

VISIONING a new park for SOUTH RIVER GARDENS

at Hutchens Road and King Smith Road







Acknowledgements

At the first public meeting for this park's visioning process, we asked participants what they loved about the South River Gardens neighborhood. In the word cloud that resulted 'Shirley Nichols' appeared along with words such as 'responsible leadership, community, people-that-love-allpeople, strong community, caring neighbors, dedication, involved, cohesive, and unite. We couldn't agree more. This park would not be happening today without Ms. Shirley Nichols, president of the South River Gardens Community Association (SRGCA) and chair of the visioning steering committee. Ms. Nichols' leadership flows from a deep sense of caring for her community. Her dedication has built, over many years, unity and cohesion among neighbors. South River Gardens is a community that welcomes newcomers and lends a hand to longtime residents as well. These neighbors, over 600-strong, have been undeterred by a perimeter highway splitting their community; by a towering, leaking landfill; by flooding and illegal dumping; and by being in a "far-off," historically neglected corner of the City. Despite these challenges, South River Gardens has built an enviably strong community.

We want to recognize the community members who played dedicated roles in the visioning process, including George Arms, a longtime resident just steps away from the new park. Mr. Arms is looking forward to an inviting place for adults to relax and children to play. Thank you to Celia Bynes who, with her effervescent smile and enthusiasm, always kept our spirits high! Celia was the steering committee's recorder. We also thank Jessica Crawley for joining us as a representative of the Atlanta Expo Center, one of the area's

most supportive industries. Thanks also go out to Pat Gaines, who also lives just one block from the park, for her insights into the needs of the immediate neighbors. Also within blocks of the park is Mary McDowell, who gave us the insight of a grandmother. And Marie Smith, treasurer for the South River Gardens Community Association, who lent her sharp eyes to our documents and kept out surveys running smoothly. Asha Wright, one of the community's newer residents and a recent recruit to the SRGCA, kept a watchful eye over the park and helped older resident complete surveys. Thank you so much Asha! We also thank Kedre Clark, who operates a childcare center in the neighborhood. Kedre helped the committee understand the needs of working parents. She's also looking forward to bringing her grandson to the park!

Huge thanks go out to (then) District 12 Councilmember, Joyce Sheperd, who stepped up to listen to the community's concerns. She also made it possible to hire a Black-owned, kid-owned business, MokiPops, to offer treats during our "Pops in the Park" event. We also thank Vincent Carter, CM Sheperd's constituent services coordinator, for taking part our meetings. We especially appreciate the attention and participation of the City of Atlanta's Department of Parks (DPR) Commissioner, John Dargle, and DPR landscape architect, Aaron Weiner during the process.

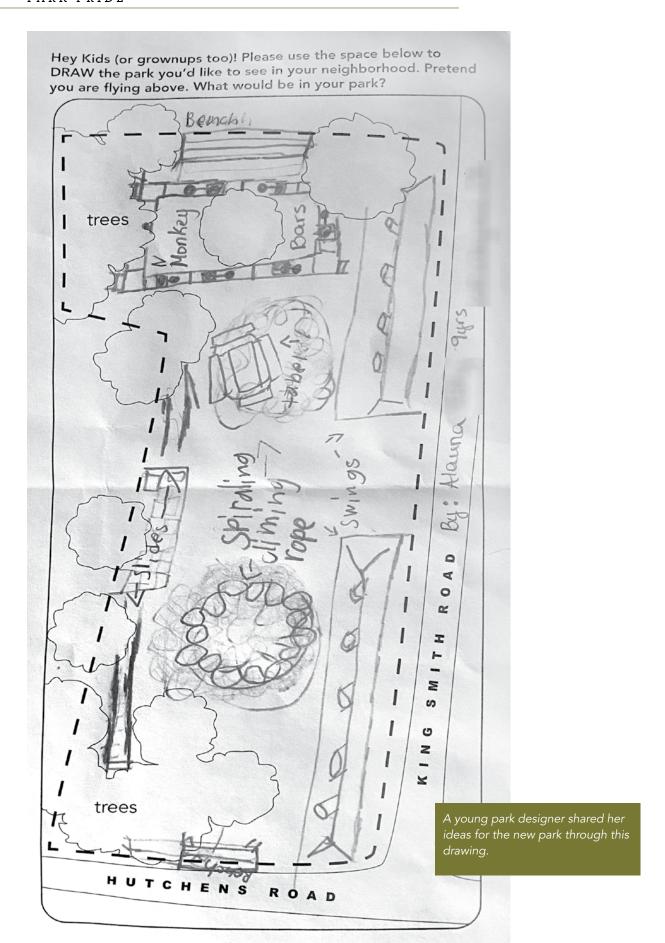
It was a pleasure to see this community in action and to be a guide to South River Gardens in this vision for Hutchens Park!

The Visioning Team, Andrew White, Director of Park Visioning Teri Nye, Visioning Project Manager



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In spring of 2021, the South River Gardens Community Association was awarded a Park Pride Visioning grant to create a vision for a new pocket park in the neighborhood. The property was acquired by the City of Atlanta in December 2020 and the six-month park visioning process began in March 2021. The visioning process was completed in September 2021. A Steering Committee of eight community members led the effort, facilitated by Park Pride. The process was completed via the following key steps.

Executive Summary

Ask the Community

The Visioning team studied the existing conditions of the park and its context via a **site analysis**, a review of historical records, and informal interviews.

An online **survey** was used to document the community's needs and desires for the park. Paper versions of the survey were distributed to 650 households within the South River Gardens Community.

To provide a central location for information, community input, announcements, survey results, and the public review of concepts and plans, Park Pride designed a **website** to support the park visioning process.

2 Establish Guiding Principles

During the first public meeting participants engaged in live poll questions to establish their primary concerns and goals for the park. Based on this feedback plus survey data, the Steering Committee established **Guiding Principles** for the park's future (see page 5).

Park Name: Hutchens Park

Acreage: 0.99

Year acquired: 2020

Address: 0 Hutchens Road, Atlanta, GA

30354

Parcel number: 14 0030 LL0485

Property Owner: City of Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation

Councilmember: Antonio Lewis (2022-)

Joyce Shepherd (2004-2021)

District: 12

NPU: Z

Ecological feature: mature canopy trees

3 Review and Feedback of Draft Concepts

Three **public meetings** were held. The first, in June, and the third meeting, in September, were held virtually. The second meeting on August 2, was held in person on the park site. The first meeting established the Guiding Principles. The second meeting offered two preliminary design concepts for review and comment. Polling questions during the meetings were used to encourage participation and feedback.

After each meeting, ideas and/or plans were displayed on the website for a two-week **public comment** period.

4 Agree on a Final Vision Plan

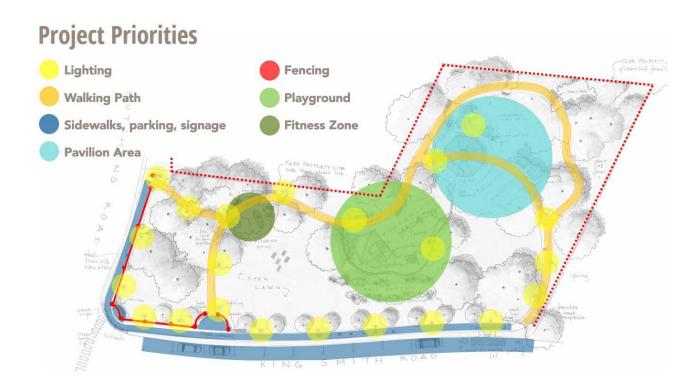
Based on survey feedback and poll results, the preferred elements from each preliminary concept were incorporated into a **final plan**. This plan was then crosschecked with the Guiding Principles and reviewed by the community via a third public meeting and online survey. This document is available online at https://parkpride.org/we-can-help/park-visioning/ and will also be archived at the Atlanta History Center.

2021 Vision Plan Key Features, Priorities, and Cost Estimates

The vision plan emphasizes the following key features, listed in order of priority as determined by community polling following the final public meeting, September 13, 2021.

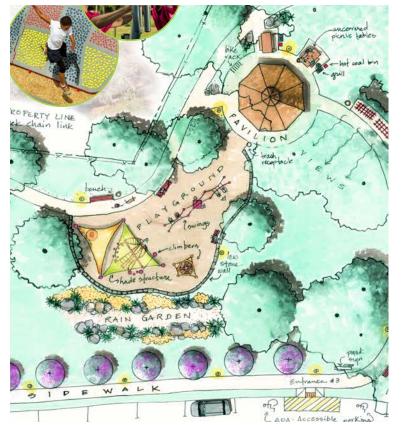
*Costs are based on 2021 pricing and are for guidance only, all projects are subject to DPR approval process

Feature by Priority	Estimated cost (2021)*
Lighting	\$147,200
Walking Path	\$174,570
Sidewalks, Parking, and Signage	\$103,500
Pavilion Area	\$180,090
Fencing	\$29,636
Playground	\$407,100
Fitness Zone	\$48,000
Total Investment	\$1,090,096



Participants were asked to rank their project priorities at the final public meeting using the graphic above as a guide.





Guiding Principles

Create multigenerational recreation opportunities so that everyone has something to enjoy in the park

Prioritize personal safety and crime prevention measures to create a park that is a safe place for all

Provide a positive, welcoming outdoor community space by offering guidelines and infrastructure for a clean, wellmaintained park.

Preserve the quiet, calm qualities of the neighborhood while creating a place of beauty and civic pride

Top image: Final Vision Plan the park at Hutchens Road



Context & History

Hutchens Road Park comprises one acre of land in the South River Gardens community in the City of Atlanta, Georgia. Seated within City of Atlanta Council District 12 and Fulton County District 5, the property rests on the northwest corner of the intersection of Hutchens Road and King Smith Road where it enjoys approximately 350 feet of road frontage. The L-shaped property borders along the back and side yards of six single-family parcels fronting on Hutchens Road, King Smith Road, and Sandys Lane.

Hutchens Road is a two-lane city collector road with a posted speed limit of 30 mph, though anecdotal observations suggest this speed limit is routinely exceeded. Several bus stops along the road are served by the number 55 MARTA bus, which runs between Forest Square Shopping Center and Five Points MARTA Station. There is a bus stop located at the intersection with King Smith Road, directly adjacent to the new park. A sidewalk serves the north side of Hutchens Road from its intersection with Jonesboro Road to South Atlanta High School, including along the frontage of the park.

King Smith Road is a two-lane city local road with a posted speed limit of 25 mph, which serves as access to the Four Oaks subdivision. It is 24-feet wide and forms a loop that serves approximately 70 single-family residences. There is no sidewalk in this area, but due to the relatively lower traffic volumes and speeds combined with the generous street width, one is not necessarily needed.

The character of the South River Gardens neighborhood is suburban bordering on rural, mainly consisting of single-family residences on a mixture of small and large lots, with industrial uses at the periphery. There is much undeveloped land within the neighborhood, and development pressures are coming to bear on this quiet and wooded corner of the city.

The neighborhood is bisected by the I-285 Perimeter Loop and is bordered by Jonesboro Road to the west, South River Industrial Boulevard to the north, and the Fulton County line to the east and south. Residents enjoy easy access to major transportation corridors (Moreland Ave, Jonesboro Road, I-285, and I-75), as well as Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, 5.5 miles to the southwest.

The entire neighborhood is in the South River watershed, which feeds the Altamaha River, Georgia's largest freshwater system.



This extensive watershed eventually flows to the Atlantic Ocean on Georgia's coast. In 2021, the South River was listed #4 on American Rivers' "Most Endangered Rivers" list due to sewage pollution from leaks and overflows, primarily from neighboring DeKalb County. Nearby Poole Creek, which feeds into the South River, runs under Hutchens Road just west of South Atlanta High School. At the time of this writing, Poole Creek routinely overflows its banks during heavy rains, flooding the street and presenting a hazard to motorists.

South Atlanta High School operates in the immediate vicinity of the park. Founded in 1994 from the merger of Walter F. George High School and Fulton High School, the school currently serves about 800 students in grades 9-12. The school campus was constructed around 1970. Their mascot is the Hornet and school colors are purple and turquoise.

South River Gardens is currently served by two parks: Southside Park and Jonesboro Triangle. Additionally, Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve, a recently-acquired property, has added to the neighborhood's park inventory.

Southside Park is a 210-acre regional park constructed in 1977 and consisting mainly

Above: The point where Hutchens Road and Poole Creek intersect is susceptible to flooding events

Opposite top: South Atlanta High School is the only school in the South River Gardens neighborhood

Opposite bottom: The South River Park region identified in 2019 by Atlanta City Design includes much of South River Gardens, including Hutchens Road Park.

of recreational facilities, including four baseball diamonds with a centrally located clubhouse, a turf soccer field, and two soccer "mini" pitches. Southside Park is also home to the only purpose-built mountain bike trail inside the I-285 Perimeter, which makes use of the park's large tracts of wooded land. There is currently no direct community connection to the residences in South River Gardens, with the only park entrance fronting on Jonesboro Road.

Jonesboro Triangle is a 0.25-acre triangle of land that serves to split east and west-bound traffic on Hutchens Road at its intersection with Jonesboro Road. It includes a lawn, six or so trees, sidewalks, as well as a trash can. It mainly functions as a gateway/beauty spot and has limited community use potential due to it being surrounded by busy roads on all sides.





Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve is a 216-acre forest that was purchased in 2020 with tree recompense funds, which are fees paid by developers to the city to cut down healthy trees. The site's mature forest will be preserved with low-impact park amenities. The first phase of park development, which will open the property for regular public access, is expected to be completed later in 2021.

Much of South River Gardens is in an area identified in *The Atlanta City Design:*

Aspiring to the Beloved Community (2017) as the South River Park. According to the document, several large core properties, such as Lake Charlotte and Southside Park, coupled with "[s]trategic outward connections...will help reframe the south end of town as an enormous new ecoconnected environment" (pg 330). Hutchens Park, though comparatively small, will be a part of this larger vision for the area.



Above: A drawing showing the old tavern and tavern called "Rough and Ready" near present-day South River Gardens

History

Though an exhaustive study of the history of the neighborhood is beyond the scope of this park vision plan, a series of historic maps shed some light on the history of the area (see timeline on following pages).

Prior to 1821, the Muscogee and Cherokee Nations occupied all the land in and around the City of Atlanta. For generations these nations controlled vast lands south and east of the Chattahoochee River prior to settlement by Europeans. This territory was lost through a long series of territorial cessions to European settlers, until the Muscogee and Cherokee people were forcibly removed to Oklahoma via the Trail of Tears in the 1830s. Today, the Muscogee and Cherokee Nations are self-governed Native American tribes located in Oklahoma.

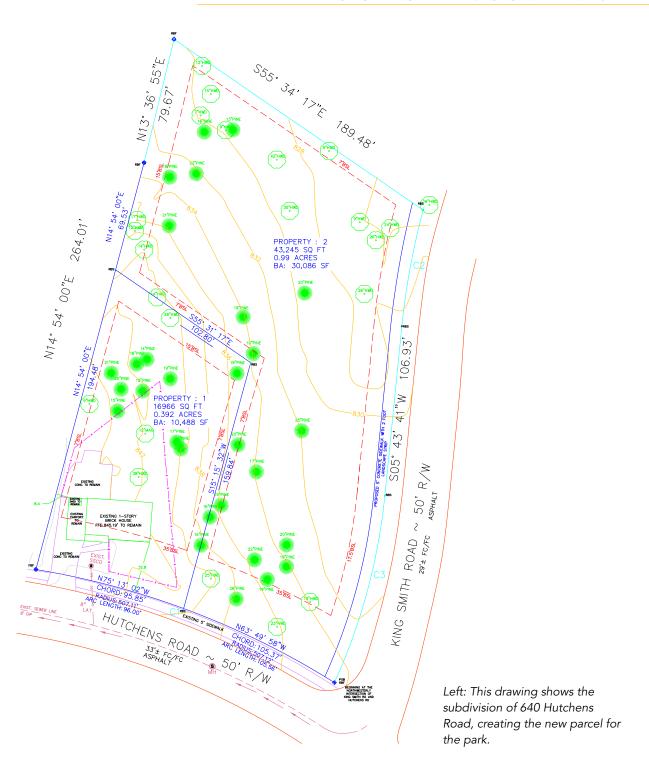
During Reconstruction in 1895, the area around South River Gardens was characterized by a distributed arrangement of mills and homesteads, with small settlement names such as Rough and Ready and Pooleville, and mills named Saunders, Moore, and Mosley. According to a nearby historic marker, Rough and Ready was a minor railroad station, post office, cotton

shipping point, and tavern that opened in the 1840s after the construction of the Macon & Western Railroad.

In 1926, a United States Geological Survey map begins to show a more modern map of streets and creeks that we would recognize today. Forrest Park Road, Jonesboro Road, and Hutchens Road are all visible on the map. The land is mostly undeveloped, with a sparse collection of structures arranged along the main roadways. Mount Manor Lake (later renamed Lake Charlotte) also can be seen in the forested land east of Forrest Park Road.

In 1956, a Shell Gas Road Map shows that the area has largely maintained its rural condition, demonstrated by an absence of developed side streets. Though some beginnings of subdivision developments are beginning to appear, with the first appearances of King Smith Road and Hendon Road.

The single-family housing in the neighborhood developed in phases from the 1960s until today, as larger tracts of land were subdivided and sold, though many larger tracts still exist today.



Land Acquisition by the County

The land for Hutchens Road Park was subdivided in 2020 from 640 Hutchens Road, a 1.4-acre single-family lot. The residence remained with the original owner along with 0.4-acres of land, while The Conservation Fund purchased one acre of unimproved land as shown in this exhibit.

The land was then transferred to the City of Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation through legislative action (Ordinance 20-O-1503) for the purpose of "increasing the number of parks and green space acreage available, and within closer proximity to each resident of the City."



A soapstone boulder in DeKalb County shows signs of bowl manufacture

3000-1000 BC, known as the Late Archaic Period, is an era of Native American culture characterized by long-term and semi-permanent communities. Soapstone quarries yielded materials for cookware, vessels, and pipes. South River Gardens is within a geological formation known as "Soapstone Ridge," which is where the majority of precontact soapstone quarry sites have been found in Georgia.



1840, Rough and Ready was established as a tavern and waystation for goods and passengers in present-day Mountain View.

1000 BC

1500

1821

1840

Hernando de Soto (c.1500 - 1542) was the first European to explore present day Georgia. He and his forces were instrumental in contributing to hostile relationships between many Native American tribes and Europeans.

Members of the expedition also spread disease. Because indigenous people lacked immunity to European diseases, several areas traversed by the expedition became depopulated by illnesses caused by contact with the Europeans.

the second secon

Present day

South River

DE SOTO WITE DEATH

LUIS DE MOSCOSO TO TEXAS
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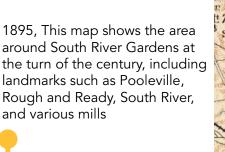
In 1821, William McIntosh (1775 - 1825) ceded 4,000,000 acres of

Muscogee land (including present-day Atlanta) to Georgia in exchange for \$200,000 over fourteen years. McIntosh also personally received a large sum of money and land as part of the deal.

This cessesion led directly to the enforced removal of 20,000

Muscogee people to Oklahoma in 1836 and 37, in an event commonly referred to as the "Trail of Tears."

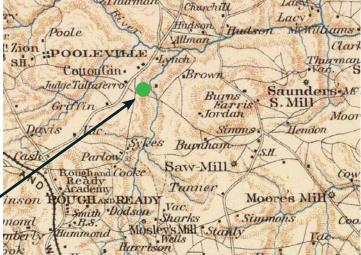




Approximate

location of

1920



Hutchens Road Park 1900

1960

2000

2020





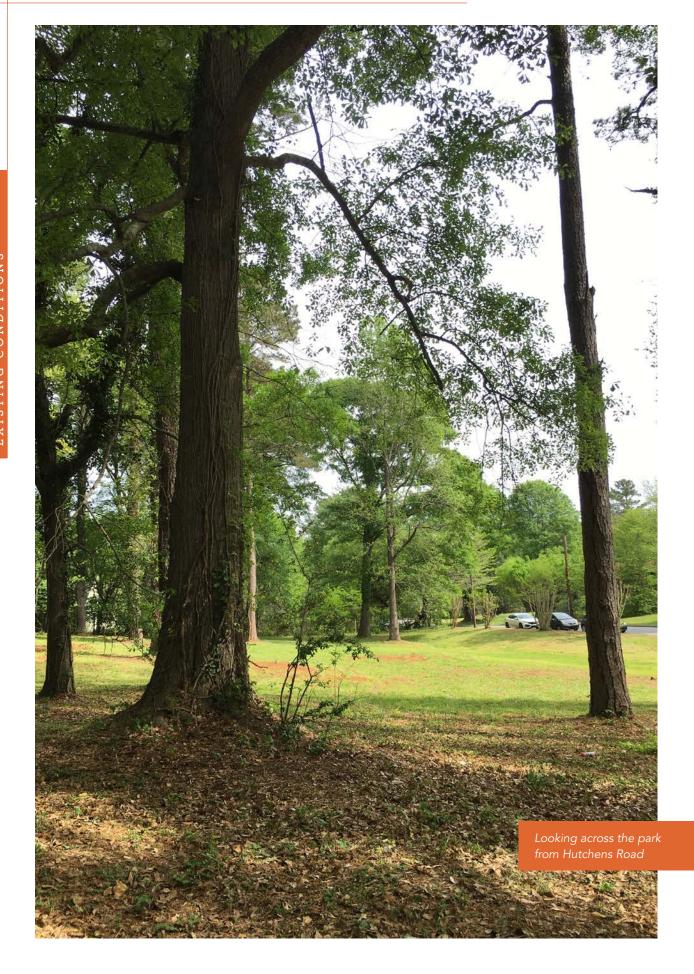
Gardens Community Association engages with Park Pride to facilitate a park vision plan

GARDENS

Over the years 1000 BC - 2021

Approximate location of Hutchens Park

1928, This USGS topographic map shows the north part of South River Gardens. Many of the major roadways are visible, and Lake Charlotte is also shown as Mount Manor Lake on this map.



Existing Conditions

Hutchens Road Park is currently undeveloped, and historic aerial photos indicate that it has largely been that way since at least 1955. The site can be characterized as a combination of cleared open space with mature stands of pine and hardwood trees. A denser patch of undergrowth exists along its northwestern extent. A new sidewalk has recently been constructed along its boundary with Hutchens Road, and a row of crape myrtles march along its edge with King Smith Road.

The crape myrtles lining King Smith Road are structurally deficient, having been topped several times over the years. Although topping of Crape Myrtles is common practice in this region, it damages trees' structural integrity and exposes them to decay and invasion from insects and disease. While a tree may survive topping, its life span will be reduced. Such is the case with these crape myrtles, which appear to be on their last legs.

Fortunately, the other trees in the park are in much better condition, with many of them having ample space for full expression of their mature forms. Invasive vines such as English ivy and poison ivy, which had taken hold over many of the trees, have been cut back and removed by park maintenance crews since acquisition.

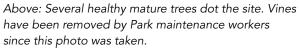
The only evidence of past structures on the land is a crumbling bit of concrete walkway near the corner of King Smith and Hutchens Roads. Leading approximately 30 feet in a straight line westward from King Smith Road, the walkway terminates in a small concrete pad. This was likely the location of a small outbuilding or shed that is no longer extant.

At the time of this writing, the property boundary is not evident in the field, having been recently subdivided from a larger residential lot. An existing chain-link fence surrounding the yard of the other part of the subdivided property is not built on the new property line, making the park appear larger than it is.

The city has recently installed a system of yard inlets and storm drains in the park to address concerns of surface flow from the park onto neighboring properties. The drains run along the bottom of a grass swale parallel with King Smith Road.

Overall, the impression of the site is pleasant and bucolic, with light filtering through a canopy of mature trees onto the meadow below.





Upper Right: A crumbling walkway leads from King Smith Road to a small concrete pad.

Center Right: The northwest corner of the site has denser vegetative growth.

Lower Right: Crape myrtles along King Smith Road have been topped and are in poor condition.











Top: The overall impression of the site is pleasant and bucolic, especially from this vantage point in the interior of the site. The new property line, created by subdividing the property, is not apparent in the field.

Center: The property enjoys high visibility at the corner of King Smith and Hutchens Roads, along which a new sidewalk was recently installed. The topography of the site slopes upward from the street, creating excellent sightlines into the park's interior.

Right: The number 55 MARTA bus makes a stop just across King Smith Road from the park.





Community Engagement

Park Pride's mission is to engage communities to activate the power of parks. In service of this mission, Park Pride offers visioning grants to parks in the City of Atlanta and unincorporated DeKalb County every year through a competitive application process.

The visioning staff at Park Pride facilitates a public engagement process for the park awarded the visioning, while community feedback informs and guides the creation of the vision plan. The plan balances community input with applicable laws and regulations and accepted best practices to arrive at a realistic park plan that supports community desires and needs. The vision plan includes a conceptual plan and comprehensive report for the park, produced to professional landscape design standards. This plan is intended be used by community groups to fundraise and advocate for desired improvements in the park.

In early spring of 2021, the Friends of South River Gardens/South River Gardens Community Association was awarded a park visioning grant. The group was interested in creating a small park to serve the rapidly growing neighborhood and current residents. The ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic forced the visioning process to remain largely virtual. Using online video conferencing applications for meetings, traditional fliers and signage, plus a website created expressly for the visioning process, Park Pride was able to reach over 600 people directly around the park despite public health restrictions.

Steering Committee

The visioning process was led by a volunteer steering committee of residents of South River Gardens assembled by the applicant. Between March 2021 and September 2021 the steering committee met monthly, reviewing community input, preparing materials, and vetting results. They were charged with representing their neighbors and the voices of the broader communities surrounding the park.

Website and Vision Branding

As an additional source of information and way to participate in the visioning process, Park Pride created a website and branding for the visioning process. Consistent graphics provided identification for activities associated with the park within the South River Gardens community. The website, created on a free website platform, contains pages about the visioning process, concepts,

and final plan, the guiding principles, project priorities, location, context, existing conditions, and history. Recordings of public meetings, and survey and poll results were also available. After the visioning process was completed, management of the website was turned over to the South River Gardens Community Association to use as an avenue for community information, events, notifications, and local history, if so desired.

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Why Park Visioning?

Parks are good for people, good for the environment, and good for communities! Parks are treasured neighborhood amenities where children can play safely, friendships start, and memories are formed. Parks are all about community, and that's why community leadership and involvement is so important when designing new parks.

Park visioning puts community at the center of the conversation and helps build a shared vision for a park based on the ideas and concerns of the whole community. Through neighborhood meetings, surveys, and engagement, Park Pride's professional park designers will be working closely with the South River Gardens Community Association and residents over the summer of 2021 to produce a plan that will help guide future investments in this park.

We look forward to working with you!



Learn More: Vision plan, guiding Principles, project priorities



Participate: Survey deadlines, results, and upcoming events



More information: maps, images, recordings of meetings





The 1-acre lot at the corner of Hutchens Road and King Smith Road is now owned by the City of Atlanta's Department of Parks & Recreation. South River Gardens Community Association received a grant from Park Pride to

help the community create a Vision Plan for the park. To get started we'd like to learn how a park could best serve the community and what you hope it will offer you and your family. Thank you for completing the survey!

If you'd like to complete the survey online, please scan the QR code on the back of this survey. If you prefer to complete a paper survey, these can be returned to drop boxes throughout the neghborhood. See the website for locations, or call 404-361-0491 to arrange for a pick up.

How could a park at this 🛨 location (see map above) benefit you and your family?

Which of the following make the park feel safe and welcoming? (pick your top 3)

- ☐ lighting at night
- □ sidewalk
- ☐ fencina
- ☐ families in the park
- shrubs/low hedge between street and park
- ☐ camera surveillance clear views into and out of the park
- □ police patrol

How would you get to a park in this location?

- Public transportation

What amenities would you most like to see in this neighborhood park? (pick your top 3)

- ☐ fitness stations
- □ benches ☐ covered pavilion
- open grass area
- ☐ grills/picnic tables
- □ other

Which categories fit you best? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Adult with no children
- Adult with children/grandchildren (0 to 5 years old)
 - ☐ Adult with childern/grandchildren (6 to 12 years old) ☐ Adult with childern/grandchildren (teenage)

 - Adult with dog(s)
 - Teenager
 - □ Senior citizer

Would you be willing to volunteer for beautification days in the park?

Yes (contact info)

VISIONING a new park for SOUTH RIVER GARDENS

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https://hutchensroadwebsite.wix.com/visioning

Think about the park you visit most often. Why do you go there? (pick your top 5)

- □ playground for my children
- ☐ play a sport (please list below)
- to sit and read or eat lunch
- ☐ there are shaded areas
- $\hfill \Box$ it's peaceful/enjoy the natural setting I go through a park when on a walk
- ☐ there's a walking loop for fitness
- ☐ to use outdoor fitness equipment
- ☐ tables for picnics or cookouts
- ☐ shelters are available ☐ to walk my dog
- ☐ it feels safe (please explain why it feels safe)
- ☐ other reasons I visit a park

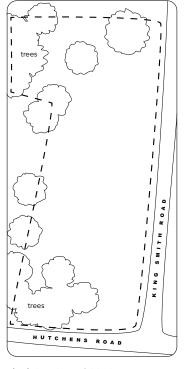
Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

ou'd like to receive notifications about :oming meetings, please provide your ne and email below. (Please print clearly)



Follow this QR code or type the web address below in and take the survey

Hey Kids (or grownups too)! Please use the space belo DRAW the park you'd like to see in your neighborhood you are flying above. What would be in your park?



https://hutchensroadwebsite.wix.com/visioning

Community Survey

A survey, produced in paper and digital format (paper version, left) was used to capture public input. Paper surveys were distributed to households within the South River Gardens Community as part of the June 2021 SRG newsletter. In addition, paper surveys with a QR code linking to the website were also available at 4 locations in the community. In all, there were 65 responses to the community survey. The survey was open May 4 - July 19, 2021.

Results from the community survey are shown on the following pages. Complete responses and comments are in Appendix A.



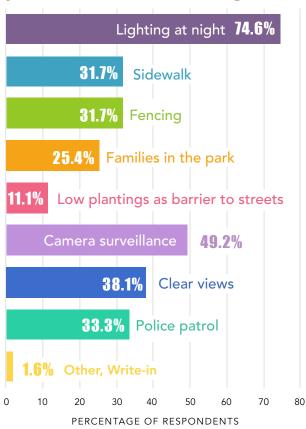
An aspiring landscape architect's playscape vision for the park at Hutchens Road.



SURVEY RESULTS

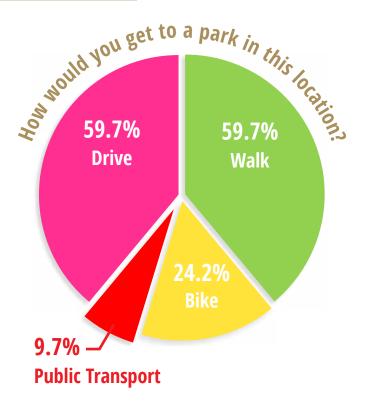
Community Opinion Survey

Which of the following make the park feel safe and welcoming?

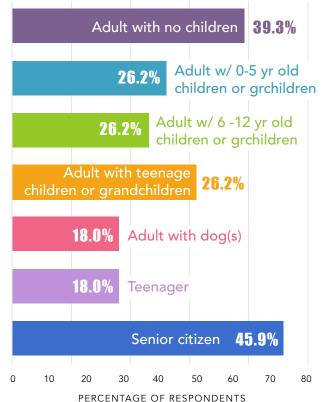


"...Part of the plan should be to monitor and evaluate usage and types of activity continually by law enforcement and/or community"

For a complete list of responses, see Appendix A

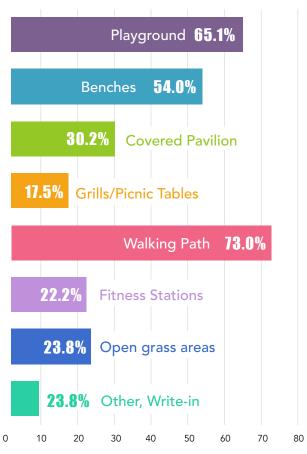


Which of the following fits you? (check all that apply)

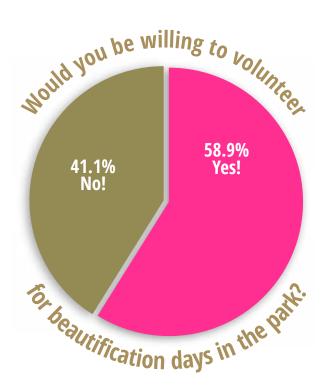


For a complete list of responses, see Appendix A

What amenities would you like to see in this neighborhood park?



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
For a complete list of responses, see Appendix A



"It would give the children a place to gather and play vs. in the street. It would give the an opportunity to enjoy a constructive outlet. Access to playground equipment would be a benefit most would not have at their home."

Think about the park you visit most often. Why do you go there?



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
For a complete list of responses, including comments, see Appendix A

Public Meetings

The visioning process includes three public meetings. This gives the community multiple opportunities to provide input—from the initial ideas through to final plans. The meetings are announced with yard signs throughout the neighborhood, through the existing communication methods, and online via the park's visioning website.

Each public meeting moves the visioning process along in stages: the first public meeting is a brainstorming session where 'Big Ideas' about the park are established. Participants decide what kind of park they need and want, and what functions are most important for the park to fulfill. Based on the feedback gathered in this meeting plus survey data, a set of guiding principles is created. All future designs and elements must support these principles in order to be included in the final plan.

After the first meeting, the visioning team goes back to the drawing boards to come up with draft concepts. These concepts are first reviewed by the steering committee, then presented for review at the next public meeting. Finally, armed with input from the community and steering committee, Park Pride's visioning team develops a final conceptual vision plan. This plan is presented for review at the last public meeting. The community prioritizes projects to create a step-wise plan for achieving the vision plan's goals.

Public Meeting 1

The first public meeting was held on June 14, 2021, in conjunction with South River Garden Community Association's monthly online community meeting. The meeting opened with an outline of the visioning process and the definition of a vision plan and its limitations. Next, the existing site conditions and the park's history were reviewed. Community members participated in online polls and asked questions, giving the steering committee and the design

team a better idea of the community's needs and wishes for the future park. The meeting was attended by approximately 30 community members; Councilmember Joyce Sheperd (District 12); Vince Carter, from District 12; John Dargle, Director of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Aaron Wiener, Senior Landscape Architect (DPR); the steering committee members, and the Park Pride Visioning team.

Polls conducted during the first public meeting revealed the priorities of the community. See poll results on the facing page. The responses were grouped by the similar ideas they supported. A few responses were either not specific to the question, or were only requested by one individual (e.g., dog-park, restrooms, water feature), or relate to features that are already required for parks (e.g., trash cans).

The first poll showed the importance of a safe place for children to play and adults to exercise. Participants also wanted to see improved public safety and civic pride.

In the second poll, attendees let us know that crime prevention and personal safety are their top concerns.

In the third poll question was intended to reveal what type of experience people wanted from the park. Popular choices were sounds of birds and playing children, accompanied by sights of a clean park filled with beautiful natural landscaping.

The fourth poll question intended to reveal what neighborhood qualities were important to preserve in the park. South River Gardens has a strong sense of community with responsible, well-organized leadership. It also sits amid a beautiful mature landscape that provides identity to the neighborhood.

The answers to these questions guided the steering committee in the creation of four guiding principles for the park visioning process.

Poll 1: What is important to have in a small park on Hutchens Road?



Poll 2: What do we need to keep in mind while designing a park at Hutchens Road?

Parking
Sidewalks
Sitting area
ADA accessible
Visual/hearing impaired
Walking trail

6

Providing

information

Closing hours
It should be clear it's a park
Park awareness
Park projection
Size (park boundaries)
Visibility

Barrier
Busy
Busy-street
Fencing
Fencing
Fencing
Safe play
Safety
Safety
Safety
Child safety
railing

4 A gazebo landscaping aesthetics trash

Cars speeding through Call crime boxes Camera Camera Crime-Crime/outside elements prevention Crime in area Lighting Lighting Lighting Lighting Loitering Loiterers Teens hanging out instead of going to school Police drive through Policing Registered sex offenders

Poll 4: What do you love about this neighborhood?

Poll 3: What sights or sounds would you like to experience in the park at Hutchens Road?





GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Create multigenerational recreation opportunities so that everyone has something to enjoy in the park

Prioritize personal safety and crime prevention measures to create a park that is a safe place for all

Provide a positive, welcoming outdoor community space by offering guidelines and infrastructure for a clean, well-maintained park.

Preserve the quiet, calm qualities of the neighborhood while creating a place of beauty and civic pride

Public Meeting 2

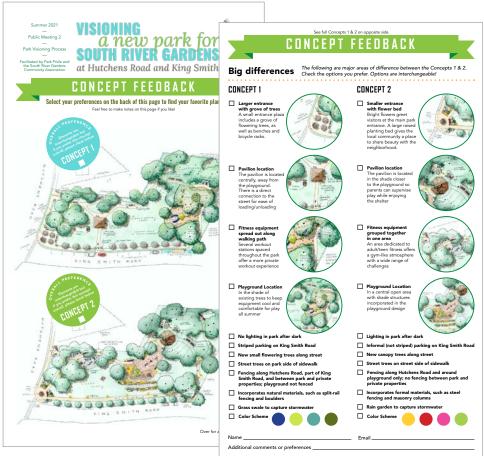
The second public meeting was held on August 2, 2021, in-person at the park site. Fifty-three community members attended the "Pops in the Park" gathering, along with (then) district 12 councilmember Joyce Sheperd and community liaison Vince Carter. Councilmember Sheperd donated popsicles for all, courtesy of locally-owned and kidpowered MokiPops.

The Guiding Principles (above) were presented along with two preliminary concepts. These principles serve as check points throughout the vision process. Each design idea and decision is crosschecked and must uphold or support one or more of the principles. A feedback form (below) was provided for participants to complete as they reviewed the concepts. The concept plans were also made available on the park visioning website for closer

inspection. Public comment on the two draft plans was invited via an online survey, which was open from August 2 through August 23, 2021. Public input was compiled and reviewed by the steering committee at the next steering committee meeting and the comments were used to shape the vision plan.

See the pages following to compare the two draft concepts.

Left: Feedback forms for the preliminary plans



Features included in BOTH Preliminary Concepts

- Walking path with intermittant benches
- Playground for children
- Sidewalk along King Smith Road
- Fencing between Hutchens Road and the park
- Pavilion for community gathering, with grills/hot coal bins, picnic tables, and trash receptacles
- Fitness equipment for adults and teens
- Open lawn for unprogrammed play
- Park signs, trash receptacles, bike racks
- Swing benches for enjoying the view over the park
- On-street parking on King Smith Road
- Ballards at the corner of Hutchens and King Smith Roads to protect the corner of the park

This park will benefit and enhance the neighborhood as well as provide a place for the children and youth to enjoy and express themselves. It gives neighbors a chance to get to know each other and look out for each other.

- survey respondent

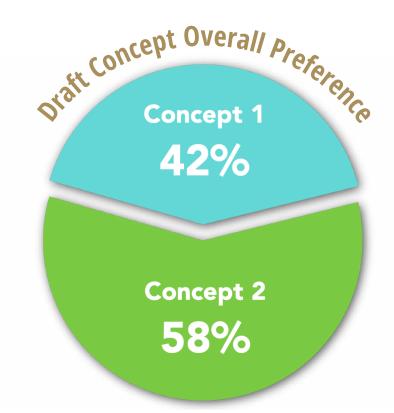
Concept 1 features

- This concept offers a formal aesthetic for the small park, with stone columns supporting panels of black steel fencing along Hutchens Road, the main entrance and the first (30-40 feet of King Smith Road. Recommendations are for fencing approximately 36"tall.
- An entry plaza with a grove of flowering trees, such as redbuds (long flowering time) or dogwoods or serviceberries



- A row of flowering trees between King Smith Road and the sidewalk (same species as the those at main entrance)
- An outdoor fitness stations for teens and adults spaced along the walking path and facing playground for care-takers use
- A pavilion with loading access to and from King Smith Road

- On-street parking on King Smith Road
- Playground in the shade, set back from Hutchens and King Smith Roads
- Low granite border/seatwall surrounding the playground
- Larger buffer (unprogrammed space) between the park and private homes
- Slightly shorter walking trail that skirts the woodland (approximately 1/10 mile)
- Chain-link fencing marks the interior boundaries between park and private properties
- Stormwater detention area maintained as lawn
- Cool color scheme featuring greens and blues



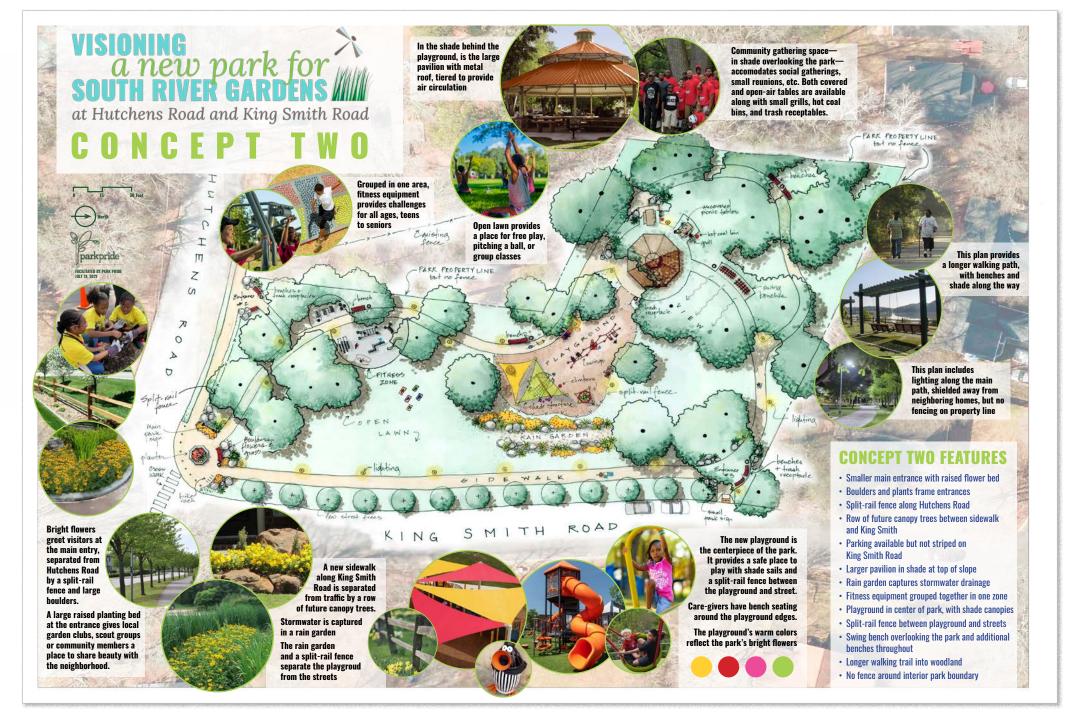
I am very thankful that our neighborhood is finally getting a park; our children and youth have no place for an outlet.

I cannot wait!

- survey respondent

Concept 2 features

- This concept offers a natural aesthetic for the park, with a split-rail fence along Hutchens Road, and around part of the playground. The fencing is a visual que and safety mechanism between Hutchens Road and the park. Boulders, shrubs, and perennials also identify the park's entrances and boundaries.
- The main entrance features a raised, stone planter within a crescent-shaped entrance. The planter can be filled with colorful flowering perennials throughout the year. Bright, low-maintenance perennials also surround and define the entrance.
- A row of future canopy trees are called for between the sidewalk and the park. These trees would grow over time to shade the parking on King Smith Road and the sidewalk.



- An outdoor fitness stations for teens and adults clustered in one zone
- Walking trail winding through the woodland area with benchs along the way
- Playground set in the center of the park,
 with shade-sails, and a direct connection to
 the shaded seating of the pavilion
- Pavilion set in the shade, above and directly connected to the playground
- Split-rail fencing forms a protective barrier along the street-facing sides of the playground
 - On-street parking permissable but not striped, on King Smith Road

- Bright color scheme featuring deep yellow, red, magenta, and lime green
- Rain garden with boulders and perennials
- No fencing between the park and private properties
- Lighting along the walkways, King Smith Road, the fitness ares, playground, and pavilion

Public Meeting 3

On September 13, 2021, 27 community members gathered virtually for the final public meeting in the park visioning process. At this meeting, community members, public officials, and the steering committee reviewed the results from the preliminary concept survey (shown on this page) and the final Vision Plan. Potential priority projects were also reviewed. Community members have until October 1, 2021 to weigh-in, via an online survey, on their top priorities.

Preferred entrance design



Preferred pavilion location





CONCEPT

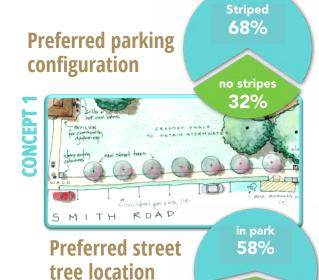
Top safety request

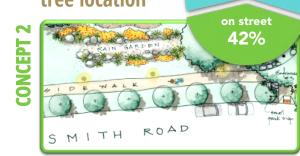
Lighting in the park 100%

Preferred playground location









Preferred fitness equipment configuration





Preferred stormwater detention





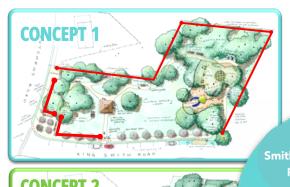
Preferred type of street trees



Preferred fencing location

Concept 1

Concept 2 52%





Corner of
Hutchens & King
Smith Roads and between
park & residences
48%

Along
Hutchens Road &
around playground
52%

Preferred materials

Formal 37% Natural 33%



Vision Plan

Based on public opinion gathered throughout the visioning process, a final vision plan was created for a new park at Hutchens and King Smith Roads. The vision plan has been divided into potential projects and described below. Project priorities and approximate cost (2021) for each project is included in the Projects & Budget section. Projects can be undertaken separately, in groups, or all at once depending on funding and neighborhood need.

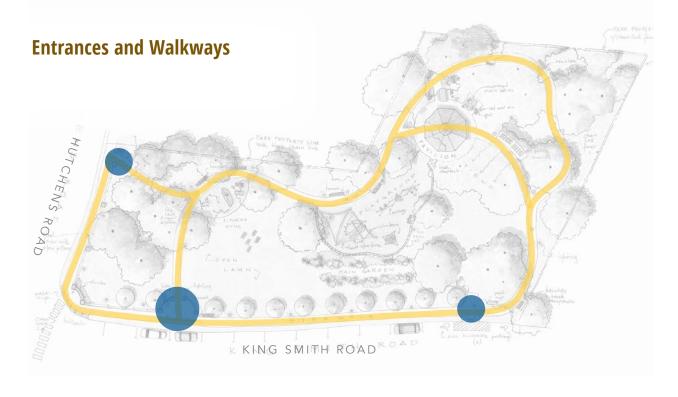
Walkways, parking, signage, and entrances

Although nothing prevents public access to the site as it is today, this first set of recommendations is focused on access and safety with the goal of formerly opening the property for public enjoyment and use.

The plan includes a system of paved walkways that lead park users around and

through the site. The primary walking loop brings users from the park entrances into the interior of the park and passes alongside many of the park's main features. A secondary walking path traverses the more heavily wooded northwest corner of the park to provide a variety of experiences for park users. A sidewalk is recommended along King Smith Road to provide more formal park frontage on the east park edge and to complete the primary walking circuit that loops through the park. A new row of flowering understory trees flank the new sidewalk, replacing the damaged crape myrtles. Walkways are recommended to include site furnishings, such as benches and waste receptacles spaced logically along the route, taking advantage of key views, and providing opportunities for rest.

Three entrances provide formal access into the park. The main entrance is located along





King Smith Road near the intersection with Hutchens Road. This entrance should be emphasized with a small, paved plaza edged with a low masonry seat wall. Secondary entrances to the park are also recommended at the southwest and northeast corners of the park along Hutchens Road and King Smith Road, respectively. Entrances should be clearly marked with park identification and rules signage, and site furnishings such as waste receptacles and bicycle racks should also be considered at these key points.

Two points of entry achieve Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility into the park. An existing ADA ramp at the corner of Hutchens and King Smith Roads provides access from the MARTA bus stop and is proposed to be widened and secured with bollards to prevent vehicular intrusion onto the sidewalk. A second, smaller ADA ramp provides access from two dedicated ADA parking spaces at the park's northeast corner along King Smith Road.

Because this park is meant to serve the immediate neighborhood, no off-street parking is proposed. Instead, striped parallel

parking is proposed along King Smith Road, with particular emphasis on providing at least two ADA-compliant spaces near the northeast entry ramp. King Smith Road is wide enough to accommodate a dedicated parking lane, so no major changes to the curb or street are needed to achieve this condition. Additionally, "No Parking" signs should be added along Hutchens Road to discourage park users from parking along the busy road, where it is not safe to do so.

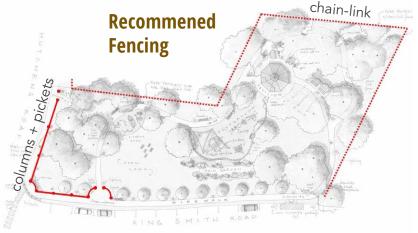
This plan further recommends a primary park identification sign in a place of prominence at the intersection of King Smith and Hutchens Roads. A masonry and fencing component are recommended to be used in combination with the sign to create a local landmark of significant weight and formality. This area may also be used by the community for seasonal flower plantings at the neighborhood's discretion and responsibility to maintain. This plan uses the sign for John C. Howell Park at the corner of Virgina Avenue and Arcadia Street as a suitable precedent for this treatment.

Fencing

Fencing is recommended to serve two purposes: to separate the park from traffic on Hutchens Road, and to delineate the park boundary from adjoining privately-owned land. Along the park's edge with Hutchens Road, a formal waist-height fence composed of stone masonry columns and steel picket panels forms a barrier between the park and traffic while also maintaining clear views into the park from the street and sidewalk. The formality of the materials convey the civic character of the park, while the stone columns provide an element that may be repeated elsewhere in the park as a unifying element of the design. The

fence extends around the corner to the main park entrance, providing continuity of this edge condition to prevent cut-through paths from forming at the corner.

Because the park was recently subdivided from a larger parcel, the new property line is not readily apparent. Similarly, the edge between residential backyards and park land in the northwest part of the site is not clearly marked. This plan recommends a durable black chain-link fence to form a continuous edge along the property lines. Where logical, this fence should tie into existing fences and should not duplicate an existing fence line, which can create maintenance issues as vegetation grows between fence rows. In cases where an existing fence is present, its condition should be evaluated, and the fence replaced if needed. The purpose is to create a clean, logical, and consistent edge to clearly delineate public space from private property. This work should be done in coordination with neighboring property owners.



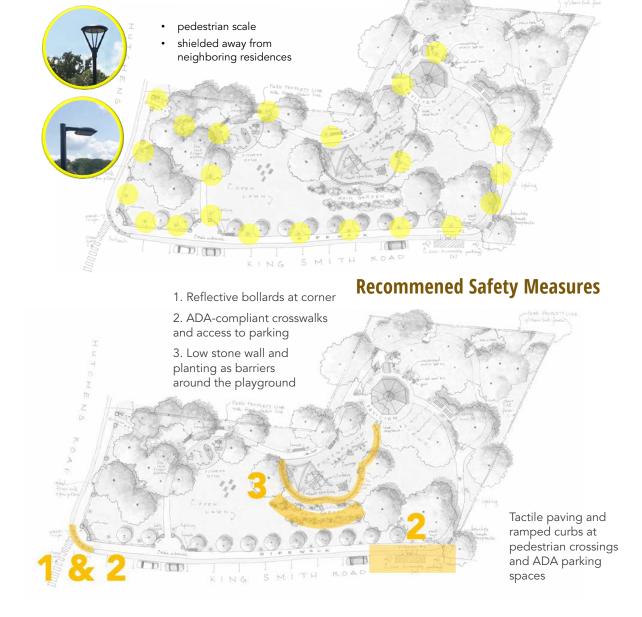


Lighting and safety measures

Lighting is also recommended for this park as it was the top priority in community surveys. Lighting should be of an appropriate style and scale to convey civic character while also being visually unobtrusive. In places where light fixtures are installed near private homes, shielding should be considered to avoid light from intruding into living rooms and bedrooms. Furthermore, all lighting should be cast downward to avoid spilling into the night sky. Lights may be controlled with a combination of photocell sensors, clocks, and motion detectors to create appropriate lighting levels when the park is closed vs when it is open.

Pedestrian safety measures are also recommended around the park. The installation of reflective bollards at the corner of Hutchens Road and King Smith Road will prevent vehicles from driving over the curb as they turn onto Hutchens from King Smith Road. Bollards combined with painted crosswalks and tactile paving patterns on ramped curbs provide safer access for the visually and mobility impaired as well as families with children. These are recommended between the bus stops on Hutchens Road (east and westbound) across both streets to the park.

Recommened Lighting



Playground & rain garden

A new playground is centrally located in the park, incorporating warm bright colors that are reflected in seasonal flowers. Located in front of mature trees, the playground may need supplemental shade sails to avoid overheating in the summer. Playground features should include swings, climbing equipment, and slides, along with moving elements such as spinners.

The playground is edged with a low stone seat wall (see below), providing a clear boundary edge of play as well as to create seating for care-givers. The stone masonry materials are a repeated and unifying element of the park design and convey a

sense of value and dignity important to the park's character.

The playground is buffered from the street through the addition of a rain garden in the low-lying grass swale. This area provides a small opportunity to capture and infiltrate rainwater, which may help mitigate some larger flooding events in adjacent areas. The rain garden should be constructed for ease of maintenance by limiting the number of plant species to one or two and reducing the planted areas in favor of boulders and mulch (see below). The Department of Watershed Management may provide ongoing maintenance support for this feature if they are brought in early as a partner in the feature's design.





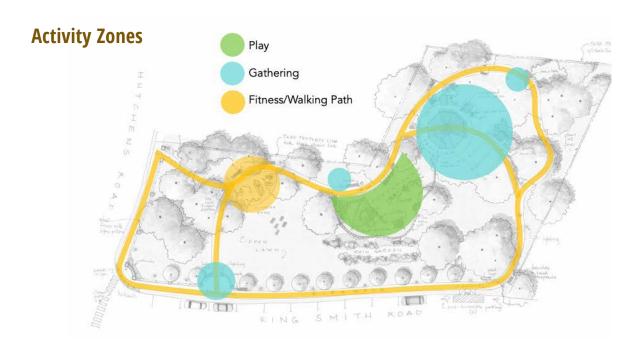




Pavilion & picnic area

A medium-sized community pavilion is recommended to the northwest of the playground. Located between existing trees, the pavilion is easily accessed from the main park loop. This plan recommends an octagonal design with a clerestory to provide additional ventilation, and the community expressed a preference for a

copper-colored roof to convey pride and a richness of materiality. The pavilion is flanked with paved pads for picnic tables and grills, each equipped with a hot coal bin and waste receptacle. Nearby bike racks provide additional secure storage for cyclists who may prefer to keep their bikes closer to where they are spending time.





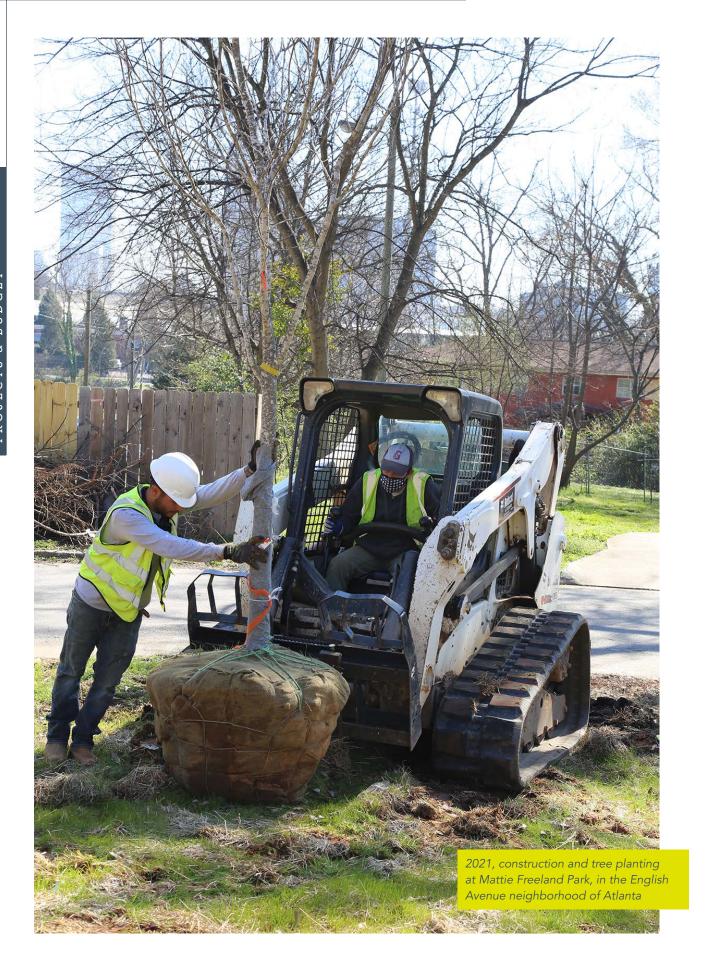
The site for the pavilion was selected partially because of the lovely views of the park this spot affords. To maximize the potential of this view, two sets of swing benches are recommended nearby to provide opportunities for quieter moments to relax overlooking the park while gently swinging in a shaded area. Stationary benches are also provided.

Fitness and open space

This plan recommends a small installation of fitness equipment along the main park walkway. Survey results showed a preference for fitness equipment grouped in one area rather than dispersed along the trail. The equipment should provide for a range of workouts exercising different muscle groups and should be geared toward teenagers and adults. Nearby bike racks and a bike repair station are provided for those who wish to park their bikes nearby, as well as benches and trash receptacles. Community surveys ranked the fitness equipment as low priority compared to other park amenities.

Lastly, this plan leaves significant open space in the park, both under tree canopy and in the sun, for informal play and recreation. The plan strives to maintain the open and pastoral aspects of the site that made it attractive in the first place while allowing flexibility as the park evolves over time.





Projects & Budget

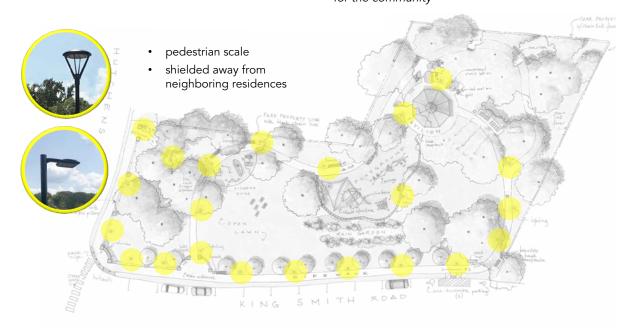
After the final public meeting, community members prioritized each project within the vision plan, via an online survey. The plan was divided into projects (right) and ranked in order of importance to the each participant personally or to the neighborhood. The poll revealed priorities as shown on the right. The ranking is fortuitous in that it favors the installation of circulation and safety infrastructure prior to recreational amenities.

The vision plan may be completed all at once or it may be divided into phases. Projects could also be grouped. Ultimately, the construction process will be contingent upon funding. Several funding possibilities are available, including multiple Park Pride grants, funding from the Atlanta City Council District 12 discretionary budget, the Parks budgets, and additional dollars identified by the community and/or other advocacy organizations. The park vision project for Hutchens Road will likely be completed with the support of multiple funding sources.

Project Priorities

- 1 Lighting
- 2 Walking path
- Sidewalks, parking, signage
- 4 Pavilion area
- 5 Fencing
- 6 Playground
- 7 Fitness zone

Lighting was the number one priority for the community



PROJECTS & BUDGET

Opinion of Probable Costs by Project (in order of priority), September 2021

LIGHTING					
ltem	Unit	Oty	Oty Cost/Unit	Extended Cost Notes	Notes
Pedestrian light poles & fixtures	EA	16	\$8,000	\$128,000	Lighting distributed along main walking path and gathering areas
Design & Engineering	15%			\$19,200	Plan to spend 15% of total budget in design & engineering fees
TOTAL				\$147,200	

WALKING PATH					
ltem	Unit	Oty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Demo/site prep	ALLOW	<u></u>	\$22,000	\$22,000	Erosion & sediment control/rough grading/tree protection
Paved walking path through park interior	SF	3,500	\$7	\$24,500	4" thick, 5' wide concrete path through park
Benches	EA	∞	\$4,500	\$36,000	Distributed along trail on concrete slabs
Waste receptacles	EA	∞	\$3,500	\$28,000	Placed near each bench on concrete slabs
Bicycle racks	EA	∞	\$2,000	\$16,000	Inverted "U" shape. Placed at key points on concrete slabs
Design & Engineering	15%			\$18,975	Plan to spend 15% of total budget in design & engineering fees
Contingency	20%			\$29,095	Plan for a contingency budget of 20%
TOTAL				\$174,570	



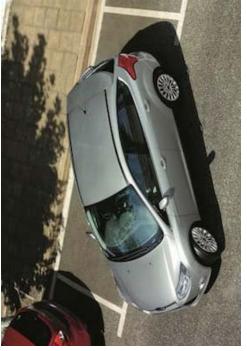






SIDEWALKS, PARKING, & SIGNAGE					
ltem	Unit	Oty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Demo/site prep	ALLOW	<u></u>	\$5,000	\$5,000	Remove existing street trees/Erosion & sediment control
Park signage	ALLOW	<u></u>	\$20,000	\$20,000	Standard park ID and rules signage
Corner park sign on stone masonry wall	ALLOW	<u></u>	\$18,000	\$18,000	Custom park ID sign at corner of Hutchens & King Smith
Bollards	EA	co	\$2,500	\$7,500	Bollards as needed at park entry points
Main entrance	SF	200	\$36	\$7,200	Park entrance paved with natural stone
Sidewalk along King Smith Road	4	270	\$40	\$10,800	Concrete sidewalk
ADA ramp	EA	<u></u>	\$500	\$500	ADA entrance along King Smith Road
Striping for 12 parking spaces	EA	12	\$500	\$6,000	
Design & Engineering	15%			\$11,250	Plan to spend 15% of total budget in design & engineering fees
Contingency	20%			\$17,250	Plan for a contingency budget of 20%
TOTAL				\$103,500	







PROJECTS & BUDGET

PAVILION AREA					
ltem	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Demo/site prep	ALLOW	_	\$5,000	\$5,000	Erosion & sediment control/rough grading/tree protection
Large hexagonal pavilion with clerestory	EA	—	\$80,000	\$80,000	Pre-fabricated structure, includes installation
Swing benches	EA	2	\$8,000	\$16,000	Placed at key point for lovely views
Drinking fountain	EA	—	\$5,500	\$5,500	
Water service/meter	ALLOW	—	\$8,000	\$8,000	New water meter, backflow preventer & service line
Auxillary picnic areas	EA	2	\$8,000	\$16,000	Includes picnic table, waste receptacles, hot coal bin & grills on prepared surface (concrete or compacted crusher run)
Design & Engineering	15%			\$19,575	Plan to spend 15% of total budget in design & engineering fees
Contingency	20%			\$30,015	Plan for a contingency budget of 20%
TOTAL				\$180,090	

FENCING					
Item	Unit	Oty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Granite masonry columns w/ large cap	EA	10	\$750	\$7,500	24" square x 30" high columns
Steel picket fencing	H	130	\$48	\$6,175	Restore natural slope and stabilize
Chain link fencing (park only)	H	550	\$12	\$6,600	black vinyl covered, 4' height
Chain link fencing (neighbor's fence)	H	100	\$12	\$1,200	black vinyl covered, 4' height
Design & Engineering	15%			\$3,221	Plan to spend 15% of total budget in design & engineering fees
Contingency	20%			\$4,939	Plan for a contingency budget of 20%
TOTAL				\$29,636	

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PLAYGROUND					
ltem	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost Notes	Notes
Demo/site prep	ALLOW	_	\$20,000	\$20,000	Erosion & sediment control/rough grading/tree protection
Playground	ALLOW	_	\$250,000	\$250,000	Includes safety surfacing, equipment, and installation
Seat wall	SF	200	\$75	\$15,000	CMU wall with granite veneer & bluestone cap
Rain garden	ALLOW	_	\$10,000	\$10,000	Includes boulders & engineered soils
Design & Engineering	ı			\$44,250	Plan to spend 15% of total budget in design & engineering fees
Contingency	20%			\$67,850	Plan for a contingency budget of 20%
TOTAL				\$407,100	

FITNESS ZONE					
ltem	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost Notes	Notes
Demo/site prep	ALLOW	—	\$5,000	\$5,000	Erosion & sediment control/rough grading/tree protection
Fitness equipment & installation	ALLOW	—	\$35,000	\$35,000	Includes workout equipment installed on concrete pad
Contingency	20%			\$8,000	Plan for a contingency budget of 20%
TOTAL				\$48,000	

\$1,090,096

GRAND TOTAL













Operations & Maintenance

The guiding principles developed during the park visioning process prioritize a park that is positive, welcoming, clean, safe, beautiful, and well-maintained. To that end, the park's inclusion in an ongoing maintenance and operations plan will be necessary so the park becomes a place of civic pride.

As the inventory of parks in Atlanta grows, so necessarily must public investment increase to support a skilled parks maintenance workforce. The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), along with community partners such as the South River Gardens Community Association, must work together to identify and address maintenance issues when they arise in the park.

DPR may use the information in this section to estimate funding needed for the maintenance of Hutchens Park, including scheduled maintenance protocols and staffing requirements.

Property Boundaries

This plan calls for fencing to provide clear delineation of new property boundaries created by the subdivision of land for the park, as well as provide a barrier between the park and the busy street. Fence lines should be maintained clear of overgrowth. Trees and tree seedlings should be removed from fences. Vines or other eye-level screening plants in adjacent yards should not be allowed to protrude into the park more than 6" past the vertical plane of the fence or property line (the canopy of neighboring trees is not subject to this rule). Fence panels should be replaced if they are damaged or destroyed.

Stonework and park signs should also be inspected regularly for damage and needed repairs made quickly to maintain a tidy and well-kept appearance.

Trees and Undergrowth

The critical root zones of all trees should be kept mulched, no deeper than 2-3 inches. Mulch should be hand-weeded regularly to avoid overgrowth and damage to tree trunks. Lower limbs should be removed if lower than 10-feet above the ground, except in cases of trees < 4" DBH.

Aggressive vines and shrubs, especially invasive plants such as privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis* or *W. floribunda*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Amur honeysuckle (*L. mackii*), and the native but hazardous poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), should be removed to maintain sightlines and public safety.

Lawn, Walkways, and Rain Garden

Much of the park is proposed to be kept as open lawn, which requires regular mowing, aeration, overseeding, and removal of fallen leaves. Fallen leaves should be allowed to accumulate and decompose in the wooded area.

Pedestrian paths should be kept free of debris and will need repair/replacement over the years as the pavement ages. Waste receptacles should be monitored and emptied regularly. Any tagging or other unauthorized marking should be painted over promptly and consistently to discourage the activity from continuing.

Lighting will also need regular inspection, and bulb replacements will be needed over time. Today's light fixtures come with LED fixtures, which last much longer than the incandescent or fluorescent bulbs of yesteryear.

Any green infrastructure, such as the proposed rain garden, will need more specialized maintenance, including identification and removal of weeds and clearing forebays and drain overflows from debris and sediment. The Department

of Watershed Management may be a resource for long-term technical assistance in maintaining green infrastructure assets if their early advice and investment is sought.

Playground and Fitness Equipment

Regular inspection of park equipment for loose connections, sharp edges, broken parts, and adequate safety surfaces should occur per the City's playground inspection schedule. Needed repairs and replacements should be made promptly to maintain the safety of the play space. Additionally, the proposed seat walls around the playground should be inspected and any needed repairs made quickly to maintain a well-kept appearance.

Pavilion and Picnic Area

As with other equipment and furnishings, the pavilion, grill, and any associated site furnishings should be inspected regularly to assess any needed repairs. Grills and hot coal bins should be serviced regularly as part of monthly maintenance practices.

Maintenance strategies

As with any park in the Atlanta Park system, care and maintenance of Hutchens Park will be a combined effort. DPR will provide foundational maintenance, including basic landscape and waste collection service, as well as equipment inspection and repair. Workdays for park cleanups, invasive plant removal, mulching, planting and beautification efforts, as well as neighborhood safety watches typically fall to community groups to go "above and beyond" what the City is able to provide through regular maintenance visits.

Maintenance Tasks

*Schedule to be coordinated by the Department of Parks & Recreation

General Landscape

MAINTENANCE TASK	SIZE OF AREA	FREQUENCY*
Lawn care: mowing, edging, blowing, 2 aerations per year, weed control	≈1 acre	2-3x/month, as needed
Inspect perimeter chainlink fence/repair as needed	≈550 linear ft	1x/year or more as needed
Inspect stone colums/steel picket fence and repair as needed	≈130 linear ft+ 10 columns	1x/year or more as needed
Clean/inspect/repair signage	3 entrances + inside park	1x/year or more as needed
Removal of overgrowth and Invasive species	≈1 acre	2x/year or more as needed
Plant maintenance, weed control in planted beds, winterizing planted beds, fertilizing	≈1 acre	1x/year or more as needed
Tree pruning and mulching	≈1 acre	1x/year or more as needed
Bike racks/repair station (inspect, repair damage/wear)	8 racks/1 repair station	1x/year or more as needed
Remove trash/litter as needed	8 receptacles	1x/week or more as needed

Pavilion and Picnic Areas

MAINTENANCE TASK	SIZE OF AREA	FREQUENCY*
Pavilion (inspect, repair damage/wear)	1 pavilion	1x/year or more as needed
Drinking fountain (inspect/repair as needed)	1 fountain	1x/year or more as needed
Grills (inspect, repair damage/wear)	2 grills	1x/year or more as needed
Coal bins, empty regularly/repair as needed	2 coal bins	1x/week or every other week
Picnic tables (inspect, repair damage/wear)	2 tables	2x/year or more as needed
Swing benches/benches (inspect, repair damage/wear)	2 swing benches, 8-10 benches in park	1x/year or more as needed

Playground and Fitness Area

MAINTENANCE TASK	SIZE OF AREA	FREQUENCY*
Playground (inspect, repair damage/wear)	≈0.07 acre	1x/year or more as needed
Replenish/replace mulch surfacing	≈0.07 ac	1x/year or more as needed
Stone wall in playground (inspect, repair)	200 SF	1x/year or more as needed
Fitness area (inspect, repair damage/wear)	≈675 SF	1x/year or more as needed

Appendices

COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA

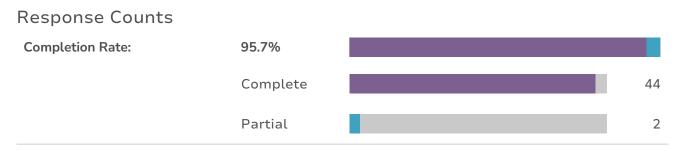
Note: Any identifying information of respondents has been redacted

Appendix A

COMMUNITY SURVEY OPENED MAY 4, 2021, CLOSED JULY 19, 2021

Note: Any identifying information of respondents has been redacted

Report for Hutchens Road Park - Visioning Survey



Totals: 46

1. How could a park at the corner of King Smith Road and Hutchens Road (indicated with a star in the map above) benefit you and your family?

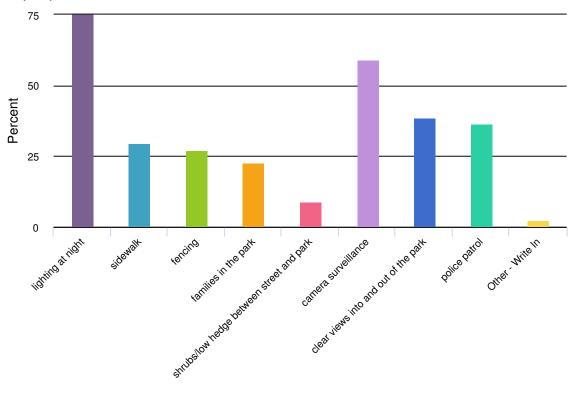


ResponseID	Response
1	I would have a place to observe poison ivy.
5	I beleive it can be improve my quality of life and exercise but I am really concerned about the traffic that it will cause trying to enter and leave my neighborhood
8	It would be nice for the citizens living in the area to be more physically and socially active. The children and adult could play on the amenities like swings, climbing poles, etc.,adult could walk or jog on the walking and do many more physical activities. Socially the people would get a chance to get to know their neighbor better by seeing one another in the park.
9	A park would provide my family a safe place to play and enjoy outdoor activities.
10	Provide a useful area in the community for residents to enjoy outdoor activities and fellowship with other neighbors
11	This Park will benefit and enhance the neighborhood as well as providing a place for the children and youth to enjoy and express themselves. It will give them a place to get rid of some of their energy and exercise. It gives neighbors a chance to get to know each other and look out for each others. It will give the neighborhood a facelift.

ResponseID	Response
14	It would give the children a place to gather and play vs. in the street. It would give the an opportunity to enjoy a constructive outlet. Access to playground equipment would be a benefit most would not have at their home.
15	A part to benefit me at my family because I have children and the children have nothing to do there's nowhere to play but in the streets when I was younger living in the same neighborhood I had nowhere to play with in the streets and that resulted in me being hit by a car at the age of eight years old I don't want that for my children I didn't want it for myself in a park would be better for everyone around. It gives the children a place to play and the adults a place to walk and everyone a place to come together
16	It's nothing like going to a park on a nice sunny day with our children!
24	A track to exercise and for family to safely enjoy themselves
25	close to home
27	Not at all
33	help families stay healthy and happy
34	A venue for positive activities and learning
35	give me and sons a place to go in "our" neighborhood
37	It would be a place to take my grandchildren
39	Parks are a life force for a community. It encourages foot traffic and engagement. More people out and about makes for a safe. Crime free neighborhood. Also an active community is a healthy community. I'm all for a park.
41	It is a nice nearby park to enjoy nature
42	Place for the children to play and reading area
43	Love to take my grandkids
44	We will have a place to go in the neighborhood for family time
45	Walking
46	Excellent, we have wanted a park in this community for a long time
47	It will allow me a place to enjoy nature without having to spend time driving to get to a safe park

ResponseIDResponse51It would be a nice green space near my home.52Cycling and walking within the community without having to travel far56Walking Health benefit Improve Environment57Just chill, have fun, and enjoy the view and park61we will get to go outside63something to do during the day65It would be a close space for my kids to meet new people and burn energy

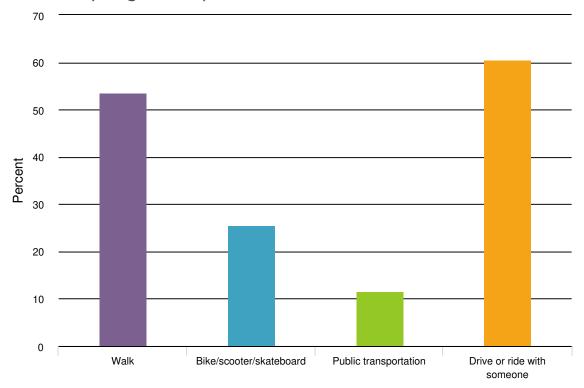
2. Which of the following make the park feel safe and welcoming? (pick your top 3)



Value	Percent	Responses
lighting at night	75.0%	33
sidewalk	29.5%	13
fencing	27.3%	12
families in the park	22.7%	10
shrubs/low hedge between street and park	9.1%	4
camera surveillance	59.1%	26
clear views into and out of the park	38.6%	17
police patrol	36.4%	16
Other - Write In	2.3%	1

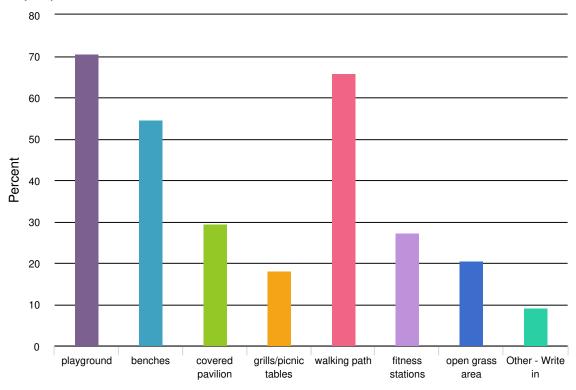
Other - Write In	Count
places to sit	1
Totals	1

3. How would you get to a park in this location?



Value	Percent	Responses
Walk	53.5%	23
Bike/scooter/skateboard	25.6%	11
Public transportation	11.6%	5
Drive or ride with someone	60.5%	26

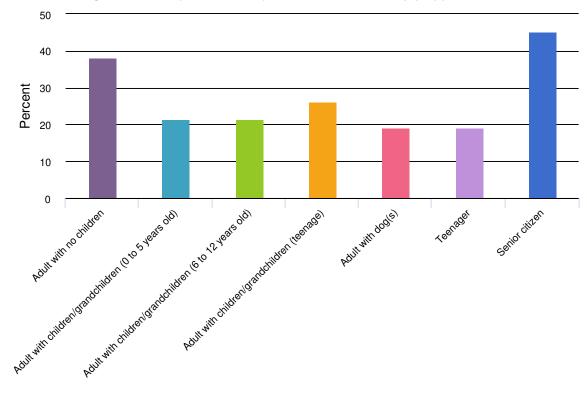
4. What amenities you would like to see in this neighborhood park? (pick your top 3)



Value	Percent	Responses
playground	70.5%	31
benches	54.5%	24
covered pavilion	29.5%	13
grills/picnic tables	18.2%	8
walking path	65.9%	29
fitness stations	27.3%	12
open grass area	20.5%	9
Other - Write in	9.1%	4

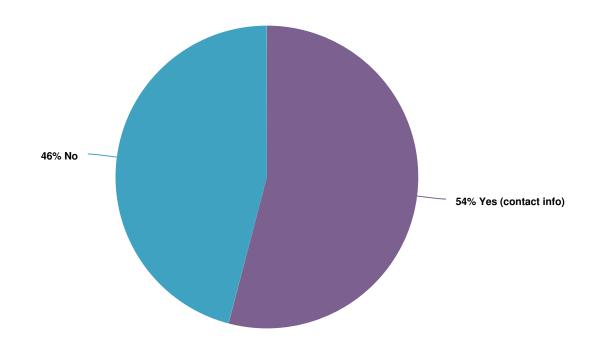
Other - Write in	Count
Tennis courts!!	1
bike trail	1
bird habitat	1
pool, basketball court	1
Totals	4

5. Which categories fit you best (check all that apply)



Value	Percent	Responses
Adult with no children	38.1%	16
Adult with children/grandchildren (0 to 5 years old)	21.4%	9
Adult with children/grandchildren (6 to 12 years old)	21.4%	9
Adult with children/grandchildren (teenage)	26.2%	11
Adult with dog(s)	19.0%	8
Teenager	19.0%	8
Senior citizen	45.2%	19

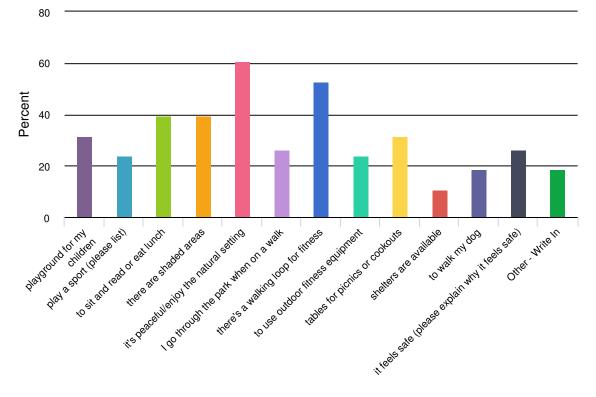
6. Would you be willing to volunteer for beautification days in the park?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes (contact info)	54.1%	20
No	45.9%	17

Totals: 37

7. Think about the park you visit most often. Why do you go there? (pick your top 5)



Value		Percent	Responses
playground for my children		31.6%	12
play a sport (please list)		23.7%	9
to sit and read or eat lunch		39.5%	15
there are shaded areas		39.5%	15
it's peaceful/enjoy the natural setting		60.5%	23
I go through the park when on a walk		26.3%	10
there's a walking loop for fitness		52.6%	20
to use outdoor fitness equipment		23.7%	9
tables for picnics or cookouts		31.6%	12
shelters are available		10.5%	4
to walk my dog		18.4%	7
it feels safe (please explain why it feels safe)	100	26.3%	10
Other - Write In		18.4%	7
play a sport (please list)		Co	ount
basketball		3	
tennis		2	
Baseball, football, and basketball		1	
Basketball/Tennis		1	
basketball, football		1	
football		1	
Totals		9	

it feels safe (please explain why it feels safe)		Count
Forest park police are located in the park and patrol often		1
police can make sure no one gets hurt or killed		1
police patrol		1
releases stress		1
there are other people there		1
well maintained, other people around		1
Totals		6
Other - Write In	Count	
Other - Write In	Count 1	
Other - Write In Skatepark		
	1	
Skatepark	1	
. Skatepark friends and family	1 1 1	
Skatepark friends and family hang with my friends	1 1 1	

Totals

8. Is there anything else you'd like us to know?



ResponseID	Response
1	Large vines can damage trees. I'm not sure where the edges of this park are.
4	Bringing a park to this area would be very beneficial, I'm excited to see it blossom.
5	Again my only concern is the additional cars and traffic it will bring to the area
9	I would like a park/trail that attracts a family friendly environment. Also, one that attracts businesses to support the growth and values of the community.
10	Would like all efforts to be made to keep the park from becoming a hangout for drinking, smoking and intimidating activities in daytime and night time. Part of the plan should be to monitor and evaluate usage and types of activity continually by law enforcement and/or community
11	I am very thankful that our neighborhood is finally getting a park; our children's and youth have no place for an outlet. I cannot wait!
14	I do not frequent a park because there is not one within walking distance. When I do visit one, it is to get my walking in and to enjoy the outdoors. The park I visit is a 10 minute drive from my home in Forest Park.
15	The area that we live in has a little to nothing for anyone of any age bring in a park to this area will be the biggest change that this area has seen since it's been around. We always get new places to live but never knew places to play for kids or walking trails or anything exciting or new besides apartments or houses
20	Looking to enjoy outdoors with trees Keep it safe
24	Keep it safe and I do know that the park will be a success
35	Doggie park area attached would be great!
41	Unmonitored parks in the community will probably draw unwanted elements that discourage families and eventually become overtaken by that element
46	feel safe
47	I can walk safely with others
56	The playground - fitness equipment similar to child's area at Indian Creek State Park in Florvilla, GA
57	to always have police patrol for safety
58	n/a

Appendix B

LIVE POLLING DATA COLLECTED DURING PUBLIC MEETING 1, JUNE 14, 2021

Note: Any identifying information of respondents has been redacted

In one or two words, what is important to have in a small park on Hutchens Road? (answer as many times as you like)



What do we need to keep in mind while designing a park at Hutchens Road? (answer up to three times)



In one or two words, what sights and sounds would you like to experience in the park at Hutchens Road? (answer up to three times)



In just one or two words, what do you love about this neighborhood? (answer up to three times)

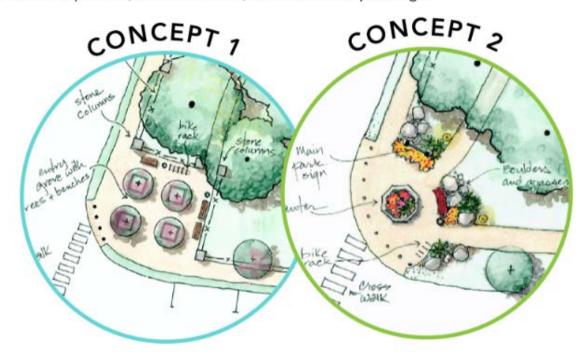


Appendix C

PRELIMINARY PLAN DATA COLLECTED DURING PUBLIC MEETING 2, AUGUST 2, 2021 PREFERENCE SURVEY BETWEEN CONCEPTS 1 AND 2

Note: Any identifying information of respondents has been redacted

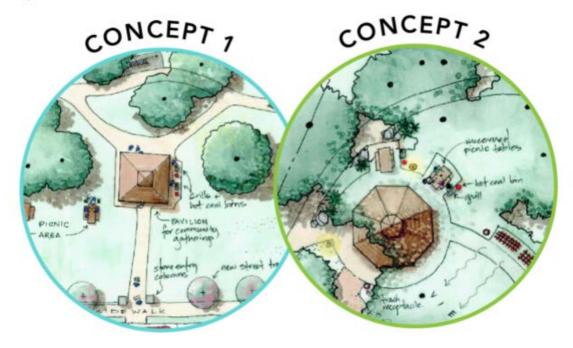
1. Which configuration do you prefer for the park's main entrance? Both concepts include a protective barrier between Hutchens Road and the park, with sidewalks leading into the park (no gates). They also both offer benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks, and an official park sign.



Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 features a formal a plaza with a grove of small flowering trees, stone columns with black steel fencing separates the park from the streets	54.2%	13
Concept 2 features a more natural entry plaza with a raised flower bed in the center. Boulders are set amid additional flower beds surround the edges, and a splitrail fence separates the park from Hutchens Road	45.8%	11

Totals: 24

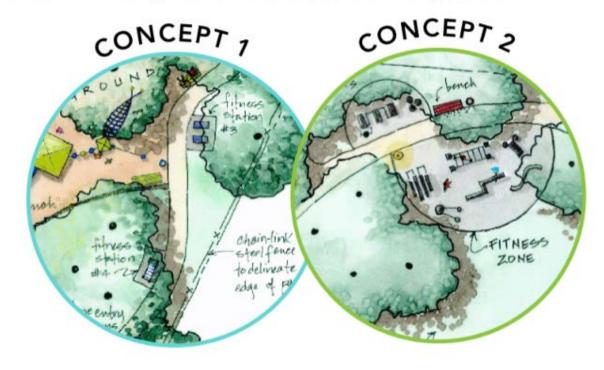
2. Both plans call for a covered community gathering space. Which location do you prefer?



Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 includes a centrally located pavilion, with direct access from King Smith Road	42.3%	11
Concept 2 includes a pavilion set back on the hillside in the shade and directly connected to the playground.	53.8%	14
Other - Write In (click to view)	3.8%	1
		Totals: 26

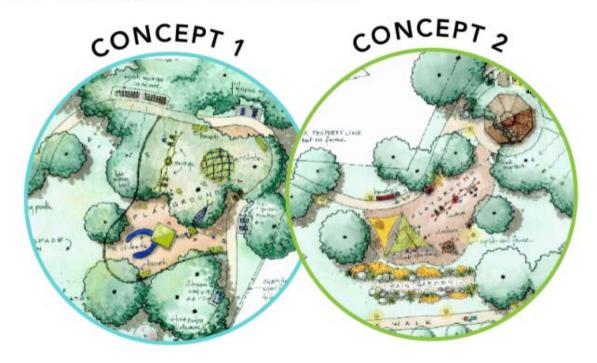
Other - Write In	Count
Like pavilion location in concept 1, prefer pavilion design in concept 2	1
Totals	1

3. Both concepts include a walking path and fitness equipment for teens and adults. Which configuration of fitness equipment would you prefer?



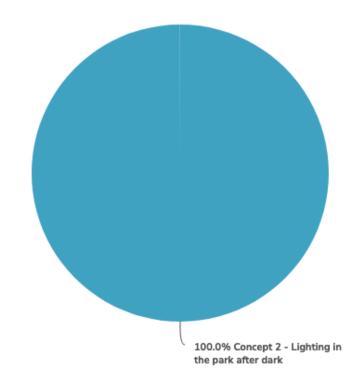
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - Fitness stations spaced along the walking path	36.0%	9
Concept 2 - Fitness zone in one area	64.0%	16
		Totals: 25

4. Both plans include new playground equipment, but it is located in different areas. Which playground location do you prefer?



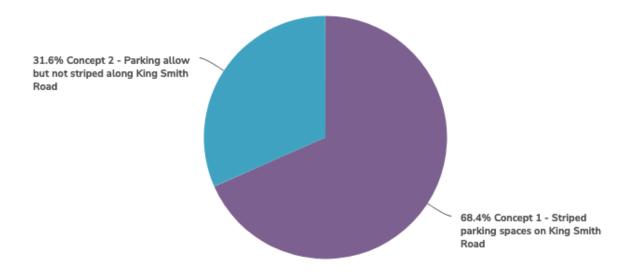
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - Playground is set in the shade, farther from the streets	42.3%	11
Concept 2 - Playground is the central feature of park, located toward the front of the park	57.7%	15

5. All City of Atlanta parks close at 11pm. Would you like to see lighting included in the plan for this park?



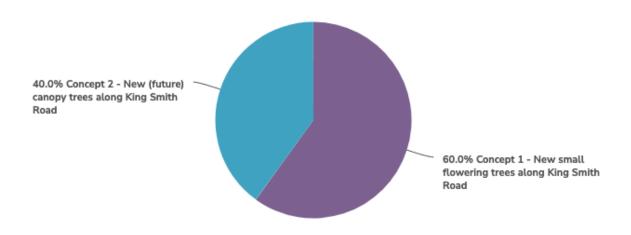
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 2 - Lighting in the park after dark	100.0%	25
		Totals: 25

6. Which type of parking do you prefer along King Smith Road? Survey results indicate that some residents will want to drive to the park. King Smith Road is wide enough to allow parking on the park-side of the street. Plus, on-street parking can also slow traffic. There will be no parking on Hutchens Road.



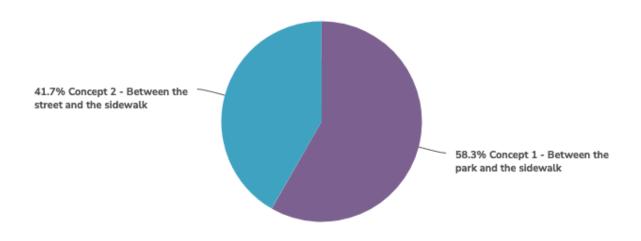
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - Striped parking spaces on King Smith Road	68.4%	13
Concept 2 - Parking allow but not striped along King Smith Road	31.6%	6

7. New trees will be added along King Smith Road to define the park and protect its edges. Which do you prefer?



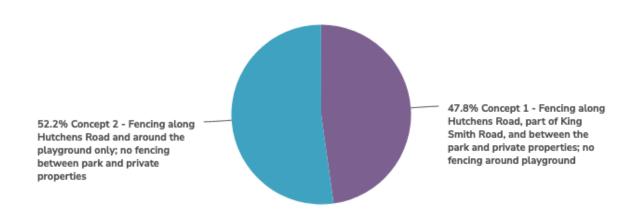
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - New small flowering trees along King Smith Road	60.0%	9
Concept 2 - New (future) canopy trees along King Smith Road	40.0%	6

8. Imagine walking past the park on the new sidewalk along King Smith Road. Would you prefer the street trees to be



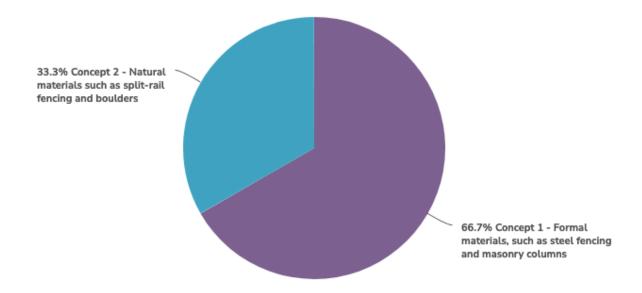
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - Between the park and the sidewalk	58.3%	7
Concept 2 - Between the street and the sidewalk	41.7%	5

9. Hutchens Road is a busy street. As a safety precaution, would you prefer



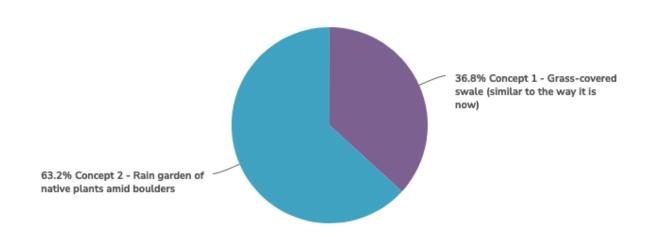
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - Fencing along Hutchens Road, part of King Smith Road, and between the park and private properties; no fencing around playground	47.8%	11
Concept 2 - Fencing along Hutchens Road and around the playground only; no fencing between park and private properties	52.2%	12

10. What type of look and materials do you prefer for the park?



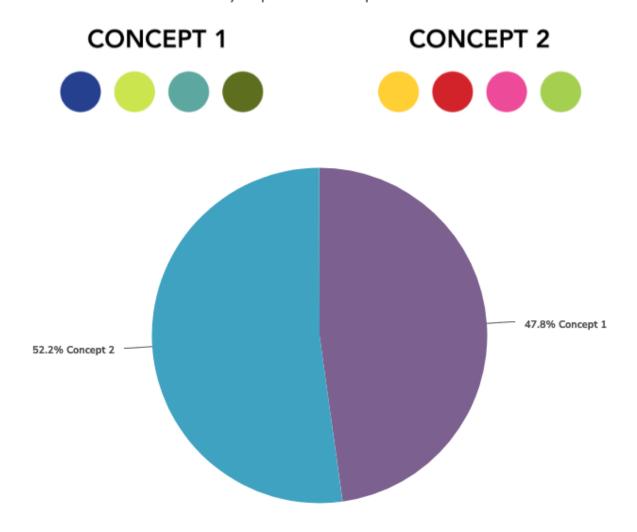
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - Formal materials, such as steel fencing and masonry columns	66.7%	12
Concept 2 - Natural materials such as split-rail fencing and boulders	33.3%	6

11. The park includes a low area that captures and detains stormwater. Which treatment do you prefer for this area?



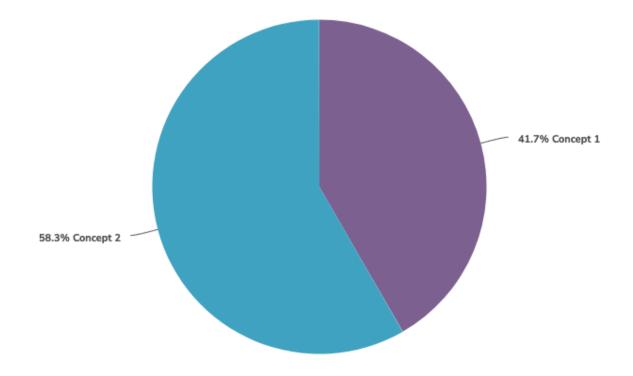
Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1 - Grass-covered swale (similar to the way it is now)	36.8%	7
Concept 2 - Rain garden of native plants amid boulders	63.2%	12
		Totals: 19

12. Which color scheme do you prefer for the park?



Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1	47.8%	11
Concept 2	52.2%	12

13. Overall, which plan do you prefer?



Value	Percent	Responses
Concept 1	41.7%	5
Concept 2	58.3%	7

14. Is there anything you would like to add? Feel free to expand on one of your answers above, or tell us about something we didn't ask about.



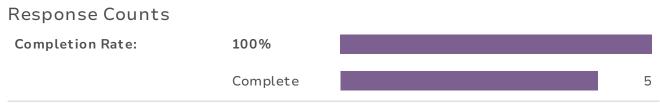
ResponseID	Response
2	Basketball court even if it's just a half court
3	Please keep heavy police presence. Mandatory curfew, and keep well lighted. Lots of lights at night and cameras.
5	No park
7	No park!!!
12	Good job! No swing benches, dangerous if not monitored.
15	Basketball court!
18	This process shows that Councilmember Sheperd & the community can work together. Unfortunately, this is not the case for the south river forest, where community has not been engaged & they plan to destroy 150+ acres of forest for a militarized police training facility, funded by private corporate donors. We would love to have the same democratic process demonstrated here applied to south river forest also
26	I think this is going to be a great accomplishment
31	plenty of walking space

Appendix D

ONLINE OPINION SURVEY, REGARDING THE FINAL VISION PLAN COLLECTED AFTER PUBLIC MEETING 3, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

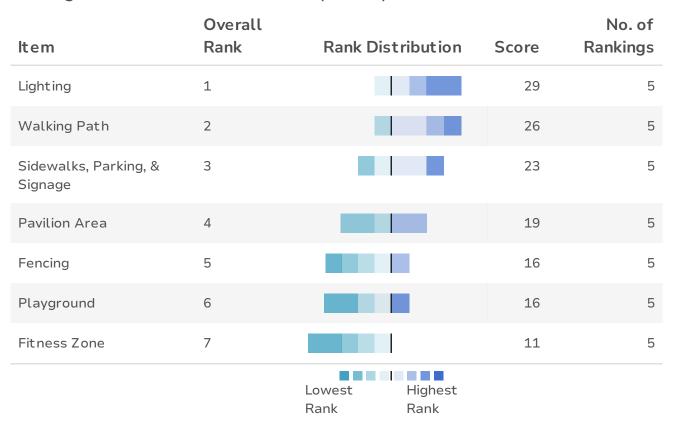
Note: Any identifying information of respondents has been redacted

Report for Hutchens Park Vision Plan - Community Priorities



Totals: 5

1. The vision plan includes all of the elements listed below. Please arrange all the items in order of priority TO YOU!



2. Is there anything you would like to add? Feel free to expand on your priorities above, or tell us about something we didn't ask about.

bathroom

ResponseID	Response
5	Bathroom

This document and materials created for this 2021 park visioning process are available online at https://parkpride.org/we-can-help/park-visioning/

These materials will also be archived at the Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center. Appointments can be made at 404.814.4040 or by emailing reference@atlantahistorycenter.com



P. O. Box 4936 Atlanta, GA 30302 parkpride.org