

Raymond Park Renovation

Community Engagement Wave #2 Summary, August 2024



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Community Development
Department

Agency
Landscape + Planning

We Shared Three Design Concepts!

A The Ramble

Tread Lightly, Play Hard



In July we shared three design concepts. The concepts included 19 different ideas for how to renovate Raymond Park. Some ideas were nature play, a loop path around the field, and a seating area near the community garden. Community feedback on these ideas will inform the next design phase.

B The Groves

Gather 'Round, Make Memories



C The Terraces

Step Up, Look Out



Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us again!

291
survey responses!

1 open house
at Lincoln Way

3 pop ups
in the park

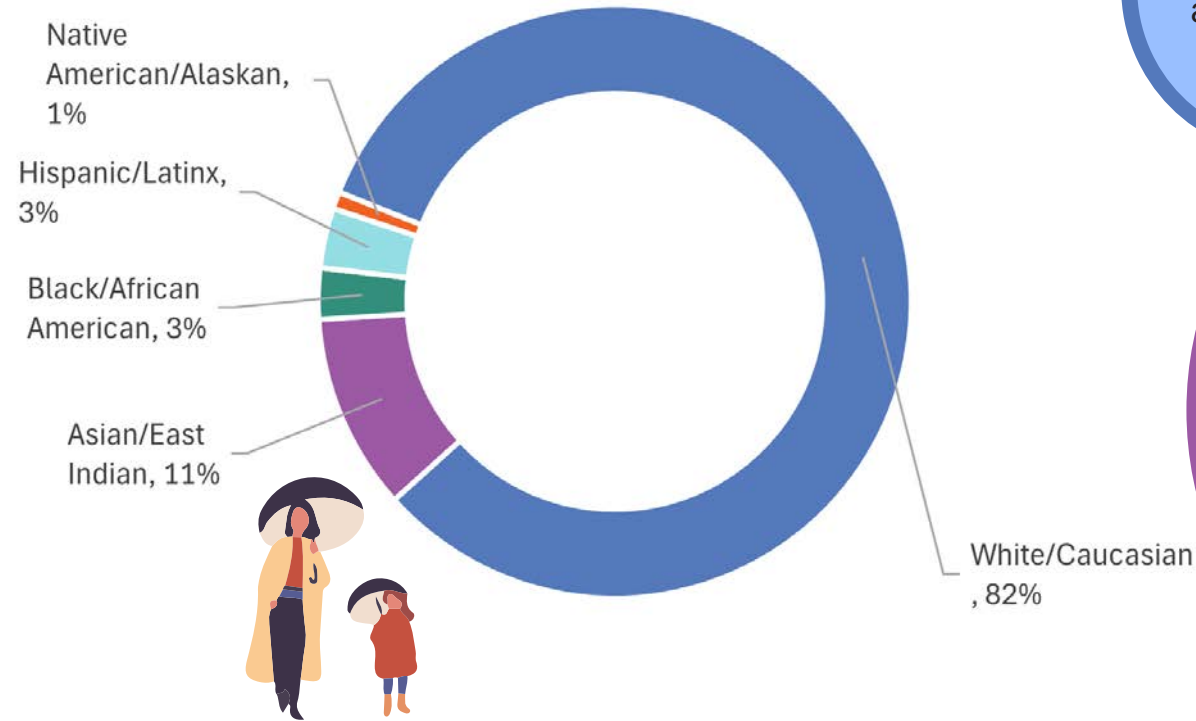
Countless
doggos!



Who we heard from...



RACE



The racial demographics of survey respondents was not reflective of the neighborhoods surrounding Raymond Park. Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx are under-represented.

Raymond Park community members speak **8** languages, collectively

59% of survey respondents are **parents or caretakers**

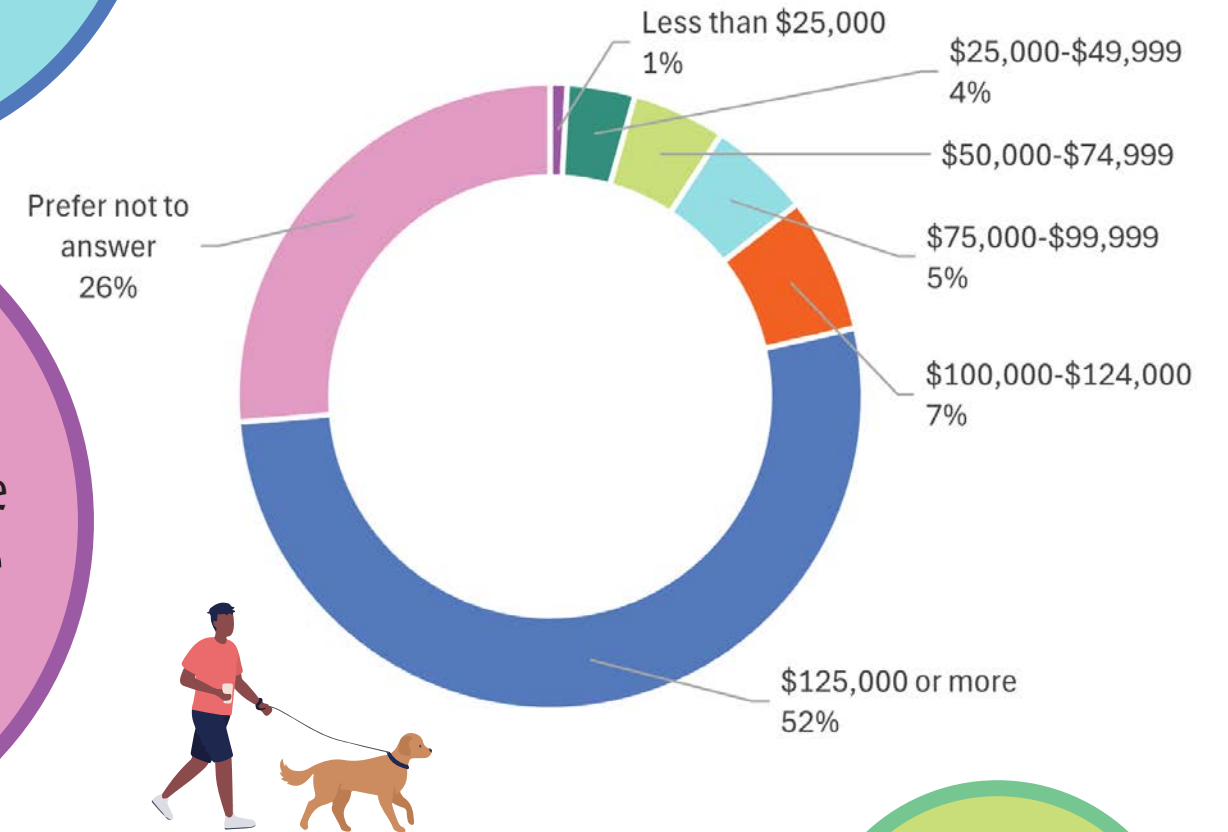
9% of survey respondents are kids and teenagers

72% of survey respondents are **engaged in active recreation** (running, soccer, basketball, etc.)

36% of survey respondents are dog owners/dog walkers

8% of survey respondents are community gardeners

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY INCOME



Those with an annual family/household income under \$100,000 were under-represented in the survey relative to the City of Cambridge.

55% of survey respondents own their own home, **22%** rent

Our Guiding Principles

Raymond is a beloved community gathering spot where neighbors meet up regularly and form bonds, particularly over their children and dogs. There's a desire to improve the park but not lose what makes it special!

Respectfully Renew

As a baseline, Raymond Park will continue to:

1. Serve as a neighborhood destination for **play & recreation**.
2. Provide **ecosystem services** to the neighborhood & city.
3. Offer diverse spaces for **community connection & gathering**.

Amplify & Elevate

The park renovation can also:

1. Expand and enrich **play & recreation** opportunities
2. Be a model for ecosystem services & **environmental stewardship**
3. Uniquely showcase **neighborhood character & city cultural expression!**

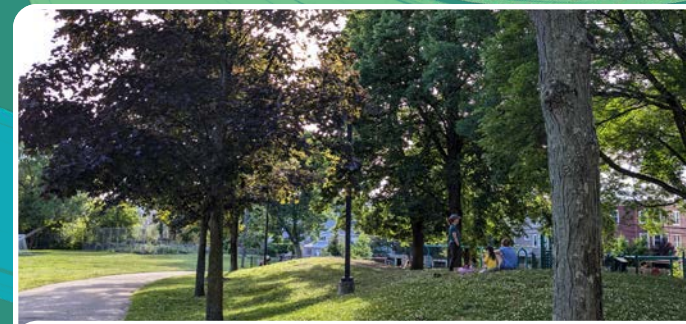
The Renovation Will Make Several Critical Improvements as a Baseline



Address the persistent drainage issues in the field



Guarantee access for all abilities by upholding ADA standards



Seek to ensure the health and longevity of the tree canopy



Aim to mitigate soil compaction around trees next to the playground



Repave all paths and resurface pavement



Stabilize slope & address retaining wall failure at Upland Road

The Raymond Park community is excited to amplify & elevate the park!

According to survey results, there is strong support from the community for the majority of the concept design ideas! Feedback converged around three major themes:

**More Seating
& Gathering
Spaces**



“These are all such great ideas! Thank you.”

**Better Play
& Recreation**



“I really love the open field and the shade - glad to see that in these plans!”

**Improved
Circulation
& Access**



There is a lot of enthusiasm for providing additional seating in four primary ways

“Since Raymond Park serves so many communities, I recommend prioritizing gathering spaces and seating areas.”

“I’d love to see some seating under the shade trees at the edge of the current playground mounds. Shaded seating is important.”

Shaded Picnic Area

63% said this is a good idea
16% said this is a bad idea



Expanded Seating at Raymond St. & Upland Rd.

59% said this is a good idea
7% said this is a bad idea



Seating Next to the Community Garden

58% said this is a good idea
11% said this is a bad idea

59% of community gardeners agree that seating next to the garden is a good idea!



Seating Around Court and/or Terraced Seating

54% said this is a good idea
14% said this is a bad idea

45% said this is a good idea
23% said this is a bad idea



There is excitement about enhancing play features, but there are mixed feelings about how and where to make improvements



“Raymond park is our top choice park in the summer right now because it’s so sheltered from the sun.”

Upgrade the Existing Playground

73% said this is a good idea
5% said this is a bad idea

“Save as many trees as possible! Plant more trees and pollinator gardens.”

“I like the play concepts, I really value shade in those play areas”

The trees at Raymond Park are greatly valued by the community. Most people would like to keep the playground in its current location because it is shaded. However, this may result in trade offs that impact the longevity of the existing trees.



Nature Playground

51% said this is a good idea
21% said this is a bad idea



Kids & teens are excited about the adventure play slope!

- 54% think adventure play is a good idea
- 38% think nature play is a good idea



Adventure Play Slope Along Upland Rd.

51% said this is a good idea
26% said this is a bad idea



Many people asked to maintain the general size and flexibility of the basketball court and the multi-purpose field

“I hope that the basketball court will consist of two courts as it often fills up fast.”



Requests to keep the general size and flexibility of both the basketball court and the multi-purpose field were the most common free response comments on the survey.

“That large asphalt space is used in many ways: yoga, boot camp, Halloween parades, bicycling, etc.”



“I really love the open field and the shade - glad to see that in these plans!”



“Please keep a full court. Keep open field space open.”



“As it is now, we have so much green space that allows for everyone to use it in many ways all at once!”



There is strong support for providing better circulation and access to the park



Loop Path Around the Park

60% said this is a good idea
20% said this is a bad idea

“I would worry that the loop path would bisect what are now very used soccer fields and wide open space to run”

Many people who do not like the idea to add a loop path are concerned about preserving as much open, multi-purpose field space as possible.

Walden St. Entrance with Terraced Gathering Space

51% said this is a good idea
18% said this is a bad idea

“Love the terraced entrance—makes for lots of versatility and gathering.”



The renovation will guarantee improved access for all abilities by upholding the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards. The Walden Street entrance must be modified to meet minimum accessibility standards.



There are some ideas to adapt or leave behind

Although there was a lot of support for most of the ideas presented in the concept designs, there were a few ideas that received critical feedback that will be taken into careful consideration in the next design phase.

Community Stage

28% said this is a good idea
43% said this is a bad idea



Most people do not favor a single-use stage, but a shaded trellis or multi-purpose pavilion would meet requests for more shade

New Entrance at Walden St. & Raymond St.

39% said this is a good idea
25% said this is a bad idea



Tricycle Loop

38% said this is a good idea
30% said this is a bad idea



A loop path through the park could accommodate tricycle, scooter, rollerblade, and strider bike activity



Path Through the Community Garden

45% said this is a good idea
33% said this is a bad idea



Relocating Play to the Southwest Corner along Upland Rd.

27% said this is a good idea
39% said this is a bad idea



Elevated Boardwalk in the Trees

39% said this is a good idea
34% said this is a bad idea

A canopy boardwalk experience could be explored in a playground design at the existing location to help mitigate impacts on tree health & longevity



Stay in the Loop!

Keep up to date with Raymond Park on the City of Cambridge's website, here:

www.cambridgema.gov/RaymondPark

Our Expected Project Timeline

Spring 2024

Community Engagement Wave #1
Let's hear your thoughts!

We are here!

Community Engagement Wave #2
Let's imagine the park!

Fall 2024

Community Engagement Wave #3
Let's refine the details!

Summer 2025

Envision

Gather community input to imagine the future of Raymond Park together!

Design

Develop and share design concepts and incorporate community feedback.

Build

Let's build a park! The construction phase begins.

