

1ST + GAY ST. PARK | WHAT WE HEARD

The third and final round of engagement for the new Gay Street park included a review of the draft final design concept and a survey. The planning process for the new Gay Street park included two in-person meetings and virtual engagement with the community to determine priorities for the design and programming of the future park. The draft final design concept was developed in response to community input, Metro Parks' strategic master plan, and the site's unique opportunities and constraints.

Draft Final Design Concept



Final Survey

The final survey was available online from June 1 to July 8, 2023 and generated 541 site views and 33 survey responses. Respondents provided feedback on how well the design concept addressed their priorities and programming desires for the future park. From the 33 survey responses, key themes included in the following:

- Approximately 69% of respondents noted that the design concept strongly or very strongly aligned with their priorities for the future park space.
- In terms of additional design elements, respondents noted their desire for the park to include bike service areas, functional bike racks, trash receptacles, and public bathrooms.
- Respondents noted potential low usage of the volleyball court and suggested replacing it with either water features/sculptural elements or additional green space.
- Additional concerns were raised regarding insufficient transit access to the park site, the need for lighting, and ongoing safety and maintenance.

Next Steps

Metro Parks will proceed with design development through summer 2023, followed by construction bidding. Construction of the park is projected for completion in 2025.



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Are there any park elements missing from the current design that you would like to see in the final design?

ID	Comment
1	Public restrooms and charging stations
2	Greenway should have separated walk and bike areas
3	Too busy with tennis courts and nonsense.
4	I would love for there to be a space for food trucks that does not block the road or bike lanes/side-walks.
5	Too much parking
6	Looks pretty great! Need to fix up the greenway north and south of the park to make it more accessible.
7	Some bike amenities here would be great considering this is on the greenway. Functional bike racks for people to lock up there bikes when they are enjoying park amenities would be great. Also bike repair station? Somewhere near the covered pavilion. Let's encourage people to walk/bike here!
8	Actual playground for kids. As someone who walk down to first on my lunch break starting at union all the way to ascend and loop back I am excited to see the addition. I would home to see a water source (fountain for people and dogs)
9	Convert the old pump hose into a adaptive reuse restaurant project to generate revenue for park up keep and activates the space. Also it would be great to have park and riverside dining.
10	Additional funding for upkeep and to keep it from becoming a homeless encampment. We build things - parks, multi modal infrastructure, etc. and then we don't maintain the budget necessary to keep it in good shape. Then it deteriorates quickly, and no one uses it, and in the case of some parks/greenways, gets taken over by homeless. How are we going to keep that from happening? We absolutely need to support the unhoused and find and budget for them to be housed as well, but they shouldn't be living on our greenways and parks and making them unusable for others.
11	Skate park area, bicycle repair stand
12	Refillable water bottle stations
13	Bathrooms
14	Water feature like a fountain or splash pad. Iconic Sculpture that can be touched /interacted with like animals. Better yet- combine the two - sculptures shooting water that children and adults can sit on/ interact with as they visit the park.
15	Dog park, water element (fountains or something water-based, even though it's on the river), walking trails that connect to other trails or roads, boating options.
16	Bike parking and signage
17	Ample trash cans, bike service area (similar to Shelby park)
18	No explicit mention of water fountains in the drawing.



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Is there anything else you would like to change about the draft final design?

ID	Comment
19	I think the name should just be "1st Avenue Park". If you name the park "Gay Street Park", that will only invite rude comments and jokes about the park.
20	Will there be lighting to keep the park open and safe at night?
21	Greenway should have separated walk and bike areas
22	Remove all hard surfaces and make it all grass and trees with a few benches and picnic tables.
23	I just want to emphasize how important cyclist and pedestrian access is. And bus access.
24	Change the 2 12ft car drives lanes to 2 11ft car drive lanes. That gives an extra 2ft of buffer for people outside of cars and more space free street trees and pervious surface.
25	Transit access (future or current)
26	Less parking!!!!
27	Some seating for spectating would be great for folks who cannot participate in the activities but would like to watch and enjoy seeing people play basketball/pickleball or sand volleyball. Seating around the courts would also be helpful for those who are participating but are waiting for the next game/match to start.
28	A full loop around the sports service for walking and some seats next to it for observing.
29	You might want to put a backer net or fence between the pickleball courts and basketball court. Flyaway Pickleballs will constantly interrupt basketball otherwise.
30	Flex the courts to include skating infra, add bicycle repair stand. Also MORE SEATING (not reflected in this design)
31	Beach volleyball court seems like an idea that would have low use and a lot of maintenance and space to keep up. Would rather have water feature/sculpture.
32	Crossing walks at the intersection
33	I believe the volleyball court is too niche for wide appeal. A garden of some variety would produce a more serene locale and escape from the city. The inclusion of both a volleyball court and athletic facilities has the potential to make the park more of a bustling recreational destination than a natural getaway.

