



Ideas Youth Committee Meeting 1 Summary



CITY PARK
CONSERVANCY



concordia

MVVA

Overview

The Ideas Youth Committee (IYC) initiated their engagement process with two meetings. The Kick off meeting was held on October 16, 2024 with in person and virtual options available. At the kick off meeting, expectations for the IYC were set, the timeline was explained, and a general project overview was presented.

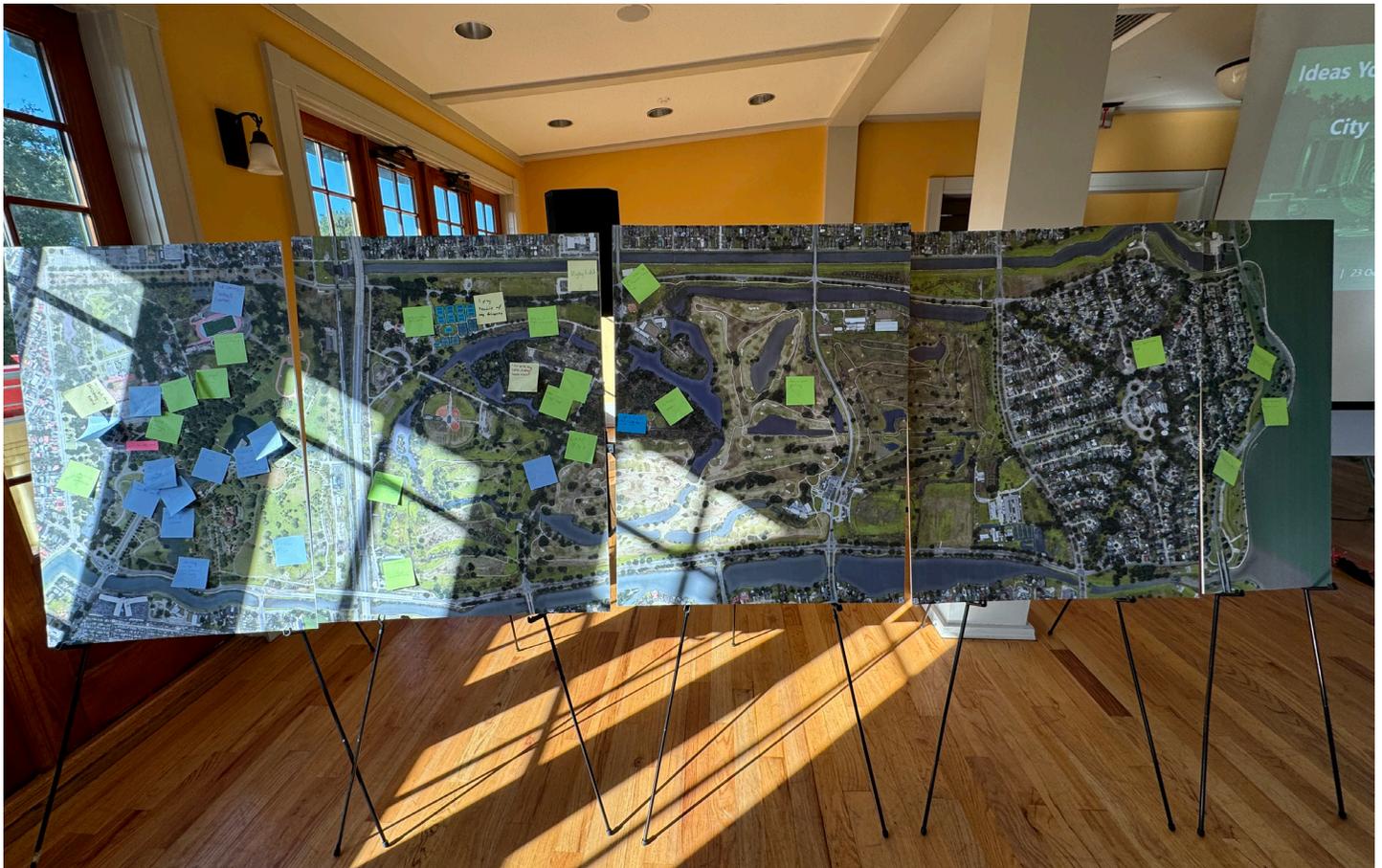
The IYC will:

- Give young people a platform to express their opinions, ideas, and concerns.
- Ensure their voices are heard and considered in what they like currently about City Park, what changes could be made, and what new programming could take place in the Park.
- Provide an opportunity for members to learn more about urban Parks, community service, and improving quality of life.



After the presentations, IYC members were given the opportunity to explore and observe sections of the Park that they haven't normally experienced. Youth were given an "Explore City Park" activity sheet to complete in their free time. With a keyed map of City Park, IYC members were invited to visit an area of City Park to document their observations, critiques, and ideas for that area.

The locations that youth visited and observations that were shared were written on post-it notes and placed on a large-scale map of City Park in the room. This map is intended to be a running list of IYC member ideas and contributions.



Overview - Table Activity

The first interactive in person meeting took place on October 23rd, 2024 above Café du Monde in City Park. It started with a brief presentation bringing the IYC up to speed where the project is currently. Then over twenty IYC members participated in an interactive round-table activity envisioning their ideal City Park.



IYC Members were asked to brainstorm elements, activities, and ideas they would like to have in their ideal park. They were given some reference images to help start the brainstorm. They were asked to write their ideas on four different color post-it notes to categorize their ideas. Finally, they were asked to develop core foundational themes that represent their ideal future City Park. The results are summarized on the

Ideas Brainstorm

Participants were asked to brainstorm programs, activities, areas, or anything else they'd like to see in City Park. They were given different color post-it notes to categorize their ideas. The categories were Events & Gathering Spaces, Nature Activities & Green Space, Play & Action Sports, and Other. The most common ideas and themes from each category are summarized below. Full results are in the appendix.

Events & Gathering Spaces

Participants suggested adding more events and spaces to bring community together. Some ideas included outdoor movies, farmers market & food trucks, and art markets. They also suggested community class options like yoga, gardening, and acrobatics.

Nature Activities & Green Space

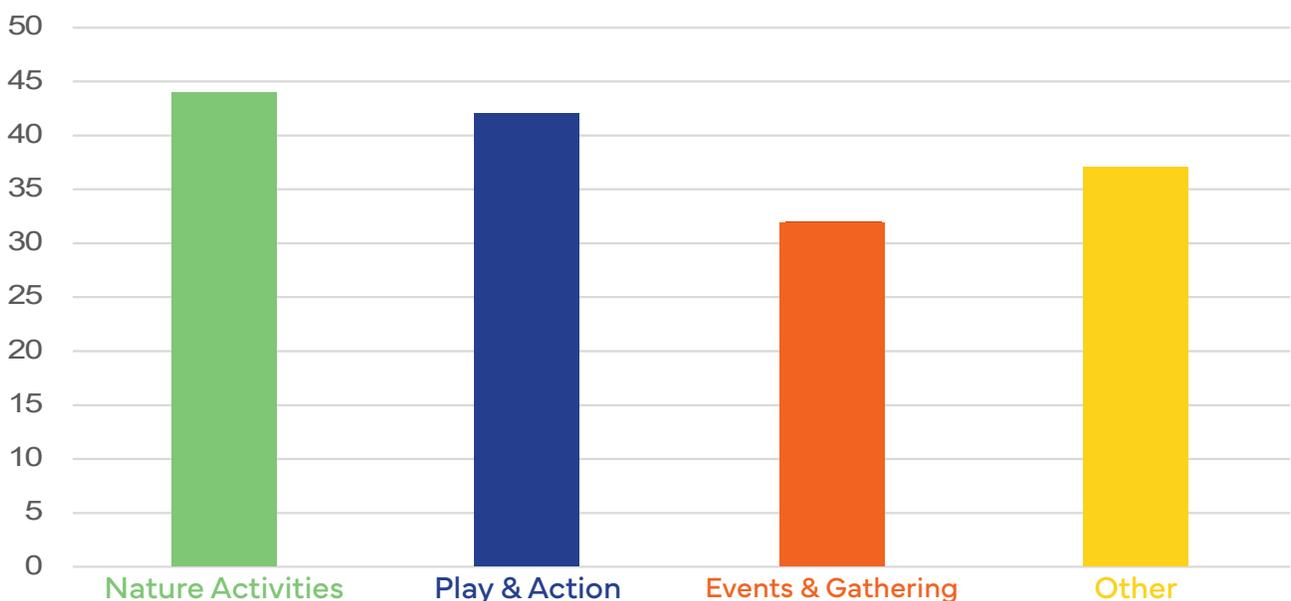
Participants focused a lot on nature exploration and wildlife observation opportunities like a butterfly garden and bird sanctuary. They also discussed adding trails, nature tours, and water-based life. Ideas included interactive signage to help identify animals or plants. There was strong interest in gardening spaces, community orchards, and classes for growing food. Participants discussed water and boating activities including kayak and canoe rentals coupled with maps for interesting routes.

Play & Action Sports

Participants reiterated multiple times for general upkeep of existing facilities, paths, and trails along with clear directional signage. There was significant interest in adding covered basketball courts, a skate Park, volleyball courts, splash pads, zip-lines, and a climbing wall. Participants also discussed adding more age-appropriate options for young adults and teenagers to existing programs like the amusement Park.

Other

Participants focused on transportation and signage while brainstorming "Other" ideas. Participants wanted clearer navigation signage and transportation options such as trolleys throughout the Park, bike sharing, and general public transportation. Participants also discussed developing more night time events and programming. Lastly, participants highlighted their desire to the Park, its events, and programming accessible and affordable to New Orleans residents.



The graph above shows the number of ideas generated by each category across all activity sheets.

Themes for City Park

After brainstorming their ideas for things to include in an ideal City Park, Youth Committee members were asked about themes. Participants wrote down the major themes that should be foundational to the park. Similar ideas are summarized below. The full list of themes are in the appendix and below.

The most commonly repeated theme focused on connecting people with restorative nature. Participants ideas included “can allow you to connect with nature,” “allows you to escape the busy city life,” and access to “wild, restoring spaces”. Another repeated theme focused on building community and culture for all of New Orleans. Ideas included “brings people together,” “a place to share cultural experiences,” and “a place to create memories with friends and family.”

Other themes included making the entire park accessible and affordable, promoting creativity, inspiration, and learning, and making the park engaging, fun, and memorable.

Visit City Park because it...

- Brings people together
- Community/Culture
- A place to create memories with friends & family
- Is a place to learn about the culture of NOLA
- A place to share cultural experiences
- Accessible
- Is easy and accessible
- Is endless affordable fun
- Promote active and healthy lifestyle
- A place to find inspiration (and be creative)
- Is educational
- Is free and publicly accessible, fostering stronger community and inclusivity
- Is our Future
- Is somewhere you can go to year round
- Allows you to try new experiences
- Allows you to try something new in a safe environment
- Is a place to relax and enjoy natural beauty
- Wild Restoring Spaces
- Can allow you to connect with nature
- Allows you to connect with nature as well as other people with common interests
- People in Nature
- Allows you to escape the busy city life
- Allows you to interact with nature in different ways
- Provide a peaceful escape into nature
- Easy to navigate
- Is engaging and entertaining
- Is a great way to make memories
- Recreational
- Teaches us how to live a life that promotes a more sustainable future
 - learning to grow our own food to reduce carbon emissions from burning packaging

After Action Review

After the activity was completed, each participant was asked to fill out an After Action Review. The summary of their responses are below.

What new things did you learn about City Park during this meeting?

Many participants learned about the size and variety of activities within City Park. They also highlighted learning about the waterways, specifically poor water circulation and drainage in the lagoon. Some participants reflected on the park's history, including its connection to Native lands and its historical development.

List 1-3 positive outcomes of the meeting.

Participants enjoyed meeting new people, connecting with others who share a passion for improving City Park. Participants like the idea generation and opportunity to share new and creative ideas for park improvements. Many participants felt heard and empowered to keep sharing ideas and give their input.

Do you have any additional concerns, questions, or comments?

Only a few participants responded to this question. Out of the ones that did, the most common request was to have the opportunity to see future design propositions and be able to weigh in on those designs.

Do you have any suggestions for improvements?

Participants are looking forward to more collaboration and encouraged switching up seating arrangements to be able to discuss with different people at the next meeting.

Next Steps

The next IYC Meeting will take place on November 20th at the Parkview Terrace room from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. This meeting will build on the themes and ideas developed at this meeting and integrate it with the core intentions developed by the previous large community meetings and the design team.

For more information and to RSVP go to masterplan@nocop.org.



Raw Results

Play & Action Sports

- “Maintain” biking trails, ramps, skate parks
- A place for remote control events like planes, drones, or cars
- Activity center
- Basket
- Basketball courts
- Basketball courts + soccer fields w/ perm. Goals
- Basketball courts with an awning to protect from the sun
- Beach volley ball area if not already exists
- Boulderling / rock climbing
- Climbing wall
- Fix swings or add more swings to Stanley ray playground
- Giant slides-- like the one at smith playground in Philly
- Host public sports events at park
- I think more amusement park rides at City Park’s amusement park would be good because i feel like tired of the rides after to younger children
- More accessible tennis/ pickleball courts
- More creativity based activities in the children’s museum
- More directions on running trails
- More rollercoasters at the theme parks and more interesting rides
- More shady areas around disc gold court
- Mountain bike trails
- Playgrounds more geared towards older kids - agility course
- Public gym
- Renovations of the softball quads.
- Rugby fields
- Sand pit volleyball
- Skate park
- Skate parks
- Skate park - would be more inclined to go to one @ City Park than diy skate park
- Skate park would attract all kinds of ppl (not just skaters)
- Skate parks
- Skating area
- Splash pad for young children
- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts
- Toddler friendly play structures
- Toddler read-a-longs in park
- Volleyball area

- Volleyball courts
- Water park (doesn’t have to be big)
- Water play/ splash-pad/sprinkler park
- Zip-line
- Zip-lines (like in Audubon park but on larger scale)

Events & Gathering

- “Camping” events for organizations
- “Paved” meeting spaces w/a “forest-y”feel to it
- Areas for festivals or public events
- Art markets
- Big screen to project movies in the park
- Cleaner water fountains + rest stations
- Couple spot/activities
- Farmers market
- Farmers market
- Food truck gathering
- Food trucks
- Free community classes (gardening, yoga, etc)
- Free days @ storyville & botanical gardens
- Fun yoga events
- Host events such as parties & gathering for teens to build community
- Indoor ice skating rink
- Location for students to study + artistic expression places i.e.. Recording studio
- Make celebration in the oaks bigger
- Moon festivals
- More event spaces for festivals and stuff
- More shelters dispersed around the park
- Movie events
- Observatory
- Outdoor acrobatic + aerial space/ equipment
- Outdoor movie space
- Outdoor movie theater
- Picnic places
- Plaza that could be cute and hallmarky for holidays
- Promotion for cultural expression
- Renovations to playground
- Stage for live music
- Teen gathering spots

Nature Activities & Green Space

- A base for looking in the waters through rivers
- ATV rentals or y-wheeler rentals to go around trails

- Better smoother walkways for biking
- Bike lanes on primary car roadways
- Bird sanctuary w/ bird feeders + built in binoculars for bird watching
- Blager butterfly garden
- Boulder lounge is too small -- would like access to indoor climbing thats x2 as tall
- Bug repellent spray
- Campground with bonfires - smores
- Children's nature walks
- Community gardens
- Connect bodies of water to create expansive canoe route
- Designated hike/run paths with signs and markers
- Division between wild life & preservation of the environment in City Park because their habitats are easy to access and as a result can be trampled in which destroys their habitat
- Extended route for Couterie forest
- Farm of the people
- Fishing and bait shop
- Frog/bird/bat watching
- Fruit orchards
- Gardening classes/community garden that grows food for the community
- Group gardening opportunities where people can learn about vegetables, fruits, and can experiment with what works and what doesn't
- In nature settings, more informational plaque to tell species in that area
- Interactive experiences w/ notable nature elements (qr code to access info?)
- Interactive gardening w/ public classes about ecology and how to take care of it
- Kayaking
- Larger play grounds for older age groups
- More nature trails with flowers
- More resting areas with shade because it can get very hot
- Nature education for youth
- Nature spaces w/name of native plants
- Nature tours
- Night hiking on trails - better lighting -- designated night trail w/ telescopes or stargazing (maybe on top of building or raised deck)
- Organic fruit stand
- Paddle boarding but clean water first
- Place to identify lake life
- Plants/nature area that incorporates teaching kids about nature + environment

- Smaller flower gardens (other than botanical)
- Stargazing
- Streams w/ stepping stones
- Swimming in clean water (management be hard with gators lol)
- Treehouses
- Use of a waterway map (create a "trail" and trail map" for canoes/kayaks)
- Wildlife trail
- Wilderness survival tours (how to build a tent etc)

Other

- "Secret forts" in wild areas (Wisner Tract area) use old buildings?
- A kiosk to increase the value of money
- Ball bin in the open parks
- Bike lanes
- Bike sharing (like bluebike stations) sometimes it is cumbersome to walk far
- Blue lights/security +emergency communication for people @ night
- Bug spray dispensers
- City Park website has a lot of stuff on it but it would be great if there were a comprehensive list/directions of whats in the park
- Extended trolley system
- Food
- Food trucks
- Free recreational areas
- Goat and puppy yoga
- Interactive nature experiences - trail maps, shops, sports parks, find inspiration, convenience, express/connect
- Keep park open later so people can come at night
- Less golf course
- Lots of self cleaning bathrooms
- Make sports stadiums more public
- More benches
- More public transportation
- More safety measures in place such as forest
- More signs in City Park to help with directions
- More signs for directions
- More things that don't cost money for Nola residents
- More transport to get to the park from other parts of the city
- Public grills
- Public pool
- Reading areas
- Reading nooks
- Roman candy
- Signage and wayfinding (don't know about

northside of park)

- Sports equipment rental (bells, rackets, etc) (picnic blankets as well)
- Swinging benches
- Transportation
- Transportation (like the trains) that can go all around the park so people can get to know the more unknown places of the park
- Water drinking fountains
- Water drinking fountains

City Park Themes

- A place to find inspiration (and be creative)
- A place to share cultural experiences
- A place to create memories with friends & family
- Provide a peaceful escape into nature
- Promote active and healthy lifestyle
- Is our future
- Is engaging and entertaining
- Is a place to relax and enjoy natural beauty
- Easy to navigate
- Is free and publicly accessible, fostering stronger community and inclusivity
- Is educational
- Is somewhere you can go to year round
- Allows you to try new experiences
- Brings people together
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- Is endless affordable fun
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- Can allow you to connect with nature
- Allows you to try something new in a safe environment
- Accessible
- People in nature
- Recreational
- Wild restoring spaces
- Community/culture
- Is easy and accessible
- Is a great way to make memories
- Teaches us how to live a life that promotes a more sustainable future - learning to grow our own food to reduce carbon emissions from burning packaging
- Is a place to learn about the culture of Nola
- Allows you to interact with nature in different ways

What's in your ideal park?

Visit our City Park!

... is Safe, Accessible, and Convenient!

Post-it Note Key

- Nature Activities & Green Spaces
- Play & Action Sports
- Events & Gathering
- Other

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River Climbing

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(AAR Results)

What new things did you learn about City Park during this meeting?

- City Park is a large assortment of things, there's so many activities to do and find interests in.
- I learned that City Park has different forests and wildlife. I learned that in this present meeting, people learn and grow from people. Although the people that know the park is coming to an end, the people were willing to make in it, live and wholesome.
- City Park has basketball courts! I learned just how much i was actually expected to have from the park and how much space (so much) it has to accommodate those wants.
- I learned that City Park is about to be improved, and that a new plan must be made with respect to the historical land it is currently on.
- I learned about the areas of City Park that are in need/could benefit from improvement (ex. Water systems)
- I learned that it's not as hard to help make change once you just jump at it.
- I learned just how bad the situation with the water circulation is.
- Common struggles such as affordability of transportation accessibility of facilities to find joy in City Park, and elevating the memories people can make by hosting new events (outdoor movie night) to help people try/have new experiences.
- I learned that there are many different aspects to City Park and different cultural background.
- I learned that there are so many parts of the park that I don't know.
- The water system doesn't have good drainage.
- I learned that City Park was made by slaves and took the original land from many native tribes.
- I learned that City Park is 1300 acres large. I also learned that City Park doesn't have a skate park.
- I learned that the City Park is huge and has the potential to be the most inclusive park.
- I learned about the busiest parts of the park are in the south rather than the north, the park has pavilions/stages for music, the park has a butterfly garden!
- How big it is. The lagoon water is not as healthy as it should be.

- To get ideas and learn what others are thinking about.

Please list 1-3 positive outcomes of this meeting.

- I met new people, i want to do some of the new things i found out about, and amazing cookies.
- Different ideas. Ways to make and innovate and last but not least make and connect with new friends along the way.
- Every group had similar themes we wanted to see throughout the park which i feel really allowed us to see what changes/additions have to be made. I feel like i'm leaving more informed about City Park than when i arrived.
- I heard a lot of new creative ideas concerning improvement. I was able to flush out a lot of thoughts myself. In addition, a lot of youth were able to contribute towards new plans for the park.
- Many common themes and ideas emphasis on transportation and safety.
- Flow of ideas. Areas that need/could benefit from improvement acknowledgment
- Met new interesting people. Making a difference in the future of the park. Getting a glimpse of what the future of the park may look.
- I had a good time. I hope some of the decision people heard our ideas.
- Learning about transit. Seeing how big City Park in which provides new opportunities for change. Realize something new i didn't know before.
- I got a look at what is possible in City Park. There are many ways that people can get involved in City Park.
- I got lots of ideas about what to add to City Park. I learned about the many native Americans tribes that have lived in this area.
- Got to know my table mates better. Heard considerations I hadn't thought of from the park. Got to share my own ideas for the park.
- I got to see the different ideas of how the future should look like. I also go to complete the goals in a timely manner.
- New ideas to implement for City Park. Getting the big idea of the IYC.
- Informative, I learned a lot. Positive and opening to new ideas. Welcoming.
- My interest in the park great and I learned more about it. I felt more empowered in terms of my ability to impact my community

positively. I exercised and improved my planning/urban planning (ideas, something i always wanted to do)

- Lots of positive thoughts. Environmental considerations (cleaner water). More of a passion in bettering the park.
- More creative ideas for City Park. Why we might need these and some ways to make it accessible.

Do you have any additional concerns, questions, and/or comments?

- In any of the upcoming events are we voting for any designs like new buildings?
- No, not really. How could this go wrong? What if we could make music out of nature.
- Will we see the design of different things in City Park? Will we see the final product?
- Will the upcoming meetings involve more concrete designs or systems we can vote on? Will we set to see the final plans in the end?
- None at the moment
- N/a
- None.
- No
- No.
- N/a very engaging. Loved the outcome and being able to be a part of this committee.
- N/a
- Not yet!

Do you have any suggestions for improvements?

- Renovation, a lot of the park is looking like it needs to be redone, a lot of the equipment is becoming faulty.
- More opportunities for the arts and music. Therapy.
- Nope!
- Perhaps more brainstorming time during the meeting, and collaboration between the different tables.
- Self cleaning bathrooms.
- Ball bins at the open park area.
- Yall need to do a better job of giving out your survey to young people across Nola.
- Cool water because its very hot outside.
- More events/community engagement like movie nights, nature walks, etc.
- If it doesn't happen naturally, look into how to mix up tables/seating
- Their should be more signage, and add zip-lines or other outdoor activities like rock climbing. Also a move space outdoor.

- N/a at this meeting
- Yes, security and accessibility
- No, I think the meeting was very well executed.
- This meeting was effective, keep offering ways to express ideas.
- I like all of them so no suggestions for improvement.

Additional thoughts

- The sticky note activity definitely made me think more about what i actually want out of the parks (very thought provoking activity).
- I though the meeting went well and am very excited to see the outcome of everyones collaboration.
- The flow of ideas today was stimulating and fun.
- Today's meeting was very impactful and fun. I loved getting others insight and being able to come up with innovative solutions for our envisioning of City Park.
- This meeting was very productive and eye opening to what all the City Park does.
- I generated a lot of ideas I never considered before, i also heard a lot of great input from everyone in the committee.
- I liked putting all our thoughts together.