Arden Rec- 4
 - Rec Advisory Board- 3
 - GORC-4, but they would be ok with 3
 - Citizen at large- Data says 3, and his selection was 2 now and then 4, but he thinks it should be a phased-in approach.
 - DRP PM- 4 fields
 - DPW PM- 4 field
 - Neither CECS nor Erica Matthews made a recommendation at this meeting. Our primary goal and function were to listen to what everyone wanted and facilitate the conversation.
- It should be noted that after the meeting, those not present (Arden HOA, Citizen at Large #2, and Crofton Athletics) were asked for their number of field preference and their reasoning for their selection. Arden HOA- 3 fields, CA- 4 fields, Citizen at Large #2- 3 fields
- Final stakeholder votes:

- Phased approach - 1 vote for a phased approach that started at two but ended at 4 a phased approach that would build out the entire park infrastructure but only create 2 fields. If after operational for 1-2 years the other 2 fields could be brought online after a traffic study or some other analysis. (Citizen at Large #1)
- 2 Fields -2 votes (OMNA and Friends of Millersville Park)
- 3 Fields- 4- (Citizens at Large #2, Arden HOA, Rec Advisory Board, GORC)
- 4 Fields- 2- Arden Athletics and CAs
- **Based on these votes, three fields are the majority.**

Summary of the discussion on the number of fields preferred.

This is limited to the Stakeholders' feedback:

1. Four (4) fields met the current needs. He lives in a community with 1000 homes and a community park that exits onto a minor road, and people can get around.
2. There was a discussion of the new South Shore Park to provide additional fields for Arden. Ms. Matthews explained that there was insufficient space and was planned for other uses—use of other parks not in the feeder system would not address the need here.
3. Three (3) is the sweet spot. He lives next to a park and has not experienced the hardships this group thinks are coming. With the development and population growth, the park design needs to be forward-thinking and plan for the future.
4. It would take some of the pressure off the feeder system.
5. Two (2) fields are the correct number- it is a quality-of-life issue and traffic. Why does it have to be here? Anything over two (2) is overdevelopment of the park and roads.
6. Two (2) fields meet the goals of passive and active use without overburdening the community or the traffic infrastructure.
7. Concerns about the proper management of the park were made. The stakeholder would like to see one (1) field, then review the need and operational plan and go from there.
8. It was expressed that there is concern that the need for parks and fields will only increase as the County develops. The County needs to work with the developers so parks and ballfields are built during development. Parks should be a joint effort.
9. The community is already overwhelmed with development, and new development should be responsible for constructing ball fields.
10. Parks should serve all ages and user groups and acknowledge the need for fields, but based on the needs of other user groups and continued concern about the traffic study and road capacity, two (2) is the best option.
11. Four (4) fields. It was stated that opportunities for growth and the land to do it do not come very often. It is one shot to get it all done. Based on the needs of Arden

Rec (which supports the Millersville youth sports programs) and considering the Millersville neighbors more directly impacted, this stakeholder would support the three (3) field option.

12. A stakeholder was a fan of the four (4) field plan as it provides the most benefit to the community and still allows for a dog park and playground. I know residents are concerned with traffic, but that is not a valid reason to limit a park that is already happening.
13. One stakeholder stated that they liked the three (3) field option. --It has everything requested, a straightforward layout that doesn't look crowded, and the stakeholder likes that two (2) grassy fields are available.

County Staff commentary on the concepts:

- DPW felt that four fields create the best cost vs benefit analysis. This is based on the limited land available and meets the current needs of the County and funding. The survey supports this use of four (4) fields.
- County staff stated that SHA improvements are an added benefit to the project that was not previously proposed and is beyond the normal scope for a DRP project. With that added cost and effort, the County should get the maximum use, within reason, of the site.
- There was concern about phasing and adding costs and that this is not the typical construction process for park projects.
- Anything above four (4) fields was overdevelopment of the site. Four (4) fields meet the needs while still providing the other passive amenities.

Raw Survey Results.

- The survey received 415 responses, with 33% (138) being from Millersville and 17.1% being from Herald Harbor.
- An overwhelming majority, 55.7%, indicated they are not part of any organization. ONMA -8.5%, youth sports 9.5%, pickleball and tennis combined for 11.7%.
- 82.1% support a new park - 339 people
- Most people intend to use the park for exercise/walking (67.3%), fields and courts (61.1%), rest and relaxation (50.3%), the playground (48.5%), and the dog park (28.6). Since tennis and pickleball users were low, it was assumed that most who answered this question wanted fields. This question was where they could select as many as they wished to and write in other options.
- 63.4% had no idea traffic improvements were part of the project. With that knowledge, 58% supported the project (grade 5). If grades 3 to 5 were combined, the percentage that supports the project would increase to 75.8%, close to those that supported the project.

- 53.9 % did not know that SWM was part of the project. With that knowledge, 58% of the people supported the project (grade 5). If grades 3 to 5 were combined, the number of supporters would increase to 78.5%; again, this is close to those who supported the project.
- The parameters for the fields were 1 to 5, with 1 being the least favorable and 5 being the most favorable. 59% of the respondents were polarized on the two-field option, and 83.1% were polarized on the four-field option. The three-field option was somewhat even across the board, with 40.9% responding to 1 or 5. The 59.1% are in the middle. Looking at what ranked the highest, 127 people liked option 2 the best, 14.7 liked option 3 the best, and 154 people liked option 4 the best. Looking at what ranked the lowest, 113 people did not like the 2 field option, 107 did not like the three-field option, and 191 did not like the four-field option. Again, this reflects the middle-of-the-road support of option 3
- 65.8% believe the project is consistent with the description in the capital budget
- 84.1% think there are a variety of amenities that would provide recreational enjoyment to many.

Other Items

- The Friends submitted a letter that stated the group's position on the project. The Department did not respond formally to this correspondence, as most of it was discussed in the meeting and included in these notes. The vote submitted by the Friends representative reflected their desire for two fields. The traffic was discussed during the meeting with an alternative offered by the County that enhances the road improvements to include capacity. There was discussion about the use of alternative locations to address the field demand as well as the scheduling of the park.
- OMNA submitted an additional email about traffic concerns. These have been shared with the consultant to review and include in the design moving forward when the road improvements are completed based on an actual number of fields.

Next Steps:

1. The County will proceed with the submission to MDSHA for formal approval of the road improvements at RT 3 and Millersville Rd. (East of RT 3). The consultant will review the possibility of extending the left turn to the next adjacent property just east of RT 3.
2. A finalized concept will be prepared based on the feedback from this meeting
3. The concept will be shared with the group and discussed over Zoom.
4. The County will schedule a formal public meeting to discuss the final concept.
5. The design and permitting process will take about 6 months, and construction will start in the summer of 2024. During this process, we will be working to get the

improvements at RT 3 approved by SHA so that work can be completed in conjunction with or shortly after the park construction is completed.

Reminder: Much larger public engagement is part of the process. We have not gotten to that point in the process. Hopefully, that will occur this Fall.

Report of feedback from members (in person meetings and emails)

Presented by Scott Blackketter, founder, Neighbors of Millersville Park community group:

The presented materials and notes from the first Stakeholder's meeting were distributed to our members and posted on our website and generated the following feedback:

Wide consensus points:

- More than 2 multipurpose fields will add too much activity and the resulting traffic will be problematic.
- Existing traffic at the school and at the intersection of Millersville Rd and Rt 3 have become noticeably worse in the last year. The park will make this worse.
- The school traffic regularly blocks any traffic from proceeding in the right lane on Millersville Rd., Eastbound for as far back as ¼ mile. Traffic passes the stopped traffic and dangerously proceeds in the left lane pulling into driveways to allow for oncoming traffic.
- The light at Rt 3 regularly forces cars to wait on Millersville Rd for two, sometimes three light cycles. The park will make this worse.
- The notion that adding a turn lane at the park will fix traffic issues is widely viewed as ludicrous.
- The notion that the State can fix the problem at Rt. 3 with light timing is also viewed as absurd.
- The amenities currently included in the concept drawings were desired.
- Field lighting is the only planned amenities not desired.
- Relief was expressed that no concessions and no restrooms or septic systems are planned.
- The immediate neighbors will experience considerable inconvenience due to the park and their requests need to be honored.

Less frequently made points:

- The traffic study was written to justify the end, not scientifically. (This from a traffic study expert who has worked for the firm that did the study and prefers not to be named). This professional is willing to provide specific points of criticism anonymously.
- Several engineers, not traffic experts, who have reviewed the study agree with the above criticism.
- A few members requested pickleball specifically and were assured it is in the plan.
- A few members noted that two fields could be located at Millersville Park and others at South Shore Park and the Crownsville Hospital site.
- A few members mentioned preferring daytime use only.

Notes:

- There were no opinions expressed contrary to any of the above. (No one asked for more than two multipurpose fields or additional amenities.)



Erica Jackson <rpjack50@aacounty.org>

July 11 - For the record

1 message

OMNA _Deborah Weller <omnaemail@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 13, 2023 at 12:25 PM

To: Erica Jackson Matthews <rpjack50@aacounty.org>

Cc: Scott Blackketter <scott@blackcraft.com>, Jeff Levy <jeff@ardenrecreation.org>, "Lynne S." <LynneinMD@gmail.com>, Matt Fine <matt_fine@hotmail.com>, Dan Judge <djudge1845@aol.com>, Kimberly Franklin <Board@ardencommunityassociation.com>, Rudy Brown <theraven52@verizon.net>, Mike Pozdol <mikepozdol@gmail.com>, Libby Sroka <libbysroka59@gmail.com>

For the record, please make sure the following concerns and contributions from Old Millersville Neighborhood Association (OMNA) and Neighbors of Millersville Park are reported in or appended to the minutes of the July 11 Millersville Park stakeholder meeting.

OMNA and Neighbors of Millersville Park have traffic concerns about the placement of more than 2 fields at Millersville Park because the TIS missed pre-park traffic problems and underestimated the traffic park development would create. The TIS also did not consider fewer fields or other park uses, so it can't effectively inform a stakeholder process that considers alternatives to a 4-field complex

We acknowledge the need for fields and can accept a compromise of 2 fields with other amenities rearranged to form thoughtful, coherent, and enjoyable community space. A mixed-use park that serves multiple user groups and ages as well as meeting demands in the County's own LPPRP survey and the recent Arden-OMNA survey. We envision a park with 2 multisport fields for the sports leagues, natural areas, a walking/exercise trail, playgrounds, picnic tables and pavilions, an open field for unstructured play, a dog park, tennis courts, and pickleball courts.

We understand that Arden Recreation would like 4 fields for current and future needs. We believe that current needs can be met by having 2 fields at MP. The needs for fields will continue to grow and should not be met by placing them in rural and rural residential areas distant from the users.

The impact of MP on traffic will be greater than what the TIS reported because there are significant gaps in that study. It failed to accurately capture pre park traffic levels, trips added by park development, and contributions to post-park traffic from other future development. The biggest examples of pre-park failure are not capturing the Saturday afternoon traffic congestion from the Jehovah Witnesses and not reporting the Maryland central Korean Baptist Church. Future traffic estimates did not include the Knollwood Eating Disorder Facility, Fox Haven Farm housing development, the MD3 Industrial Park (west side of MD RT3 North) or the upgrades to Bacon Ridge at the Forney property on Severn Chapel Road – 92 parking places and 22 trailer and bus spaces.

The study seriously underestimated trips added by the park development (peak hour trips, page 36). An estimate based on full usage of the parking lot (DRP March 3 response to OMNA comments) and fields suggests a much higher number of new trips (477 per hour arriving and leaving) than in the TIS (200 at peak hour trip (below)). The study did not consider the impacts of tournaments, the traffic generated by the other park amenities, or traffic by after hour or weekend activities at Millersville Elementary School. Although DRP stated they host a limited number of tournaments per year, the fields can be rented, which would bring in an increased number of players and spectators for more events.

Traffic calculations for Millersville Park

Assumptions:

- 4 athletic fields with 371 parking spaces
- "The TIA ... assumed **full parking and full scheduling**"
(DRP March 3 response to OMNA comments)
- The parking lot is correctly sized
- Weekend football games are the worse case scenario (TIS Appendix J)
- Park is open 8 am to 10 pm (TIS Appendix J)
- Games last 90 minutes (TIS Appendix J) allowing 9 games per day
- Every car that arrives must also leave

Results on trips added by sports fields

Per 90 minute game cycle	Per 9-game day	Daily average per hour over 14-hour day	TIS "peak hour trips"
371 cars arrive	3339 arrive	239 arrive	150
371 cars leave	3339 leave	239 leave	50
742 total trips	6678 total	477 total	200

The traffic study (TIS) severely underestimates trips added by park development

The TIS also reports that one long segment of Millersville Rd (Millersville Elem. School W Entrance to Coleus Drive, 69% of the study area) is already at an unacceptable level (62 to 63, grade D, see Table 23: 2024 Total Road Rating Analysis Results page 43). But the study assumed that 85% of the new park trips would come from the west of Route 3 (page 37). If the fields are designated for Arden, then many more of the new trips will pass through this segment, further reducing its already unacceptable rating.

The TIS showed that 4 field option would exacerbate existing problems at the Route 3/Millersville Road intersections. The new mitigation option is a good step and will relieve some of the backup on Millersville Road if approved and funded. But it is not clear if it is sufficient. The Millersville Road and Route 3 intersection level of performance is currently unacceptable and steadily getting worse. The improvements should be complete before the park opens.

The recommendation to tinker with Route 3 intersections and lights has been done by SHA. The lights along Route 3 have been adjusted to maximize flow on Route 3, and this choice increased the wait time for traffic on Millersville Road. SHA is unlikely to make future adjustments that would reduce flow on Route 3. The mitigation of removing and trimming trees along Millersville Road near the Waterbury Rd intersection to improve line-of-sight is also unconvincing and will likely yield more speeding on a curve that is already the site of frequent accidents.

Sincerely,

Deborah Weller