

Erie Harbor Enhancements Phase 2

**Project Advisory Meeting #1
1.30.2018**

City Project I.D. #17307

NYS DOS Contract #C1000714

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



City of Rochester, NY
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor
Rochester City Council



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of State**



Stantec



HIGHLAND

PLANNING



**PRUDENT
ENGINEERING**

Project Advisory Committee

Department of Recreation and Youth Services

SE Neighborhood Service Center

SW Neighborhood Service Center

SW Neighborhood Service Center RPD

Hamilton Tenant Association

Conifer

South Wedge Farmers Market

Business Association South Wedge Area (BASWA)

South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC)

Meeting Content 1.30.2018

1. Orientation

2. Phase 1 (2011) Recap

3. Phase 2 Process / Timeline

4. Public Engagement

5. Environmental

6. Themes / Opportunities

7. Next Steps



Phase 2 Project Area

Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design



Revisit & revise 2011 Master Plan to include updated / new neighborhood & public input



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ADAPTED LANDSCAPE



Topography of park allows subtle grading of the landform to reflect prominent "pinnacle range" hills and slope landforms. Includes landscaped viewing area with bridge, river and downtown views.

FORD ST (BRIDGE)



Future public art location and small "south-end" plaza with specialty paving and seating elements. Acts as the "gateway" to University of Rochester & Genesee Valley Park portion of river trail.

PATHWAY CONNECTIONS



Modify or remove steps and piers to create lower river walk access points closer to pedestrian easement junctions and preserve existing tree "groves".



"Overlook" plaza and "river stone" theater seating in sloped lawn will have spectacular views to downtown. Includes accessible connection from view plaza to lower river walk pathway. Selected underperforming trees will be relocated or removed to open up views.



The waterfront park should incorporate play experiences for a wide range of user groups, including children and adults. A modern playground and interactive water feature would provide interest for families and individual users.



Park will provide room for flexible programming and events. Peaceful grass and stone sitting areas provide waterfront relaxation and downtown views, while the broad plaza axis toward river may provide space for programming such as the South Wedge Farmers Market, small concerts, or arts events.



PARK RE-USE / RECYCLE



A VIBRANT URBAN PARK AND REDEVELOPMENT





CONCEPT A
"THE SWITCH YARD AND ROUNDHOUSE"
ERIE HARBOR ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT



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Phase 1 Concept Alternatives (2011)
 Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design





CONCEPT B
"RIVER SYSTEMS AND GEOLOGY"
ERIE HARBOR ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT



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Phase 1 Concept Alternatives (2011)

Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design





CONCEPT C
"THE FISH/OXBOW AND ARBORETUM"
ERIE HARBOR ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT



Phase 1 Concept Alternatives (2011)
 Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design



Natural History



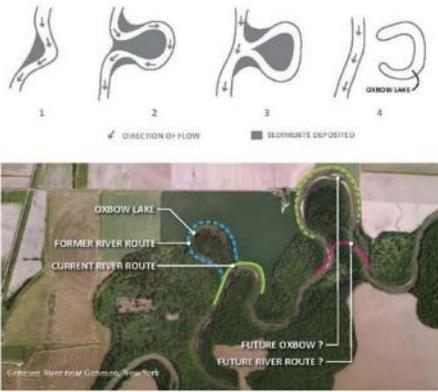
Cultural and Industrial History

Phase 1 provided a strong connection to the site history. These themes will be carried into phase 2.

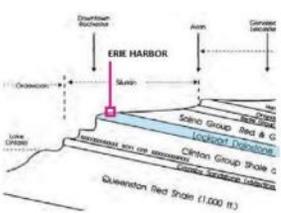
The Changing River

In urban portions of Rochester we know the **Genesee River** as a channeled and regulated water body. Modern flood control and hydropower dams now normalize its seasonal crests and maintain flow within the channel – minimizing the threat to our built environment. However, in its natural state the Genesee River was a much more varied and volatile force. Variations in discharge volume would fluctuate much more violently and the path of the river itself would shift and turn, both crafting new landscapes and erasing them over decades or even days.

To celebrate the reconnection of the South Wedge to the Genesee River and to show reverence towards the natural hydrological process of the river landscape – the proposed public space designs for the public access easements and overall park master plan will incorporate stylized geometries referencing the “would-be” riparian river edge and oxbow process.



Materials of Significance



THIS DIAGRAM AND PREPARATION FOR THE NEW PARK SPACE IS A PART OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER'S PLAN TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY TOURING.

Within Rochester the Genesee River washes over the geologic formation known as **Lockport Dolomite** – a magnesium-rich and erosion resistant sedimentary rock resembling limestone. It's this stone formation that makes up the upper “shelf” of Rochester's High Falls and the exposed outcroppings visible from the Main Street bridge downtown. Locally, it's a commonly used natural resource for large and small scale site engineering projects.

A significant rock formation of this Dolomite group was **once exposed within the Genesee River** just north of where the University of Rochester's Interfaith Chapel is now located, creating a large and often impassable section of rapids. The exposed stone became a common fording point for land travelers during low water – contributing to settlement around Brooks Avenue.

By 1822 the State erected a dam at the rapids and constructed the **Genesee Feeder Canal** – conveying river water to the Erie Canal – which ran through the project site until 1918, when Barge Canal construction had obliterated the rapids by dynamite.

During excavation for the 2010 Erie Harbor construction, a significant stockpile of **dolomite boulders were found buried in the location of the old Genesee Feeder Canal**. It is thought that these massive stones were used to line the canal. One could imagine that they may be the very exposed stones blasted out of the Genesee River just upstream and reused. These stones have been stored on site and will be reused once again as amenities recalling the natural process of the river and our local geologic conditions.

Fueling Rochester

The **Lehigh Valley Railroad** was the last to establish itself in Rochester, reaching western New York in 1892. As with many railroad conglomerates of the day, the LVR owned coal related enterprises, pulling the **highest quality coal (anthracite)** out of Pennsylvania. With lines routing through spectacular scenery, the LVR soon added passenger service and hauled other goods and cargo to Rochester – and beyond.

The company continued to make land acquisitions along the Genesee River until approximately 1918 when the State demolished many Victorian-era houses fronting Mt. Hope Avenue – making way for an extensive **LVR rail yard, round house, and coal storage infrastructure**, including related rail-cargo reliant businesses fronting Mt. Hope. The Lehigh Valley Railroad had cornered the market for anthracite in Rochester – effectively controlling the most valuable energy source for businesses, homes and institutions.

Lehigh Valley Gas-Electric cars #16 and #19 made **twelve round-trips daily** from Rochester to the LVR main line at Rochester Junction, near Honeoye Falls. These LVR workhorses hauled cargo and passenger cars into Rochester until September of 1950, including riders of the famed **Black Diamond Express** passenger train.



Anthracite Coal



Genesee Feeder Canal



Coal Storage Trestle



Growing Rochester

Founded in 1840, the **Ellwanger and Barry nursery** (**Mount Hope Nursery**) once held more than **650 acres** of land along Mt. Hope Avenue for the commercial propagation and cultivation of their vast selection of horticultural products.

At its peak, the nursery was the **largest commercial nursery in the world**, shipping fabulous plant selections across the globe for public parks and private gardens alike.

Both George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry were **advocates of the public park system**, with former nursery land forming the core of the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Highland Park.

The nursery closed in 1918, somewhat simultaneous to the Lehigh Valley Railroad yard expansions on the banks of the Genesee River in the project site. Much of the nursery land

was converted to housing – forming the land basis for many of the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

The influence of Ellwanger and Barry on the park system, local horticultural traditions, and the development of nearby neighborhoods is worth celebrating with distinctive planting designs – striking rows of plant species, suggestive of the commercial horticultural process.



ERIE HARBOR PUBLIC ENHANCEMENTS

Design Proposal Origination / Background

SHEET 2 OF 7

South End Neighborhood Link **A**

The southernmost pedestrian link provides secondary access to the Genesee Gateway Park and River Walk near the intersection of Mt. Hope Avenue and Hickory Street. Views from Hickory Street to the Ford Street bridge are preserved.



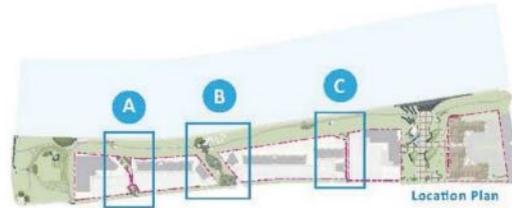
Central Neighborhood Link **B**

The central pedestrian link provides broad visual and physical access to the Genesee Gateway Park and River Walk from the South Wedge neighborhood. This wide park-like access serves as the primary public thoroughfare across the Erie Harbor development site and terminates the visual axis down Averill Avenue with safe, inviting and artistically designed gathering spaces.



North End Neighborhood Link **C**

The northern pedestrian link provides secondary access to the Genesee Gateway Park and River Walk at the intersection of Mt. Hope Avenue and Hamilton Street.



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Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC



CITY OF ROCHESTER
Department of Environmental Services
Architecture and Engineering
Project: 1.0 # 920

ERIE HARBOR PUBLIC ENHANCEMENTS
Neighborhood Pedestrian Links - Detailed Plans

SHEET **4** OF **7**

Phase 1 included design and construction of walkways leading to the river front - from Mount Hope Avenue. Phase 2 will enhance the remaining park areas.

Phase 1 Easements (2011)
Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design



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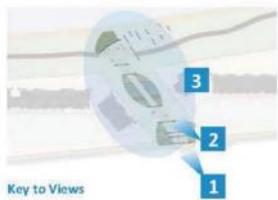




Central Link - Entry Plaza 1

View of central pedestrian link from the intersection of Mt. Hope Avenue and Averill Avenue, looking west towards the Genesee River and River Walk. The link provides broad visual and physical public access to the waterfront.

Phase 1 included design and construction of walkways leading to the river front - from Mount Hope Avenue. Phase 2 will enhance the remaining park areas.



Key to Views

Central Link - Aerial View

Overall aerial view of central pedestrian link from Mt. Hope Avenue to Genesee Gateway Park and proposed Overlook Plaza.



2



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Central Link Detail View

View looking west towards River Walk and proposed overlook plaza showing proposed planting and seating treatments.

3



ERIE HARBOR PUBLIC ENHANCEMENTS
Design Imagery - One

SHEET 5 OF 7



Overlook Plaza

View from the central pedestrian link Overlook Plaza toward downtown Rochester. The Overlook Plaza serves as the terminus of the Averill Avenue view corridor at the Genesee River and the intersection between the neighborhood pedestrian link and the existing River Walk trail. The plaza also connects the upper multi-use path with the promenade along the river's edge by an accessible ramp. It provides seating and orients viewers towards the spectacular city skyline.

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Balcony View

Evening view towards downtown Rochester from a second-story balcony on Erie Harbor building #3. Fabulous city skyline, river and park views are framed from private terraces, which also provide safety to park users by keeping "eyes" on the park lands below.



River Stone Theater

View south from the existing Genesee River Walk promenade up the accessible ramp towards the Overlook Plaza. Referencing the adjacent bedrock and river geology, the River Stone Theater is oriented towards stunning downtown views and steps down from the Overlook Plaza to the riverfront. The space provides seating and impromptu play experiences.



Key to Views

Phase 2 Process (Project Phase)

Preliminary Investigations

Public Engagement / Survey 1
PAC Meeting 1

Schematic Design Phase

3 Alternatives
Public Engagement / Survey 2
Project Video
PAC Meeting 2
Public Meeting #1

Preliminary Plans

Public Engagement
PAC Meeting 3
Public Meeting #2

Final Design

PAC Meeting 4

Phase 2 - Project Process & Timeline

Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design

Timeline

Preliminary Investigations

Oct 2017 to Jan 2018
1-30-2018

Schematic Design Phase

February - April 2018
March - April 2018
March 2018
Mid/Late March 2018
Mid-April 2018

Preliminary Plans

Survey end 2-weeks post mtg.
June 2018
July 2018

Final Design

September 2018

Bid - Fall 2018 / Construction 2019



Public Engagement

Phase 1 Master Plan (2011)
151 Mt. Hope Ave Forum (3/2017)

South Wedge Farmers Market Booth (Oct 2017)
Riverfront Weekend Intercept (Oct 2017)
Metroquest Survey 1 (Dec 2017 - Feb 2018)
Metroquest Survey 2 (March-April 2018)
2 Public Meetings (April & July 2018)
PAC Meetings (each project phase)





City of Rochester, NY
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor
Rochester City Council

COMMUNITY FORUM: 151 MT. HOPE AVE

3.29.17



Public Engagement

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2011 Plan Feedback

Basketball courts and playground

Mix of recreational uses

Elements that create activity/vibrancy
(both commercial and recreational)

Better access to the River

Improved amenities (lighting,
restrooms)

Gathering space (such as gazebo,
bandstand)

No parking lots...



Community Forum – Overview

Held in March 2017

80+ attendees

Station format – 3 stations

Station #1: Site relating to Mt. Hope Avenue Corridor

Station #2: Site relating to the Genesee River waterfront

Station #3: Site relating to the Genesee Gateway Park



SWFM October 2017

Booth exhibits

Re-visit 2011 Master Plan



Riverfront Weekend Public Intercept

- Oct 21 (Saturday, 1-4 PM)
- 1 hour at each location
- Sunny, 74 F
- Majority comments from users near Hamilton Tower, leisure walkers
- Limited participation from runners, bikers, younger (<~30)

Basketball hoops

Playground updates

Bridge to Corn Hill

Drinking fountains (for courts)

“Something colorful to draw people in, something bright”

“the neighborhood is very artistic”

Need some chairs or places to sit

Grills

Flowers and scenery lilac festival

Cards, checkers

Small hoops for kids

Market needs storage



ErieHarbor.metroquest.com

The City of Rochester is seeking input on what new improvements the community would like to see in this waterfront park.

Use the URL above or scan this QR code to take the survey!



Works on your phone.



Look for community meeting announcements in 2018!

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Metroquest Online Survey (#1)

Erieharbor.metroquest.com

INTRODUCTION

Erie Harbor Phase II Survey

We want YOUR input on Erie Harbor

The Erie Harbor Phase II project will build on the City's past upgrades to the waterfront park land in the South Wedge. In this survey, we want to hear from you.

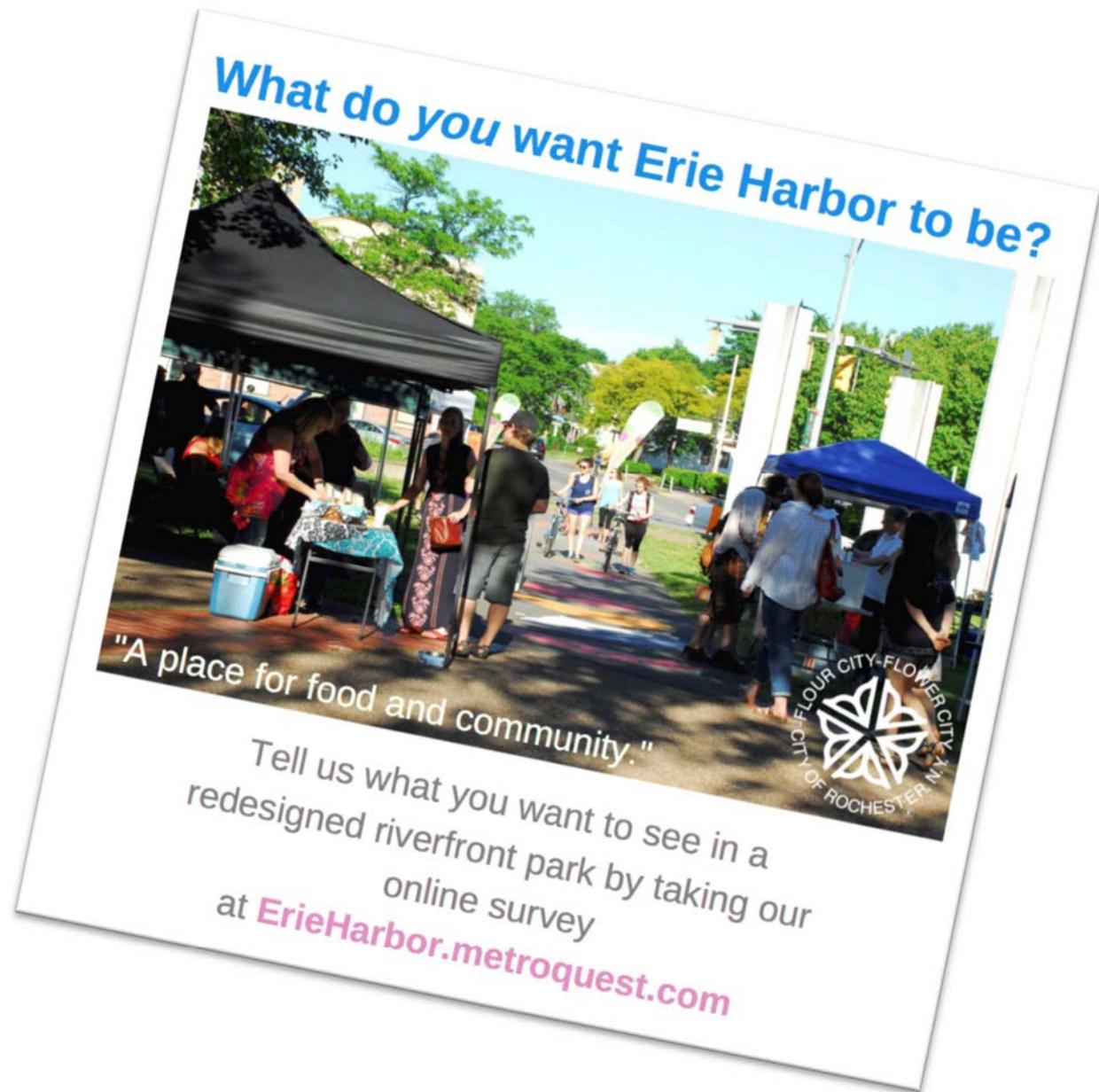
[View Map of Project](#) [Begin](#)

Phase II will build on the river access connections constructed in Phase I in 2012. The Phase II improvements will enhance remaining park areas, with a focus on the north and south sites, from Ford Street Bridge to approximately Alexander Street.

2011 MASTER PLAN
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
VALUES + PREFERENCES
ABOUT YOU

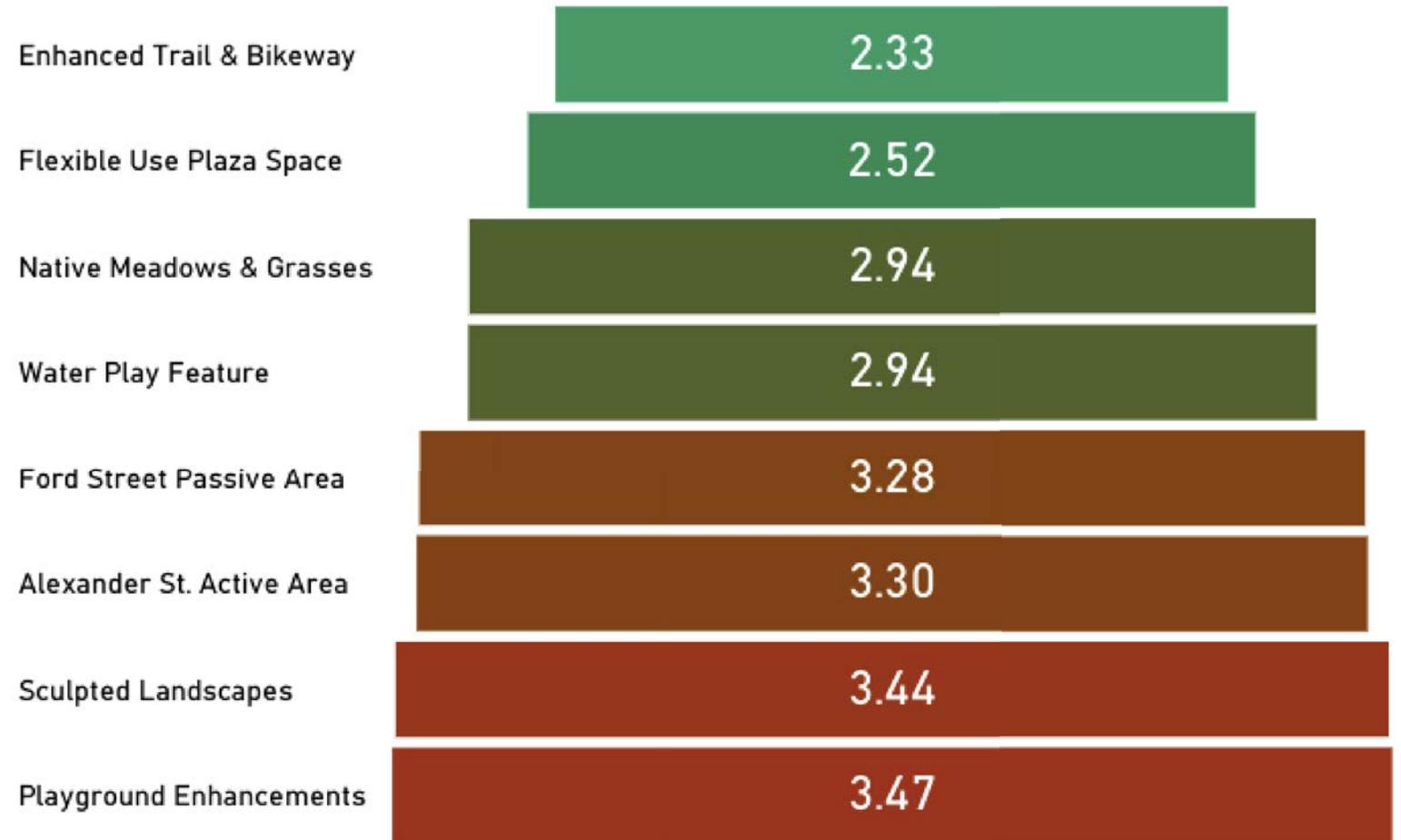
Metroquest Online Survey (#1)

- MetroQuest survey went live on November 7th, 2017
- As of January 31, 2018 there have been +140 124 participants
- Promoted through City's Facebook page and advertisement in The Wedge newspaper as well as emails to key stakeholders
- Participation numbers have grown significantly with involvement of PAC members



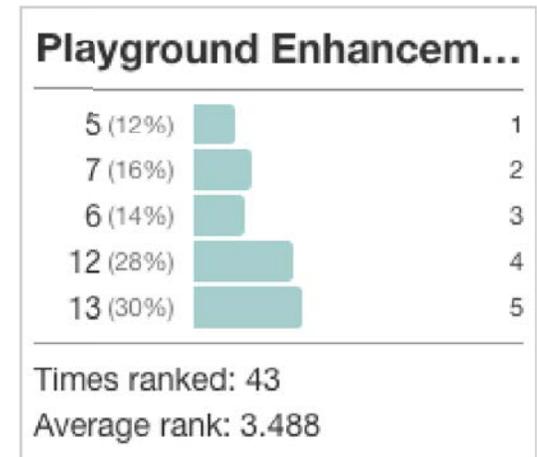
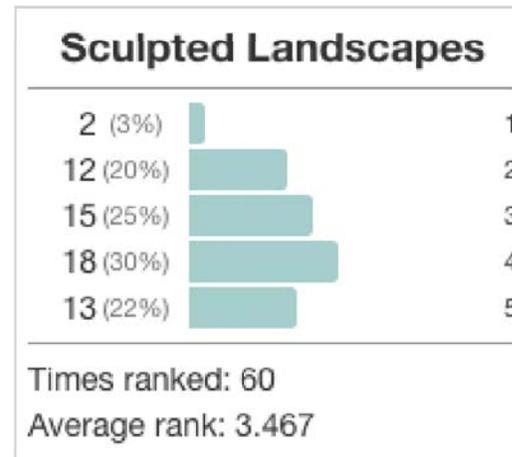
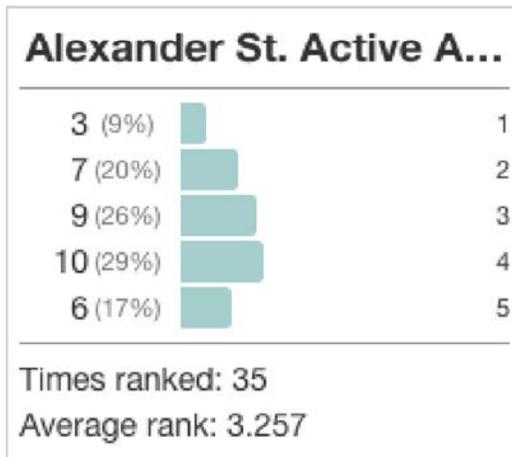
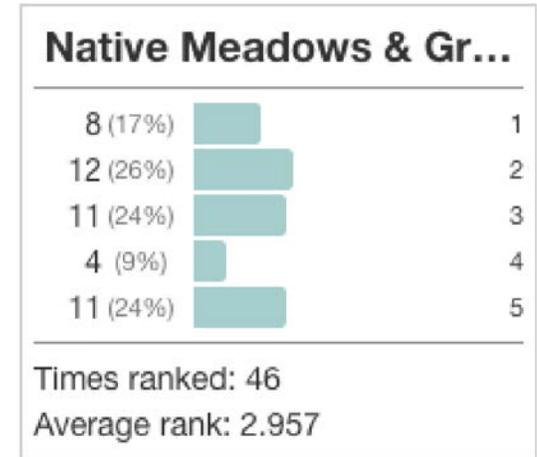
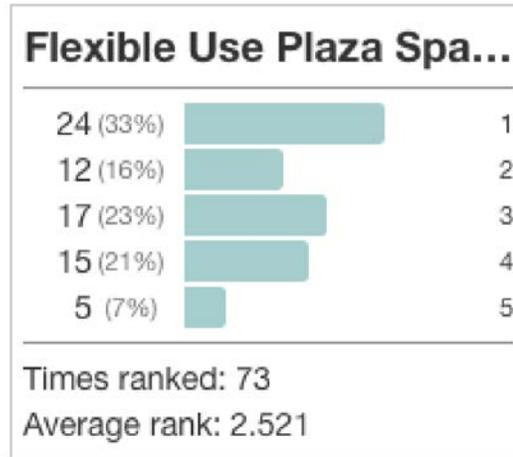
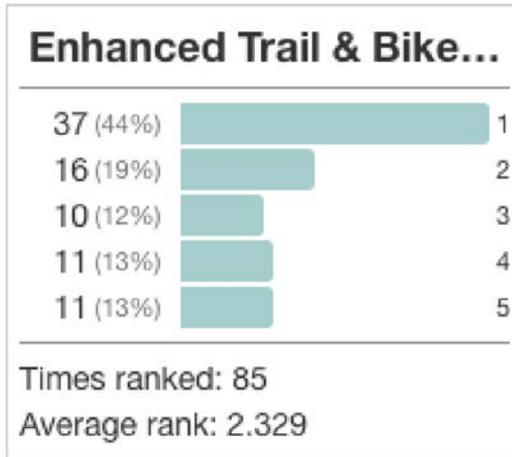
Metroquest Survey (#1)

2011 Master Plan
Priorities?



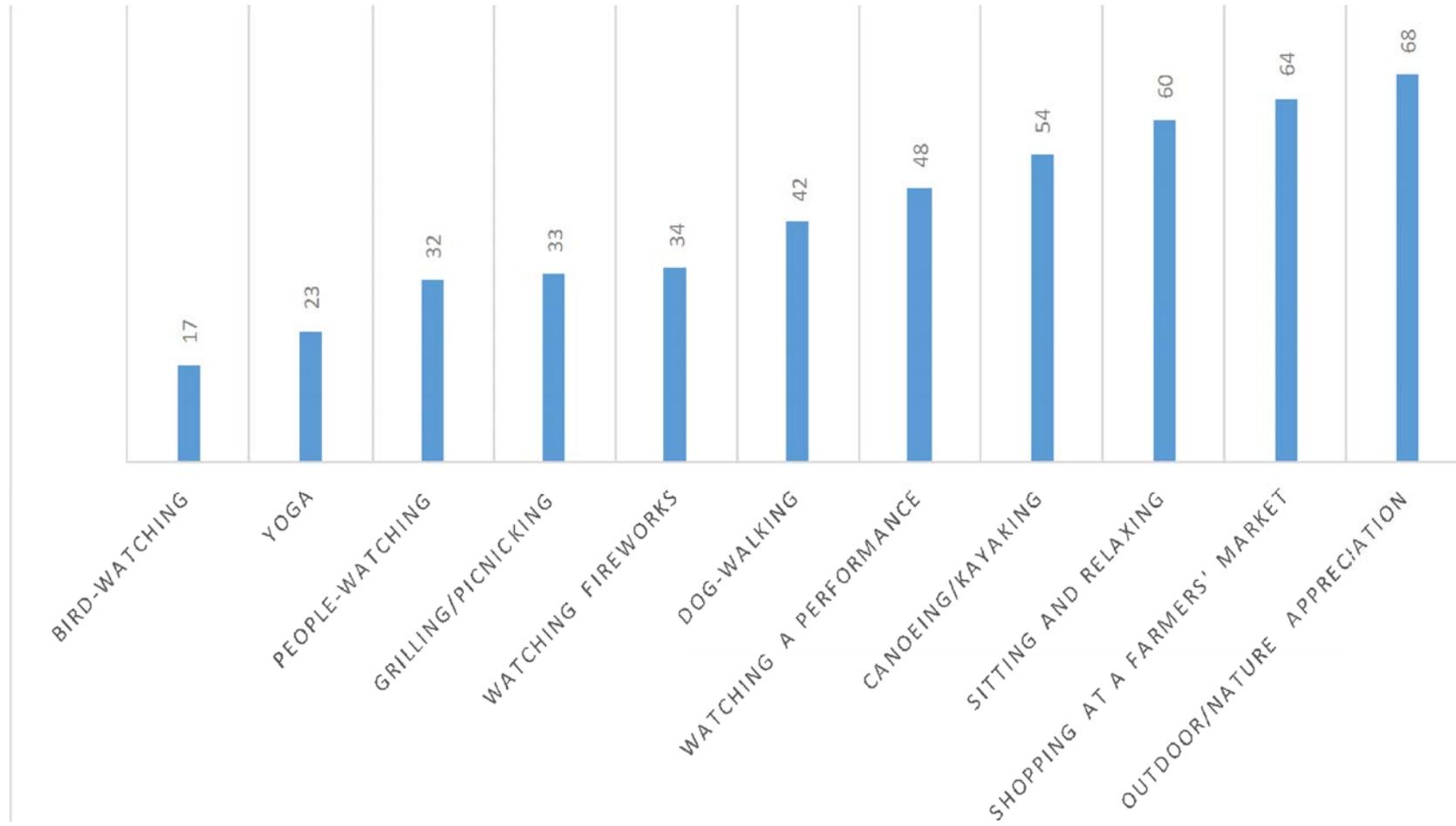
Metroquest Survey (#1)

Master Plan Review Screen



Metroquest Survey (#1)

Phase 2 Priorities



Metroquest Survey (#1)

Values and Preferences Screen

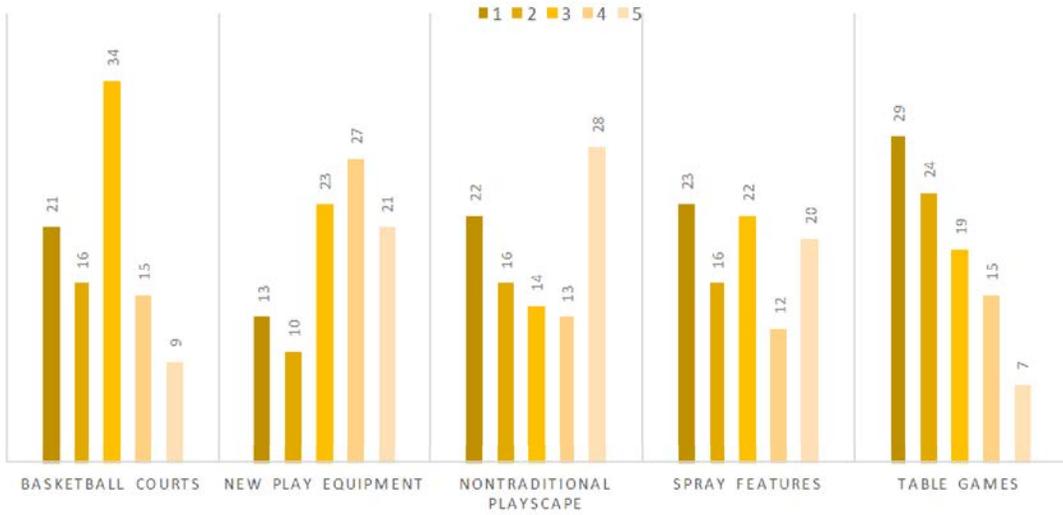


Metroquest Survey (#1)

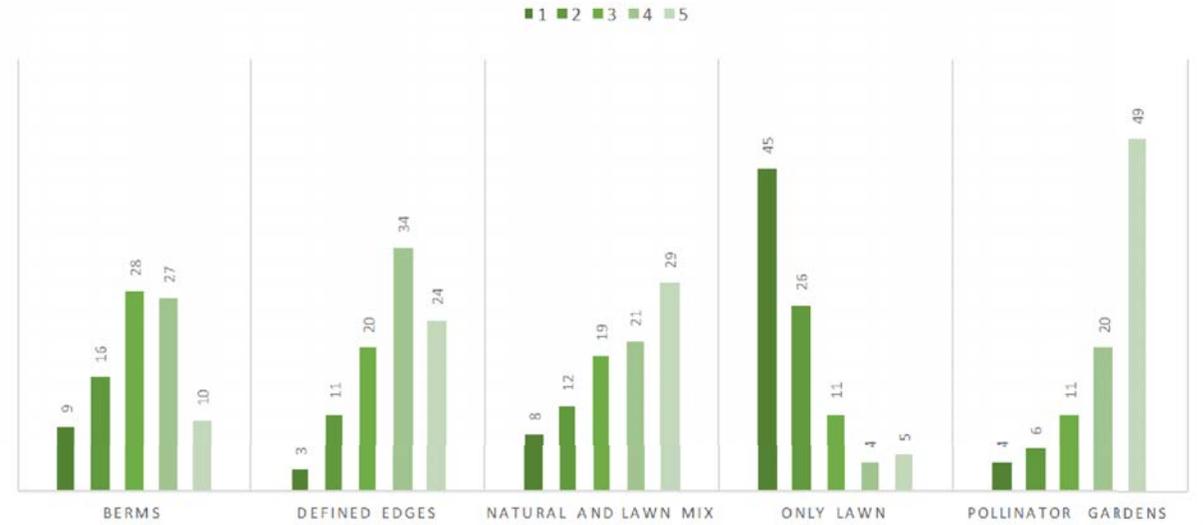
Values and Preferences Screen



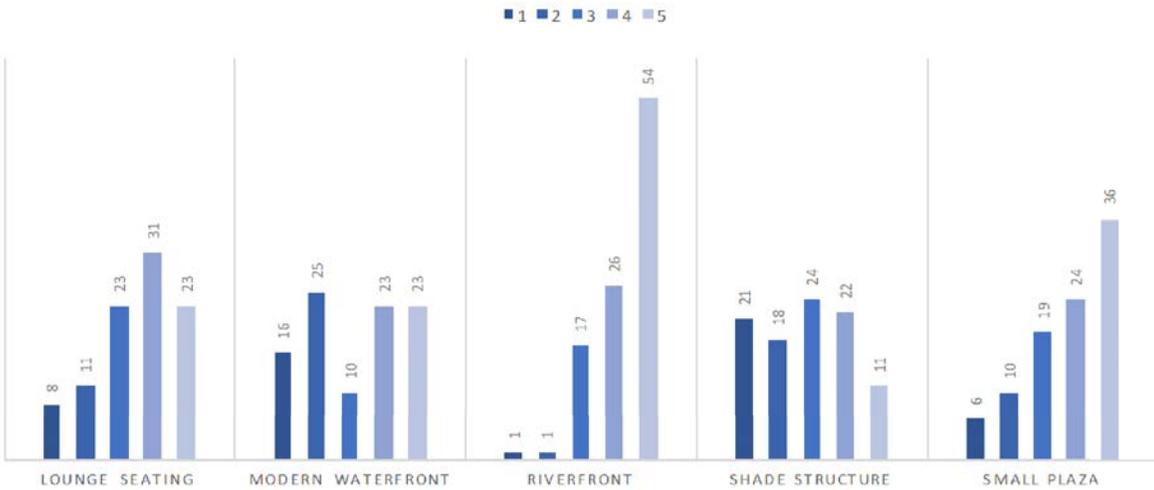
ACTIVE RECREATION



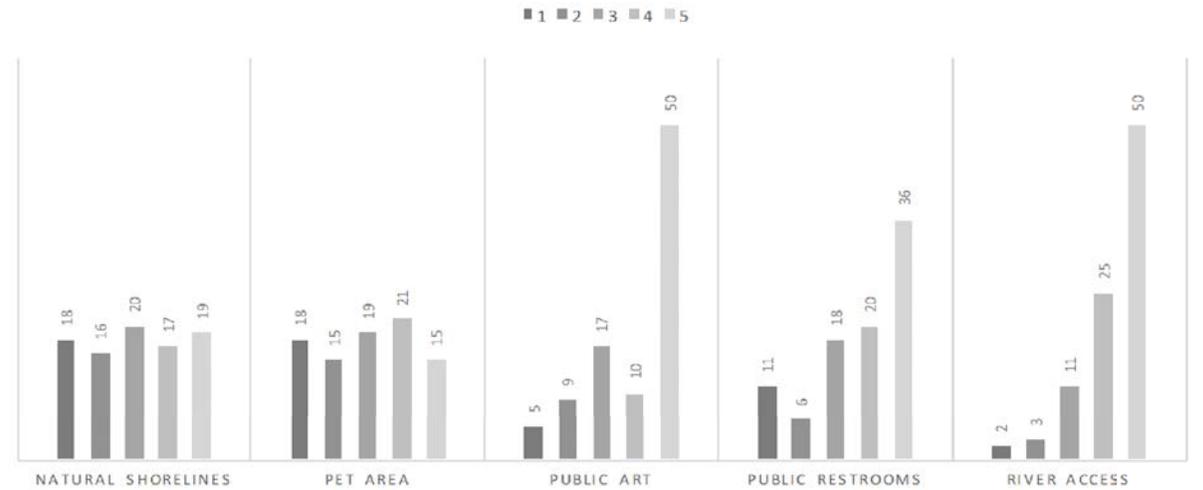
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



PASSIVE RECREATION



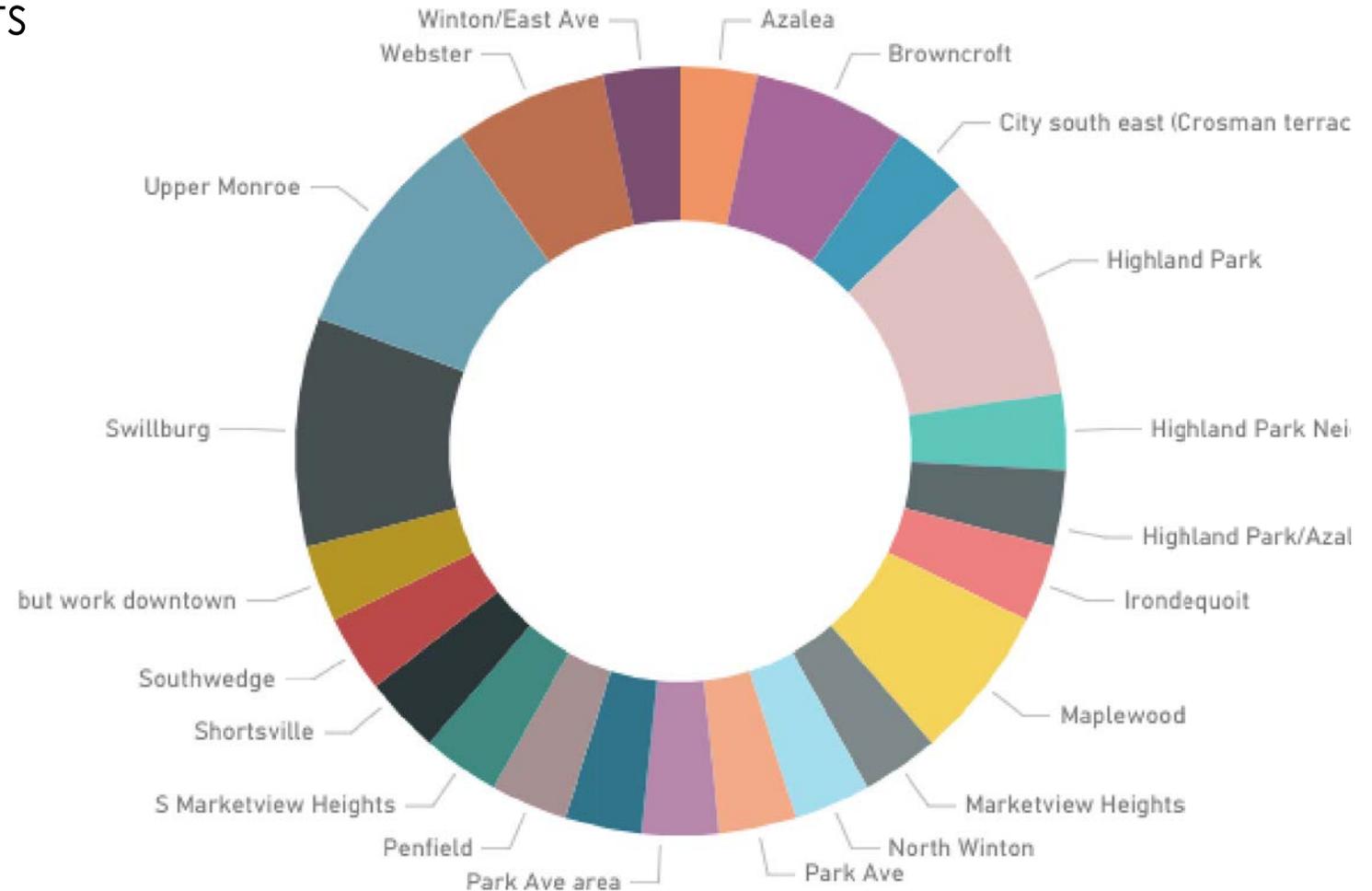
FUTURE PHASES

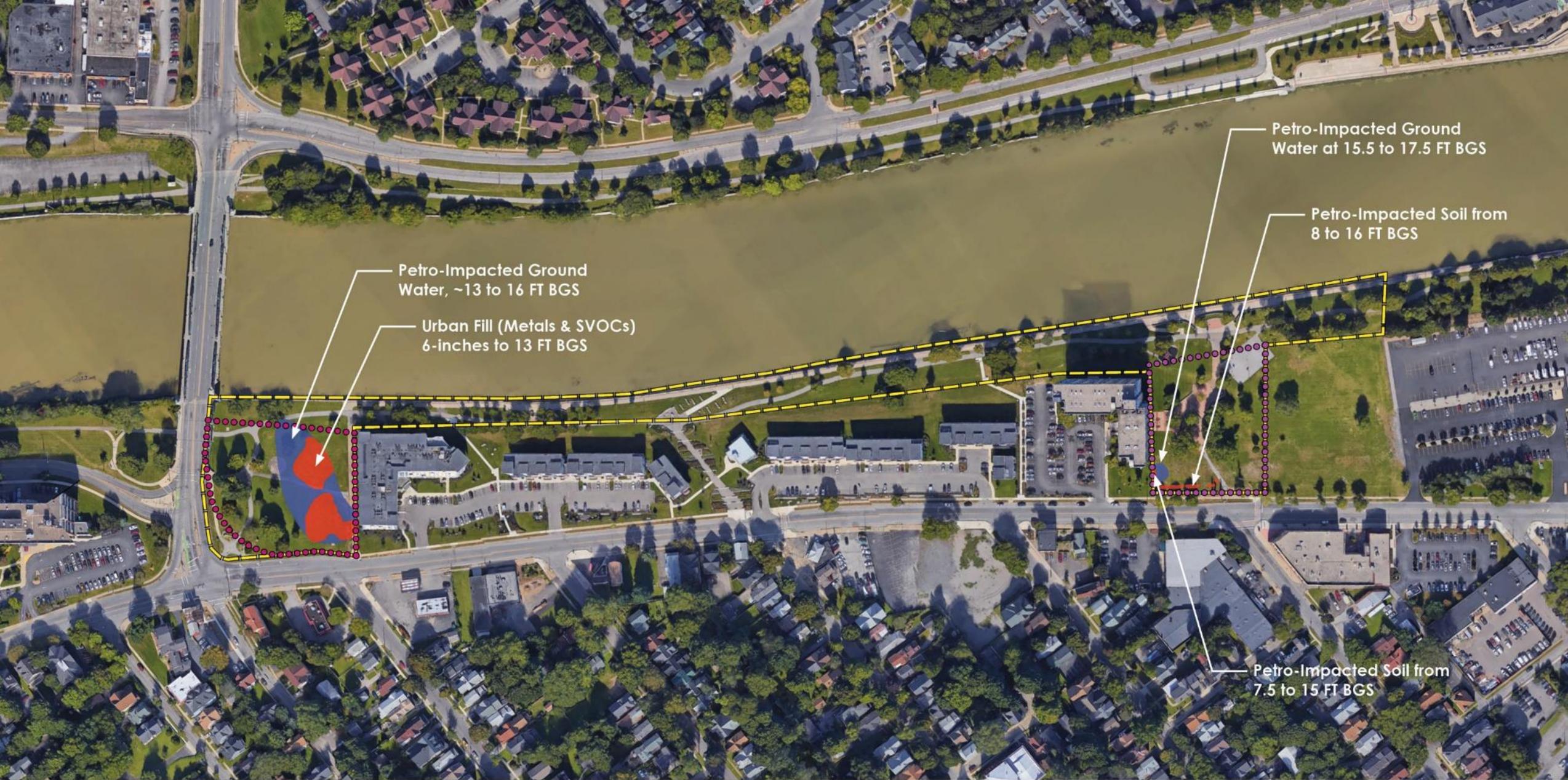


Metroquest Survey (#1)

Information About Participants

- Largest proportion from South Wedge
- Most age groups well represented, with exception of 25 and under cohort
- Bicycling and walking are the most popular current activities





Prior Soil Remediation Areas in Project Boundary
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Enhanced Visual Access?





Rehab Entry as obvious “public park”?

Themes / Opportunities

Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design





Rehab playground / include elements of “play” for all-ages?

Themes / Opportunities

Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design





Embrace basketball - a signature experience?



Frame and direct special views?

Reclaimed Historic Materials?





Plan for the future river condition?



Enhance bike + ped safety?





Phase 2 Project Area

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Next Steps

Preliminary Investigations

Close MQ1 Survey, Analyze Data

Schematic Design Phase

Concept Design - 3 Alternatives

Prepare Metroquest Survey 2 (Concept Alts)

Prepare Project Video (Awareness, Mtg Date)

Schedule PAC Meeting 2 (mid/late March)

Schedule Public Meeting #1 (mid April)

Construction Budget

Consolidated Funding Application, awarded \$1.7M

Next Steps

Erie Harbor Enhancements | Phase 2 Design



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