



Monrovia City Council
Recreation Park Renovation Outreach Overview

June 20, 2023

Presentation Overview

- Review City Council Directive from February 7, 2023
- Provide some history and background related to Recreation Park
- Provide an overview of the outreach efforts
- Share some general themes learned during the community engagement
- Share the new information learned through the community outreach

Presented finding to the Community Services Commission on June 13

Objective

- Gather community input related to potential renovations at Recreation Park
- Seek feedback from the community related to project priorities should the project construction need to be phased
- Develop more refined scope of work for project renovations

Having a plan in place will put the City in a good position to be competitive when grant funding opportunities are available

Background

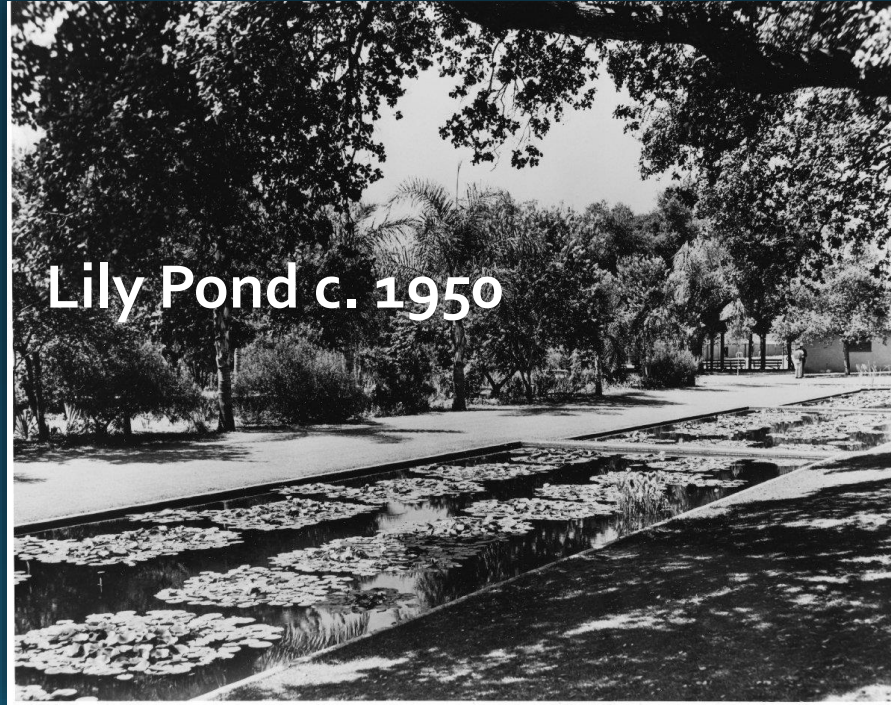
- Largest of the City's eight urban parks
- Approximately 20 acres
- Offers several active and passive recreational activities / amenities
- Home to several community partners each offering various programs and services to the community
 - Boys and Girls Club of the Foothills (BGC)
 - Options of Learning (Options)
 - Mary Wilcox Youth Center (MWYC)
 - Monrovia Historical Museum
 - Monrovia Youth Baseball
 - Santa Anita Family YMCA (SAFYMCA)

History of Recreation Park

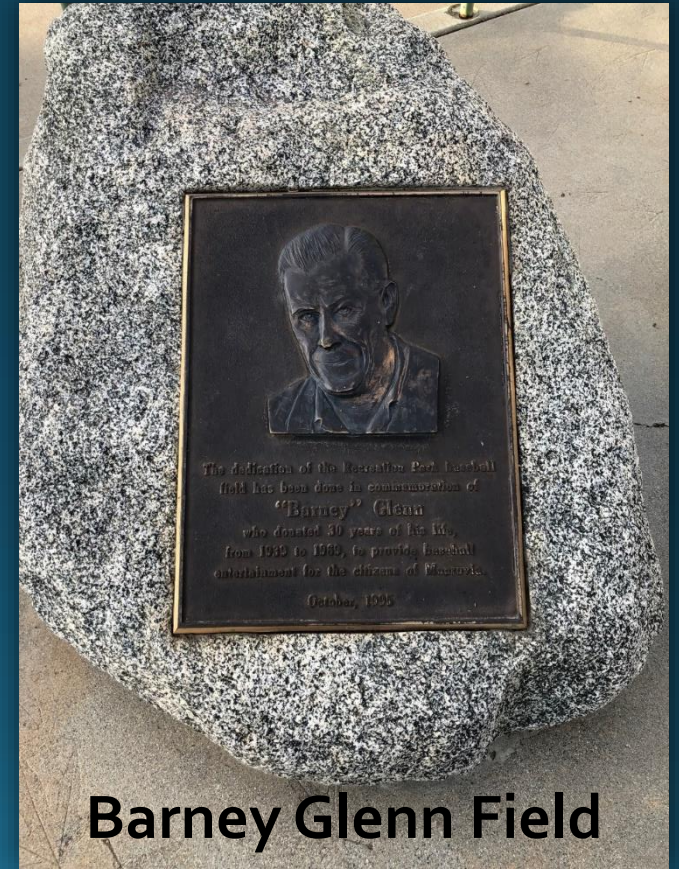
The Plunge c. 1955



Lily Pond c. 1950



Barney Glenn Field

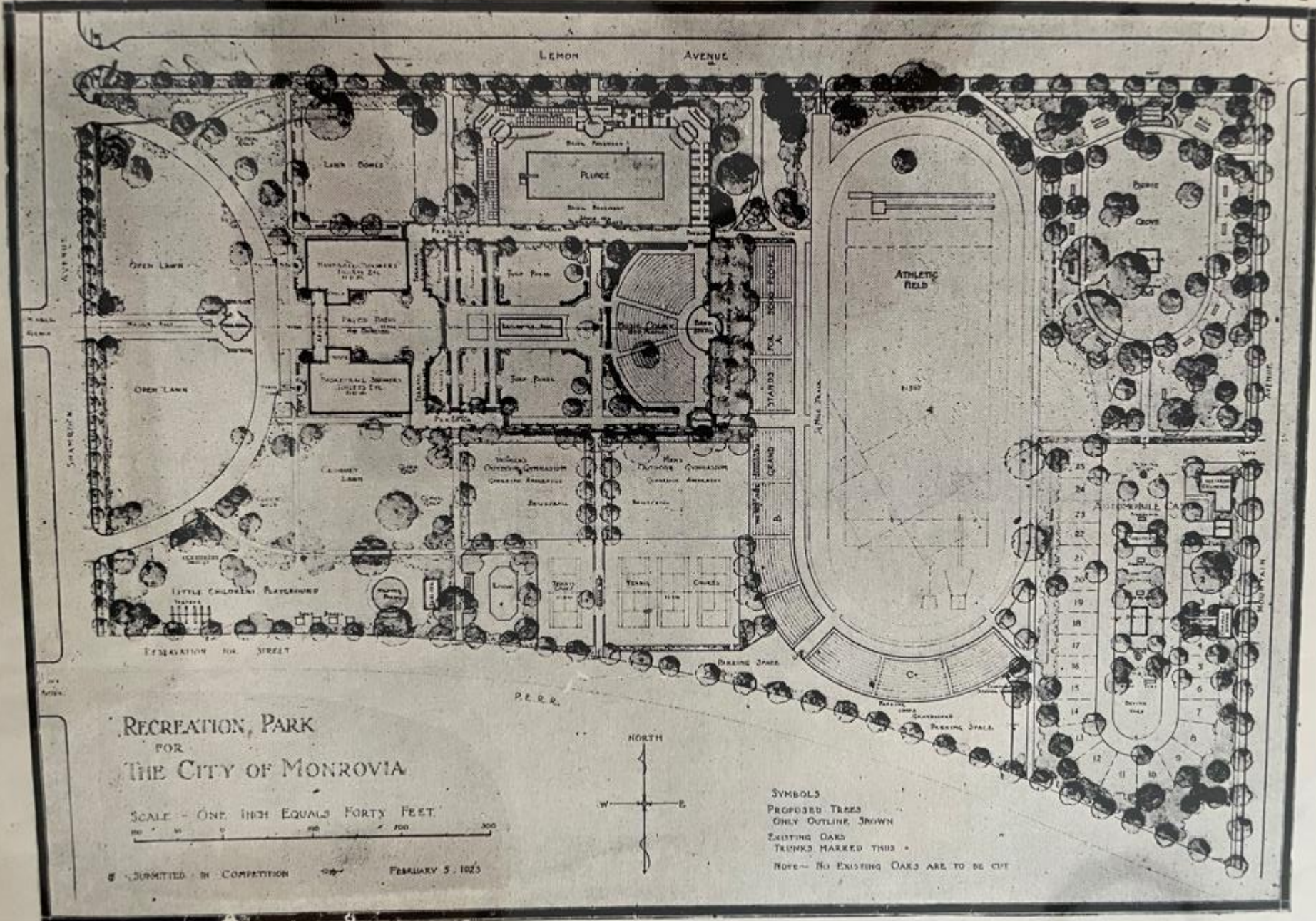


History of Recreation Park

- 1919 – American Legion was built
- 1921 – Bond approved to build pool and park which was design by Cook and Hall in 1923
- 1924 – Recreation Park opened
- 1925 – Pool constructed and built by Francisco Gutierrez
- 1939 – Barney Glenn took over as the manager for the Semi-Pro Baseball Team – *Monrovia Merchant's Baseball Association*
 - Maintained the fields for 30 years at his own expense
 - Worked with the City to have dirt delivered on occasion and he would spread the dirt
 - Watered and prepped the fields every week before the Semi-Pro league games
 - Supported youth looking to play professional baseball
 - *1930's – Residents play against Jackie Robinson*

History of Recreation Park

- 1950– National Armory was constructed (MWYC)
- 1969 – Two new Tennis Courts were added and courts were resurfaced
- 1983 – YMCA was constructed
- 1992 – Plunge was renovated and repurposed into the Monrovia Historical Museum
- 1992 – Restrooms were renovated
- 1993 – American Legion was renovated and repurposed into the Boys and Girls Club of the foothills
- 1993 – Playground was renovated and Tennis courts were resurfaced
- 1996 – Baseball Field named after Barney Glenn
- 1996 – Multi-Purpose Courts and Sand Volleyball Courts were installed; new Picnic Shelter built
- 2004 – Armory was renovated and repurposed into a Teen Center (MWYC)
- 2004 – Skate Park was designed and constructed



RECREATION PARK
FOR
THE CITY OF MONROVIA

SCALE - ONE INCH EQUALS FORTY FEET

SUBMITTED IN COMPETITION FEBRUARY 5, 1923

SYMBOLS
PROPOSED TREES
ONLY OUTLINE SHOWN
EXISTING OAKS
TRUNKS MARKED THIS •
NOTE - NO EXISTING OAKS ARE TO BE CUT

Plan for Monrovia City Recreation Park presented by Cook & Hall, which won competition. It is for the development of this project that Monrovia will be called upon to vote \$80,000 in the coming municipal bond election next Thursday, October 23



Community Outreach

- Conducted **13 separate meetings** with the community and various stakeholders as well as two open meetings at Recreation Park
- Meetings were promoted:
 - City Manager Newsletter
 - Flyers in City Facilities
 - Direct email to key stakeholders
 - A-frames in Recreation Park
 - Flyers delivered to homes in immediate area
- Solicited feedback via email and phone calls for those unable to attend the meetings



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
COMMUNITY MEETING TO DISCUSS
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS AT
RECREATION PARK**



The City of Monrovia is proposing park improvements at Recreation Park and we want to hear from you! Please join us at one of these public meetings to learn more about the proposed scope of work and provide your input on the project.

For more information, please contact the Monrovia Community Services Department at (626) 303-6609 or hgibson@ci.monrovia.ca.us

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 - 6:30 P.M.
AND
SUNDAY, APRIL 16 - 4:00 P.M.
MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT RECREATION PARK,
MARY WILCOX YOUTH CENTER
843 E. OLIVE AVE. MONROVIA, CA 91016



Community Outreach

- Key stakeholders meetings with the following:
 - Monrovia Historical Society
 - Monrovia Youth Commission
 - MYBL
 - Monrovia Parks, Wilderness and Recreation Foundation
 - Monrovia Historical Museum
 - Santa Anita Family YMCA
 - Boys and Girls Club of the Foothills
 - Community Services Staff
 - City of Monrovia Leadership Team
- Received feedback from 175 community members





Community Outreach

- Process for the Community Meetings:
 - Shared our purpose of the meeting; encouraging a lot of feedback
 - Outputs = Quantitative Data
 - Outcomes = Testimonials, Resident Statements, etc.
 - Provided an overview of the current park amenities
 - Provided some images as inspiration to help illustrate our ideas; reminding that nothing has been finalized
 - At the conclusion of the presentation, opened to questions
 - Provided each attendee with 7 votes or dots for the project components they believe to be a priority – Stressed this was not a “this or that” exercise but merely trying to provide Council with some feedback on the things we may want to do first if limited on funding
 - Votes were placed on the selected amenities
 - Votes could be used on 7 different amenities or all on one amenity

Community Outreach

- Process for the Community Meetings (Continued):
 - Participants were also encouraged to write on the Site Map to illustrate ideas for consideration
 - Each meeting had its own unique set of presentation boards that have been kept for further study or review if needed



General Themes

- Monrovia's love our parks and are supportive of making improvements at Recreation Park
- All stakeholders viewed the improvements from a broad perspective and not just what was important to their organization
- Community responded positively to refreshing the existing amenities as oppose to a complete renovation
- Open space is valued and should be protected
- Keep space that is flexible – use for a variety of events and sports
- Important to protect all the established trees in the park – Need more shade
- Appreciated the considerations related to parking
- Appreciated the considerations related to reducing illicit activity and encampments at the Park

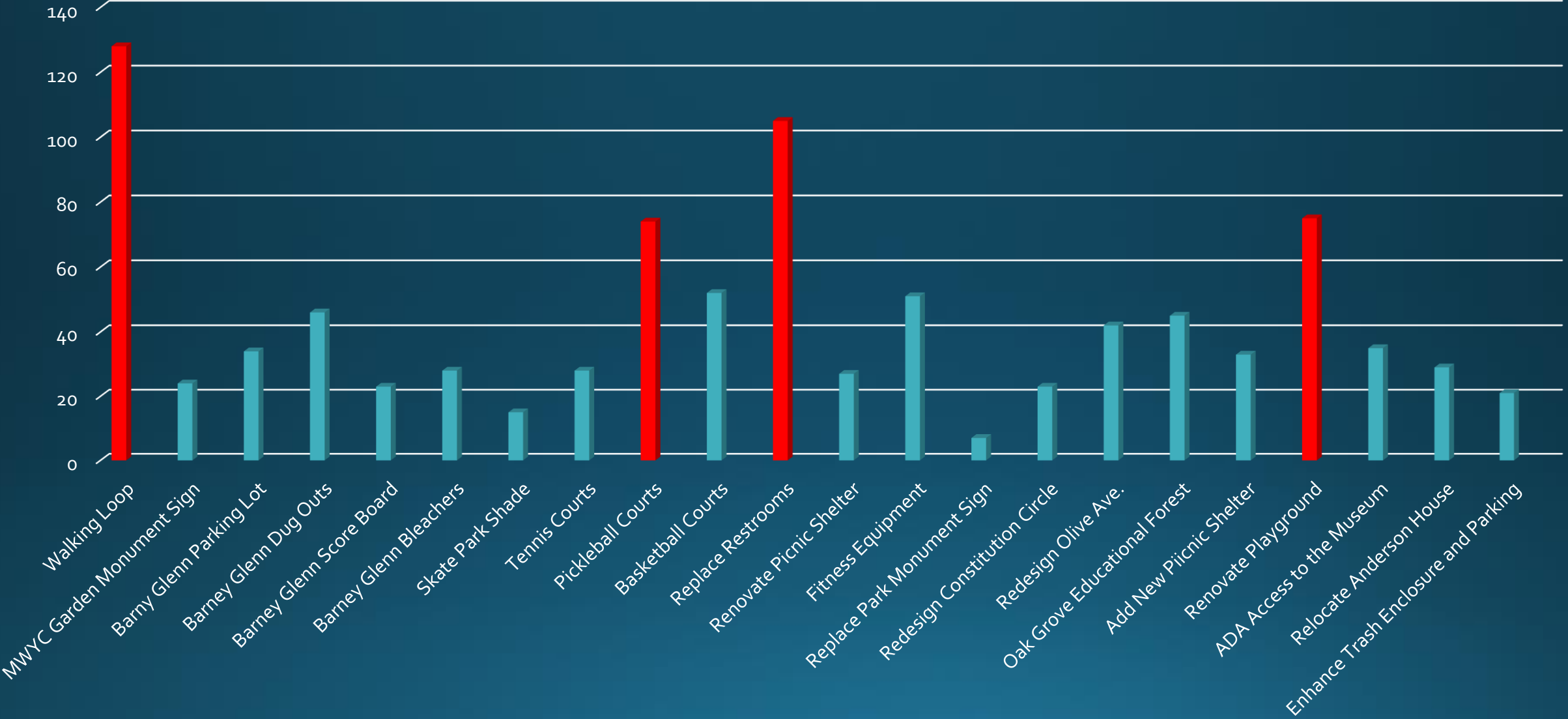
General Themes

- Project priorities included:
 - Walking Loop - 14% of the votes (128 Votes)
 - Replacing the Restroom with a Portland Loo - 11% of the votes (105 Votes)
 - Installing dedicated Pickleball Courts - 8% of the votes (74 Votes)
 - Renovating the Playground - 8% of the votes (75 Votes)

**All other project components ranged between 1-5% of the votes*

**942 Votes received*

OVERALL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



Walking / Running Loop

- Number 1 priority for the community
- Lighting will improve safety and increase use
- Include mile markers along the loop to track distance
- Interested in alternative surfacing for the walking loop such as soft surface or DG – Permeable not concrete
- YMCA loves the walking loop and believes their members will use it a lot
- MHS Cross Country Team use Park to establish time trials
- Include a bike route on the loop
- Move away from the road where possible
- Include wayfinding signs



Interpretive Garden / Monument Sign

- Need to install more signage for Community Partners
- Need a Teen Drop off location in front of the building
- Use native and drought tolerant plants
- Include interpretive garden
- Include new picnic tables under Oaks



Barney Glenn Field Enhancements

- More bleachers are needed
- Consider doing a shade study to ensure the bleachers and dug outs are covered
- Replace bench in dug out
- Upgrade fencing for the dug out and backstop
- Use trees for shade where possible



Barney Glenn Field Enhancements

- Would love to do this now as a stand alone project
- Blue tooth capability would make a big impact on the organization
- Eliminate the need for the crows nest – Repurpose building into a new snack shack and eliminate the restrooms and crows nest
- Include a soccer overlay in outfield
- Would like an outfield fence
- Need new field lighting
- Would like infield turf
 - Could negatively impact to adult baseball and softball
- Would like a Loo near the field



Barney Glenn Field Parking Lot Enhancements

- No ADA Access to the field
- Add a batting cage to the park
- Add trash enclosures
- Protect newly planted trees
- Add bios wales to parking lot
- Add solar panels to parking lot
- Add EV charging station to parking lot



Skate Park Shade

- Add more shade
- Consider a beginners course nearby
- Put in permanent beaches under the oak trees



Tennis Courts / Pickleball Courts

- Separate courts
- Add shade to bench area
- Need improved lighting
- Consider 3 Tennis courts and 4 Pickleball courts



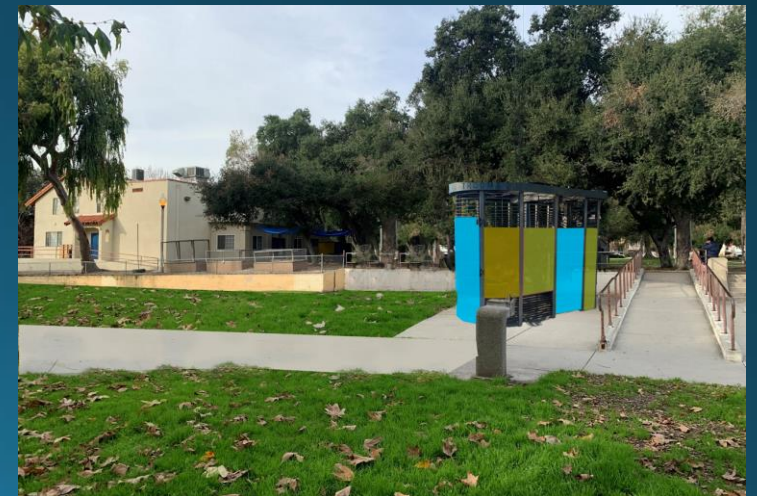
Basketball Courts

- Consider one full court and one half court
- Consider having one court lower for younger children
- Include lighting
- Available for other recreational uses



Restrooms

- Need more restrooms and current restroom replacement
 - MYBL wants a Loo near the Field
 - Public wants a Loo near the Playground
- BGC do not allow youth to use the restroom
 - invite public to use their facility



Renovate Picnic Shelter

- Needs a fully covered roof
- Design to avoid more all day camping
- Allow for some flexibility with the tables and set up
- Eliminate the concrete riser



Fitness Area

- Add more seating around the workout area
- Be sure to protect trees and root systems
- Use a permeable surface
- Like the grouping at this location to create activity in this space



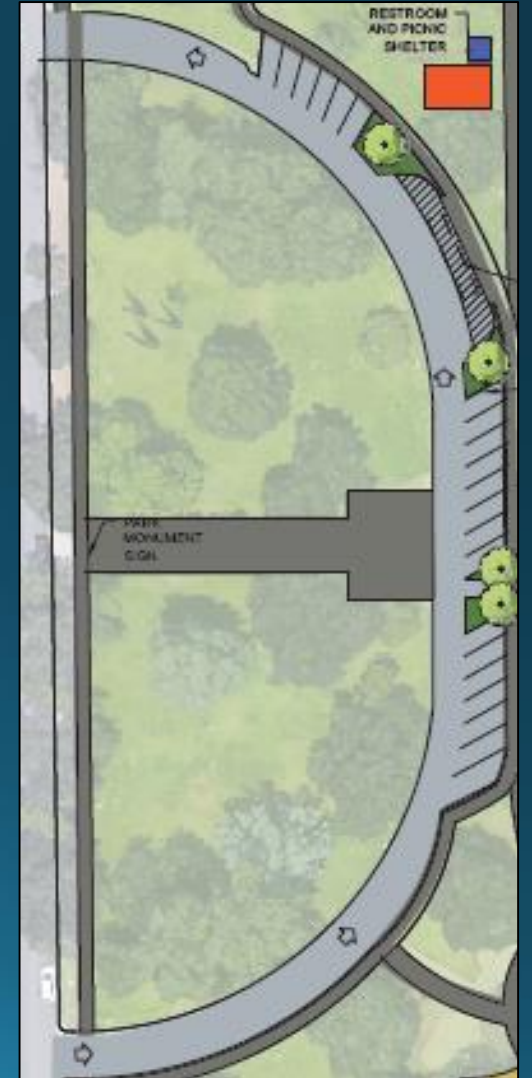
Park Monument Sign

- Create some smaller picnic areas in the west side of the park
- Some like the original sign design
- Include signage for park stakeholders



Constitution Circle Redesign

- Add more informal picnic areas in the open space
- Add water fountain to attract birds
- BGC like the added parking



Olive Avenue Redesign

- Community LOVED this and are very supportive of studying this design some more
- Include a time limit for parking and issue BGC staff parking permits
- Concerned about the impact on Lemon and at the Mountain intersection
- Suggested one-way headed west



Oak Grove Educational Forest

- Park should have a space for educational programming
- All organizations see this as adding value to their programs and services
 - BGC Love it!
 - YMCA Love it!
 - Museum Love it!
 - Historical Society Love it!
 - Community Love it!
- Consider ways to design it to avoid encampments
- Make this available to home school classes
- Use benches as they are less expensive
- Make it into a mini amphitheater



New Picnic Area

- All users liked this idea
- Area may get tight, consider putting the picnic shelter to the south of the playground – Underutilized hard scape



Playground Renovation

- BGC do not allow participants to use the playground due to too many injuries
- Be sure to include sufficient shade – add more trees
- Love the inclusivity of the playground design
- Use a natural looking play structure
- Include a space for children to play in sand
- Enhance picnic shelter
- Add a Loo nearby
- Requested a second playground in the Park
- Need additional lighting around play area



ADA Access to the Museum

- Consider renovating some of the landscape around the courtyard
- Parking for ADA will need to be off street
- Look to limiting other parking in this area
- Remove some asphalt and add more vegetation
- Consider shade in the courtyard
- Consider removing the garage



Enhance Trash Enclosures and Parking at the Museum

- Protect greens space and eliminate additional parking options
- Maintain catering access to the Museum
- Trash enclosures throughout are essential
- Add shade to the Museum courtyard
- Add in a Bike Rack
- Address concerns in the front of the Museum
 - Visibility
 - Skate Boarding



Study the Relocation of the Anderson House



- Majority of participants agreed with moving the Anderson House, however there were a few individuals that felt strongly that it should not be moved – Costly and Historic Concerns
- Majority preferred the House be placed on the west side of the Museum, facing Lemon Ave. to the north at a slight angle
- Museum and Educational space can support the events at the House
- Consider a short perimeter fence or shrub to create a sense of place
- Consider how sun hits the building and space
- ADA access will be needed

Other Items Mentioned...

- Include the 3-station drinking fountains – Drink, Fill, and Dog
- YMCA would like to see more done to eliminate the vagrancy and illicit behavior in the park
- YMCA is currently in plans to renovate the northeast corner of the park
- Consider renaming of the Park
- Would like to incorporate the history of the park into the design such as the Lily Pond
- Be sure to keep decorative and original steps in the center of the park leading to the Barney Glenn field
- Keep Volleyball Courts and improve the maintenance
- Ensure we are installing more trash receptacles throughout the park

Other Items Mentioned...

- Ground squirrels are out of control – really need to look into how to mitigate
- Should we be looking to add a Community Garden or Compost Bin
- Look at the area between the BGC and the Playground and repurpose that underutilized space
- Need park-wide interpretive signage
- Requested Horse shoes and Bocce Ball Courts
- Create an open area for organized fitness programs such as Yoga, Zumba, and Tai Chi
- Include more public art
- Ensure we are considering the environmental (Habitat) impacts when selecting lighting
- Add parking lot lines to street parking

Community Services Commission

- Support the Walking Loop as the top priority
- Liked the idea of having a skate park for beginners
- Consider the pros and cons of having a fully covered picnic shelter
- Like having an area for kids to learn to ride their bike / skate
- One way on Olive Ave. could create a delayed response time for Fire and Police – Should further study
- Recalls the discussion on the Anderson House being more balanced
- Support the need to protect the open space and all green space

Next Step

- No formal action for the Council tonight
- Continue to track Federal Appropriation Request through Congresswoman Napolitano's office - \$6M
- Submit grant through Land and Water Conservation Fund = Due End of July
- Work with City engineer to begin developing a cost estimate based on updated concept designs
- Should the Council agree to move forward, staff may seek Requests for Proposals to select a Landscape Architect to move the concepts into engineered plans and provide a construction cost estimate
 - This would come back to City Council for approval

Question / Discussion