

Community Workshop #3 Summary

March 13th, 6pm – 8pm

Waterfront Elementary BPS #95

4th St. Buffalo, NY 14201



This Meeting

On March 13th, over 150 people from the community came out Waterfront Elementary School to share their feedback on the draft design vision for Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates presented graphic plans and a large-scale draft model of the park, which participants responded to by talking to the design team and placing written comments directly on the model and drawings.

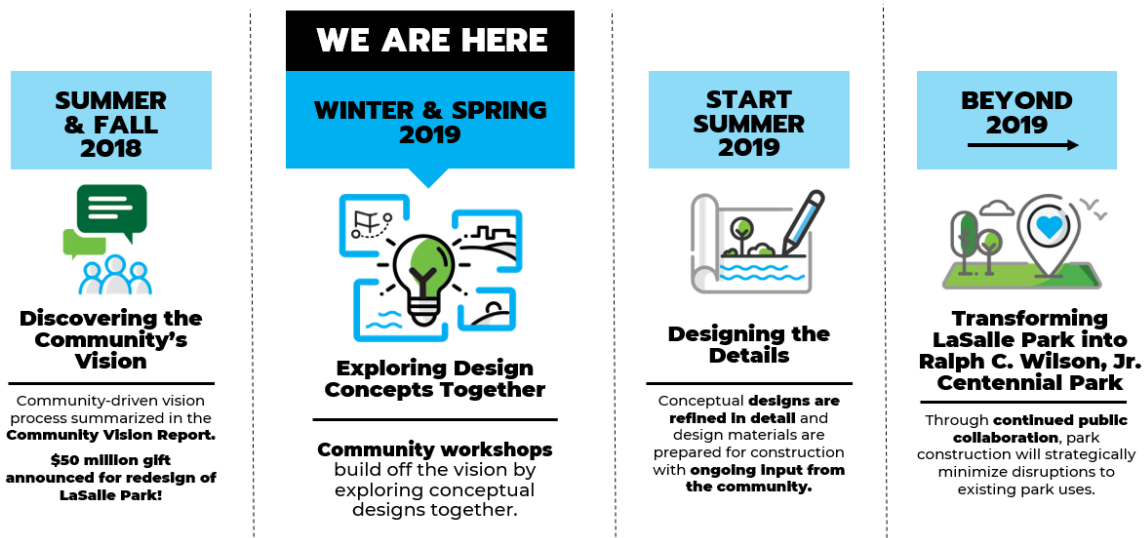


The Conceptual Design Process

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

BIG PICTURE TIMELINE

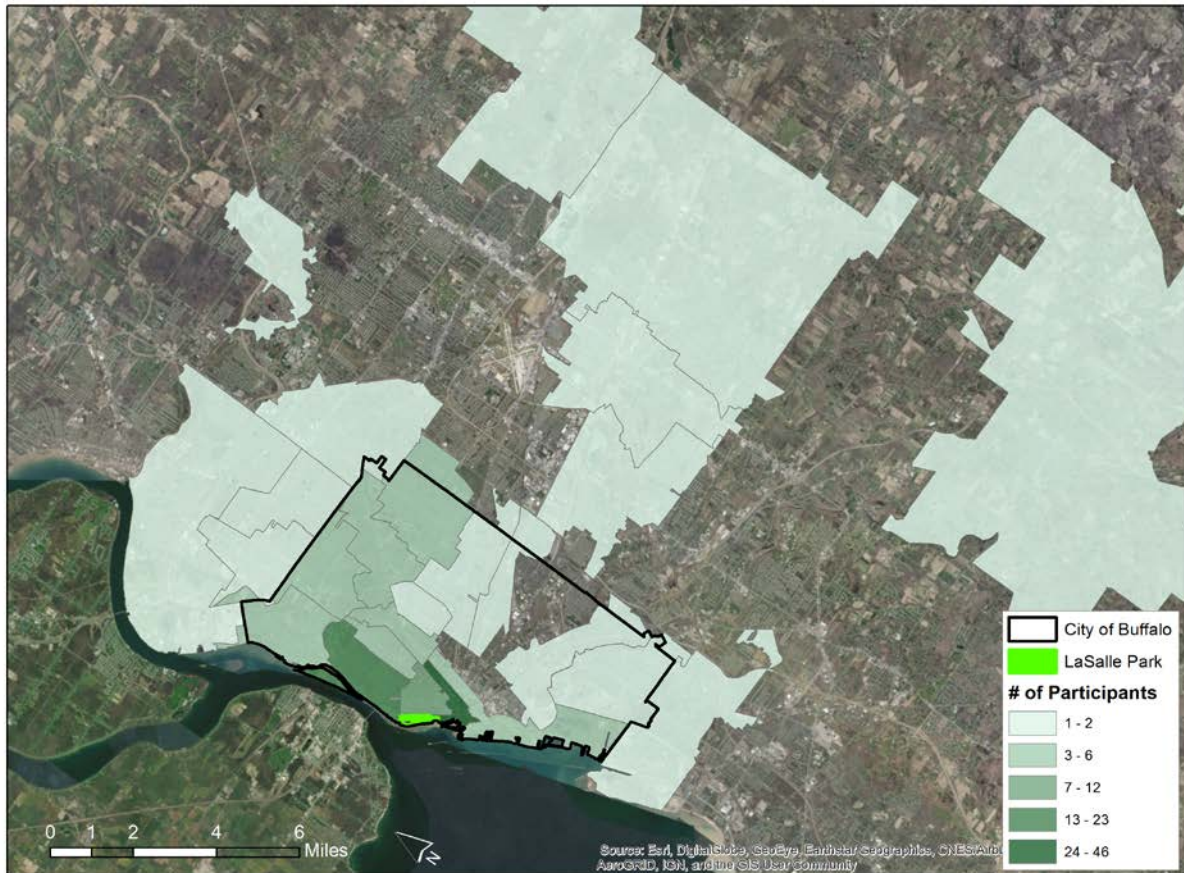
Transforming LaSalle Park into the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park



March 13th was the third public workshop in which the community gave their input on the design of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. Using the feedback gathered from the community across these workshops MVVA will revise the design of the park and in May present a design vision for the park through a public exhibition of a large-scale model and renderings of perspectives within the park.



What ZIP codes did meeting participants come from?



Pool/Playgrounds/Skatepark/Football Field





- Love this! [potential bus stop]
- Flags around the edge of the park representing different countries in the community. The area is filled with people not native to the US. This is extremely important.
- Improve the football -n- soccer fields n-softball diamonds
- Compost stations! [pool area]
- All gender changing rooms and locker rooms [pool house]
- Good maintenance of water facility plus good lockers [pool area]
- Bike path to Canalside and Outer Harbor
- Warming and cooling station for waiting for the bus [potential bus stop]
- Need connection to Greenway [Shoreline Trail on other side of Porter]
- Slow I-190 reduce noise
- Public transportation should be going through all the park
- Burms are not enough bury the 190
- Detroit Waterfront Conservancy proposals (Archdaily) – add more colors besides greens (reds, yellows)
- Improve/expand skatepark please
- Practice field
- 1. A locker room for the kids to change. 2. Football stand for mothers
- Football stands that has a booth for the coaches

- Upgrade field, bleachers, scoreboard, parking, concession stand, public bathrooms, locker rooms [football field]
- A cricket field [football field]
- Snow playground (play environment made from nature) [area near skatepark]
- Warming and cooling stations [area near skatepark]
- Who governs the concessions of the park?
- Affordable food options all year around.
- The existing skatepark is small and cramped → please expand! Don't just leave it when entire park is being renovated.
- Concession stand w/public bathrooms and home field locker room [near football field]
- Climbing wall
- I like the climbing wall!
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Seawall/Col. Ward Pumping Station/Baseball Fields

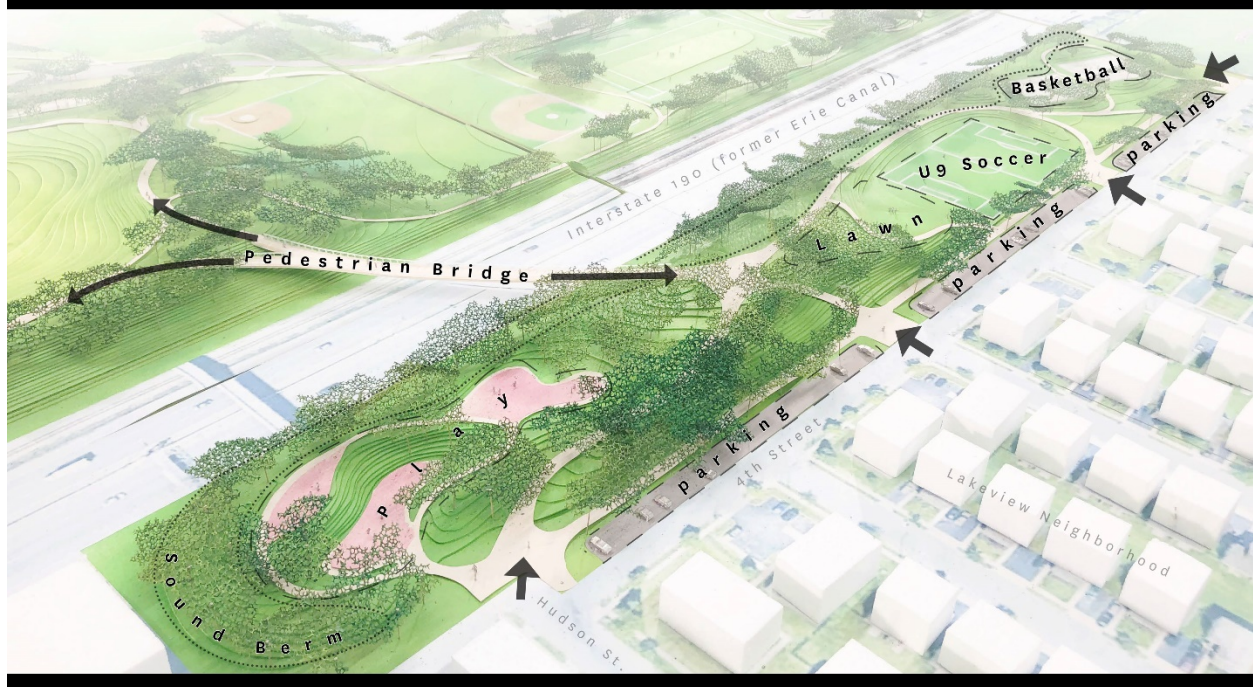




- Portland Loo portapotties.
- Entrance to Col. Ward here [bottom right corner of main pumping station building]
- Solar and small scale wind and battery to power park
- Solar powered lights
- Veterans/historical/monument/remembrance [along water]
- Veteran/memorial alley/walk similar to Canalside [sidewalk at northwest corner of park]
- WIFI in park!
- More parking during Col. Ward Pumping Station tours!
- Public access to the pumping station
- Get one or two of the Col. Ward Steam engines operational would be a great attraction.
- Large water feature fountain [dirt pipe storage lot near pumping station]
- Separate bike paths
- Less tree's covering the roads
- No charge to enter
- Could the park maintenance be combined with the water authority soil storage area to improve that area
- Maintain walking and cycling paths in winter.
- Need more greenspace [along water in front of Col. Ward]

- Current problem with people parking by water and drinking/drugs/sex. How do you prevent that with parking here? [along water in front of Col. Ward station]
- Too much concrete [along seawall in front of Col. Ward]
- Need more Green Space [along water in front of Col. Ward]

4th Street Section





- Portland Loo bathrooms
- Storage for sports equipment
- Basketball courts
- No housing should be removed to build the park especially public housing
- Emergency phone station [near ped. entrance to 4th street park section]
- Portland Loo bathrooms [near soccer field]
- Handicap accessible bathrooms throughout the park
- Create “sheds” or “roofs” for open basketball courts for all year long play [basketball courts]
- You judge a society by how we treat its most vulnerable, so never let this affordable housing go! [Lakeview Homes]
- Storage for organization for sports programming [near soccer field]

Valley/Centerfield



- All gender change rooms and lockers for sports
- To many baseball field
- Locker room for kids that has program
- Art installation. Large scale instruments! (Think strings, percussion, drums, etc.)
- Consider use of permeable pavement for walkways and roads to enhance stormwater drainage
- Open field for soccer, no charge
- Underground parking? (Think "Discovery Green" in Houston, Texas)
- No wall or fence [around soccer fields]
- Do we really want a soccer field as the focal centerpiece of the park?
- Football! [at soccer field]
- Smaller scale cricket field, possibly combined with another field. [in open space between soccer field and water]
- Winter Stations (public art) [near water b/w soccer and the waterfront]
- Sandy beach? [near waterfront under soccer field]
- Separate bike paths
- Heating and cooling station for the coldest and hottest days powered by renewable energy
- Elevated slopes for winter snowtoobing [in small "bowl" area b/w soccer and the water]
- Frisbee golf [small "bowl" area b/w soccer and the water]
- Emergency stations and phones
- Warming and cooling station (w/renewable energy) [near parking lot b/w sports fields]
- Small restaurant that can serve soups, hot chocolate in winter months, hotdogs, cheeseburger during summer (next to big hill!)
- Tubing setup for hill! [large bowl area]
- Storage area for sports equipment [near sports fields]
- Parking for handicap for elderly people
- More bathrooms
- Public bathroom for all kind of people and family
- BBQ tables for picnic BBQ grills for cooking [green area between seawall and ped/bike path]
- Keep exist. expansive site lines to the lake [near path along seawall]
- Accessibility for people who do not drive (walk/ bike/ transit) [near I-190]
- Pickel ball [near ball diamonds/large bowl area]
- Safety and {illegible} (amenities, washrooms, food) [medium bowl near path]
- Bioswales along all road ways for green infrastructure
- High wind and elevation ← video screens and sunset orientation [in large bowl/hill]
- An amphitheater (affordable to use)

- They need to put lighting attached to renewable energy and engineering so that it never goes out even when the grid is down.
- Pet shop near dog park (sell bags, treats, etc)
- Kayak storage lockers for rent → paddlers can ride bikes to go paddling. Also secure bike parking. [at kayak launch]
- Life-size chess/checkers space [at ball diamonds nearest I-190]
- Food courts throughout the park
- Free play area for kids (safe area) [near ball diamonds closest to I-190]
- Geothermal heating stations [near ball diamonds closest to I-190]
- Too many baseball diamonds/fields. Better utilize for art installations
- Added restrooms and concessions can be in removable structures with permanent connections (i.e. elect. and sewage/water). They don't have to be permanent. [near road by ball diamonds closest to I-190]
- Large grass dog park divided into large dog/small dog sections.
- A water feature in the dog park would be awesome: splash pad? Water channel? Even a shallow pool?
- Yay! Dog Park! (water fountain/splash pad for the pups?!)
- More electric filling/charging station [parking by dog park]
- Pumping station tour kiosk at the foot of facility. Pumping station related interactive activities for kids next to kiosk! Educational (before tour begins). [near pumping station]
- EV charging parking spots
- There are too many ball parks
- Frisbee golf course (maybe around perimeter)
- Just wanted to say sepak takraw courts is an awesome addition!
- Pobail [?] bath room
- Egress from water in case of emergency? Life buoys to throw to paddlers in distress [near seawall and kayak launch]
- Flags along the streets
- Reuse the existing pavilion is there a lot of money was raised to build it and it is a cool place. Maybe art installation under it for shade
- Too much area for ball fields. Unpleasant places when not in use.
- Refugee day [soccer field in center]
- Public bath room [near soccer fields]
- Submerge roads slightly but of view a la Central Park (not foot paths)
- Free of charge [athletic fields]
- Able to use all three parks for community events [near soccer fields]
- Damn that's a lotta space for baseball diamonds...do we need 6?!
- Storage for sports programs for youth [near ball diamonds]
- Yay sledding!

- Interactive art installations everywhere (partner w/ UB Architecture School & Albright Knox)
- Skate/snowshoe rentals [near big hill]
- Public art for and by community
- Move fireworks back to here! [near big hill]
- All the flags along the walk way
- Bike rentals [near bridge on west side of I-190]
- Fireplace or pit for winter activities [near pathway next to big hill]
- Improve the sound system and keep the "Funk (Rick James) and other at the park
- Create more decorative "slanted hills" that showcase logos, and sponsors w/ grass and flowers along highway (think Toronto!) [along berm near highway]
- Use Pennsylvania Street as major bike/ped. access
- Cover over the 190 from Porter to Niagara St
- Bathroom free of charge
- Another fork on bridge to slightly cut travel time/bring more welcoming feel
- View our beautiful city where affordable housing, as it stands is seen as a blessing not a curse [Lakeview Homes]
- Don't knock down buildings for park [Lakeview Homes]
- More transportation here. [near Hudson St]
- It's amazing to have these affordable homes near the park! [near Mariner Towers]
- 2nd pedestrian bridge here?? [near Virginia/Carolina interchange]
- Another bridge access to park [Virginia/Carolina interchange]
- Soccer tournament [soccer fields]
- Public bathroom [soccer fields]
- No wall or fence [soccer fields]
- For community [soccer fields]
- More garden spaces [near green space in middle of road loop]
- More public arts space
- Free public space use for cultural events

South End/Wetland



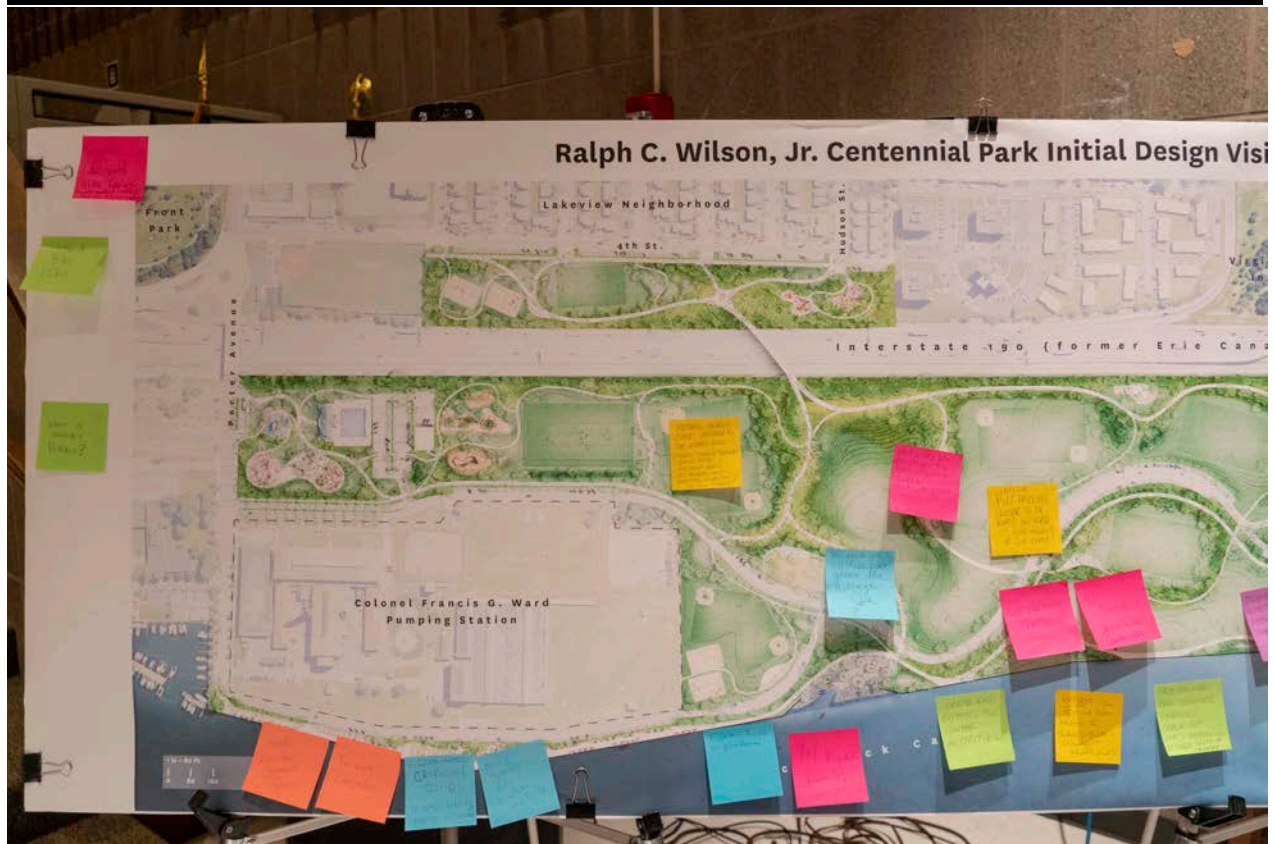


- Community garden w/ability to sell (affordably)
- Wind chimes and wind activated mobils [wetland area]
- Interactive solar panels [green space near wetland area]
- Miniature golfing or putting green [lawn between road loop and water]
- Great hydration stations with filtered water [lawn between road loop and water]
- If/when creating harden shoreline mitigate wave rebound and impacts on water habitat
- Point of interest pedestals (smart device tour & maps) [lawn between road loop and water]
- Monuments to local ethnicities. See: Cleveland's MLK Greenway along road/walking paths [near convergence of walking and bike path right of soccer field]
- Keep existing large site lines to water [along water]
- Natural play areas? [next to bike path above vehicle loop]
- Will residents see water from first floor decks [Waterfront Village]
- Keep or improve on the children sprinkling pool [Waterfront Village]
- Please add vehicle access. This is not a gated community! [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Not a gated community – but not designed for high impact {illegible} roads designed for access to housing – close to road – open to road open for runners, bicycles, skateboards etc. [Waterfront Village entrance]

- Love bigger picture, need connection to city. What is Buffalo about it?
- Love the idea of smaller playgrounds. {Illegible} Also love natural park on Bflo Waterfront
- Engage public housing plans when developing here. [Waterfront Park]
- More than bridge to connect to neighborhood like in initial design. Connectivity for Waterfront Elementary students [between Waterfront Park and highway]
- Look at Brownfield Opportunity area plan for a park concept w/connection to park. [Virginia/Carolina interchange]
 - o To go along with blue note: possibility for connection in advance?
- Provide access to park from here. [Virginia/Carolina interchange]
- If another entrance /exit is necessary should be from here – already have highway to handle traffic [Virginia/Carolina interchange]
- NO vehicle access via Lakefront Blvd
- Keep view to lake open [Waterfront Village]
- No high berms retain lake view for existing residents [Waterfront Village]
- Community food gardens [wetland area]
- Skating pond [wetland area]
- Butterfly garden?
- Yearlong restaurant near gardens here?
- Bflo centric art. Think carvings of fallen trees after Oct. storm, sculpture that birds can climb on. [wetland area]
- Pond in shape of Buffalo [wetland area]
- Pollinator garden [near path between wetlands and lake edge]
- Birding blind or viewing area w/wind block [near water's edge]
- Public ferry to Canalside [near water's edge]
- A must police substation [wetland area]
- Erie Canal History (re) instilled into this site [wetland area]
- Please remove all cottonwood trees. Shedding causes 1 month or more of white mess. [wetland area]
- Orient a pavilion so the crowd faces the city as a backdrop. [wetland area]
- 100% storm water mitigation [wetland area]
- 100% native plants
- Cottonwoods {CROSSED OUT} [wetland area]
- Do not take away water view from Lakefront Commons Condos
- Please keep our wonderful view (Lake Front Commons)
- Great idea! [wetland area]
- Native plants and pollinator plantings
- Parking along the water [waterfront near wetland area]
- Keep ramp available for emergency response and training [emergency access ramp]
- No motorized bikes or cars [Waterfront Village entrance]

- Public transit from all side of the city to encourage more urban interaction and use of park [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Better connections to Canalside [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Don't forget about pathway next to railroad for runners, walkers, bicycles [Bike path between Waterfront Village and Highway]
- No thru traffic – for public safety and other reasons [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Thru traffic here. We can't open 4th Street and not the wealthy side. Unfair burden. [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Public transport here too! [Waterfront Village entrance]
- No cars! [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Keep this closed to motorized vehicles, open to bikes – walkers [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Very exclusive entrance and exit that conflicts with accessibility. How else do we get there from Canalside? This dead end is a complete waste of space. [Waterfront Village entrance]
- {Illegible} traffic will ruin Waterfront Village. [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Please – no opening for traffic through park from Lakefront Blvd. This would create a thoroughfare through park and create unsafe environment!! [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Phil said: Health impact study! \$ UB
- No thru traffic [Waterfront Village entrance]
- No cars [Waterfront Village entrance]
- No vehicular traffic! No car access [Waterfront Village entrance]
- No thru street [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Please do not open to Lakefront Blvd [Waterfront Village entrance]
- No vehicle access [Waterfront Village entrance]
- Thru traffic [Waterfront Village entrance]

Board – Park Graphic Plan





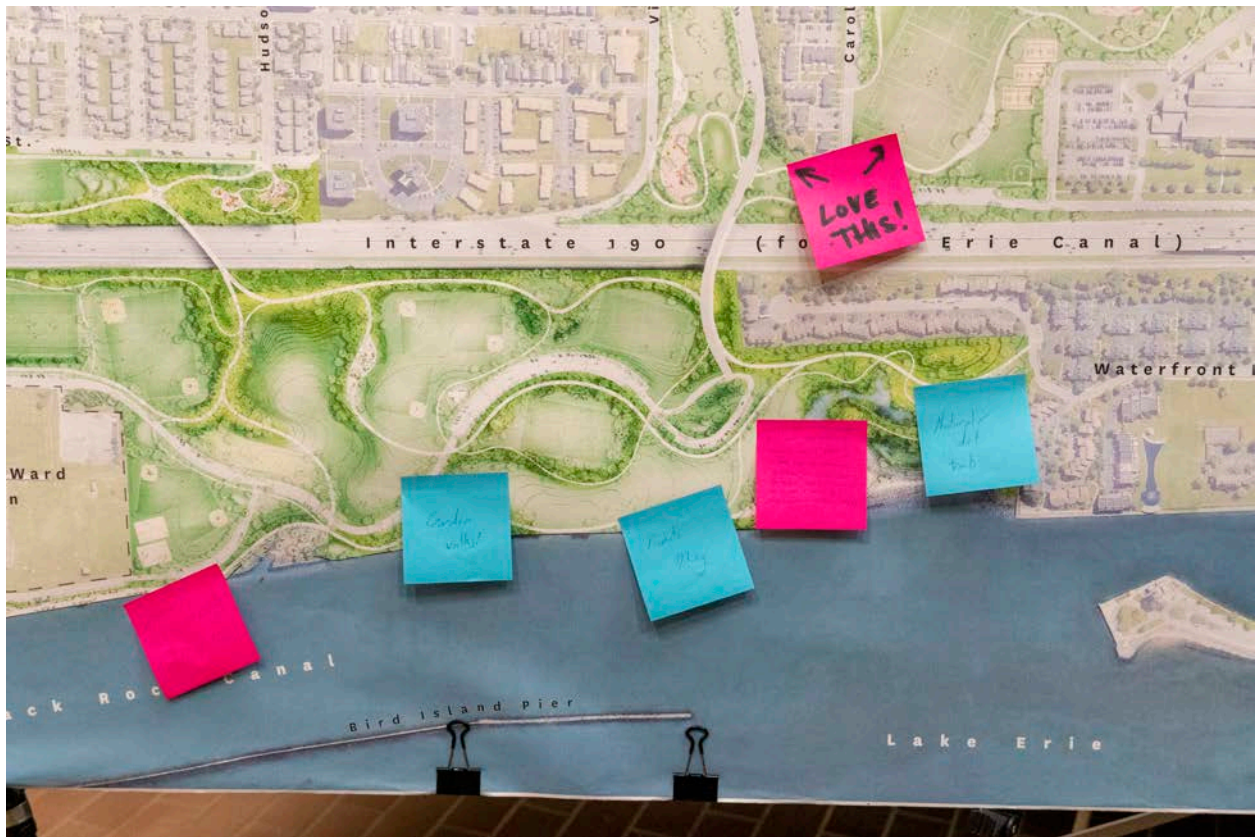
- Please try to include Virginia-Carolina Interchange and Waterfront/Emerson Young Park
- More comfort stations and small picnic shelters
- Prepare for serious swells. Check out what's happening to shore south of Skyway
- Bridge so that LaSalle becomes the Schools Park (Waterfront School's Park)
- No thru traffic (motorists suck)
- No thru traffic
- Can we put parking closer to the road instead of the middle of the park?
- Create wind buffers for winter activities
- Yay kayak launch!
- How much are all the fees gonna be the average Joe
- What is the plan for stages for comm. Use as well as audio rental or {illegible}
- Fishing access or platform
- Football obstacle course, sponsored by The Buffalo Bills. (Farthest throw w/ Josh Allen) Run w/ McCoy, kick field goals, hit targets, invite athletes, celebrities, ex-Bills players!
- More spaces for winter activities
- Crokicurl ring. Winter activity very big in "Canada"
- Too many concrete
- Need more green space

- Separate or designated bike lanes. They were mentioned in first 2 meetings but not today.
- What is uniquely Buffalo?
- Need a big idea
- Connect through to City Hall or plan for future phase
- Please try and connect/improve these parks and tie into LaSalle w/ pedestrian bridge
- Low maintenance equipment and/or natural playgrounds. (\$ of upkeep, materials, maintenance, security, etc.)
- Fishing area – needs to be separate – can be very dirty and dangerous. A pier maybe?
- No thru traffic
- Connect to downtown for bikes and vehicles
- No thru traffic
- Concern RE Lakefront Blvd – Do not make it a thru St: 1. Safety 2. No need to connect Erie St. to park – bad idea!
- Thumbs up! No vehicle access
- If you spend time here in the winter you will realize skating is unlikely. It's too windy and ice needs to be maintained.
- Need more (& better) pedestrian access
- Do not make Lakefront Blvd go into park – traffic wil pour into park because Erie Rd backs up
- Do not take away the view of water from Lakefront Commons Condos
- Homeowners don't own views. The public does own the park.
- I like swamp/natural ecological site. Ice skating opportunity is sweet.
- No "road" thor Lakefront Blvd – please!
- Preserve the Lake views for Lakefront Commons – we paid for it 32 yr ago
- Access to water for wading?
- The ecology section would be great for students in the conservation program at Riverside Academy High School #208
- Please keep cars away from cutting through Lakefront Blvd and getting stuck in Erie St Traffic – blocking everyone
- Student area with more structured spaces/patios maybe?
- Concern over the height of plantings blocking residents view of the lake
- Great process and presentation. Bravo!
- Thank you for the excellent presentation and the model
- No car access to Lakefront
- No Jello shots!
- Giant Rubber Duck
- Not enough open park space
- Enhanced fencing and screening along res

- Downtown skyline?
- No beer huts!
- Park seems too congested
- No beer tents!
- Water sports equipment rental station
- Day use docks for boats
- Kayak/Paddle board rentals
- More (at least 2) pedestrian bridges over 190
- Natural bowl amphitheater great idea
- No place for open space
- Why this particular curvature and path movement? Should represent the great lake terrain
- The skatepark is beloved now b/c people are dedicated to skate/bike but is hated @ same time b/c it is small and cramped and cannot occupy many people. EXPAND!
- More walking and hiking in the forests
- Educational tours, speakers –esp. for children
- Accessibility for elderly?
- Have set park hours. 24/7 access just brings bad things
- Parking inadequate problem! Need dedicated space

Board – Park Context Graphic Plan





- Promote biking
- Expand the natural terrain park area and distribute them in various areas – less the condensed usage of space and implement this topography in a way it could be interactive in various areas
- Natural/dirt trails
- Love this! [Virginia/Carolina interchange]
- Garden walks?
- Where is the Greenway integration?
- Where is connection across Porter
- Don't forget this view shed – visible from York/West [Yacht Club]
- Knit edges and access into all surrounding neighborhoods
- Place huge trees here for privacy [Waterfront Village edge]
- Dock for “Canalside Ferry” here! [water's edge near centerfield]
- Ice cream kiosk
- Create “kids/family” tram/train that runs throughout park
- Underground parking to help create mound. Then stairs and walkways to “Canalside Ferry”

General Comments

- More passive spaces – less active spaces
- Is everything that costs \$ affordable for those refugees living on the West Side
- Solar and wind and storage to power the park (micro grid)
- Bring on an energy manager to plan the generation and usage on site to be 100% fossil free.
- Warming stations from geothermal during the winter.
- Community policing plan. Non-discriminatory policing. #Blacklivesmatter
- Compost bins! Reconnect w/earth and farming
- Sharps containers and disposal plan
- Legal marijuana use areas once legalized
- Buffalo Marathon Continuity
- This park will defeat its purpose if its costs \$\$ to use. The majority close community are refugees/immigrants who take great care but do not have a lot to give.
- Able to use the park for community events
- Close park at 9pm
- Community policing plan.
- Accessible hours
- Yawn where's the inspiration?
- Fewer cars not more. Safety? Maintenance? Kayak area. Par 3 golf? Soccer – yes! 3 tennis courts. Traffic – congestion? Cross country ski.
- I am not happy with the look of the park. What has happened to the amphitheater? There is not a need to have a kayak waterfront area in this area. Having the backdrop of the lake while enjoying and outdoor concert is what makes our current park great. There is no need to have a wall blocking the thruway the view from the rd. to the water is another draw. This no longer looks like an historical park.
- Please do not open up the South end of the park to vehicular traffic.
- Ensure Buffalo marathon remains incorporated. Ingress/egress connect public transit as much as possible. Tie into seaway trail design concept. Less pavement for road maintenance expenses longterm i.e. no thru-traffic connections
- Please do not open up the South End of the park to vehicular traffic
- Great design! Very exciting
- Build this now (if we missed anything, we'll fix it later)
- Incorporate a market place to give community members an opportunity to be vendors. Similar to a flea market. I think we should allow people to sell food and their products (clothing, candies, jewelry, artwork, etc.) "Pop up shops"
- Connect stronger to the community on all edges. Create wind/weather buffers. Comfort stations/toilets/H2O. Shelters? Love all the opportunity for play and active lifestyles *MORE*. Bikes? All roads and trails?
- Westside L.L. Football would like to say that we are please w/all of the ideas that are presented and just want to say please don't forget about us. We're a fixture in

the community for many years and would love to afford our community youth everything they deserve. Thank you for your time and support.

- Please create structures that will prevent cars from the 190 crashing into people in the park. I don't want the speed limit reduced. I also don't want a repeat of the 198. Please be proactive, not reactive.