

## Community Workshop #2 Summary

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 5:30pm – 7:30pm

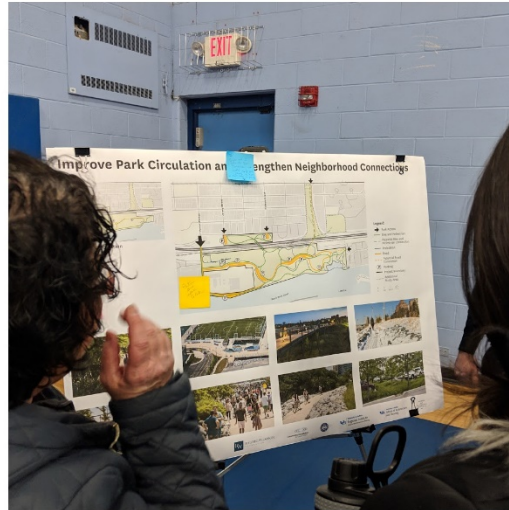
The Belle Center

104 Maryland St. Buffalo, NY 14201



### This Meeting

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, over 100 people from the community gathered at The Belle Center to see and comment on initial design concepts for Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. After a brief recap of the conceptual design process from the UB Regional Institute, and a presentation by Michael Van Valkenburgh to explain the rationale behind initial design concepts, attendees reviewed boards showing diagrammatic representations of proposed changes to programming, topography, circulation and accessibility, athletics, and playgrounds.

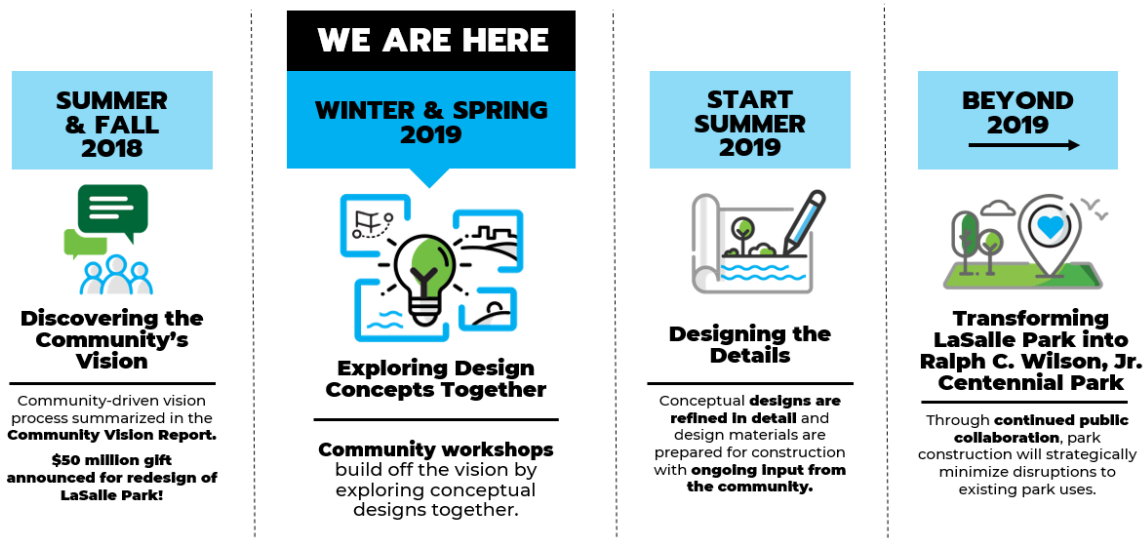


## The Conceptual Design Process

Conceptual design of the park is just one component of the larger process of transforming the park.

### BIG PICTURE TIMELINE

Transforming LaSalle Park into the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park

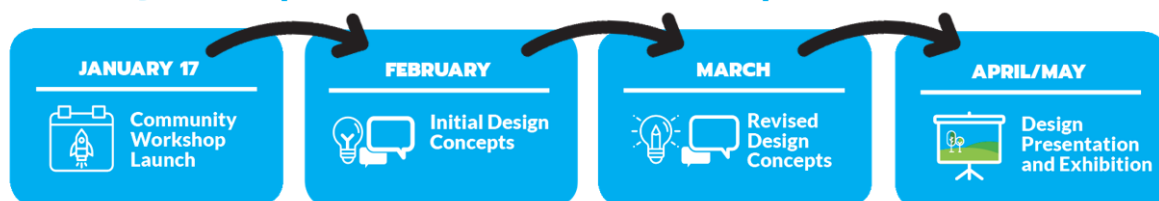


The meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> was the second public workshops in which the community gave their input on what they would like to happen in the park. Between February's meeting and the workshop in March, the design team will revise their designs based on feedback from the community. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the public is invited to review and comment on these revised concepts. In May, a conceptual design for the park will be presented and a model will be put on public display.

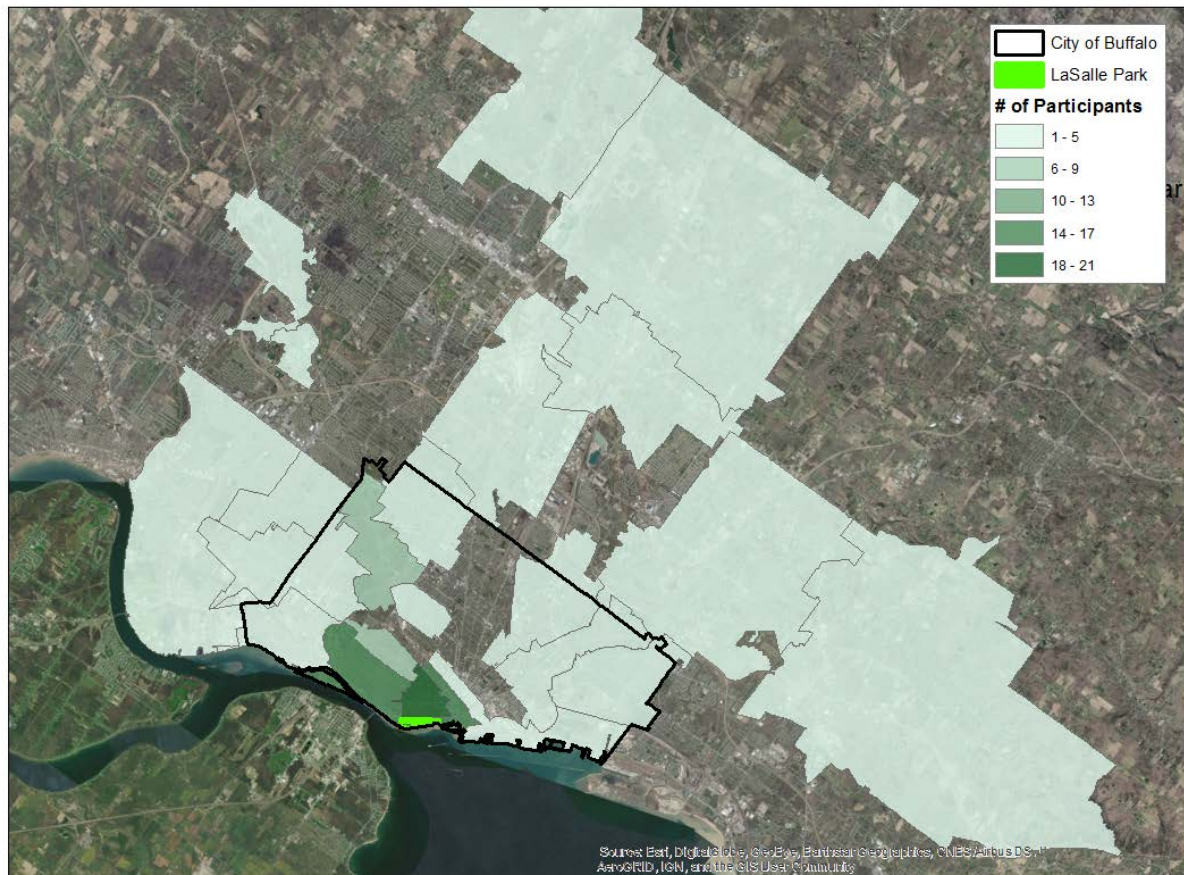


## Exploring Design Concepts Together

### Community Workshops to transform LaSalle Park into Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park



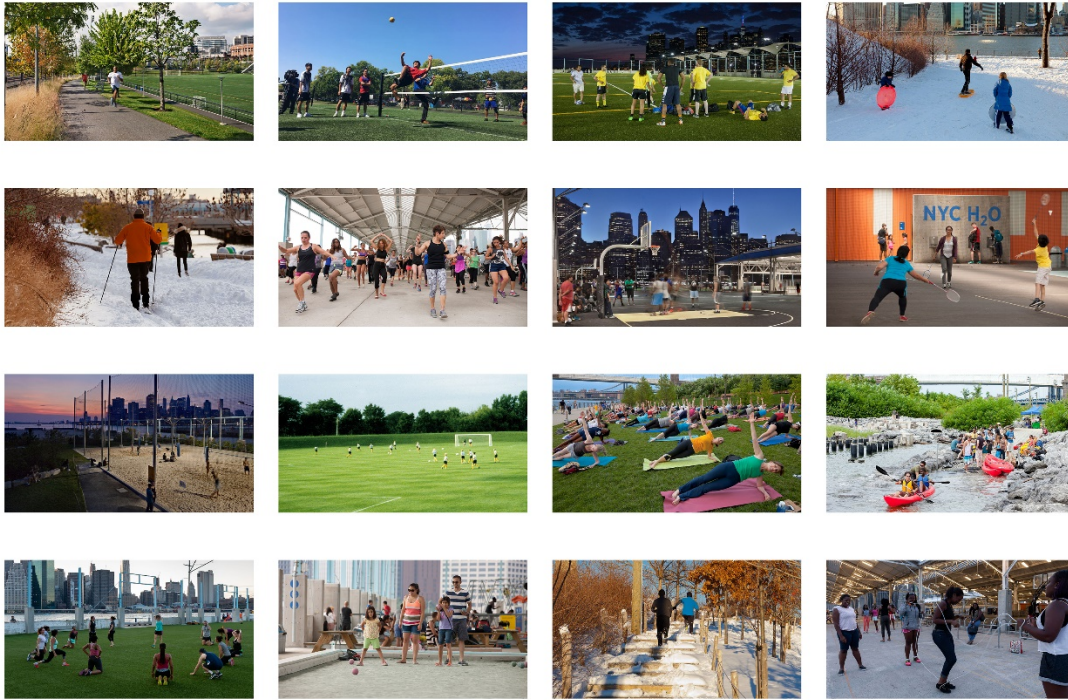
What ZIP codes did meeting participants come from?





## Public Comments

### Athletics



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City of New York

University at Buffalo  
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School of Architecture and Planning

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School of Architecture  
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- What's the plan for parents who have kids playing sports having to pay for parking every day?
- WNY has only 3 handball courts. Please add 1. WNY Handball Paddleball association.
- Single track for mountain biking, fat biking etc. Groomed trails in the winter for fat bike events, place for cyclocross. Rock climbing.
- Integrate green infrastructure; solar lights, composting toilets, permeable pavement
- Running path
- Canoe/kayak access! Also consider water taxi and bike taxi docking.
  - o Seconded
- Add lights to the skate park. Put on a timer. Increase security.
- Handball or racquet ball court
- Sledding!!
- Water fountains
- Expand skate park
  - o Just because it exists doesn't mean it can't use expansion/support/lights/or a more diverse landscape
- Dirt BMX pump track
  - o Doubles as snow activities in winter
- Permanent Kan-Jam (visitors bring their own Frisbee)
- Rock climbing?
- Basketball court
- Volleyball
- Water fountains!
  - o Seconded
- Year round place to have a bite to eat or drink pop and hot chocolate in winter
- Mile-long running loop or track
- Basket-Chinloo
- Basket-Chinoo
- West Side Baseball (60 years). Baseball fields need to have: t-ball diamond, 6-8 yr old diamond, 9-11, 12-14, 15-17 – lights baseball diamond
- Baseball? Covering for b ball courts
  - o BK Bridge Park
- Softball
- West Side Pony Tail league
- Basket Chinloo
- Basket Chinloo
- Basket Chinloo
- Basket Chinloo

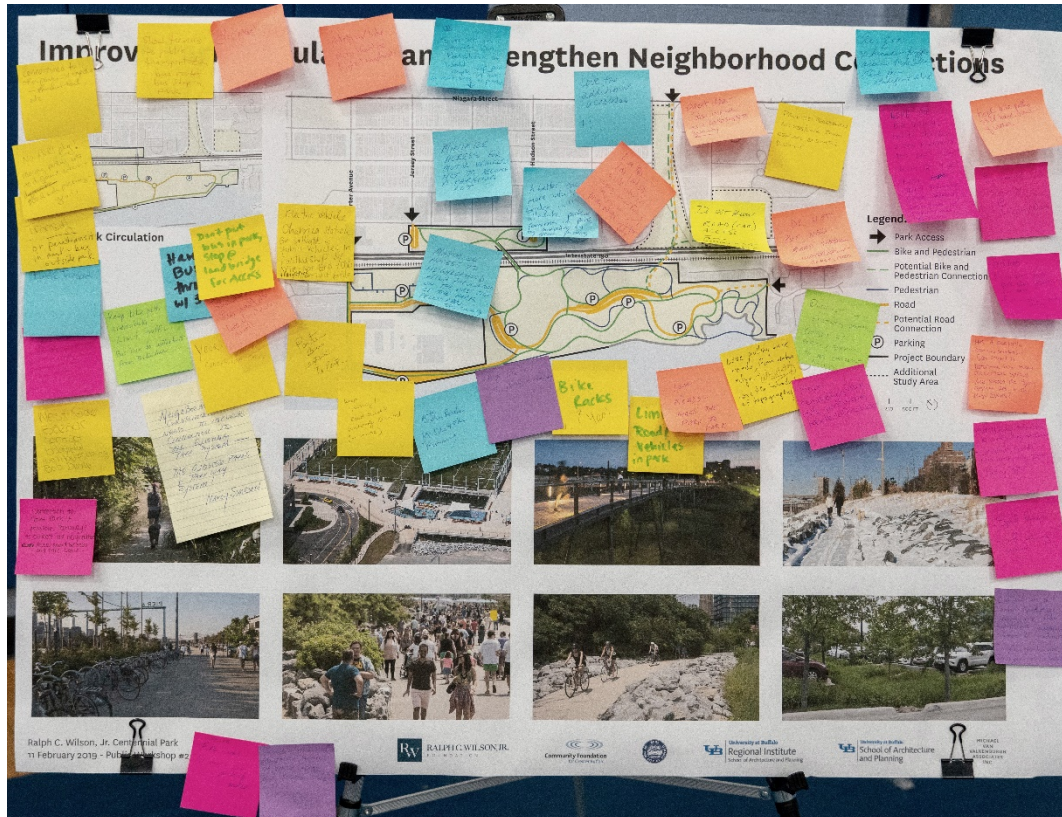
- Westside Little League Football needs concession stands, public bathrooms, locker rooms, scoreboard, field goal posts
  - o Westside L.L. Football: most important facilities to raise funds for organization
- Outdoor gym for exercising using your body weight.
- Pickle ball court
- Ice skating ribbon per Maggie Daley in downtown Chicago
- Basket Chinloo
- Basketball
- Football scoreboard
- Running track, but not a running track: measured distances
- Handball court
- Running track
- Football goal posts
- Encourage winter usage: sled, skate, etc.
- Bike paths that are maintained please – too bumpy now



# Improve Park Circulation and Strengthen Neighborhood Connections



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- Neighborhood connections need to include connection to the existing park system
  - the Olmsted Parks and Parkway System!
- Love the big vision. Ensure the big vision elements are consistent with the 4 year plan. Don't reclude future connections downtown in short term design.
- Increase security at night/dark.
- Outdoor are in winter, pod plays, music, etc. that incorproate indigenou culutre and tradition.
  - o Google: pimohtewak
  - o Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan
- Speed bumps
- Traffic calming measures
- Walkway connections to surrounding neighborhood
- Less driving/roads, more walk, run, bikes
- Has a parking demad analysis been prepared to determine how many practical spaces are needed for sports, passvie rec. and the huge events?
- Less roads. No car access inside park where greenspace can exist. Fuck all this in-park parking.
- Hope bike paths still have view of water.
- No, zero vehicular traffic access to laSalle Park from Lakefront Blvd.
- Provide pedestrian access/link from central business district
- Great idea – also improve as a landscaped gateway [arrow pointing to Virginia/Carolina ramps]
- Do not allow road (car) access from Waterfront Blvd
- Do not put new road through Waterfront Blvd
- Difficult w/ existing traffic. Concern w/ safety and parking TG add Lakefront access
- More connection from bike path from LaSalle to Canalside
- Love pulling back roads from water edge. Love the introduction of topography
  - o Seconded
- Less roads – make the park a park
- Limit road/vehicles in park
- Bike Races
  - o Seconded (twice)
- Porter Bus extend to park
- Better roads for 5k and 8k running
- Keep parking/ road access at water edge limited (or none)
- Feels like too much parking and roadway
- A better, easier, more intuitive bridge will alleviate parking concerns in park by connecting on street parking
- Love the additional accesses [referring to Virginia/Carolina ramps]
  - o Seconded



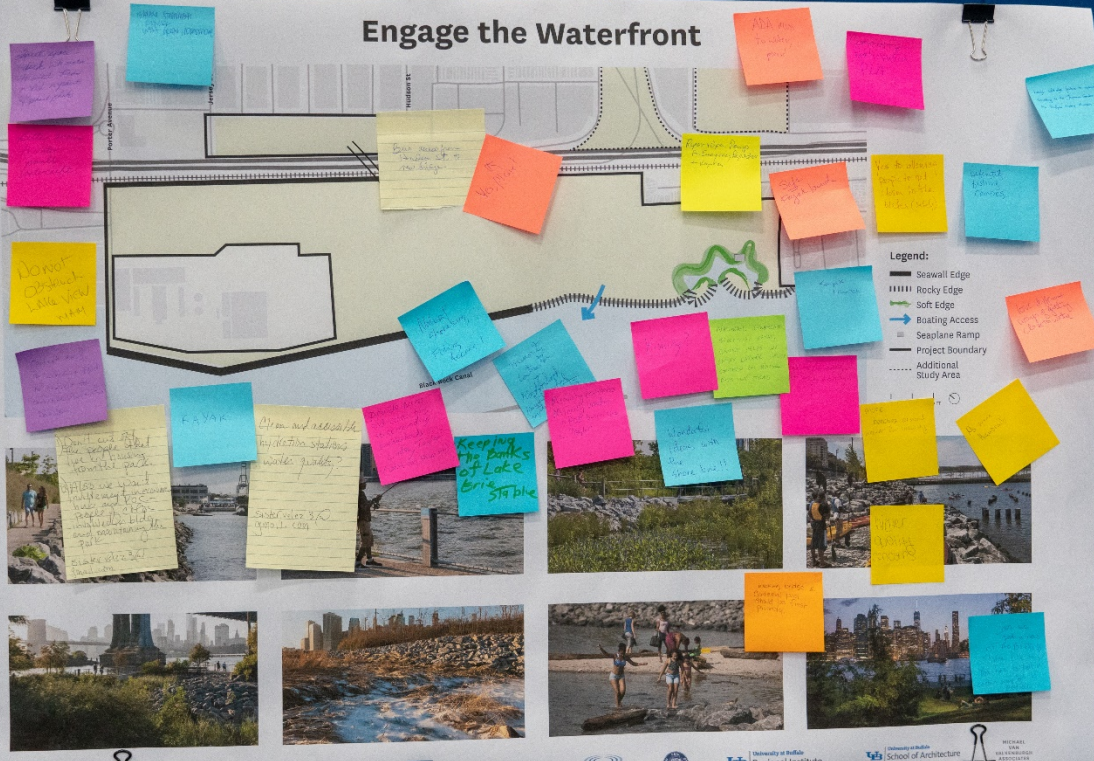
- Love this – less land set aside only for cars, more for the people! Make pedestrian/bike only [referring to Virginia/Carolina ramps]
- Maximize access to neighborhood high population on the East side of the park pedestrian specifically
- Minimize access for motor vehicles not to become a parking lot
- Some sort of entrance from Pennsylvania St would help pull people in from as many roads as possible
- Pedestrian/bike access should be highest emphasis
- Electric vehicle charging station for private and public vehicles in partnership with NFTA – Nat. Grid/COB. From: PUSH Buffalo
  - o [Addition]: Albright Knox
- More bike racks. No more car parking needed.
- Maintained balance of vehicle access and pedestrian space.
- Year round concession stand.
- Keep bike path accessibility – limit traffic. Bus line to waterfront from Porter Ave.
- If there is a direct automotive access, bus should also have direct access as well.
- Have Porter bus go thru park w/ 3 stops
- Don't put bus in park, stop @ land bridge for access
- Connection to Front Park if possible. Parkways to connect the neighborhood. Access should be easy and safe. Lights.
- West Side Bazaar contact [bdoyle@wedibuffalo.org](mailto:bdoyle@wedibuffalo.org). Bob Doyle
- A plea to include potential road and study area sooner rather than later.
- Public transport.
- Connections to other parks – v. important – Shoreline Trail etc.
- Public transit!
  - o [Addition]: or paratransit in park – bus outside park
- No add'l pkg! Moving parking lots to different areas – roadside parkway – yes!!
- Show tie-ins to public transportation – bus routes, bus stop in park.
  - o Yes, please! [additional comment]

The map shows the Black Rock Canal area, including the project boundary, seawall edge, rocky edge, soft edge, boating access, seaplane ramp, and additional study area. The map includes a legend and a scale bar.

**Legend:**

- Seawall Edge
- Rocky Edge
- Soft Edge
- Boating Access
- Seaplane Ramp
- Project Boundary
- Additional Study Area

Scale: 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

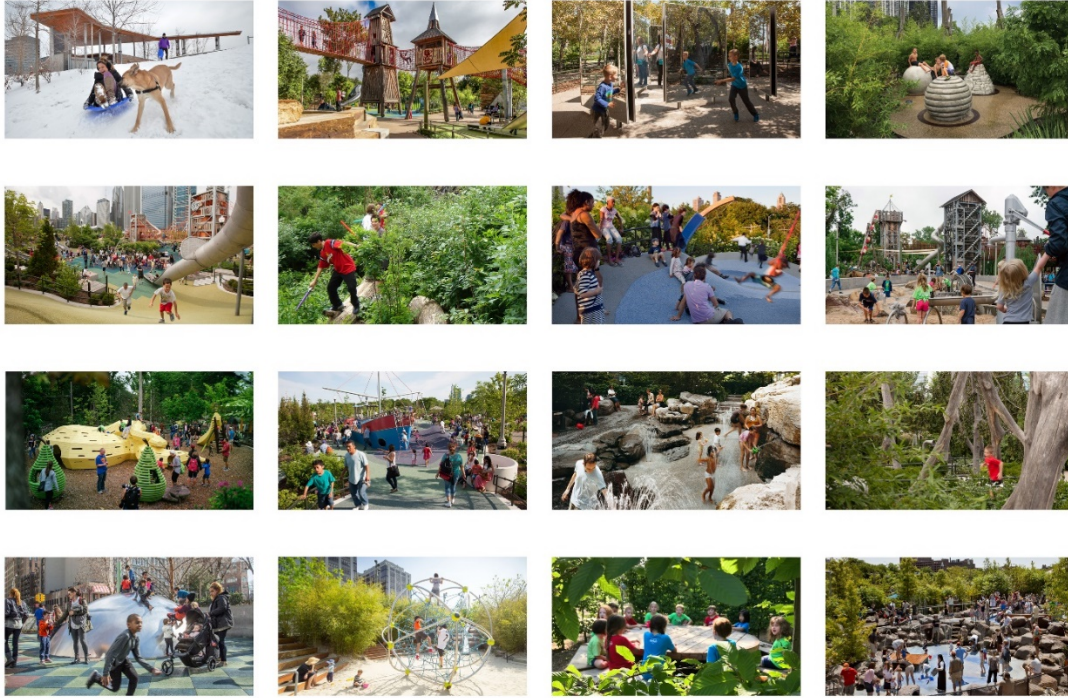
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- Quiet space – duck into water to watch birds or fish or paint and shoot photos

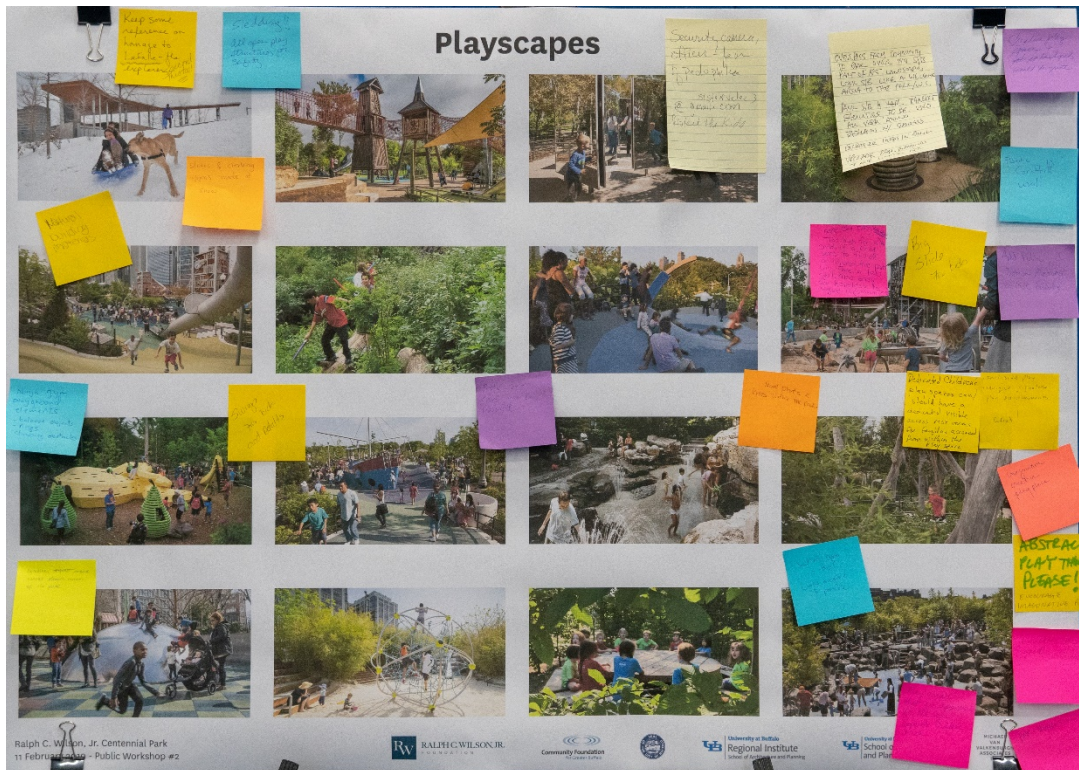
- Manage stormwater runoff with green infrastructure
- Better access to water – small watercraft
- Connect road to Lakefront Blvd. to connect to Canalside/Waterfront Development
- Do not obstruct lake view MAM
- Kayak
- Keeping the banks of Lake Erie stable
- Provide access and connections to surrounding neighborhoods. Lindsey Taylor (Don't cut them out)
- Natureal shorelines, fishing access!
- Minority contractors, minority vendors in POS businesses. Lindsey Taylor
- Minority contractor and neighborhood residents involved in the reconstruction.
- ADA access to water, please!
- Repair and open ramp for emergency responders and kayakers
- Safe kayak launch
- Yes to allowing people to get closer to the water (safely).
- Kayak launch
- Natural landscape blocking kayak entry helps with safety, larger safety concern on rough days with tides
- Wonderful ideas with the shoreline
- Fishing?
- Maximize [illegible] and soft edge utility
- Walking bridge and Centennial Pool should be first priority
- Can we get a view of the Buffalo Skyline like this? You have to look a certain way but it's possible. [referring to photo of skyline on bottom right of board]
- Water quality concerns [referring to photo of kayak launch and rock edge]
- More benches around water for viewing
- No more handrails [referring to the photo of rock edge and kayak launch]
- Definitely fishing, canoes
- Community participation PLA
- Large soft edge feature to implement something like the Japanese Garden by the Buffalo History Museum
- Love different ways of getting close to water
- Bus access from Hudson St. to new bridge
  - o Yes, please!
- Clean and accessible hydration stations. Water quality?
- Don't cut off the people that live in housing from the park. Also we want involvement in economic hub and POC – people of color involved in bldg and maintaining the park.



# Playscapes



Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park  
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- Overpass from community to park over 190 S/B part of art, landscape, look S/B like a welcome area to the park/W.S. Park S/B and have banquet facilities, to be used all year round. Bathrooms w/ showers. Exercise hubs in [illegible]. Upgrade ball diamonds w/ night lighting etc.
- Security camera, officer – beware of pedophiles. Protect the kids.
- Public art space more possible.
- Combine, embed natural element, terrain of the park.
- Ninja gym playground elements: balance objects, rings, climbing obstacles
- Swings for kids and adults
- Natural building materials
- Sledding!! All open play structures for safety.
- Slides and climbing gyms made of snow.
- Keep same reference on homage to LaSalle – the explorer
  - o Seconded
- What even is this? Looks awesome if possible [referring to water-play area image on bottom right of board]
- Play areas that are appropriate for all ages. Separate toddler area.
- BMX and skatepark expansion
- Boulders are good!
- Abstract play things please! Encourage imaginative play.
- Imaginative, creative, play space
- Inclusive play. Unique, signature play environments.
  - o Great!
- Dedicated children's play spaces can/should have a dedicated visible access rest rooms for families accessed from within the play space.
- More plants and trees within the park.
- House – bad idea. Too high for a child, if a child were to fall off or injured, the park will face a law suit, also easy for homeless to squat in (unsanitary) [referring to photo in last column, second down]
- Add public bathrooms/restrooms or more porta potties
- Big slide for kids
- Public graffiti wall
- Creative play spaces and splashpads would be great



## A Place that is Diverse and Welcoming Year-round



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- Location of new dog park is too close to the water people visit in the winter and the wind is brutal. Maybe hide the dog park behind a mound to block the wind.



- Please don't make this a "pay to play" park not be charging and nickel and iming people to "use" our park from parking to, to overcharging for venue use. Let's not make this a Canal Side – Carnival Side we can't.
- Sledding mountain/hill
- Cars should be kept away from the waterfront as much as possible (including parking and roads).
- I love the addition of the naturescapes to the current desolate landscape.
- Keep baseball diamonds together.
- Dog park – keep room to run; larger allows dogs to have space; like the access and nearby parking as this tends to be a ryear round regional draw.
- We love the Bark Park!
- Love the idea of temporary art installations. Funding source?
- Keep room for the dogs to run.
- Dog park should not have any "dog-legs" in it (couldn't resist). Thanks
- Will the same # of athletic fields fit? I know the leagues are very vocal about their importance.
- More play scape.
- I like the cove idea. It is a buffer to the lake.
- Add more playscape areas throughout the park
- Study how much area is needed for amphiteahter events. I think they get pretty huge.
- Ultimately this interchange should be decommissioned and the land used as part of the park and the neighborhood. [referring to area around Virginia/Carolina interchange
- This tie-in concept is awesome! Consider the same at Niagara St. 190 tie-ins [referring to area around 4<sup>th</sup> St Playground
- Way better spot for the bridge. [referring to proposed bridge location]
- Does the building have any sudden noises that would freak out the dogs now that they're so close? [referring to area for Bark Yard]
- More benches for people to sit at look at the water or the park.
- Some permanent/semi permanent art displays? [referring to top left image]
- This is a cool idea. [referring to top left image]
- LaSalle currently has almost no art in the park – more, subtle temporary art is welcome.
- Could you work with Olmsted Parks to get a greener approach from Porter? It was one of the original "Park and Parkway" parkways.

## Add Topography and Planting



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FOUNDATION

Community Foundation  
of Greater Dayton

University of Dayton  
Regional Institute  
School of Architecture and Planning

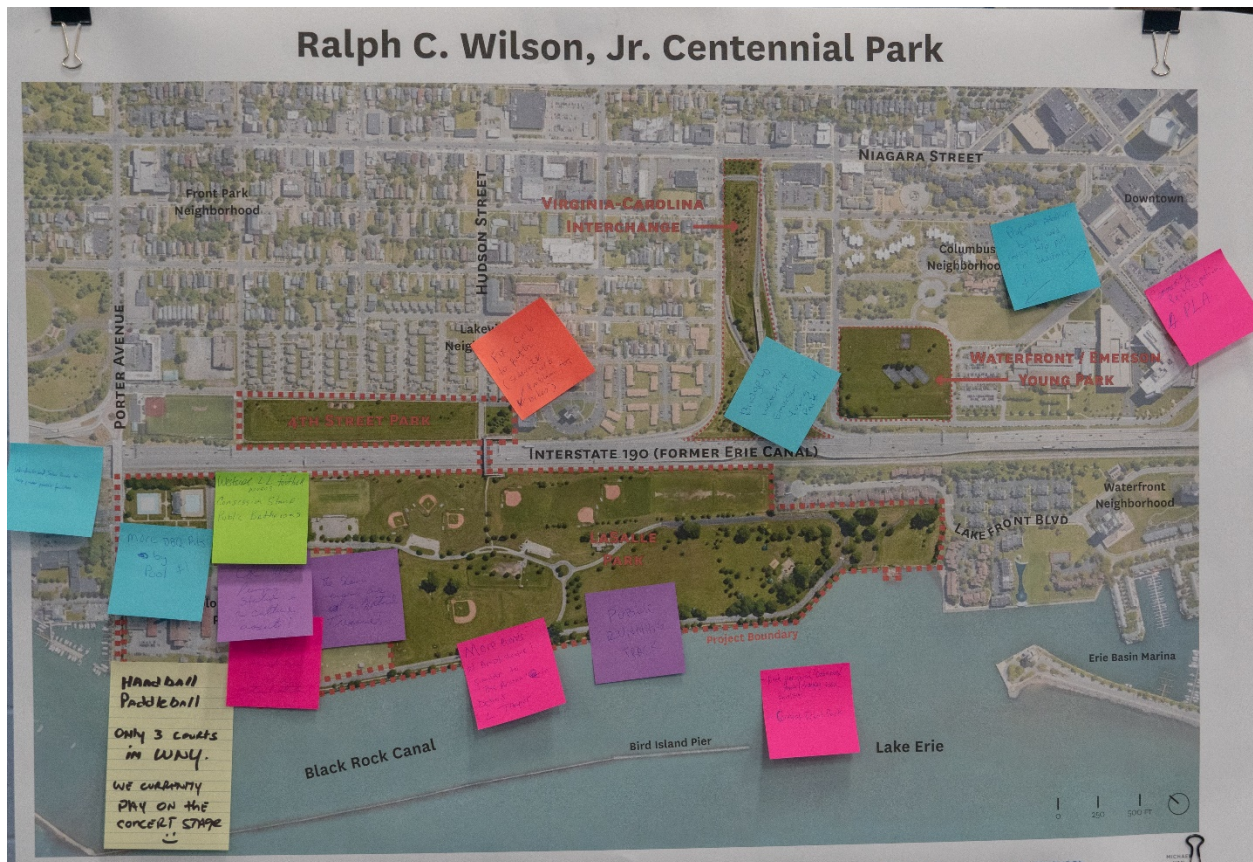
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- Ken Parker – local native of plants, species. Our expertise should be utilized.
- Love that topography will block sound from highway. Just don't block view with topography to close to water. Would love to see meadow gardens.
- Trees! Including evergreens for winter landscape. Rain gardens integrated to protect water quality.
- Community garden space.
- Hills closer to the lake for an overlook.
- Mounds. Winter Play.
  - o Great!
- Concessions and bathrooms
  - o Second
  - o Third
- Topography variation, anything to encourage winter usage!
- Use topography to enhance lake view – but do not block the views with mounds.
- Need some European trees that can be decorated in Xmas time
- More color and community garden/farm
- Sledding hill in front of amphitheater
- Love the topography concept!! <3
- Green infrastructure, rain gardens, bio swales
- Love the hills protecting homes! [referring to hills near 190]
- Emphasize land elevation to attract shows @ amphitheater
- Gardening classes led by community or GS
- Different topography concept – great! Valleys/hills muffling sight and sound of hwy – yes yes yes
- The walk bridge division between West Side and the park should be first priority to access the people within the neighborhood and the park.
- It would be awesome to just cover the 190 here (probably cost prohibitive) [referring to area between 4<sup>th</sup> St section and main park section near bridge]
- A focus on [illegible] and sight of highway is a great plan
- Better signage to get to the park. Most people do not know how to get to the park.
- Be sure there is no hazardous material underground.
  - o Yes!
    - Seconded
- Implement permaculture concepts and techniques in order to create areas of diverse plant life that is both beautiful and efficient (i.e. improving air and soil quality; plants that benefit each other; swales)
- Native plantings are important MAM
- Topography is great –but need lighting and security
- [illegible] for educational classes about native trees, plants, lake events





- Handball paddleball only 3 courts in WNY. We currently play on the concert stage 😊
- Community participation PLA
- Proposed pedestrian bridge would really help pull in downtown [arrows pointing to downtown and toward Waterfront Emerson Young Park]
  - o Seconded
- Bridge to Waterfront Emerson Young Park
  - o Seconded
- Need year round bathroom/shower/changing room facilities. Connect Front Park.
- Public running track
- More events at amphitheater! Similar to "The Aretha" in Detroit. L. Taylor
- The steam engines are a national treasure!
- Steam engines need to be [illegible]. This is a national attraction!
- Fix curb to path (sidewalk curb problem for bikes) [arrow pointing to location on Hudson St next to existing bridge]
- Col ward pumping station is a cultural asset!
- Westside L.L. Football needs concession stand, public bathroom.
- More BBQ pits by pool
  - o Seconded
- Windmills and solar panels to help power park's facilities