



# FREDERICKSBURG RIVERFRONT PARK

## *Summary of Public Input May 2014*

- Open House #2 (May 3, 2014)
- Online Survey

# Fredericksburg Riverfront Park

## Survey Findings: Open House #2 and Online Survey

280 responses total

251 online, 29 at meeting

### Preferences

Strictly looking at how people responded to the survey, there was an exact 111/111 split between Option A and Option B (about 1/3 of respondents each), with the other third of respondents stating that they prefer a hybrid of the two options (**Figure 1**).

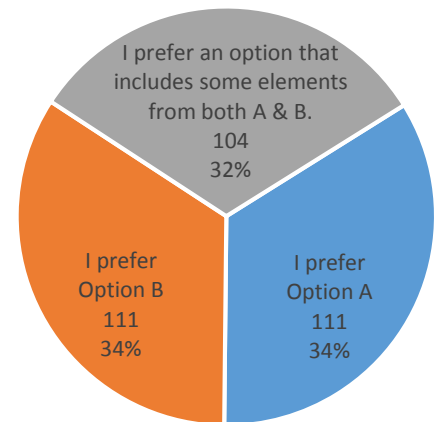
However, some respondents responded that they preferred both A & B, while others stated elements that they liked from each option yet did not specifically select that they would like to see a mix of the elements. After coding the results to reflect respondents who prefer a mix of elements from each option, versus those who have a clear preference for one of the options, the results show a preference for Option A over Option B, with nearly half of respondents desiring elements of both options (**Figure 2**):

- 114 (46%) prefer a mix of the two options
- 75 (30%) prefer Option A
- 59 (24%) prefer Option B

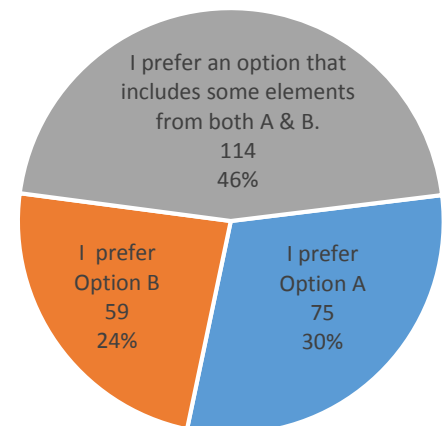
### Major Conclusions

- There is a slight overall preference for Option A, with the shade structure, water and turf play areas, and aquatic garden as the most frequently-mentioned features that respondents liked.
- For Option B, the bridge/stage and the lawn terrace were the top-rated features. However, some respondents voiced concerns about the bridge design and functionality.
- There is significant concern about the lack of parking on the site, largely from people connected with the church, but also from other respondents who note that the area is already stressed for parking and that this plan removes existing parking areas while adding a destination.

**Fig. 1 - Raw Survey Data**



**Fig. 2 - Coded Data**



## Likes

The numbers below reflect all comments provided, regardless of the respondents' stated preferences.

Option A	# of people	Option B	# of people
Shade structure	38	Bridge/stage	44
Water play	26	Lawn terrace	34
Aquatic garden	25	Interactive sculpture	18
Turf mound play area	20	River walk trail	16
Boardwalk	16	Event space	13
Promenade & street edge gardens	15	Water play/bubblers	6
History wall	12	Openness	6
River access	11	Boardwalk	5
River walk	8	Boulders	4
More open space	4		
Wider river views	3		
Covered seating area	3		

## Which Elements Do People Want Combined?

The numbers below reflect the top elements mentioned by those who said they would prefer a mix of the two options. Most respondents chose several elements from both Option A and Option B, while five respondents explicitly stated that they prefer Option B plus a shade structure.

Option A	# of people	Option B	# of people
Shade structure	32	Bridge/stage	32
Aquatic gardens	26	Lawn terrace	24
Turf mound play area	24	Interactive sculpture	14
Water play near shaded area	12	More open space	5
Promenade & street edge gardens	11	Events	4
History wall	10	Boardwalk	3
Shaded area	7	Path	3
Seating area	6		
Boardwalk	4		

## Major Concerns Specific to Each Option

Option A	Option B
<p><b>Built environment vs. natural areas:</b> Some (5-10) respondents felt that there was too much concrete and too many other built structures.</p> <p><b>Play area location and design:</b> Add barrier (such as fencing) and/or move it away from the road (5-10 responses)</p>	<p><b>Bridge/stage:</b> About 10 respondents voiced concerns about the bridge and stage, including flooding, distance from stage to lawn terrace for spectators, usefulness (due to size, set up, etc.), and the ability to walk through the park while the bridge is being used</p> <p><b>Shaded seating:</b> Include more seating and shade around the water play area (5-10 respondents)</p>

## Major Overall Concerns (Not Specific to a Particular Option)

**Parking:** Many respondents were upset about the elimination/lack of parking, citing accessibility issues, the nearby church, surveys that indicate that most would drive to the park, and increased traffic in an area with existing traffic/parking issues. Suggestion to consider a small, permeable parking area. (70-75 respondents)

**Church:** Events near the church posing a conflict with Church services. Concern about people disrespecting the historic premises. (25-30 respondents)

**Shade/Trees:** More shade, especially near paths and play areas. About 10 respondents specifically requested more trees. (15-20 respondents)

**More incorporation of history:** Both in the design (with more wood and less of a modern look) or through incorporation of more interpretive markers or signage. (10-15 respondents).

**Restrooms:** With play facilities and events held at the park, there should be restrooms available. (~10 respondents)

**Maintain view to river:** Concerns about trees blocking view of river and the lack of a continuous path with seating along the river's edge. (5-10 respondents)

**Trails:** Would like a path near the river whenever possible, as well as connections to other trails and more seating along the trail. (5-10 respondents)

**Cost of construction and maintenance** (5-10 respondents)

**Flooding** (5-10 respondents)

## Additional Concerns Mentioned Less Frequently (5 or fewer respondents each)

**Environmental impacts:** Impact on riverbank. Potential for encroachment into the RPA. Concepts do not show how stormwater will be managed. Concerns about mosquitos breeding in the aquatic garden.

**Access to park:** Add access to set up for performances and provide wheelchair access. Make sure the park welcomes all ages and abilities - old, young, single, families, children.

**Cleanliness:** Maintaining the cleanliness of the park (trashcans, recycle bins) during events.

**Events:** Noise; do not allow stage, events, etc. to impact natural beauty; power and water supplies for events; looking into the setting sun at events.

**Need space for other uses:** Include a space for vendors/artists/crafts in a shaded area; space for novelty acts; a dock for boat tours; a fishing area.

**Natural and open design:** Incorporate more natural elements, such as trees, rocks, etc. Don't overcrowd the space.

**Picnic areas:** Include picnic tables.

**Safety concerns:** Play areas (sculpture, boulders), animal controls, and potential for vagrants and crime. Would like dedicated police patrol. Include lighting for safety and security.

**Access to the river:** Want dock accessible to boaters (canoes, kayaks, powerboats). Riverbank is not well suited for direct river access – include wayfinding to City Dock to allow for river access there.

## Open House #2: Likes and Dislikes for Each Option (Sticky Note Comments on Wall at Stations #3 and #4)

### Likes

Option A	# of people	Option B	# of people
Water play	6	Interactive sculpture	5
Turf mound play area	5	Like undefined layout (simplicity, openness)	4
River walk trail/Boardwalk	4	Bridge/stage	3
Promenade	3	River walk trail	3
More open space. Allows adult play (e.g., disc)	2	Water play/bubblers/boulders	3
History wall	2	Beautiful/elegant	3
Gardens	1	More natural, less hardscape	3
River edge treatment	1	Boardwalk (symmetrical)	2
Covered seating area	1	Event space	1
Seems easier to maintain	1	More trees	1
Wide paths	1	Seems to have lower long-term cost	1
More modern	1	No parking	1
Daylighting	1		

### Dislikes

Option A	# of people	Option B	# of people
Want more trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In open area</li> <li>Along paths</li> <li>Near event space</li> </ul>	5	Stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too expensive to build/maintain</li> <li>Too far from audience</li> <li>Needs set up area (speakers/lights); would be difficult with this design</li> <li>Not as useful as "A" boardwalks</li> </ul>	6
Views: Want more water views; view of train bridge	3	Add shade feature	6
Want bathroom; water fountains	3	Doesn't get close enough to the water. Want overlook area.	4
Angular pathways don't fit landscape/downtown	2	Too much focus on event space. Takes up too much space when there are no events.	4
High long-term cost	2	Too modern – out of character (e.g., bridge)	2
Needs more history	2	Not enough history. Incorporate our roots.	2
Too defined/busy – not as open	2	Not as much open space as "A" ; seems cramped	2
Too much built infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E.g., Use trees, not shade structure</li> </ul>	2	Play areas: Make children's water area like "A"; Add mounds like "A"	2
Want permanent theatre structure	1	Less appealing from Sophia	1
Add adult water feature	1	Trees block view	1
Need separation between street/play area	1	Sculpture (cleanliness; safety)	1
May be easily flooded	1	Want smaller, intimate picnic areas	1