

IN THIS ISSUE

Urban and Community Forestry Grant
Biltmore Hills Tennis Facility Expansion
New Dix Park Advisory Committee Application Process
Fayetteville Street Streetscape Implementation Updates
City Gateway Project – Transportation Network Enhancements and Impacts
Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

No Items This Week

Budget Work Session Monday, April 6 – 4:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will meet in scheduled budget work session on **Monday** at **4:00 P.M.** The agenda for the session was published on Wednesday:

<https://pub-raleighnc.escribemeetings.com/>

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, April 7 - Afternoon and Evening Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published on Wednesday:

<https://pub-raleighnc.escribemeetings.com/>

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the afternoon session of the Council meeting.

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail to mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

INFORMATION:

Urban and Community Forestry Grant (City Council)

Staff Resource: Zach Manor, Parks, 996-4868 zach.manor@raleighnc.gov

The City of Raleigh was recently notified that it has been awarded a \$1,000,000 Urban and Community Forestry grant from the NC Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry financial assistance program via the Inflation Reduction Act to help increase access to trees and the many benefits they provide. Urban trees deliver important benefits to society including cooling communities, improving mental health and wellbeing, increasing property values and creating environmental jobs. In Raleigh, 100% of funding will go towards tree planting and maintenance in areas of need.

As part of the award, the City of Raleigh will conduct community outreach and education, tree planting, pruning and removal of hazardous trees along the street, in City parks and other City properties in identified communities. This work will provide new tree canopy, address safety concerns, improve tree health and resiliency, help reduce extreme heat and improve stormwater mitigation. Over the next two years, the grant projects will build on the work that the City of Raleigh is currently undertaking related to the Leaf Out initiative, Community Climate Action Plan, green stormwater infrastructure initiatives, and others to address heat islands and stormwater mitigation to help expand and maintain the urban forest and improve environmental services across Raleigh.

As more details on the grant and the future award emerge, staff will develop a rollout plan and provide City Council updates. A budget amendment is likely required.

(No attachment)

Biltmore Hills Tennis Facility Expansion

Staff Resources: Ken Hisler, Parks, 996-4823, kenneth.hisler@raleighnc.gov

Shawsheen Baker, Parks, 996-4782, shawsheen.baker@raleighnc.gov

At the 2/19 Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board meeting, public comments were received regarding the tennis facility expansion funded by the 2022 bond and the need to renovate the existing tennis courts at Biltmore Hills Park. Two attachments are included with this week's *Update* materials: a staff memo providing a summary of the bond project scope, engagement process, timeline, budget, and ongoing maintenance efforts, and the Biltmore Hills Community Engagement report.

(Attachments)

New Dix Park Advisory Committee Application Process

Staff Resource: Kate Pearce, Parks, 996-4855, kate.pearce@raleighnc.gov

On January 20, 2026, the Raleigh City Council authorized the City Manager to execute the third Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Dix Park Conservancy. The MOA directs the formation of a new advisory and stewardship committee to replace the former Community and Legacy Committees. Members of this new committee will be appointed by a four-person Ad-Hoc Committee of the

Dix Park Commission. Included with this week's *Update* is a staff memo detailing the application process to establish the new committee.

(Attachment)

Fayetteville Street Streetscape Implementation Updates

*Staff Resources: Dylan Bruchhaus, Planning and Development, 996-4631, dylan.bruchhaus@raleighnc.gov
Dhanya Sandeep, Planning and Development, 996-2659, dhanya.sandeep@raleighnc.gov*

At the November 4, 2025, regular meeting, City Council recommended a \$1M budget allocation for short-term improvements along Fayetteville Street. Following this Council action, an internal task force was created to develop an implementation plan. The task force is led by Planning and Development with representatives from Engineering Services, Transportation, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and Raleigh Arts. The near-term implementation plan is broken into two phases. Phase One led collaboratively by Planning and Transportation will (a) modify targeted horizontal planters by removing planting materials and replacing them with pavers to create additional space for activation and outdoor seating and (b) add additional outdoor seating and activation elements, with a target completion date of late Summer-early Fall. Phase Two led by Raleigh Arts will (a) introduce public art designed to create engaging visual experiences within the corridor through four viewshed projects and (b) fabricate and install wayfinding and interactive seating elements. Artists will be selected this spring, with design and fabrication continuing throughout the remainder of the year, and installation in spring 2027. Included in the *Update* materials is a memo detailing ongoing improvement efforts impacting Fayetteville Street.

(Attachment)

City Gateway Project – Transportation Network Enhancements and Impacts

*Staff Resources: Bradley Kimbrell, Transportation, 996-2233, bradley.kimbrell@raleighnc.gov
Daniel King, Transportation, 996-2408, daniel.king@raleighnc.gov*

Identified as part of the future Gateway Center growth opportunity in the 2015 Downtown Study and further envisioned for urban modernization as part of the 2017 Southern Gateway Corridor Study, the area bounded by McDowell St. to the west, South St. to the north, Salisbury St. to the east, and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to the south is in the midst of a transformational redevelopment. With planned transportation infrastructure changes in this area commencing in mid-April as part of the City Gateway development, impacts to how the public travels to, within, and from southern downtown Raleigh will begin to change, resulting in a more urban context that promotes better safety and connectivity for all modes of transportation. Included in this week's *Update* is a staff memo

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager Niki Jones, Assistant City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Ken Hisler, Assistant Director Shawsheen Baker, Capital Projects Superintendent
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR)
Date	April 1, 2026
Subject	Biltmore Hills Tennis Facility Expansion

Biltmore Hills Park is a community park in south Raleigh that offers a variety of recreational amenities, including a community center, courts and athletic fields, a playground, a seasonal pool, a picnic shelter, and supporting infrastructure such as parking, a comfort station and stormwater facilities.

The 2022 Parks Bond includes the expansion of the tennis complex at Biltmore Hills Park to provide increased and enhanced tennis training, drop-in and tournament play opportunities for the youth and adult populations in southeast Raleigh. Biltmore Hills Park was selected due to its location, history, programmatic assets, and long-standing partnership with the Ebony Racquet Club. Once completed, the 16-court Biltmore Hills Tennis complex will provide a significant investment in the sustainability of the long-standing urban tennis program.

Project Scope:

- Construction of 8 new tennis courts with lighting
- Improvement of site accessibility
- Reconfiguration and addition of parking
- Public art
- Implementation of green stormwater infrastructure
- Description in 2022 Parks Bond:

2 Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvements - \$6,750,000
 Expansion of the existing tennis complex with new courts and associated lighting, sidewalks, reconfigured parking, and stormwater devices.

Project Budget:

- \$6.75m from 2022 Parks Bond
- \$1.9m from previous Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds
- Total budget: \$8.65M
- Total project cost estimate: \$8.65M

Schematic Design approved by Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) and City Council, October 2024:



Bond Project Timeline:

- November 21, 2023, City Council award of consultant contract
- September 19, 2024, PRGAB review of Schematic Design of additional 8 courts with associated parking.
- October 1, 2024, City Council approval of Schematic Design
- Early March 2026, Site and building permit approvals
- March 19, 2026, Bid advertisement
- May 5, 2026, Bid opening (if minimum 3 bids are received)
- Summer 2026, City Council award of construction contract and contract execution
- Late Summer 2026-Fall 2027, Construction

Bond Project Community Engagement:

The project team consisted of the design consultant, the engagement consultant and cross-departmental staff from Raleigh Parks, Community Engagement and Engineering Services. The team reached out the following area stakeholder groups:

- Biltmore Hills Neighborhood Association
- Former South CAC
- Partners for Environmental Justice
- Shaw University
- Biltmore Hills Park patrons including Raleigh Police Department Baseball League
- Ebony Racquet Club
- Raleigh Tennis Association
- JD Lewis Multipurpose Center

The Community Engagement Report prepared by Dr. Sonya R. Shaw, Community Engagement Consultant, is attached. Public events included:

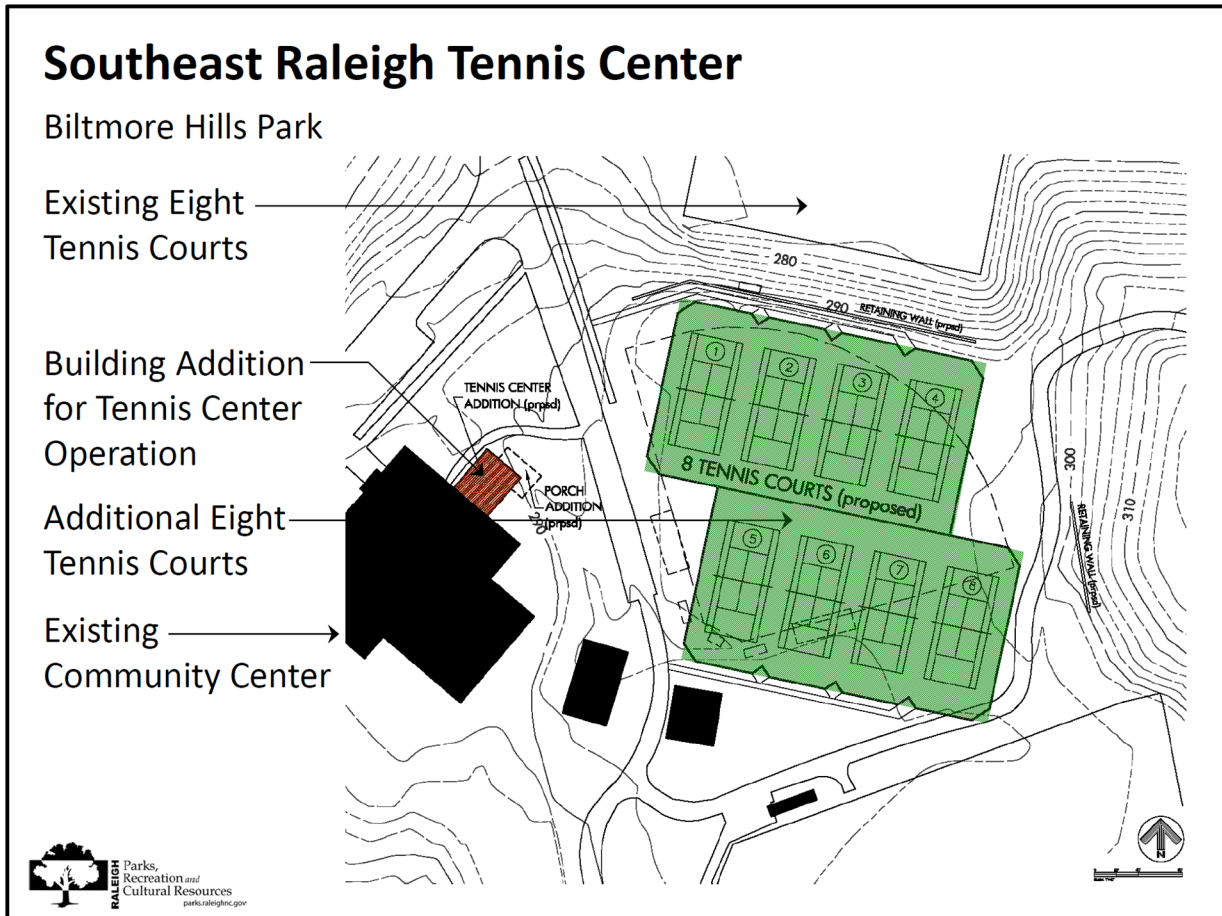
- 6/8, 2023 PEJ meeting
- 8/3, 2023 Neighborhood association meeting
- 8/7, 2023 Tennis community meeting
- 5/8, 2024 Focus group meetings
- 5/23, 2024 public meeting and survey
- 8/8, 2024 public meeting

Existing Park and Tennis Courts Improvements:

During the public engagement process to review the Schematic Design of the court expansion, community members requested that some or all the existing eight courts be rebuilt as part of the project and a staff space dedicated to tennis programming be included. However, city staff clarified that funding was never included in the 2022 parks bond by PRGAB and City Council to accommodate this level of construction. While the existing eight courts are aging, they will be resurfaced as part of the bond project process.

In fall 2025, staff initiated the Biltmore Hills Park Master Plan update to incorporate the undeveloped property off Cross Link Road. During the engagement process, the local tennis community again expressed interest in replacing the existing courts and adding dedicated staff space for tennis programming.

Having dedicated space for tennis programming and instruction would be a positive addition to the campus. As presented to City Council in May 2016, a building addition to the existing community center was proposed to support tennis program operation, but funding for this expansion was not included in the 2022 Parks Bond.



As presented to the community, Raleigh Parks will invest in the remaining baseball field to offset the loss of the smaller field. Completed or in-progress improvements include upgraded field lighting, playing surface enhancements, a portable mound, construction of the batting cage structure (with final elements to be installed this spring), a new scoreboard to be completed by May 1, and installation of an equipment storage shed.

With limited resources, staff is balancing the priorities of what is available and how those resources should be best implemented. Existing court resurfacing and tennis court lighting upgrades are planned in the coming years, aligned with completion of the new courts.

In addition, Parks and Stormwater collaborated with Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ) to implement a series of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) improvements at Biltmore Hills Park to minimize stormwater runoff impacts around the park. (Photos below)



Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvement Project

Community Engagement Report



Dr. Sonya R. Shaw, Community Engagement Consultant
| S.R. SHAW ENTERPRISES | WWW.DRSONYARSHAW.COM |



Table of Contents

Biltmore Hills Project Background	1
Community Engagement Timeline and Process	2
Community Responses to the Public Opinion Survey	4
Focus Group and Stakeholder Results	8
Open House Feedback	10
Concept Plan Review	13
Next Steps	13
Appendix	
Appendix A- Full public survey results	
Appendix B- Focus Group and Stakeholder Meeting Summary	
Appendix C- Concept Plan Maps	

About Biltmore Hills Park

Established as a city park in 1964, the 39-acres at Biltmore Hills Park includes a recently renovated community center, a paved walking trail, playground, tennis and basketball courts, baseball fields, and a public swimming pool. Biltmore Hills Park sits in the Biltmore Hills neighborhood upstream from Rochester Heights. Both have historic value as the first Black planned developments in Raleigh.

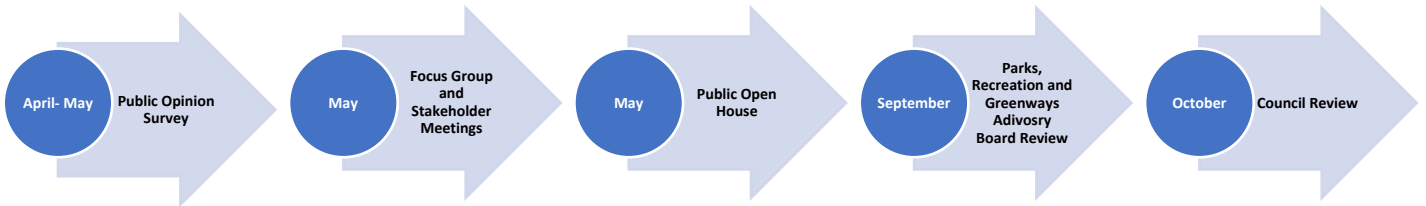
Biltmore Hill Project Background

As part of the 2022 Parks Bond Referendum, Raleigh Parks is proposing site improvements to Biltmore Hills Park. The Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvement Project will feature expansion of the existing tennis complex, improved lighting, accessibility features, stormwater improvements and upgraded parking. The expanded tennis courts will be located on the existing small ballfield.



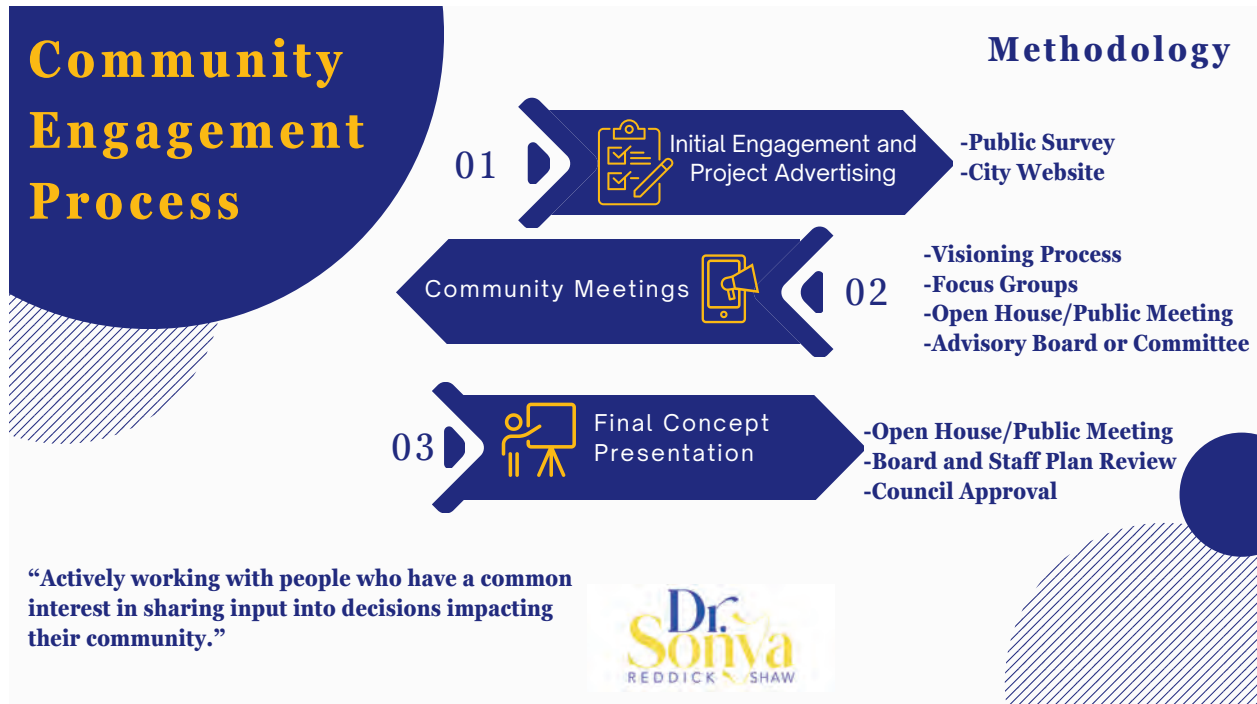
Community Engagement Timeline

The majority of a project’s community engagement opportunities normally occur during the initial phases of project development. For the Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvement Project, community engagement opportunities will be provided April-October, 2024.



Community Engagement Process

The community engagement process was designed to maximize the amount of input and feedback from stakeholders and the public. The process was intended to be equitable and inclusive, offering a variety of input opportunities and methods for community members to have a comfortable platform for sharing concept plan feedback and programming ideas.



Role of Community Engagement

Community engagement is an essential part of any public planning process, and the most effective plans are firmly rooted in the realities and visions of the communities that create them. This plan uses a combination of engagement from community members, stakeholders, focus groups and the public to inform the information-gathering process.

An assortment of engagement types was used to provide balanced input necessary to gain a variety of perspectives and included:

- Public Opinion Survey
- Focus Group and Stakeholder Meetings
- Public Open House

Community engagement meetings towards the beginning of the planning process had a broad approach to inform attendees about the planning process and solicit input regarding community priorities, customer satisfaction and the recreational needs and wants of the community. Meetings later in the process took a more focused approach, seeking feedback on proposed recommendations.



Community Responses to the Public Opinion Survey

A public opinion survey is designed to measure feedback from a general population regarding a topic or series of topics. The City of Raleigh created a survey to gather feedback from the general public on proposed park improvements and current park usage at Biltmore Hills Park. The survey was available online through the City’s publicinput.com engagement portal April 10- May 23, 2024. A total of forty-three (43) participants submitted surveys.

Survey results are summarized below:

Please rank tennis programming options that you would be interested in participating in at the Biltmore Hills Tennis facility.

- Open Courts for Drop-In Play- 94%
- Adult Instruction- 78%
- Adult Match Play- 75%
- Adult Tournament Play- 75%
- Junior Instruction- 66%
- Junior Match Play- 59%
- Junior Tournament Play- 56%

What outdoor special events would you attend if offered at Biltmore Hills?

- Cultural Events- 74%
- Concerts in the Park- 72%
- Family-themed Outdoor Events- 69%
- Holiday-themed Events- 54%
- Other- 15%

Any additional thoughts you'd like to share?

Comment 1: I would like to see a priority of Biltmore Hills Park serving as a future site for CIAA and NCIHS Tennis Tournaments for future collegiate athletes and more importantly creating a space for BIPOC communities to celebrate cultural and historical preservation of the Tennis Legacy of North Carolina. *8 people agree*

Comment 2: It’s a great park that really needs investment. *6 people agree.*

Comment 3: Please do not incorporate pickleball lines. *5 people agree.*

Comment 4: Please just don’t gentrify. Consider the community that surrounds the park. *4 people agree.*

Comment 5: Please do NOT incorporate pickleball - it's nice to have a tennis-only facility *3 people agree.*

Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvement Project

Comment 6: Just continue making sure those who first had access to the park will continue to be able to have it. *3 people agree.*

Comment 7: Optional pickleball on older courts but do not include lines on all or new courts. 5%-10% is good. *1 person agrees.*

Comment 8: In addition to upgrading the existing courts/new courts and other tennis & baseball amenities, it would also be nice to see additional events which would foster community spirit, provide entertainment, and promote the park as a vibrant community hub.

Comment 9: Pet-Friendly Events. Dog-friendly festivals with agility courses and contests, Pet adoption fair, Outdoor pet yoga sessions (dogs). *1 person agrees.*

Comment 10: Nature and Environmental Activities: Guided nature walks, Environmental education programs and workshops, Community gardening days and plant swaps

Comment 11: Health and Wellness Events: Yoga and meditation sessions, Outdoor fitness classes (e.g. boot camps)

Comment 12: Food and Beverage Festivals: Food truck rally, Craft beer, wine with & non-alcoholic beverage Festival

Comment 13: Outdoor Movies: Classic film screenings, Themed movie marathons (e.g., superhero movies)

Comment 14: Arts and Crafts Fairs: Local artisan market, Seasonal craft fair (e.g., summer arts festival), Interactive art installations and workshops, Outdoor Art in the Park Exhibits & Installations especially representing art from South Raleigh. *1 person agrees.*

Comment 15: My father introduced me to tennis on these courts and I also had swim instruction at Biltmore Hills pool. This park has served generations of black families in Raleigh and deserves improvements to keep the tradition alive. *1 person agrees.*

Comment 16: Please include pickleball lines on the tennis courts. It's a growing sport that the whole neighborhood can enjoy, old and young. *1 person agrees.*

Comment 17: I would like for them to add a soccer field and make the park zone better for the kids by adding more activities. *1 person agrees.*

Comment 18: With over a \$9 million budget for the Biltmore Hills Tennis Expansion, it is unclear why the current plan only includes the development of 8 new courts without upgrading the 8 existing courts to USTA standards as part of this project. In a recent Parks & Rec Tennis Update meeting, it was stated that there may not be enough funds to upgrade the existing 8 courts to USTA standards, and these upgrades are not planned to be included in this project. This

Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvement Project

undermines the vision, which includes having all 16 courts meet USTA standards to support open play by community members, formal instruction, match play, tournaments, and attracting local, collegiate, and professional events.

Comment 19: Additionally, the absence of a designated tennis office to manage the increased programming and tennis operations, and the lack of upgrades to the restroom facilities further diminish the park's potential. The current plan appears scaled down compared to the 2017 proposal, which had a budget of about \$2.8 million. Why is this the case? It feels like there is a race to the bottom, committing to only the most basic upgrades, despite the original vision of a comprehensive 16-court USTA standard tennis complex with accompanying amenities such as expanded parking, ADA compliance, lighting, and improved drainage.

The current budget is more than three times the original, yet the scope is significantly smaller. Even accounting for inflation, the \$9 million budget should be more than sufficient to realize the full vision. If the current budget cannot accommodate the full vision, private funds should be secured to bridge the gap.

Comment 20: Hispanic kids need field or gym for soccer free play. Keeps them out of trouble.

Comment 21: Youth talent show

Comment 22: I'm excited to see this project moving forward. Looking forward to additional courts to accommodate match play, instruction and open play simultaneously.

Comment 23: Not sure about the accuracy if the info but I was told that the decision has already been made to eliminate one softball field and adding the tennis courts.

Comment 24: Please consider the impact of drawing more tennis traffic (a historically and culturally wealthy sport) to a historically and currently BIPOC working class neighborhood. This seems like it could easily become gentrification.

Comment 25: I live in this neighborhood and welcome all upgrade. *1 person agrees.*

How often do you and/or your household members visit Biltmore Hills Park?

Weekly- 28%

Monthly-25%

Yearly- 22%

Daily- 13%

I do not visit Biltmore Hills Park- 13%

Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvement Project

How do you and/or your household members get to Biltmore Hills Park?

- Vehicle- 91%
- Walk-28%
- Bike- 3%
- Public Transit- 0%
- Other- 0%

Using the scale below, please rate your satisfaction with outdoor sports or programs offered at Biltmore Hills:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Youth Tennis	24%	24%	52%	-	-
Adult Tennis	24%	28%	45%	3%	-
Biltmore Hills Youth Baseball Team	23%	12%	62%	4%	-
Raleigh Police Baseball League	15%	23%	58%	4%	-
Special Events (Egg hunt, Bloom into Spring/ Youth Baseball Sign-Up, etc.)	23%	23%	46%	4%	4%
Field Rentals	19%	8%	15%	54%	4%

What is your preferred method of receiving information about programs and activities at Biltmore Hills?

- Email Updates- 47%
- Raleigh Parks Leisure Ledger- 19%
- Social Media- 13%
- Biltmore Hill Program Guide- 9%
- Signage and Flyers at Biltmore Hills-6%
- Word of Mouth- 3%
- Other- 3%

Complete survey responses can be found in Appendix A.

Focus Group and Stakeholder Results

Focus Group and Stakeholder meetings provide a way to receive input from community stakeholders, partners, park neighbors and citizens groups. The meeting began with a presentation on the community engagement process, past project decisions, proposed tennis and baseball field improvements and future programming options. Guided discussions included opportunities to work toward a well-rounded project. Attendees responded from their areas of focus and interest.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, Dr. Sonya Shaw facilitated focus group meetings designed to obtain feedback on the proposed concept plan and gather information about tennis programming and ball field use at Biltmore. Invitations were extended to seven organization representatives directly associated with the project or Biltmore community. Representatives extended the invitation to their members resulting in attendance of twenty-five (25 people). This summary denotes discussions and main points raised by organization representatives and community members in attendance. Detailed notes from the Focus Group and Stakeholder meeting are located in Appendix B.

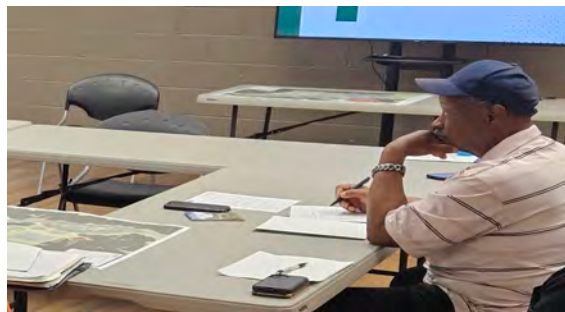


Photo: Consultant, Staff and Stakeholders at the Focus Group and Stakeholder meeting.

Community Organization Representatives

Organizations represented (Ball field): Men of Southeast Raleigh, Biltmore Hills Association, Shaw University, Kickball Organizer; (Tennis): Ebony Racquet Club, Friends of Biltmore Hills.

Summary of Findings

- Community members need opportunities to provide input into projects and be informed throughout the project of any recommendations, changes or decisions.
- Current tennis courts need to be repaired and upgraded.
- Additional parking is needed at Biltmore.
- The small ball field holds a number of memories for many residents still living in the neighborhood. Baseball provided them with opportunities to have mentors, build strong relationship and stay out of trouble during their youth.
- Baseball is big in this community. Efforts should be made to maintain little, youth and junior baseball leagues.
- Modifications to the large field should be made prior to removing the smaller ball field for tennis court construction. This will help facilitate a smooth transition for programs during construction.
- The addition of exterior entrances to the community center's restrooms could provide needed restrooms when the community center is closed during tournaments, games and shelter rentals occurring simultaneously.
- A bump out area should be added to the existing community center to provide a location to manage 16-court complex.
- Ebony Racquet Club has a strong history, and its programs continue growing and being successful.
- Space should remain available for walk-up and open court play at tennis courts.
- Tennis programs offered throughout the city should be offered at Biltmore.
- Tennis can be an economic generator in the community. Fostering partnerships and relationships with area colleges and high schools are important to make this happen.

Open House Feedback

The public was invited to view display boards describing early suggestions for the concept plan and to provide additional input on tennis programs, ball field programs and future enhancements. Attendees were able to attend the open house meeting in person at Biltmore Community Center on May 23, 2024. Twenty-one (21) people attended the Open House event.



Photo: Staff, Stakeholders and Public attending Open House.

Big Ideas

Participants provided feedback on programs, special events and baseball field enhancements through the use of engagement boards designed to gather community input. The top three programs are services ranked by participants are listed below in each category.

Recreation Programs of Interest to Participants

Youth and Teen Programs

- Baseball (Ages 13-15)
- Tennis Lessons
- Soccer

Adult Programs

- Tennis Lessons
- Softball League
- Open Field/Drop-In Play

Outdoor Events

- Arts in the Park
- Concerts in the Park
- Movies on the Lawn

Outdoor Championships

- CIAA Tennis
- High School Tennis
- Regional Tennis Championships

Youth Tennis

- Junior Instruction
- Junior Match
- Junior Tournament

Adult Tennis

- Adult Instruction
- Adult Tournament
- Adult Match

Future Enhancements Participants Prefer to See at Large Baseball field

- Improve Lighting
- Batting Cage
- Pitching Machine

Summary of Findings

- Responses indicate that participants support current programs offered for youth and teens at Biltmore. Those that rose to the top were boys baseball ages 13-15 years old, tennis and soccer. Tennis lessons, softball leagues and Open Field/Drop-In Play received the top votes for adults. The highest ranked tennis program for youth was junior instruction. For adults, the highest ranked tennis programs tied for the top ranking were adult instruction and tournaments.
- The community indicated an interested in being a host site for CIAA tennis championships and high school championships.
- Outdoor special events the public would like to see offered at Biltmore included Arts in the Park, Concerts in the Park and Movies on the Lawn.
- The most desired enhancement for the large baseball field was to improve lighting, followed by the addition of a batting cage and pitching machine.

Concept Plan Review

During the Public Open House, community members, neighbors, organization reps and stakeholders participated in discussions with the staff and design team. Input received will be used to revise the proposed concept plan.



Concept plans for both the tennis improvements and baseball field enhancements were displayed at the Public Open House. Exhibit 1 (Newly proposed tennis courts) and Exhibit 2 (Baseball field enhancements) are located in Appendix C. Participants shared feedback on the proposed design of new tennis courts and enhancements to the existing large baseball field described below:

- There needs to be more parking at the tennis courts, especially to accommodate tournaments.
- Need restroom facilities that are available year-round anytime the courts are open for play.
- The baseball improvements need to be coordinated with the tennis court construction so that the baseball field improvements are completed before construction begins on the tennis courts.
- The existing courts need to meet USTA standards.
- The tennis improvements need to consider the environmental impacts. Consider the downstream impacts. Can we incorporate green stormwater infrastructure?
- The existing parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts is poorly structured and is used for racing and burnouts. This parking needs to be renovated to reduce speed and improve safety.

Next Steps

This report marks the official end of the first phase of community engagement. It summarizes the feedback and input received from participants who attended community engagement activities offered to the citizens, stakeholders and the general public. The next level of project review will go to the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board and City Council.

This report will be made available on the Biltmore Hills Tennis Improvement Project's website page.

Appendix A

COMPLETE PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Biltmore Hills Park Online Survey

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
159	43	775	31	12

Please rank tennis programming options that you would be interested in participating in at the Biltmore Hills Tennis facility.

94%	Open Courts for Drop-In Play	Rank: 2.13	30 ✓
66%	Junior Instruction	Rank: 2.86	21 ✓
78%	Adult Instruction	Rank: 3.24	25 ✓
75%	Adult Match Play	Rank: 3.71	24 ✓
75%	Adult Tournament Play	Rank: 4.00	24 ✓
59%	Junior Match Play	Rank: 4.16	19 ✓
56%	Junior Tournament Play	Rank: 4.67	18 ✓

32 Respondents

What outdoor special events would you attend if offered at Biltmore Hills? *Select all that apply.*

74%	Cultural Events	29 ✓
72%	Concerts in the Park	28 ✓
69%	Family-themed Outdoor Events	27 ✓
54%	Holiday-themed Events	21 ✓
15%	Other	6 ✓

39 Respondents

Any additional thoughts you'd like to share?

I would like to see a priority of Biltmore Hills Park serving as a future site for CIAA and NCIHS Tennis Tournaments for future collegiate athletes and more importantly creating a space for BIPOC communities to celebrate cultural and historical preservation of the Tennis Legacy of North Carolina.

one month ago

⊕ 8 Agree

It's a great park that really needs investment.

one month ago

⊕ 6 Agree

Please do not incorporate pickleball lines.

24 days ago

⊕ 5 Agree

Please just don't gentrify. Consider the community that surrounds the park.

one month ago

⊕ 4 Agree

Please do NOT incorporate pickleball - it's nice to have a tennis-only facility

24 days ago

⊕ 3 Agree

Just continue making sure those who first had access to the park will continue to be able to have it.

one month ago

⊕ 3 Agree

Optional pickleball on older courts but do not include lines on all or new courts. 5%-10% is good.

20 days ago

⊕ 1 Agree

In addition to upgrading the existing courts/new courts and other tennis & baseball amenities, it would also be nice to see additional events which would foster community spirit, provide entertainment, and promote the park as a vibrant community hub.

Pet-Friendly Events:

Dog-friendly festivals with agility courses and contests, Pet adoption fair, Outdoor pet yoga sessions (Doga)

Nature and Environmental Activities:

Guided nature walks, Environmental education programs and workshops, Community gardening days and plant swaps

Health and Wellness Events:

Yoga and meditation sessions, Outdoor fitness classes (e.g. boot camps)

Food and Beverage Festivals: Food truck rally, Craft beer, wine with & non-alcoholic beverage Festival

Outdoor Movies: Classic film screenings, Themed movie marathons (e.g., superhero movies)

Arts and Crafts Fairs: Local artisan market, Seasonal craft fair (e.g., summer arts festival), Interactive art installations and workshops, Outdoor Art in the Park Exhibits & Installations especially representing art from South Raleigh

22 days ago

👍 1 Agree

My father introduced me to tennis on these courts and I also had swim instruction at Biltmore Hills pool. This park has served generations of black families in Raleigh and deserves improvements to keep the tradition alive.

25 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Please include pickleball lines on the tennis courts. its a growing sport that the whole neighborhood can enjoy, old and young.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Need baseball field for kids, and soccer field for kids. Hispanic and black kids need a field to use it keeps kids out of trouble.

6 days ago

I agree with additional tennis courts and no pickleball courts.

17 days ago

I would like for them to add a soccer field and make the park zone better for the kids by adding more activities.

20 days ago

With over a \$9 million budget for the Biltmore Hills Tennis Expansion, it is unclear why the current plan only includes the development of 8 new courts without upgrading the 8 existing courts to USTA standards as part of this project. In a recent Parks & Rec Tennis Update meeting, it was stated that there may not be enough funds to upgrade the existing 8 courts to USTA standards, and these upgrades are not planned to be included in this project. This undermines the vision, which includes having all 16 courts meet USTA standards to support open play by community members, formal instruction, match play, tournaments, and attracting local, collegiate, and professional events.

Additionally, the absence of a designated tennis office to manage the increased programming and tennis operations, and the lack of upgrades to the restroom facilities further diminish the park's potential. The current plan appears scaled down compared to the 2017 proposal, which had a budget of about \$2.8 million. Why is this the case? It feels like there is a race to the bottom, committing to only the most basic upgrades, despite the original vision of a comprehensive 16-court USTA standard tennis complex with accompanying amenities such as expanded parking, ADA compliance, lighting, and improved drainage.

The current budget is more than three times the original, yet the scope is significantly smaller. Even accounting for inflation, the \$9 million budget should be more than sufficient to realize the full vision. If the current budget cannot accommodate the full vision, private funds should be secured to bridge the gap.

20 days ago

Hispanic kids need field or gym for soccer free play. Keeps them out of trouble.

21 days ago

Youth talent show

21 days ago

I'm excited to see this project moving forward. Looking forward to additional courts to accommodate match play, instruction and open-play simultaneously.

21 days ago

Not sure about the accuracy if the info but I was told that the decision has already been made to eliminate one softball field and adding the tennis courts.

21 days ago

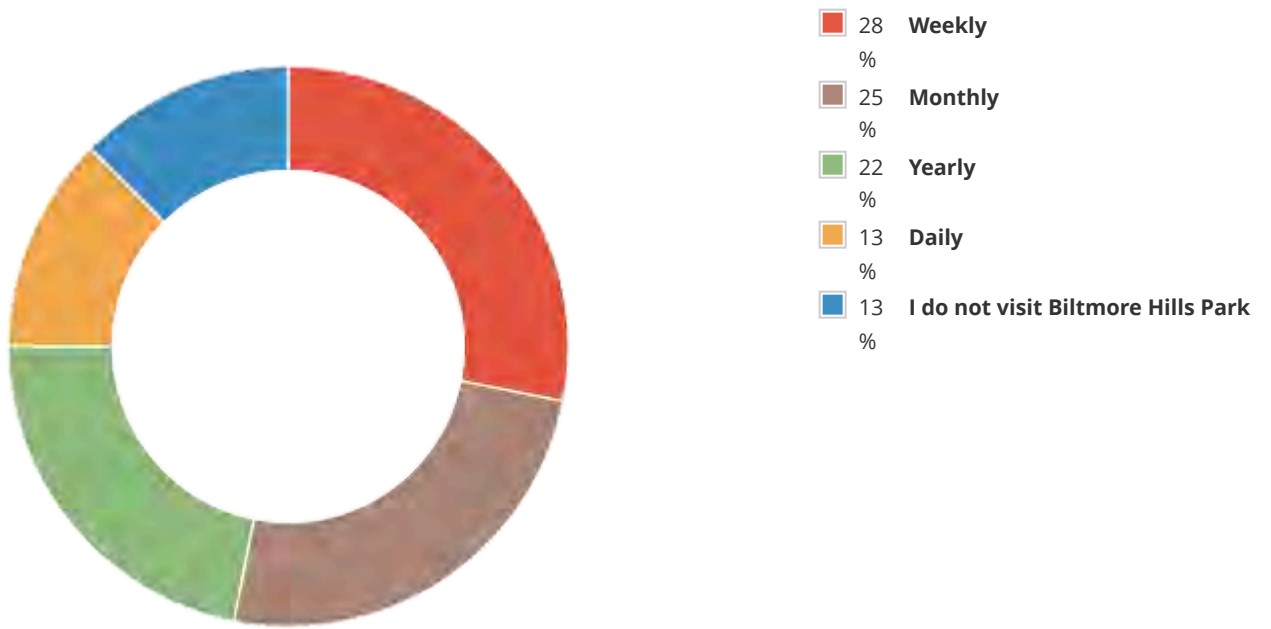
Please consider the impact of drawing more tennis traffic (a historically and culturally wealthy sport) to a historically and currently BIPOC working class neighborhood. This seems like it could easily become gentrification.

24 days ago

I live in this neighborhood and welcome all upgrade

24 days ago

How often do you and/or your household members visit Biltmore Hills Park?



32 respondents

How do you and/or your household members get to Biltmore Hills Park? *Select all that apply.*

91%	Vehicle	29 ✓
28%	Walk	9 ✓
3%	Bike	1 ✓
0%	Public Transit	0 ✓
0%	Other	0 ✓

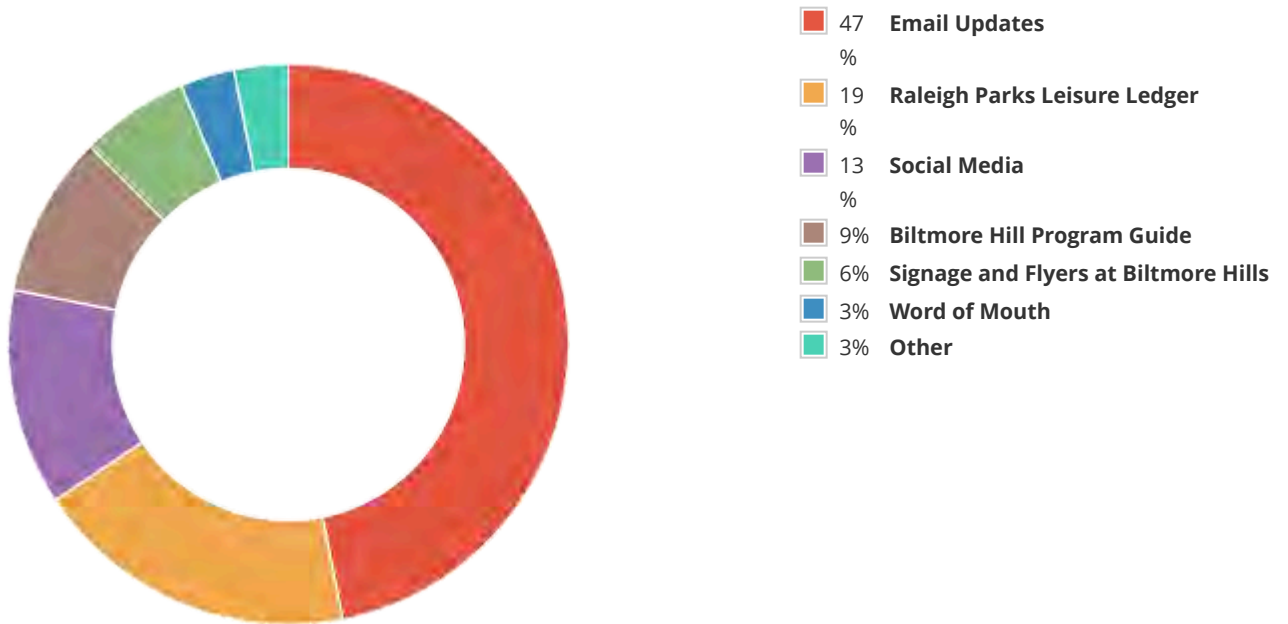
32 Respondents

Using the scale below, please rate your satisfaction with outdoor sports or programs offered at Biltmore Hills:

Youth Tennis	24% Very Satisfied	24% Somewhat Satisfied	52% Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	- Somewhat dissatisfied	- Very dissatisfied
Adult Tennis	24% Very Satisfied	28% Somewhat Satisfied	45% Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	3% Somewhat dissatisfied	- Very dissatisfied
Biltmore Hills Youth Baseball Team	23% Very Satisfied	12% Somewhat Satisfied	62% Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	4% Somewhat dissatisfied	- Very dissatisfied
Raleigh Police Baseball League	15% Very Satisfied	23% Somewhat Satisfied	58% Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	4% Somewhat dissatisfied	- Very dissatisfied
Special Events (Egg hunt, Bloom into Spring/ Youth Baseball Sign-Up, etc.)	23% Very Satisfied	23% Somewhat Satisfied	46% Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	4% Somewhat dissatisfied	4% Very dissatisfied
Field Rentals	19% Very Satisfied	8% Very Satisfied	15% Somewhat Satisfied	54% Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	4% Somewhat dissatisfied

29 respondents

What is your preferred method of receiving information about programs and activities at Biltmore Hills?



32 respondents

In previous years, the City solicited feedback from Biltmore Hills community members on a public art design that represented sports. After hearing input from the community on the design, it became clear that the design did not align with the values and themes the community wanted to see.

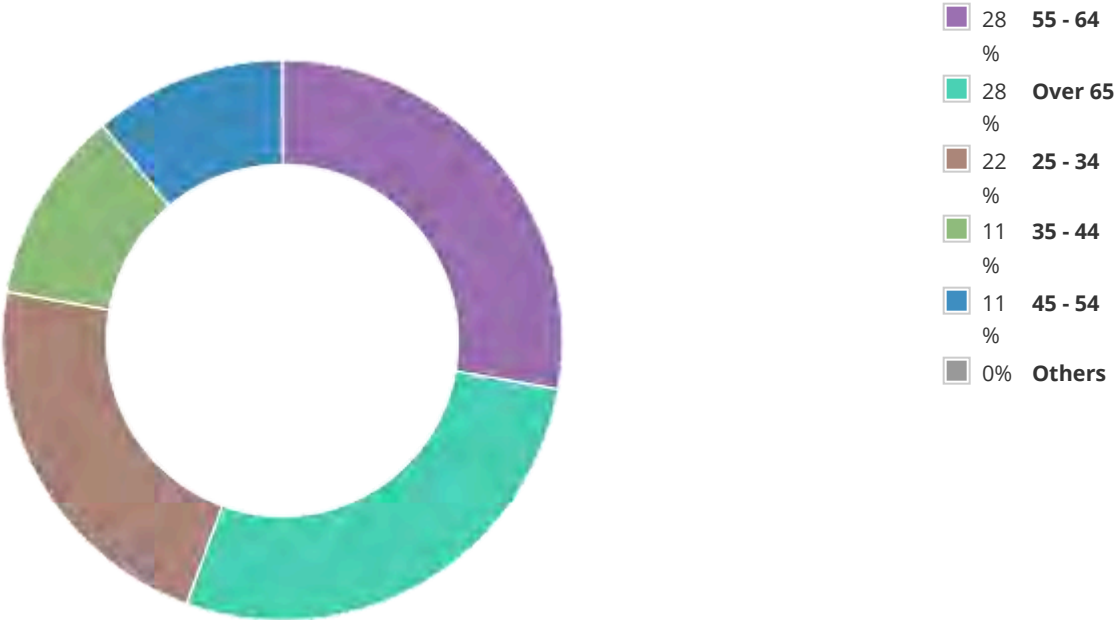
The public art is now moving forward in a direction that reflects the unique history and culture of the Biltmore Hills Neighborhood and community, expanding on the Bailey Drive Gateway Public Art Project (<https://www.raleighparkswithpurpose.com/>)

Do you agree with the proposed direction of creating public art that represents the history, people and values of Biltmore Hills and that aligns with and expands the Bailey Drive public art project?	72%	24%	-	-	3%
	Yes, Strongly Agree	Yes, Somewhat Agree	Neutral	No, Somewhat Disagree	No, Strongly Disagree

29 respondents

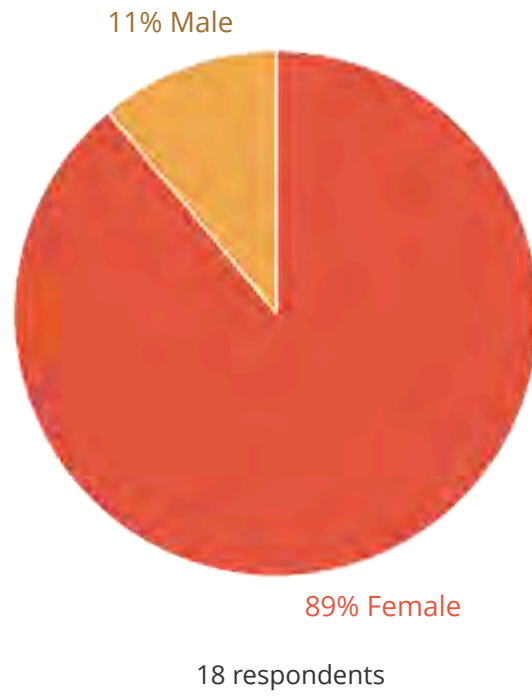
Where do you live? Move the circle to show the general area by dragging the map.

What is your age?

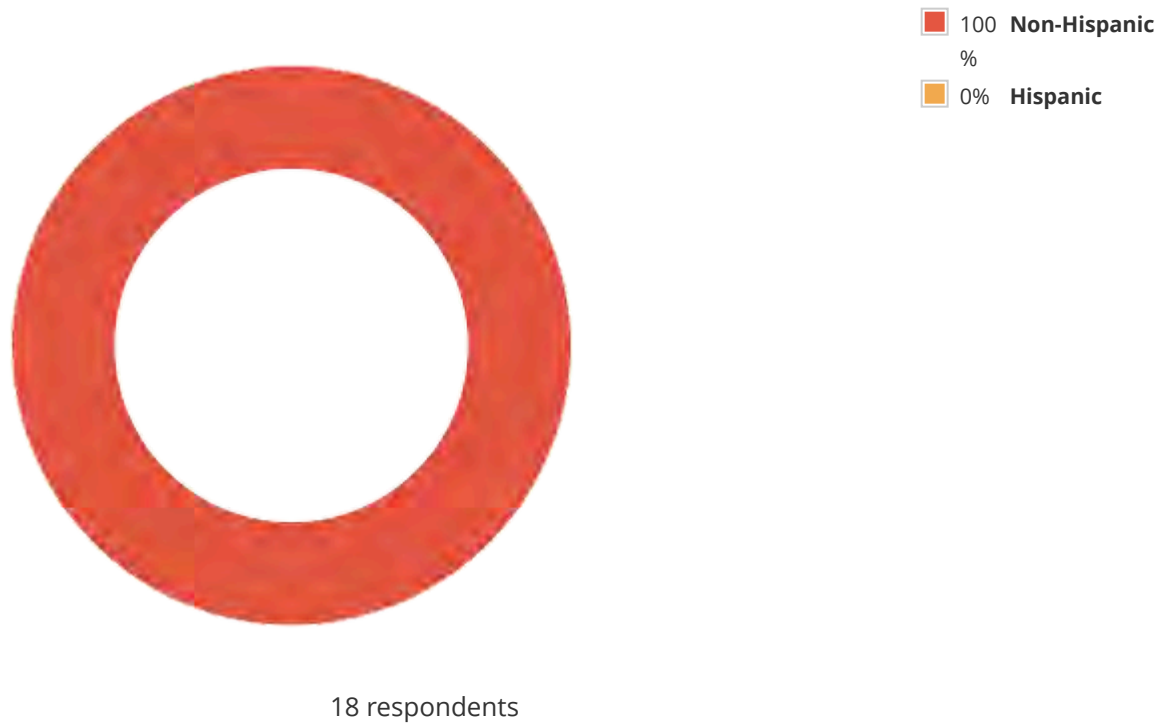


18 respondents

What is your gender identity?



What is your ethnic identification?

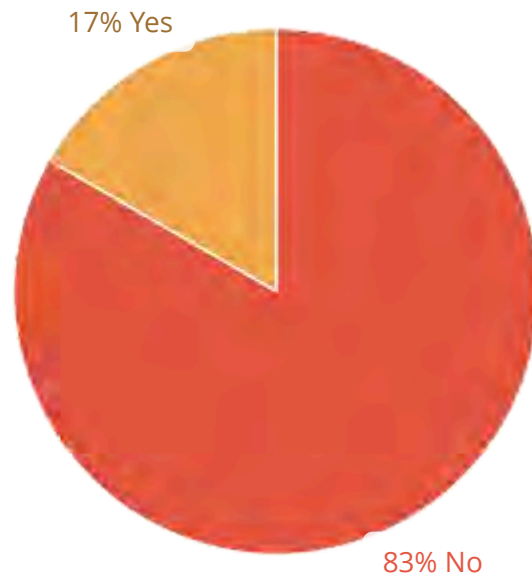


What is your racial identity? (Please select all that apply.)

72%	Black/African American	13 ✓
33%	White	6 ✓
0%	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0 ✓
0%	Asian	0 ✓
0%	Latino/a/e/x	0 ✓
0%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0 ✓

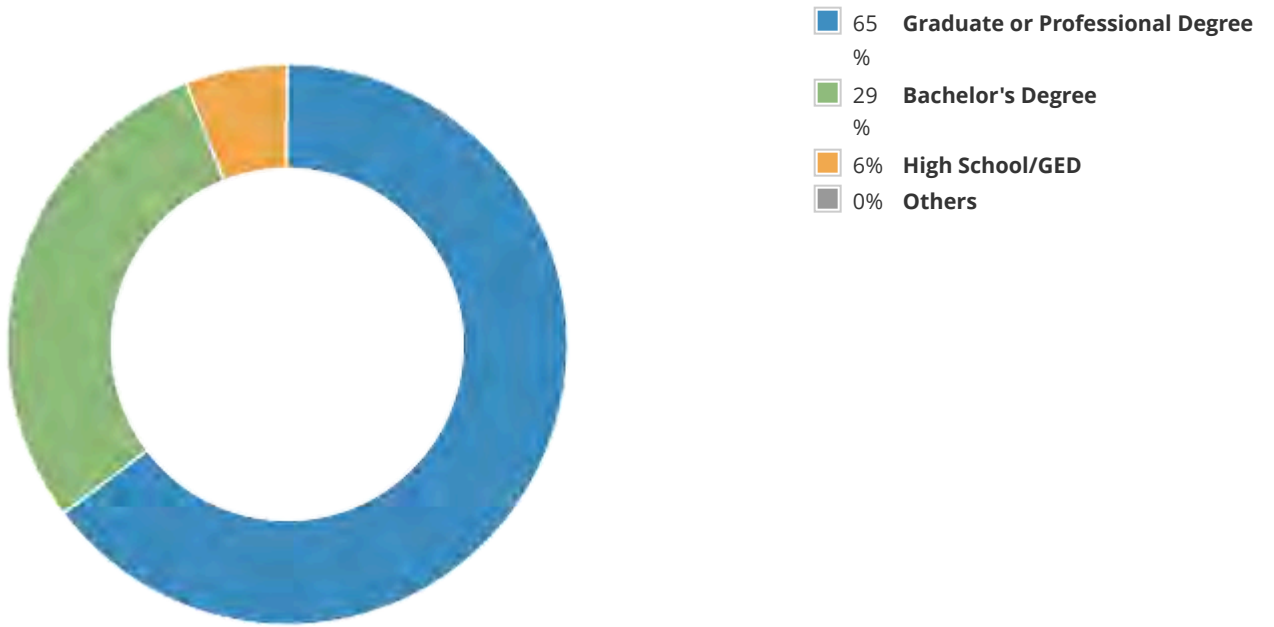
18 Respondents

Do you identify as person with a disability?



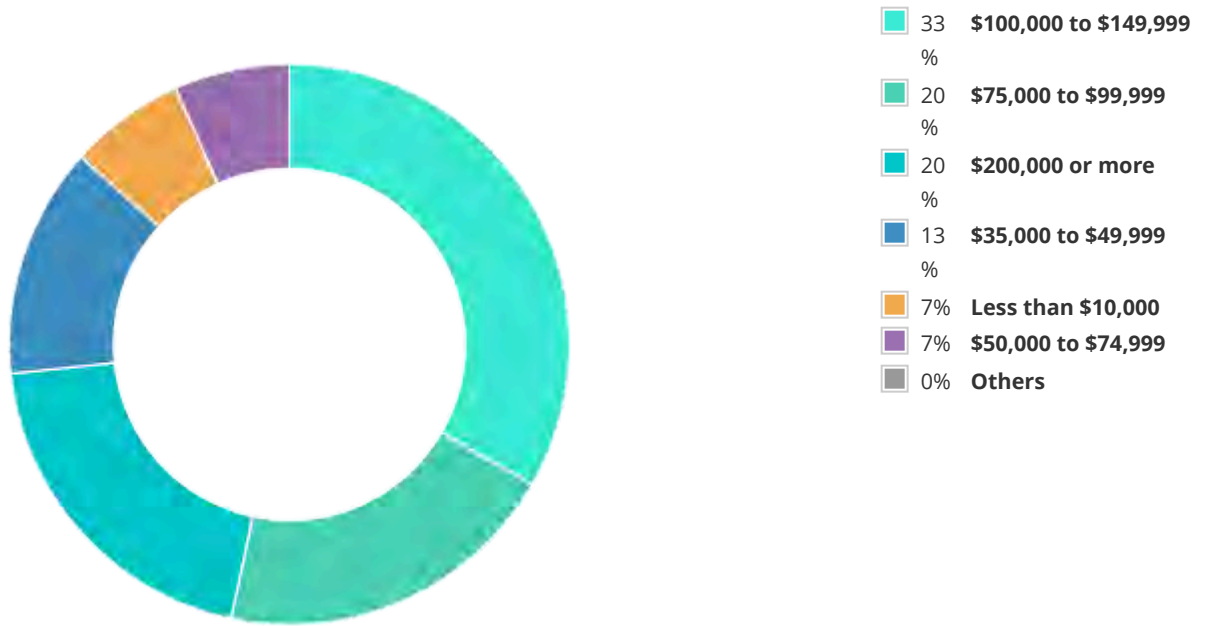
18 respondents

What is your highest formal education level?



17 respondents

What is your approximate household income?



15 respondents

Do you rent or own your home?

83%	Own	15 ✓
11%	Rent	2 ✓
6%	Neither	1 ✓

18 Respondents

I speak English as my first language.

100%	Yes	18 ✓
0%	No	0 ✓

18 Respondents

How did you hear about this survey?

37%	Handout / doorhanger	7 ✓
32%	Word of mouth	6 ✓
21%	Social media	4 ✓
5%	City of Raleigh website	1 ✓
5%	Email	1 ✓
0%	By mail / postcard	0 ✓
0%	Yard sign	0 ✓

19 Respondents

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Appendix B

FOCUS GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

City of Raleigh Biltmore Hills Project Community Engagement Summary Focus Group Meetings Summary

Introduction

On Wednesday, May 8, 2020, Dr. Sonya Shaw facilitated focus group meetings designed to obtain feedback on the proposed concept plan and gather information about tennis programming and ball field use at Biltmore. Invitations were extended to seven organization representatives directly associated with the project or Biltmore community. This summary denotes discussions and main points raised by organization representatives and community members in attendance.

Attendance

Twenty-five (25) participants completed sign in sheet for meeting attendance.

Organizations represented (Ball field): Men of Southeast Raleigh, Biltmore Hills Association, Shaw University, Kickball Organizer; (Tennis): Ebony Racquet Club, Friends of Biltmore Hills

City Staff: Conrad Merced, Terry Naranjo, Sue Ellen Colon, David Bell

Consultants: Jason Galloway (McAdams), Dr. Sonya Shaw (S.R. Shaw Enterprises)

Past Community Engagement Results and Planning Decisions

Shared by City Staff- Terry Naranjo

- 2012- Bond that authorized tennis in Southeast Raleigh, goal was to help generate economic impact.
- 2013-2014- Schematic design and feasibility developed for Biltmore site.
- 2015- Presentation to City Manager for Biltmore hills site to be located on the ball field, received some support.
- 2016- Presentation made to Councilmember Corey Branch, private funding source contact, South CAC and Ebony Racquet Club that received positive support with site on ball field.
- 2017- Pivotal year for the project; South CAC support of the tennis courts on ball field concept.
- March 7, 2017- Council approved transfer of funding to Biltmore site for tennis expansion.
- Spring 2017- First time questions raised about ball field location.

- Summer 2017- Tennis on the ball field was put on hold.
- 2017-2018- Explored hillside option; Presentations made about putting tennis on the hillside.
- 2019- Hillside option stopped when it became apparent that placing site on hillside raised environmental concerns (degradation, storm water, trees, grading, etc.) and some increased costs. The focus shifted back to the ball field for the site; Bond project became focus along with more funding for this site.
- Ellen Colon shared that past project information was unclear. The information was taken back, and the idea came forward to move courts to the smaller ball field and make upgrades to the larger field to accommodate loss of smaller field.

Questions Raised at Meeting

- Original project \$2 million, now have an additional \$7 million. How will it be spent?
- To accommodate for the loss of the small ball field, will programs from small field take priority over rentals on large ball field?
- Has final decision been made on putting tennis courts on small ball field?
- Biltmore Improvements Project Budget is \$10 million?
- Are there time constraints associated with smaller ball field programs moving to larger field? Field availability?
- Will current ball field programs take priority over field rentals?
- How is the city sharing information about the upcoming meeting?
- How is the city informing community residents about this meeting?
- Time frame for start of construction- 1 year of planning, start construction 2025.
- How will new courts be used? Will have input on what programming occurs on new courts?
- Who will run new tennis programs and tournaments- what accommodations will be made for new staff and additional operations at Biltmore?
- Will the courts going to be built this time?
- What is specifically included in the project this time? Does it include upgrades to the existing tennis courts?
- Why does City no longer provide tennis lessons to Biltmore summer camp?
- Will athletic programs from the small ball field take priority over rentals on large ball fields to accommodate loss of small ball field use?
- Copy of the annual schedule for large and small ball field use January-December 2023 and 2024.
- Staff member from Athletics who can answer scheduling/programming questions about ball field to attend meeting.
- List of ball field renters and the programs they offer.
- Need Biltmore project survey results.

Overall Project Concerns

Lack Of Communication About Project Status

- Community members need opportunities to provide input into projects and be informed throughout the project of any recommendations, changes or decisions.
- Don't come and build new courts when the existing courts need to be upgraded now that the City has additional bond dollars; fix those too.

General Comments

- Excited to see upgrades for both tennis and large ball field.
- Need much more parking to accommodate field rentals, shelter rentals, new courts and ball field use.
- Patrons sometimes are bumped from shelter rentals if tournaments or events are held at the site. Causes problems for those renters.
- How does historic designation remain a priority?
- How do we maintain ownership of community?
- There is an undertone that Biltmore improvements are being constructed for new people who will move into the neighborhood.
- Important to have access and ability to walk to parks for those that lives here.
- There seems to be a push for the loss of little league baseball fields in Southeast Raleigh.
- Sanderford Road fields are not good alternatives for displaced programs at Biltmore due to accessibility issues.
- Biltmore is not just for tennis and baseball, but also has been important for a number of college softball players.
- Bring 14–18-year-old softball program back.
- Find out what's not being offered at Biltmore and offer it here. If it's offered on the north side, offer it on the south side.
- If concessions stand is added in future, can additional restrooms be added to those?
- Original plan allotted \$2 million for a bump out area on the backside of the center to open up to courts that were going on the ball field as an area to manage those courts. When came back to additional \$6.8 million still needed a place to manage the new courts. Can't have a 16-court complex and no structure in place to manage it. Go back to original plan that called for creating a bump out area to manage courts from.
- Did not complete plan with \$1.8 million in 2019. Now have new bond money. Chose ball field because land was flat. Grading then cost \$800,000. Should cost less to resurface courts. Waiting keeps increasing costs. We want you to maximize the \$10 million and get what we need for tennis project improvements. All concerns need to be addressed for existing and future needs.

Discussion Summary and Common Themes

Concept Plan

General Feedback

- Where is seating expansion on courts?
- Improve or upgrade current tennis courts.
- Build courts in another area of the park.
- Large acreage at the site to build tennis courts somewhere else besides small ball field.
- Will noise be a problem for players at the proposed new site located beside the large ball field?
- Make modifications to the large ball field before removing small ball field for tennis courts. This will help facilitate smooth transition of programs.
- Bring courts up to the standard required for high school and collegiate tennis championships.
- Original plan allotted \$2 million for a bump out area on the backside of the center to open up to courts that were going on the ball field as an area to manage those courts. When came back to additional \$6.8 million, still needed a place to manage the new courts. Can't have a 16-court complex and no structure in place to manage it. Go back to original plan that called for creating a bump out area to manage courts from.

Proposed Ball field Improvements Discussed by T. Naranjo

- Ability to convert large ball field into small ball field for temporary use during little league games.
- Adding batting cages for training.
- Adding scoreboard.
- Field will be able to accommodate little league and junior league baseball.

Maximize Use Of Both Tennis Courts and Ball Field

- Let people know what's happening with programs at Biltmore.
- Joint bathroom facilities, concessions and storage building needed.
- Bathroom entrances from outside of building that remain open when building is closed did not happen.
- Important to have walkable, accessible park for the neighborhood to use.
- Loss of little league baseball fields in Southeast Raleigh.
- Look for private funding to increase programming at Biltmore beyond city resources .
- New technology in the park, wireless, cameras on courts/ballfield.
- Add lights to ball field.

Discussion and Common Themes

Large and Small Ball Field

Importance of Small Ball field

- Long history of residents who grew up in the community playing on the small ball field.
- Ball field programs and activities keep kids off streets.
- Being able to walk to the field, play and learn from black men in the community who taught them morals and values while playing youth baseball at the field.
- Taking away the small ball field is taking away part of their personal and community history.
- Baseball is big in this community.
- Do not agree with loss of ball field to tennis.
- Taking away ball field will decrease participation numbers for older league if younger leagues have nowhere to play at the site.
- Chavis Park and Roberts Park are the only little league baseball fields left; Chavis slated to be replaced with swimming pool.

Current Uses of the Ball Fields

- Little league
- Summer camps use it for kickball
- Police league team
- Renters from ballfield
- Private groups through athletics
- Community groups- kick ball
- Badminton
- Flag football
- Drop- in use by general public
- Slow period- December- February

Future Programming Interest For The Field

- Family reunions
- Drone flying practice
- Large City events
- Can break up ball field for multiple activities
- Concerts
- Movies on the Lawn
- Arts in the Park
- 7- on- 7 Football
- Bring back Tackle football
- Girls softball
- Pickleball
- Add lights to ball field

Discussion Summary and Common Themes

Tennis Programming

General Tennis Program Feedback

- Raleigh Parks does not offer any tennis classes in Southeast Raleigh.
- Past offerings for tennis through the city were not successful, did not generate enough registration to establish a program.
- From 2004-2014, tennis programming was offered but staff was unable to get people registered. City partnered with Ebony Racquet club on tennis programming, resulting with strong junior league and adult league play.
- Ebony Racquet club program does not generate revenue for the city, it's a private league.
- Tennis can be an economic generator with Shaw University hosting CIAA tennis championship and independent high school championships.

What People Enjoy Most About Tennis At Biltmore

- Ebony Racquet Club is a 501c3 with programs for juniors and adults.
- Programs continue experiencing growth.
- Tennis is played at Biltmore year around.

Strengths Of Tennis Program

- Long history of the Ebony Racquet club.
- Created partnership with the City.
- Black tennis players come from across the city to play at Biltmore.
- Youth is the strength of programs. Must bring them in for program to survive.
- Opportunity to see collegiate tennis in the community .

Future Opportunities For Tennis Programming

- Have CIAA championship here, provides opportunity to see top notch tennis in the neighborhood.
- Prioritizing Western Wake Tennis Association (WWTa) to support programs.
- Get Author Ash network of tennis players to host regional tournaments at Biltmore which will attract talent, people to come out and see them play.
- Mirror amenities at Millbrook here at Biltmore.
- If Shaw moves from Worthdale, they would be on site daily at Biltmore for Men's and Women's practices, matches and tournaments; Kids at Biltmore could see a higher level of play with Shaw being onsite.
- Keep space available for walk up, open court play.
- Internal staff discussions needed on tennis court designs, upgrades.
- Need alternative parking solutions- shuttle people back and forth during large tournaments and events.

Barriers Or Challenges That Limit Tennis Programming At Biltmore

- Parking- more parking needed.
- Current center hours of operation challenging to support Tennis programming. Tournaments occur 8am-7pm, but center closes at 3pm, only have 2 restrooms after facility closes. Those restrooms are not in the best condition and port-a-john is available, though lots of people don't want to use them.
- Restroom is weatherized and closed October-March.
- Vandalism occurs in restrooms.
- Maintenance on courts- have to call to cut grass on court sometimes. Are making better efforts at keeping courts maintained now.
- Have less time that courts are being blocked out for other people to come and play tennis here instead of regular Biltmore tennis players.

Summary of Main Discussions

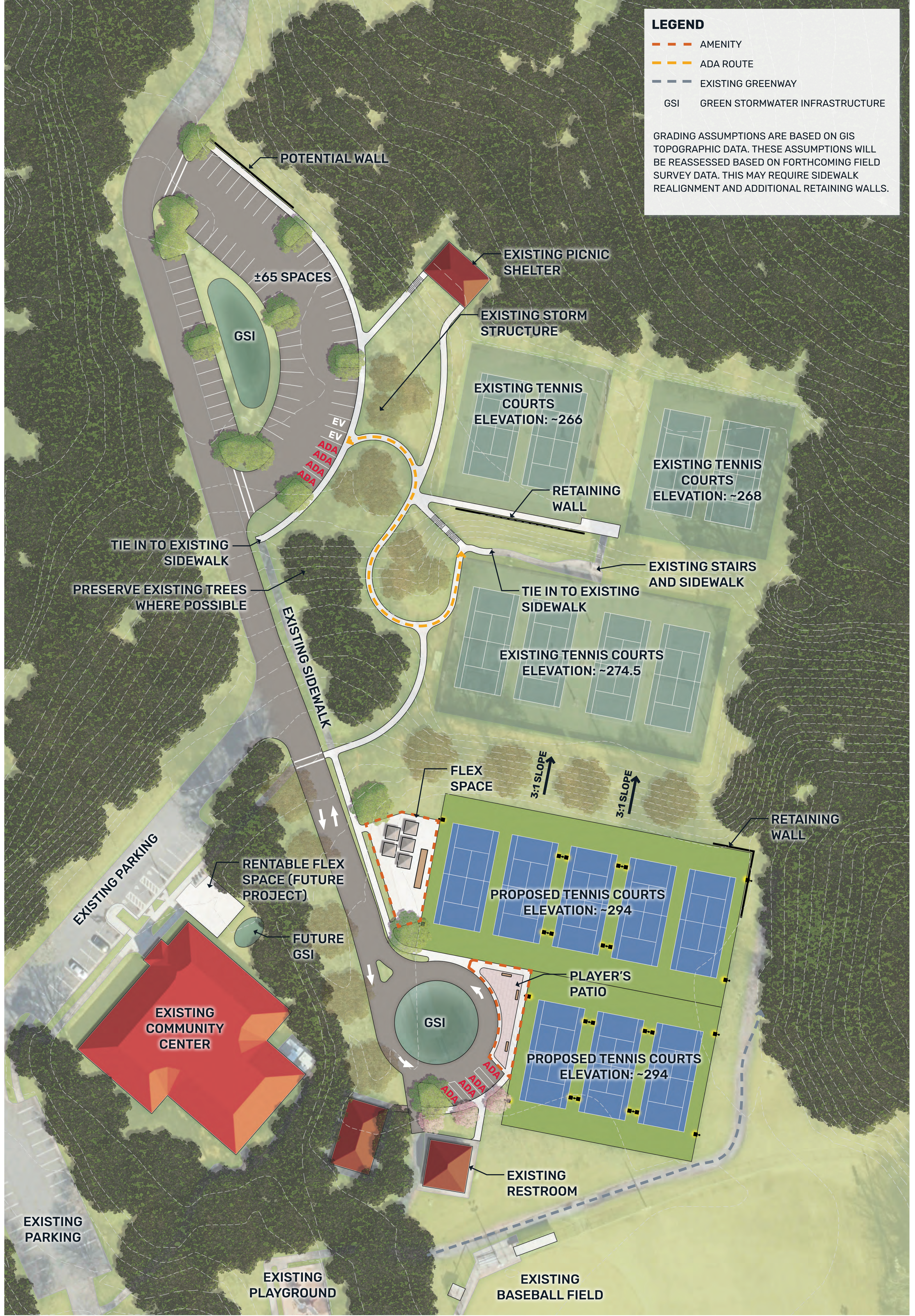
- Community members need opportunities to provide input into projects and be informed throughout the project of any recommendations, changes or decisions.
- Current tennis courts need to be repaired and upgraded.
- Additional parking is needed at Biltmore. Alternative parking options should be explored. Need alternative parking solutions- shuttle people back and forth during large tournaments and events.
- Important to have walkable, accessible park for the neighborhood to use.
- There is an undertone that Biltmore improvements are being constructed for new people who will move into the neighborhood.
- The small ball field holds a number of memories for many residents still living in the neighborhood. Baseball provided them with opportunities to have mentors, build strong relationship and stay out of trouble during their youth.
- Baseball is big in this community. Efforts should be made to maintain little, youth and junior baseball leagues.
- Modifications to the large field should be made prior to removing the smaller ball field for tennis court construction. This will help facilitate a smooth transition for programs during construction.
- Due to accessibility issues, Sanderford Road fields are not good alternatives for displaced baseball programs at Biltmore.
- The addition of exterior entrances to the community center's restrooms could provide needed restrooms when the community center is closed during tournaments, games and shelter rentals occurring simultaneously.
- A bump out area should be added to the existing community center to provide a location to manage 16-court complex.
- Ebony Racquet Club has a strong history, and its programs continue growing and being successful.
- Space should remain available for walk-up and open court play at tennis courts.
- Tennis programs offered throughout the city should be offered at Biltmore.

- Tennis can be an economic generator in the community. Fostering partnerships and relationships with area colleges and high schools are important to make this happen.

Submitted by: Sonya Shaw

Appendix C

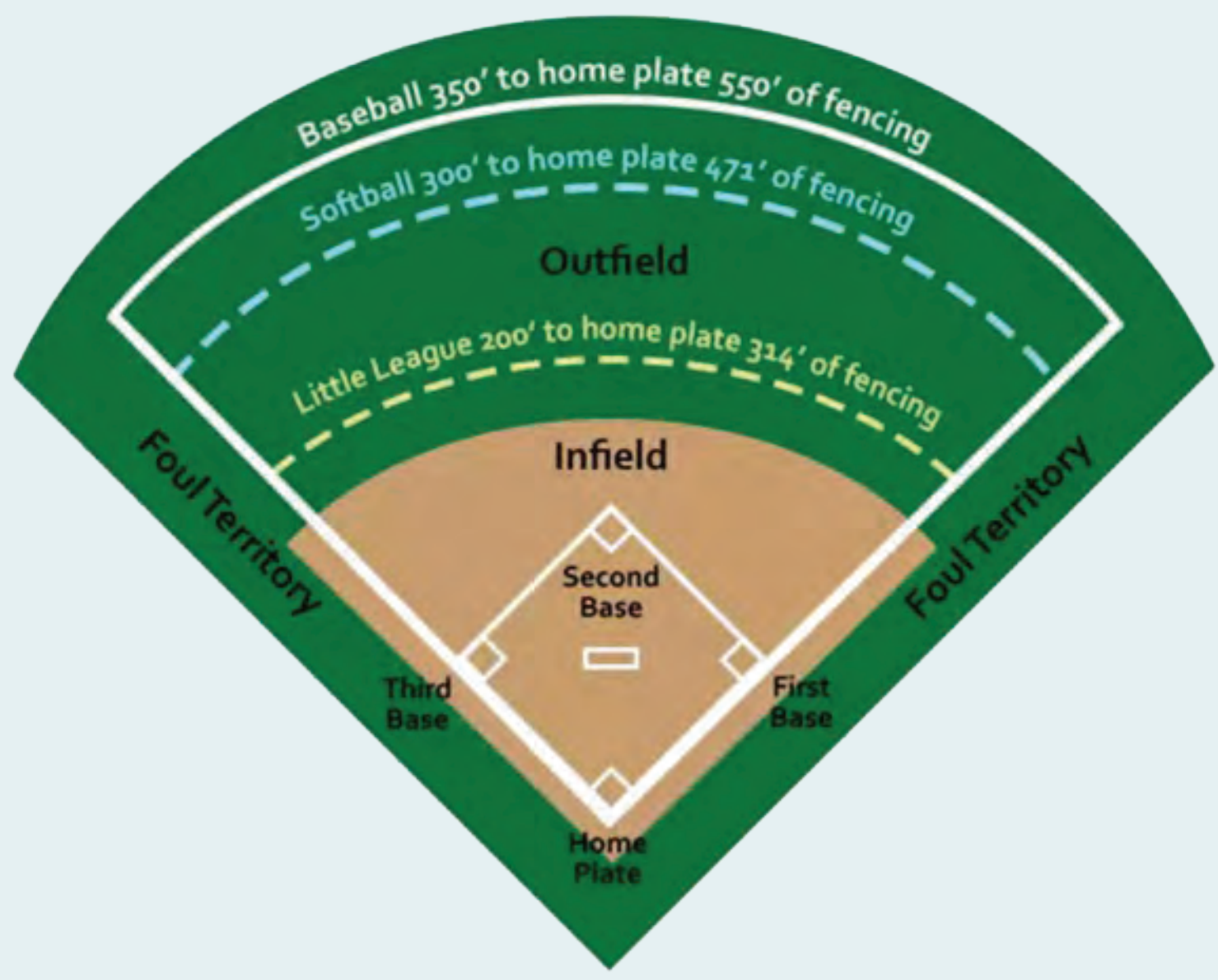
CONCEPT PLAN MAPS



LEGEND

- AMENITY
- - - ADA ROUTE
- - - EXISTING GREENWAY
- GSI GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

GRADING ASSUMPTIONS ARE BASED ON GIS TOPOGRAPHIC DATA. THESE ASSUMPTIONS WILL BE REASSESSED BASED ON FORTHCOMING FIELD SURVEY DATA. THIS MAY REQUIRE SIDEWALK REALIGNMENT AND ADDITIONAL RETAINING WALLS.



01 NEW FIELD CONFIGURATION



02 BATTING CAGE



03 NEW SCORE BOARD



04 MOVABLE FENCING



To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen C. Bentley, Director, Raleigh Parks
From	Kate Pearce, Dix Park, Raleigh Parks
Date	March 26, 2026
Subject	Dix Park: New Advisory Committee Application Process

Background

Governance of Dix Park is a public-private partnership between the City of Raleigh and the Dix Park Conservancy. On January 20, 2026, the Raleigh City Council authorized the City Manager to execute its third Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Dix Park Conservancy. As part of the MOA, the current Dix Park Leadership Committee will be improved, renamed, and reconstituted as the “Dix Park Commission” to oversee park development.

The MOA also directs the formation of a new advisory and stewardship committee to replace the former Community and Legacy Committees. Members of this new committee will be appointed by a four-person Ad-Hoc Committee of the Dix Park Commission. This Ad-Hoc Committee includes one representative appointed by the Mayor or City Council, two appointed by the Dix Park Conservancy, and one appointed by the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board.

The new committee will advise the Dix Park Commission on the implementation of the Dix Park Master Plan and related projects and steward community engagement efforts. Members of the new committee serve as community representatives, ambassadors, and partners in shaping the future of Dix Park.

Key Points for the New Committee

- The committee is a public body and must follow North Carolina public records and open meetings laws.
- Membership will include 9 to 15 individuals.
- The committee will have one representative seat on the Dix Park Commission.
- The committee will be supported by City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) staff.

Committee Member Terms and Expectations

- Members serve an initial two-year term and may be reappointed for up to two additional two-year terms (maximum six years).

- Terms may be staggered to provide for consistency.
- The committee elects a chair for a two-year term. The chair works with City staff to facilitate meetings and represents the committee on the Dix Park Commission.
- Committee members should expect to attend meetings, participate in public events, and engage in community outreach. Expected commitment of time total: ~4hours/month

Roles of Committee Members

- **Advise:** Share community perspectives with the Dix Park Commission.
- **Enrich:** Bring relevant knowledge, lived experiences, and expertise to inform park decisions.
- **Advocate:** Support and champion Dix Park and its development.
- **Engage:** Participate in public outreach and engagement activities.
- **Lead:** Lead or support subcommittees.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a working group consisting of City and Conservancy staff and the chairs of the current Community and Legacy Committees. Final appointments will be made by the four-person Ad-Hoc Committee of the Dix Park Commission. The group will consider the following criteria:

- Representation aligned with city and county demographics
- Representation across Raleigh's City Council districts
- Representation from communities across Wake County
- Previous service on existing Dix Park Community Committee and/or Legacy Committee
- Experience or interest aligned with Dix Park Master Plan themes: **History & Reflection, Wellness & Play, Gardens & Ecology, Arts & Culture, Food & Community, Park Support**

Timeline

- **Thursday, April 2, 2026:** Application Launch
- **Friday, May 1, 2026:** Application Closes
- **Mid-May:** Selections announced, new committee meets, selects chair/Dix Park Commission representative
- **May 26, 2026:** First Meeting of Dix Park Commission (tentative)

To encourage a broad applicant pool, outreach will include:

- Online promotion through City and Conservancy channels
- Printed yard signs at Dix Park and neighborhood parks; flyers at community location
- Media outreach to local news outlets
- Direct sharing with community organizations

For more information or to request a paper application please email info@dixpark.org.

To	Machell Adams-David, Manager
Thru	Niki Jones, AICP, Assistant City Manager Pat Young AICP, Director, Planning and Development Ken Bowers AICP, Assistant Director, Planning and Development Dhanya P. Sandeep AICP, Supervisor, Planning and Development
From	Dylan Bruchhaus AICP, Planning and Development
Department	Planning and Development
Date	March 31, 2026
Subject	Fayetteville Street Streetscape Implementation Updates

At the November 4, 2025, regular City Council meeting, City Council recommended a \$1M budget allocation for short-term improvements along Fayetteville Street. Following this Council action, an internal task force was created to develop an implementation plan. The task force is led by Planning and Development with representatives from Engineering Services, Transportation, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and Raleigh Arts. The task force will pursue the following list of action items, approved by Council, for Fayetteville Street near-term implementation utilizing the \$1M allocation:

- modify targeted horizontal planters by removing planting materials and replacing them with pavers to create additional space for activation and outdoor seating
- introduce public art designed to create engaging visual experiences within the corridor through four viewshed projects
- fabricate and install wayfinding and interactive seating elements
- add additional outdoor seating and activation elements

A status update of ongoing improvement efforts impacting Fayetteville Street is summarized below:

Fayetteville Street Streetscape Implementation Project

The near-term implementation for Fayetteville Street utilizing the \$1M allocation will be broken down into two phases. Phase one scope led collectively by the Transportation and Planning and Development departments includes modifying the horizontal planters and adding additional outdoor seating and activation elements. An estimated \$30k

is allocated towards the horizontal planter modifications and \$225k for seating and activation elements. The timeline for completion of this phase is late Summer - early Fall 2026. Phase two of the project will be led by Raleigh Arts and underway.

More information: <https://raleighnc.gov/projects/fayetteville-street-streetscape-improvement-project>

Fayetteville Street Public Art Installation

Raleigh Arts issued two artist calls for public art installations along Fayetteville Street.

- The first call is for Immersive Viewsheds, focused on the intersections of Hargett Street, Martin Street, and Davie Street. Each viewshed has a budget of \$140k and will enhance the existing built environment through a combination of artwork and creative interventions to create a visually attractive, vibrant, and distinctive environment.
- The second call is for Wayfinding and Interactive Seating, which has a project budget of \$300k with an objective for artists to design and fabricate artistic wayfinding and interactive seating along the corridor.

Over 130 applications were reviewed by the selection panel, comprised of Fayetteville Street business owners, property owners, and other corridor stakeholders. A total of 14 artists were shortlisted to submit a semifinalist proposal, due April 8, 2026. The selection panel will meet in the upcoming weeks to review the proposals and select the artists for the two projects.

Activity	Schedule
Artists Selected	Spring 2026
Concept Designs Due	Spring 2026
Final Designs Due	Summer 2026
Fabrication	Summer 2026 - Winter 2027
Installation	Spring 2027

More information: <https://raleighnc.gov/arts/services/public-art/fayetteville-street-public-art>

Market Plaza Art Installation

As part of the Immersive Viewsheds artist call scope of work, Raleigh Arts also included a viewshed project for Market Plaza. The project is funded independently through the city's Civic Places Program funding and has a current \$25k allocation for art installation.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Paul Kallam, Transportation Director
From	Bradley Kimbrell, Transportation Manager Daniel King, Transportation Manager
Department	Transportation
Date	April 2, 2026
Subject	City Gateway Project – Transportation Network Enhancements and Impacts

Guiding Area Plans

The parcels included in the City Gateway development are addressed in multiple adopted City studies, including the [2015 Downtown Study](#) and [2017 Southern Gateway Corridor Study](#). The 2015 Downtown Study envisions this area as the “Gateway Center”, which calls for “large footprint mixed use development” including office, retail, hotel, and entertainment. The plan specifically calls for the transportation network to be re-designed to improve pedestrian safety and reduce barriers for pedestrians and cyclists traveling north-south.



From 2015 Downtown Study

The Southern Gateway plan emphasizes that MLK Jr. Blvd and its interchanges with Dawson/McDowell and S. Saunders St. are significant barriers to pedestrians and cyclists in South Raleigh attempting to access other downtown resources further north. The plan also proposes a new bicycle and pedestrian connection that extends from Fayetteville St. near Washington Elementary across MLK Jr. Blvd. and ties into the City Gateway property.



From 2017 Southern Gateway Corridor Study

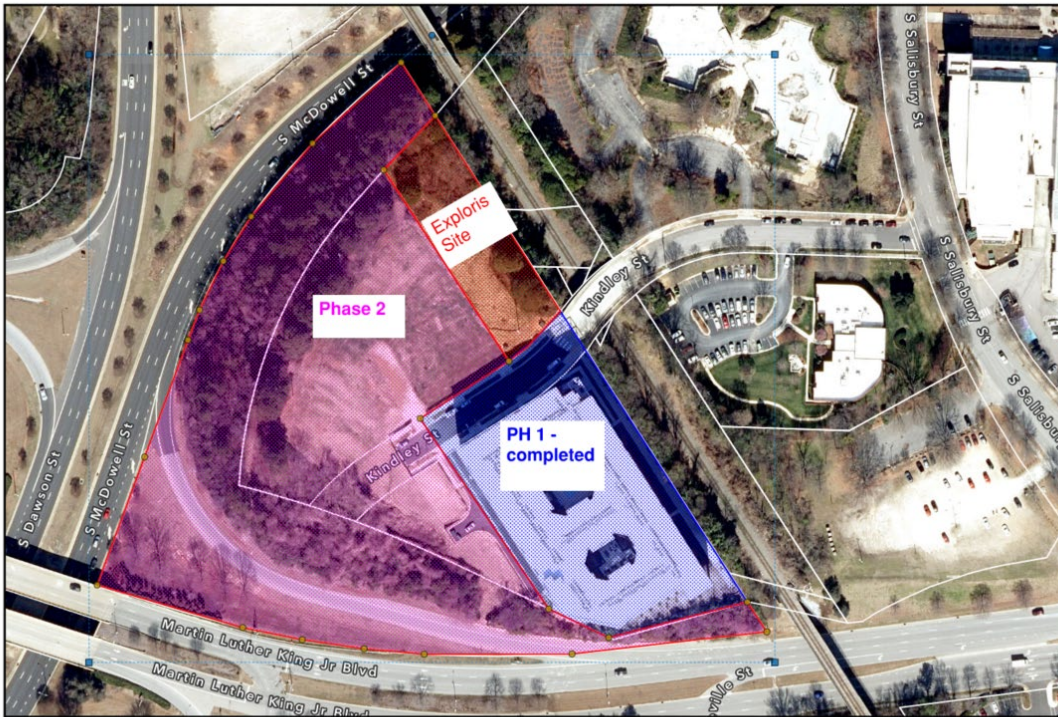
Background on the City Gateway Development Project and Network Enhancements

City Gateway development is located on more than six acres of land bordered by MLK Jr. Blvd to the south, South McDowell St. to the west, and the existing railroad right of way to the northeast. The site is bisected by the existing stub of Kindley St.

Phase 1 of City Gateway is zoned as DX-20 and completed construction in late 2022 that includes a 7-story apartment building of approximately 285 condominium units with ground floor retail, and a 288-space parking structure.

Phase 2 of City Gateway is zoned as DX-40 and currently is in review for an automated parking deck with a capacity of more than 280 vehicles, the potential for a 250 key hotel above the parking structure, as well as an additional lot for development, which the developer is seeking a potential client for.

Adjacent to the City Gateway development, via Kindley St. is the proposed location for the Exploris School. The planned enrollment for Exploris starts at over 630 students. Project approval for the Exploris school is slated for early 2027 with construction starting later that year.



With exception to the Exploris lot, City Gateway is everything west of the Kindley Street bridge as bound by MLK Jr. Blvd and McDowell Street.



0 75 150 300 ft
1 inch equals 150 feet

Disclaimer
 Maps makes every effort to produce and publish the most current and accurate information possible. However, the maps are produced for information purposes, and are NOT surveys. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for the data therein, its use, or its interpretation.

Upcoming Transportation Network Enhancements

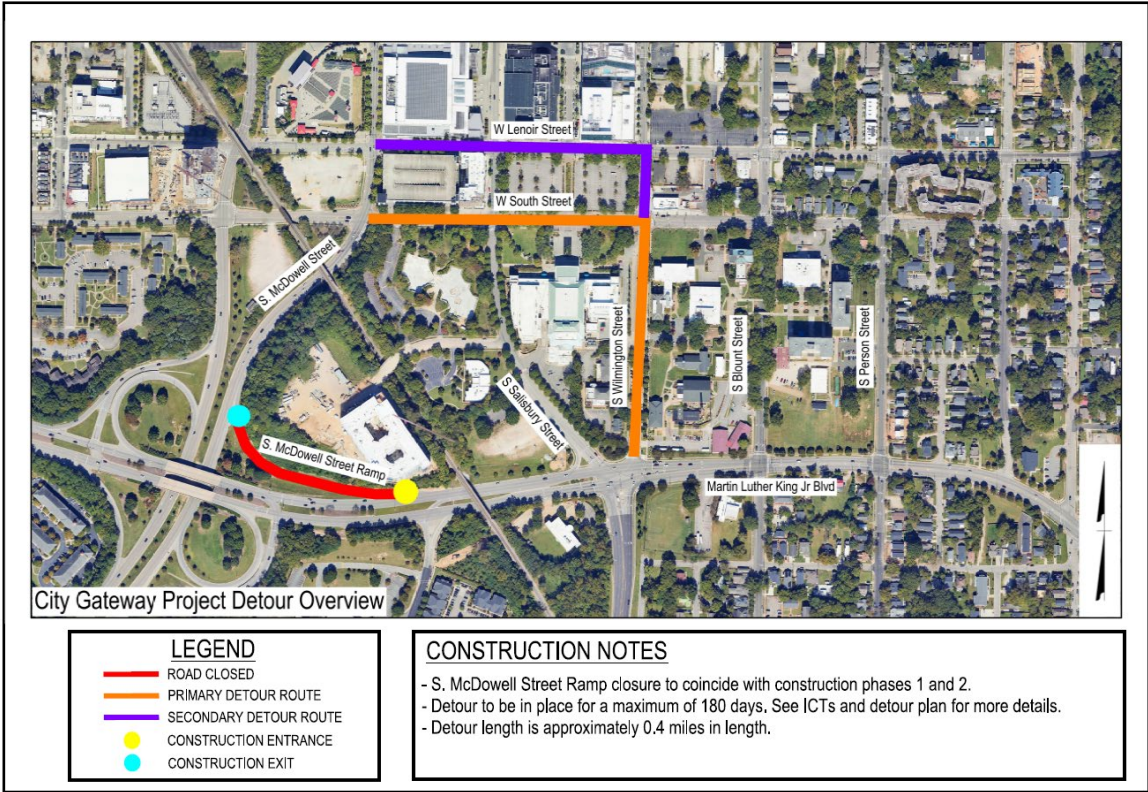
Associated with the phase 2 construction of the City Gateway project are a number of enhancements/modifications to the transportation network in proximity to the current MLK Jr. Blvd. and McDowell/Dawson St. interchange. These enhancements/modifications include:

- The removal of the existing ramp from west-bound MLK Jr. Blvd. to McDowell St. (northeast quadrant of the interchange).
- Modifications to the existing ramp from east-bound MLK Jr., Blvd. to McDowell St. (southeast quadrant of the interchange) to accommodate the traffic movements that today use the northeast ramp.
- The extension of Kindley St. into MLK Jr. Blvd., which will create a new signalized four-way intersection at this location; and
- Updated sidewalk facilities for pedestrians around the overall site along McDowell St. & MLK Jr. Blvd.



Upcoming Transportation Network Impacts

To facilitate the construction of the planned transportation network enhancements/modifications with phase 2 of the City Gateway development, temporary changes to travel patterns in the area will be needed. Starting in the next few days, message boards will be deployed to start alerting the public to the upcoming changes that will begin in mid-April. The traffic detour will be communicated to the public in advance of the closures and is shown below for reference. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in the Fall 2026.



Traffic Detour Map

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, April 3 – Thursday, April 9

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

[First Friday at The Times](#)

Hargett Street

Friday, April 3

Event Time: 7:00pm - 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: E. Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 5:30pm until 11:59pm.

[Wake County Senior Games 5K/10K Road Race](#)

Walnut Creek Athletic Complex & Walnut Creek Trail

Tuesday, April 7

Event Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Associated Impacts: A one-mile portion of Walnut Creek Trail extending south from Walnut Creek Athletic Complex will be used from 8:00am until 1:00pm. Parts of the complex will also be used for the event.

Other Upcoming Events

[First Friday Raleigh](#)

Friday, April 3

Downtown Raleigh

[Don Lemon & DL Hughley: DL + DL 'Anything Goes'](#)

Friday, April 3

Meymandi Concert Hall

[A History Worth Repeating: Songs and Stories from Lucius](#)

Friday, April 3

Fletcher Opera Theater

[Roberts Park Spring Celebration!](#)

Saturday, April 4

Roberts Park

[A Burden Too Great to Bear: PTSD and the Civil War](#)

Saturday, April 4

The Chapel at Dix Park

[New York Islanders vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Saturday, April 4

Lenovo Center

[A Celebration Concert: Forever K-Pop](#)

Saturday, April 4

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

[Boston Bruins vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Tuesday, April 7

Lenovo Center

[Lunchbox Lecture with Julia Einstein](#)

Thursday, April 9
City of Raleigh Museum

[Britain's Finest: The Beatles Experience](#)

Thursday, April 9
Fletcher Opera Theater

[1776](#)

Through Sunday, April 19
Raleigh Little Theatre

[Egg Hunts and Spring Events](#)

Through Wednesday, April 29
Raleigh Parks

Public Resources

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

[Road Closure & Road Race Map](#): A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

[Online Events Calendar](#): View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dix Park.

New Amplified Noise Ordinance Takes Effect January 2026

The City Council approved a [new amplified noise ordinance](#), which went into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports or entertainment venues, including amphitheatres, are exempt. Parades, outdoor events, races, festivals, and concerts that receive a permit from the Office of Special Events are also not subject to the ordinance.