

Project: Splash & Play Residents Committee Meeting

Date: August 18, 2022

Attended By: Henri Prospero, Shauna Parker, GSD; Almira Marshall, Mary Unterreiner, Colleen Toomey, DPR; DeWarren Langley, Cynthia Cukiernik, Vanessa Alford, Bonita Green, Joanne Andrews, Cedric Burke, Aidil Ortiz; Andrew Harrell, Miklos Valdez, Jackie Turner, Kate Collins, Project Consultants

This was the fourth meeting of the Splash & Play Residents Committee with a goal to update the group on community engagement, show the initial design concepts for the Wheels Fun Park (WFP) site, and begin to plan for engaging the public in the next phase.

After welcoming the group, the presentation began with the agenda for the meeting which covered the:

- Project timeline
- Phase 1 and Phase 1.5 Engagement Updates
- Proposed project rebranding
- Preliminary concepts
- Next steps

Project timeline

- The design team is well into the concept development phase/envisioning for Wheels Fun Park site and has three initial concepts to share today
- Additional site assessments are still being conducted on the Long Meadow and East End Park sites which has delayed the development of concepts to the same detail as for WFP
- There will be additional community engagement in the next couple months to get feedback on proposed concepts
- Original schedule to have a presentation in September or October to City Council is likely pushed back to October or November.

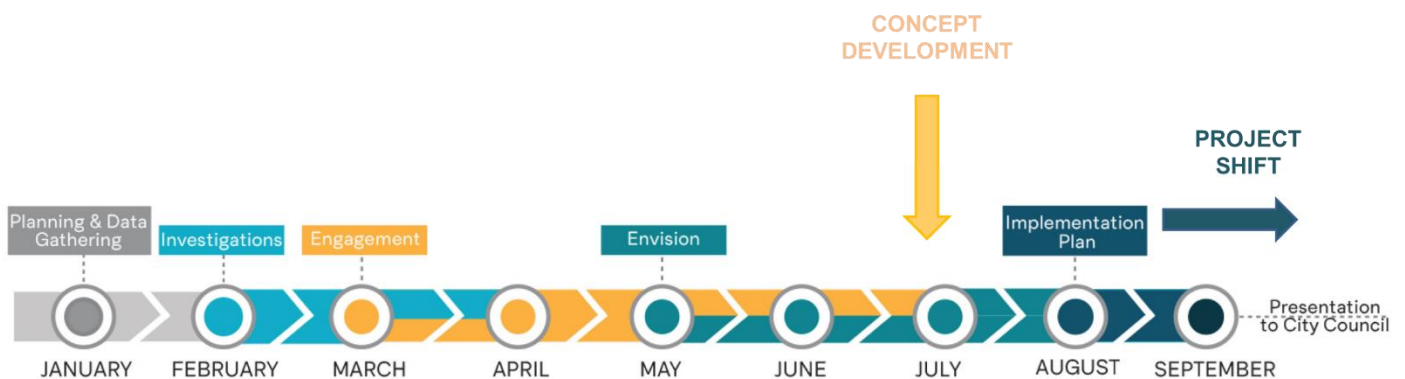


Figure 1: Project timeline

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

- A draft of the [Phase 1 Engagement Summary](#) report is available for review on the website
 - Highlights



MEETING SUMMARY

- 1211+ participants
- 731 online and print survey respondents
- 27703 (East Durham) had the most participants
- More than 20 pop-up events
- 325 individuals signed up for project updates.
 - We will share concepts and remind them to check out the website for event dates and more.
- A videographer captured stories from open house attendees regarding parks and recreation
 - Individuals spoke of equity, gentrification, aquatics, recreation, the need for roller skating, and the future of the Wheels Fun Park site
- Phase 1.5 Engagement
 - Pop-up events occurred in late July and early August after measuring how well engagement had hit the intended targets based on the demographics in one-mile and five-mile increments around the three park locations
 - Outreach focused on areas immediately surrounding Long Meadow and East End Parks as well as pool users at Long Meadow and Hillside pools
 - Communicated with the churches in a 1.25-mile radius of Long Meadow Park and East End Parks
 - JTC actively sought to hire people to canvass in their neighborhoods through community leaders and their networks and flyers posted at events
 - The team prepared a shorter survey in English and Spanish administered at the pool popups and online at the website or via the Nextdoor App which asked:
 - for more specific resident addresses or cross-streets instead of just zip codes
 - racial identity
 - Attendance at Long Meadow pool
 - Preference for a variety of aquatics facilities and general park recreation features
 - Survey results indicated
 - similar facility preferences across Phase 1, Phase 1.5 general, Phase 1.5 (pool popups) – shade, sprayground, play structures, food & beverage concession
 - The percentage of African American respondents from the pool popups almost doubled from 22.5% to 40.43% compared to online respondents. Hispanic and Asian participation were higher as well.
- WRAL ran a segment on the Splash & Play project and the future of the former Wheels Fun Park
- The project team asked the committee about rebranding the project to more clearly distinguish the former Wheels Fun Park site from Long Meadow and East End Parks based on:
 - The very different locations
 - The slightly different schedule with the former Wheels Fun Park location ahead of the other two parks
 - Site assessments for Long Meadow Park and East End Park are active and results expected in 1-2 weeks.
 - Bonita Green agreed that the split makes sense because they are very different places with different requirements.

- Bathhouse/locker rooms
- **Concept B** includes:
 - 10,000 square foot recreation pool
 - Lazy river
 - Slide package
 - Bowl slide
 - Beach entry
 - Play features
 - Cargo net activity over the pool
 - Competition pool/lap lanes
 - Rock wall
- **Concept C** includes:
 - Recreation area
 - Deepwater activity area
 - Sports area (water basketball/volleyball)
 - Natural climbing area
 - Eight-lane pool
 - Ninja course



Figure 3: Wheels Fun Park Concept B



Figure 4: Wheels Fun Park Concept C

- **Open Comments**
 - Bonita Green reinforced the need to consider mitigation of all of the dark surfaces/parking lots, etc. due to heat production. Reduce the local heat island effects.
 - Importance to plant female trees to help reduce pollen and possibly provide fruits/fresh produce to local residents
 - Bonita would like the park to be designed with the local community in mind and not just outside teams that may use the park for tournaments
 - Think about seniors when creating programming and features for these parks.
 - Aidil mentioned the importance of choosing environmentally friendly options for this space when available
 - She also mentioned that the teen population in Durham often feels left out of Durham Parks and Recreation programming and community spaces
- There is a technical steering committee composed of members from multiple departments that will review and make recommendations on all parts of the project including, transportation, transit, stormwater, and Neighborhood Improvement Services.

Next Steps

- Site Assessment reports delivered in September
- Phase 2 engagement by the project team will begin with a Wheels Fun Park Open House to review and comment on concepts in late September/early October