



# WHITTIER PARK MASTER PLAN PROJECT



Welcome  
to the  
**Whittier Park  
Master Plan  
Community  
Meeting #2!**

**TONIGHT'S MEETING AGENDA**  
DECEMBER 14, 2023

6:45 PM - 7:20 PM - PRESENTATION

7:20 PM - 8:15 PM - VISIT CONCEPT STATIONS

8:15 PM - 8:30PM - THANK YOU & NEXT STEPS

**CONSULTANT TEAM:**

AHBL - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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## Master Plan Schedule

- **November 16th**  
Community Meeting #1 - Program Conversations
- **December 14th**  
Community Meeting #2 - Design Conversations
- **February**  
Presentation of Final Design and adoption by City Council
- **May**  
Apply for funding,  
Recreation Conservation Office grant application due

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This draft Master Plan Schedule, presented by AHBL, aligns with the project's identified scope of work. The City of Fircrest has allocated \$30,000 for this master plan. Master plans can vary significantly in cost, ranging from tens of thousands to several million dollars, depending on their depth and complexity. The differences stem from factors like scale, scope, community engagement, and resource allocation needed for effective execution based on the development or improvement area. Staff is collaborating with AHBL to arrange an extra open house before presenting the final design to the Fircrest City Council. Due to this additional meeting request, the above schedule may be modified.

## Project Overview

*“Why is Whittier Park undergoing a master plan?”*



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Whittier Park, situated at the corner of Elm Tree Lane and Contra Costa Avenue, spans 13 acres and holds a special place in our neighborhood. Over time, various enhancements at the park are nearing the end of their functionality, demanding substantial maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement. To address these impending needs, the City aims to collect input from Fircrest residents. To achieve this, a AHBL has been engaged to guide us through crafting a Whittier Master Plan. This comprehensive plan seeks to update current resident preferences and prioritize future improvements, aligning them with the evolving desires of Fircrest residents over time.



The conceptual designs unveiled tonight were developed by AHBL, integrating feedback from the community, as well as input from parks, recreation, and maintenance staff. These are the initial site plans that encompass the desired program elements outlined by the community for Whittier Park. The insights informing these designs have been gathered from the community surveys, with over 100 responses collected as of 12/14/2023, and Community Meeting #1, which drew over 50 attendees.

Answers to...

## What would you like to see at the park?

Top Six Results:

Soccer



Trails



Restroom



Covered Areas



Trees



Baseball



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This slide illustrates how participants who attended Community Meeting #1 prioritized program elements and park features. This slide is a snapshot of all the information and only shows the top six program elements.

Comments to...

## What concerns or questions do you have?

Results:



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Known as a word cloud, this slide features another way of looking at the data. Words that were mentioned more in the Community Meeting #1 are larger, and words mentioned fewer times are smaller.

# "WHAT WE STUDIED"

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



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AHBL studied current resident preferences for the park and prioritized them based on direct input from Fircrest residents as these preferences change over time. Conceptual designs were created by AHBL by integrating the community feedback received so far and serve as a representation of the program elements the community desires at Whittier Park.



# Nature Nature Play Play



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The three conceptual designs presented this evening lean toward three distinct directions based on the data collected to date: Nature, Nature & Play, and Play. A best practice in Park Master Planning, this strategy serves as a brainstorming catalyst intended to engage the public with a vision of what the data looks like within these categories and will in turn help the attendees communicate what they like or don't like about each conceptual design.

# Matrix of Options

Field	Play	Gather	Parking
 Natural	 Nature Based	 Clustered	 Maintain
 Synthetic	 Traditional	 Dispersed	 Expanded
 Mix	 None	 None	 Adjusted

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This graphic illustrates the diverse range of options that can be incorporated within each of the conceptual designs.

## Concept 1: Leach Creek Runs Through it



Daylight Creek



Clearing

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Concept Number 1, 'Leach Creek Runs Through It,' heavily leans towards the nature side of the scale and illustrates how exposing the natural drainage or potential creek beneath Whittier Park could lead to a variety of possibilities.

## Concept 1: Leach Creek Runs Through it

*Nature*      *Nature*  
*Play*      *Play*



Field



Natural

Play



Nature

Gather



Dispersed

Parking



Maintain

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## Concept 1: Leach Creek Runs Through it

Site Plan



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The Concept 1 rendering integrates the current parking lot while revealing the natural course of Leach Creek. It proposes a natural grass soccer field, expanded trails, and diverse natural play features. Pink boxes represent possible spots for picnic shelters and restrooms. Titled 'Leach Creek Runs Through It,' this concept prioritizes natural park elements, seeking additional input and suggestions at Community Meeting #2 for the ongoing Whittier Park Master Plan.

Note: This is a conceptual plan aiming to gather more ideas at Community Meeting #2 and is not a finalized proposal.

## Concept 2: Community Anchor



Fields



Community Hub

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## Concept 2: Community Anchor

*Nature* **Nature** *Play*  
**Play**



Field



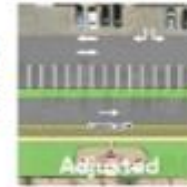
Play



Gather



Parking



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## Concept 2: Community Anchor



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Concept 2's rendering showcases a reduced parking lot size and adds a drop-off lane. It proposes maintaining the current soccer field locations while relocating the baseball field to the northeast onto a multi-purpose artificial turf field. Various amenities like tennis courts, picnic shelters, restrooms, and play structures are strategically positioned near the park's center. Additionally, more trees are depicted along the park's western and southern borders. Named 'Community Anchor,' this concept retains natural park elements from Concept 1 but emphasizes a play-focused design, featuring two soccer fields, a versatile turf baseball field, and a centralized hub for park amenities. It's important to clarify that this is a conceptual plan aimed at gathering further ideas during Community Meeting #2 for the ongoing Whittier Park Master Plan, and it's not the final proposed design.



### Concept 3: Sports Complex



Sports Central



Walking Path

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### Concept 3: Sports Complex

*Nature*      *Nature*  
*Play*      *Play*



Field	 Synthetic	Play	 None	Gather	 Clustered	Parking	 X2 Expanded
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### Concept 3: Sports Complex



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The rendering for Concept 3 illustrates an expanded parking lot with an added drop-off lane and a complete walking path. It incorporates increased plantings towards the north and west sections. This design prioritizes play elements and introduces a large artificial multipurpose turf area that can be partitioned into two youth-size soccer fields and two baseball fields. Termed the 'Sports Complex' concept, it consciously leans towards a play-centric focus, shifting away from a nature-centered approach. The plan includes provisions for Tennis and/or pickleball courts placed at the south end for noise mitigation, a basketball court, and various options for shelters and a restroom. It's important to emphasize that this is a conceptual plan intended to spark further ideas during Community Meeting #2 for the ongoing Whittier Park Master Plan, and it's not the final proposed design.

# "WHERE WE ARE GOING"

*SCHEDULE & NEXT STEPS*

*FOCUSED FEEDBACK - CONCEPT STATIONS*



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## Next Steps

### HOW DOES YOUR FEEDBACK IMPACT THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS?



Shape the preferred alternative that is presented to City Council



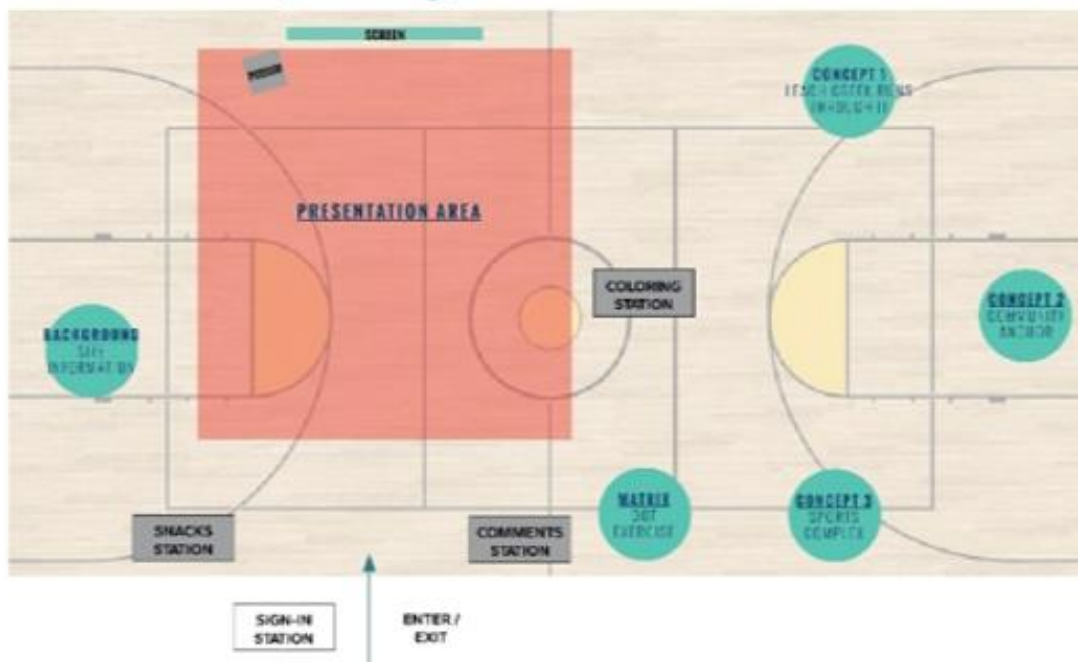
Your feedback will help prioritize the proposed amenities and improvements to the park



More comments and ideas?  
Please add them to the "Make a Great Park for the Neighborhood" board



## 15 Minute Drills, Ready, Break!



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This slide illustrates the layout for community meeting #2.