

# SEA SCHOOL/WILDWOOD PARK FLOOD REDUCTION PROJECT COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT



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# Overview

In March 2020, the Golden Valley City Council authorized the SEA School/Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project, a planning study used to explore the next phase of the Medicine Lake Rd and Winnetka Ave Area Long-Term Flood Mitigation Plan. A large portion of the study included gathering public input from area residents and school stakeholders.

Before gathering input from the public, City staff met virtually with Robbinsdale School District representatives and Barr Engineering, the City's contracted engineer firm, April 23, 2020 to share information on the project. Attendees from the City of Golden Valley included Mark Nevinski, Physical Development Director; Rick Birno, Director of Parks and Recreation; Tim Kieffer, Public Works Director; Jeff Oliver, City Engineer; Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor; Drew Chirpich, Environmental Specialist; Al Lundstrom, Park Maintenance Supervisor; and Joe Hansen, Utilities Supervisor. Attendees from the Robbinsdale School District included Dr. Lowell Holtz, Director of Operations & Safety; Rodger Schaefbauer, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Heather Hanson, SEA Principal; Dr. Cara Rieckenberg, STEAM Program Director; and Consultant Brent Boelter. Attendees from Barr Engineering included Jen Koehler and Kurt Leuthold.

The City solicited input from the community through an ArcGIS story map that included a detailed history of flooding in the area, information on public health and safety challenges, an outline of the Medicine Lake Rd and Winnetka Ave Area Long-Term Flood Mitigation Plan and its implementation, and an outline of the SEA School-Wildwood Park Area Study.

The story map included two opportunities for public feedback in the form of a survey and an interactive map on which residents could pin comments.

City staff used all comments when creating the project's concept plans in late summer 2020.

In September 2020, the City published project concept plans for the public to review and share feedback. See Appendix D for all public feedback on the concept plans.

To promote the various feedback opportunities, the City published multiple online news stories and one *CityNews* story between May 4, 2020 and Oct 5, 2020. The City further promoted these items through social media posts on Facebook and Twitter.

## Online Survey

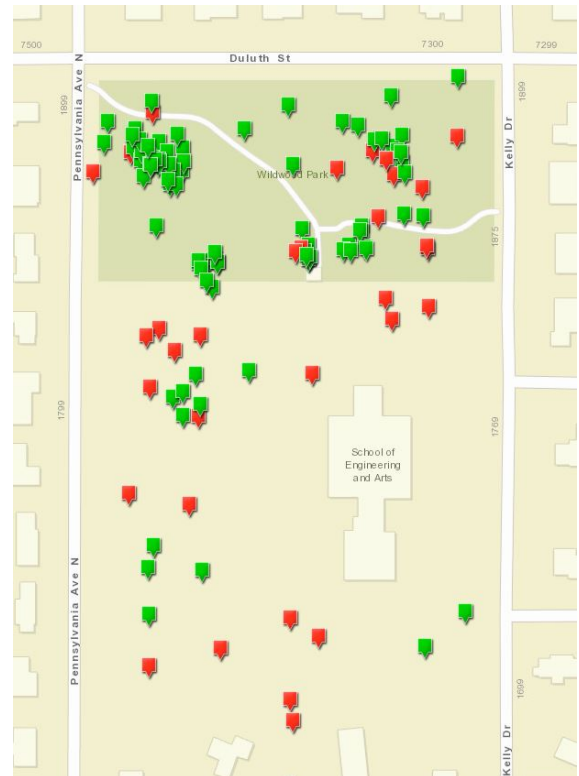
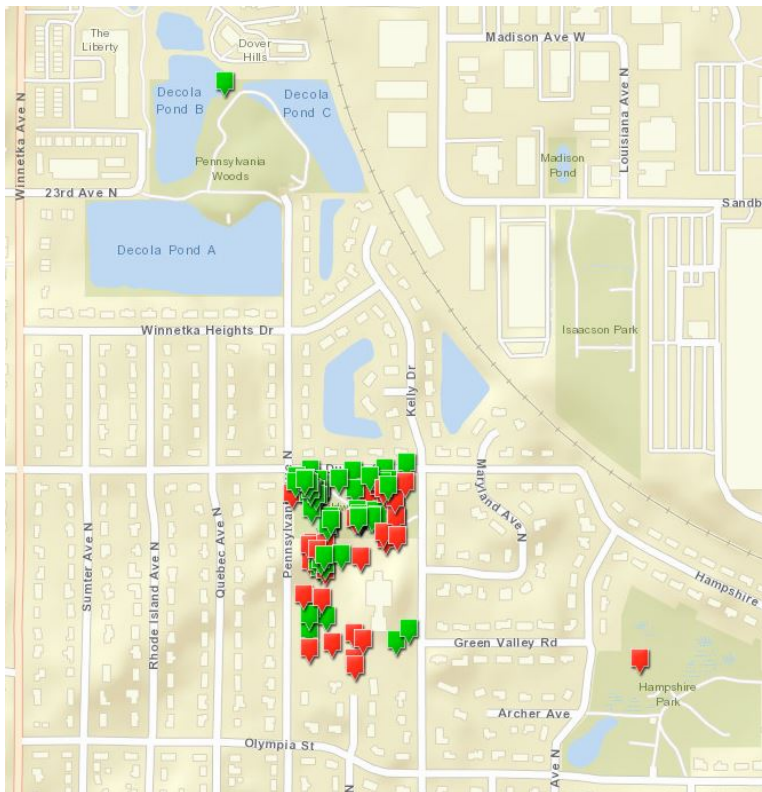
The nine-question survey (with an option to add additional comments) was active from June 9–June 30 and had 98 responses. See survey responses on page 4.

## Interactive Map

The map received 37 comments from residents. See Appendix A for the full list of comments.

**Green Flag = Like or Value**

**Red Flag = Dislike or Issue**





## Social Media Outreach

The City posted information and reminders about public input opportunity five times on Facebook and five times on Twitter between May 4, 2020 and June 29, 2020. See Appendix B for reach and engagement details.



City of Golden Valley, MN - Local Government

Published by Loomly [?] · May 4 ·

In March, the City Council authorized the preparation of a planning study for the SEA School/Wildwood Park Flood Mitigation Project—the next phase of the DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Plan.

<https://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/.../planning-study-begins-thi.../>



City of Golden Valley, MN

@GoldenValleyMN

Residents are encouraged to learn more about about the SEA School/Wildwood Park Flood Mitigation Project and share valuable feedback via an online survey and by adding comments to an interactive map. Learn more > [goldenvalleymn.gov/newsarchive/in...](https://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/newsarchive/in...)



## Virtual Open House

In late March 2021, the City published a virtual open highlighting more refined project concept plans for the SEA School-Wildwood Park area and offered a chance for residents to provide input. The input period lasted March 30–April 30.

As of May 4, 2021, the virtual open house has 111 views on YouTube.

See all open house feedback in Appendix E.

## Background Information

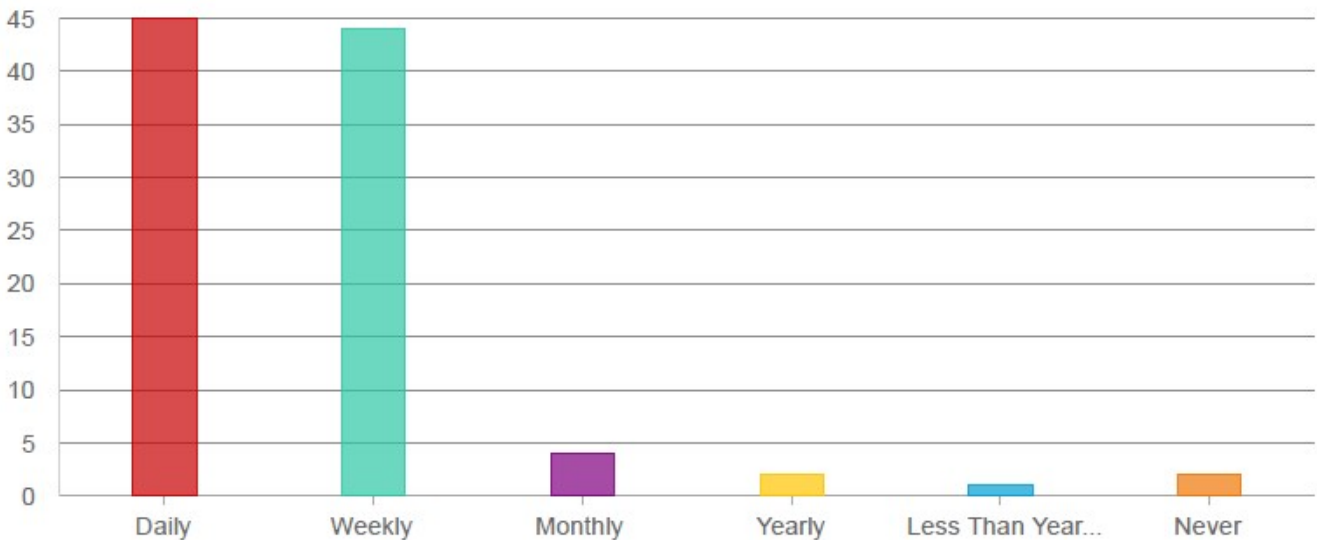
### Do you have a household member that attends or attended the School of Engineering and Arts (SEA School) since opening in 2012?

Of the 98 responses to this question, 9 (9 percent) responded yes and 89 (89 percent) answered no.



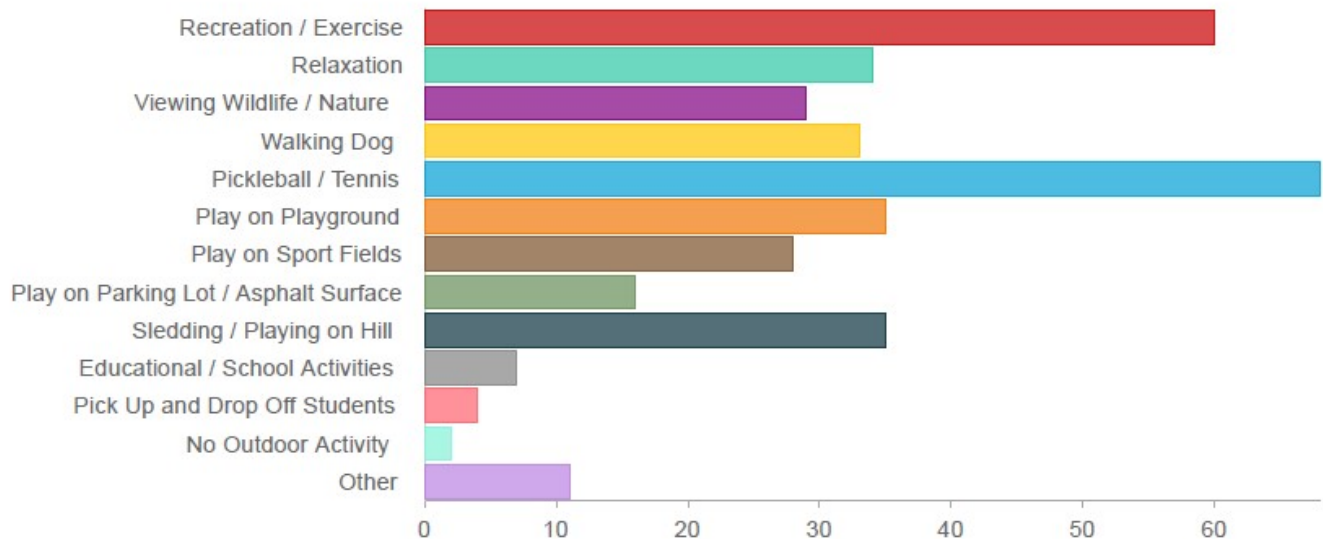
### On average, how often do you visit Wildwood Park or the SEA School property?

Of the 98 responses to this question, 45 (46 percent) said they visit the park daily, 44 (45 percent) said weekly, 4 (4 percent) said monthly, 2 (2 percent) said yearly, 2 (2 percent) said never, and 1 (1 percent) said less than yearly.



## Which outdoor activities do you do at Wildwood Park or the SEA School property? (select al that apply)

Of the 98 responses, “Pickleball/Tennis” and “Recreation/Exercise” were the top two answers. Eleven respondents answered “Other.”

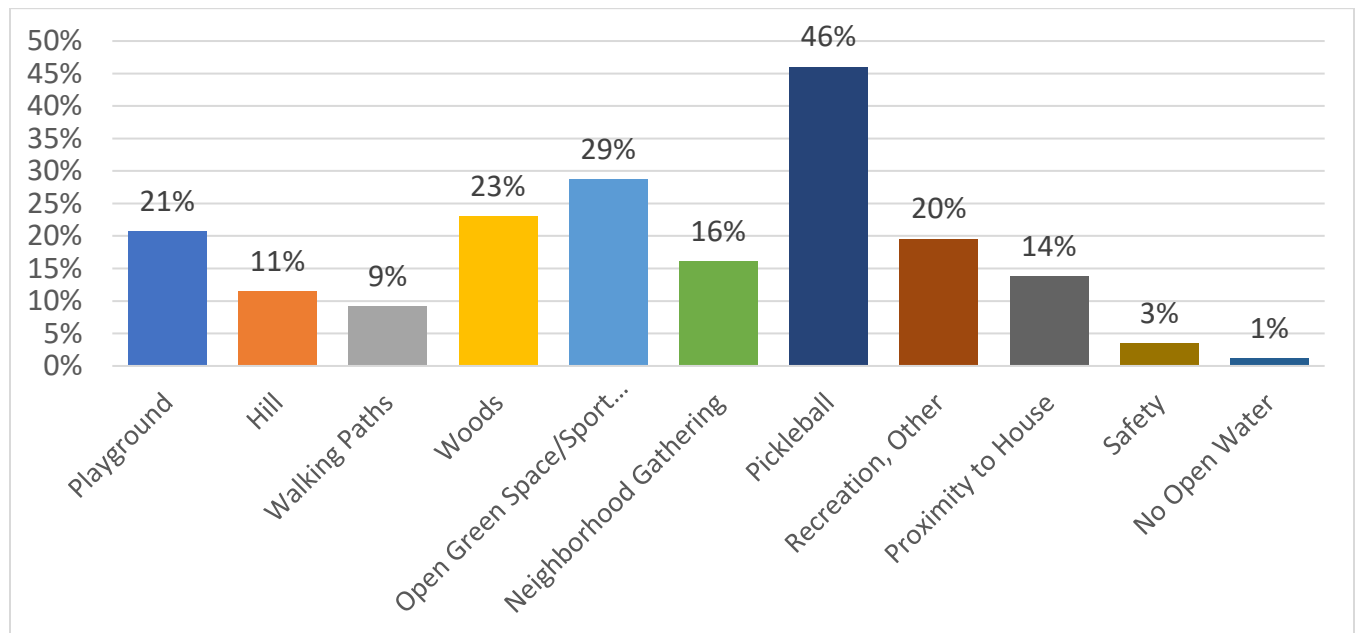


<b>“Other” Responses (printed verbatim)</b>
Neighborhood gatherings, Annual Pumpkin Festival
Meet wit our neighbors at the pavillion
Occasional walks
I am a SEA School volunteer. Also, our neighborhood uses the shelter next to the playground as well as the playground and the hill for our picnics.
Walk in the woods.
Neighborhood picnics, used the sledding hill when our kids were younger, use the grassy areas for playing frisbee
I walk by the woods/park often on daily walks.
cross country skiing around the perimeter
Mostly walk now. Kids grown. Grandkids cant visit.
walk thru woods with young children in family to let them guide and explore.did this with my children,gra

# Area Likes And Dislikes

## What do you value/appreciate about Wildwood Park and the SEA School property?

Of the 87 responses to this open-ended question, the word “Pickleball” was included in 46 percent of answers, the words “Open Green Space/Sports Fields” were included in 29 percent of answers, and the word “Woods” was included in 23 percent of answers.



### Responses (printed verbatim)

The playground, the the hill the walking path, the wooded area
Children (3 and 5) play almost daily (park, hill, woods, fields); neighborhood gathering place
It's our neighborhood hangout - we often meet there with our kids
Wide open spaces, lots of activities to participate in
Green space, recreation activities
Our children enjoy playing at the Wildwood Park
The mature trees and wildness of the wood area. Children love playing there.
I love having the playground as a gathering place for all the families with young children
Pickleball, basketball, sledding, open space
Pickleball courts are very nice. They are used every day when the weather is nice.
It provides my family and i with lots of different options for play and discovery.
Proximity to my house, safe and friendly neighborhood park. Wonderful playground.
Park, sledding hill, pickleball, walking trail
Convenient Location in Neighborhood
Trees and the one paved trail that passes between the woods and the playground

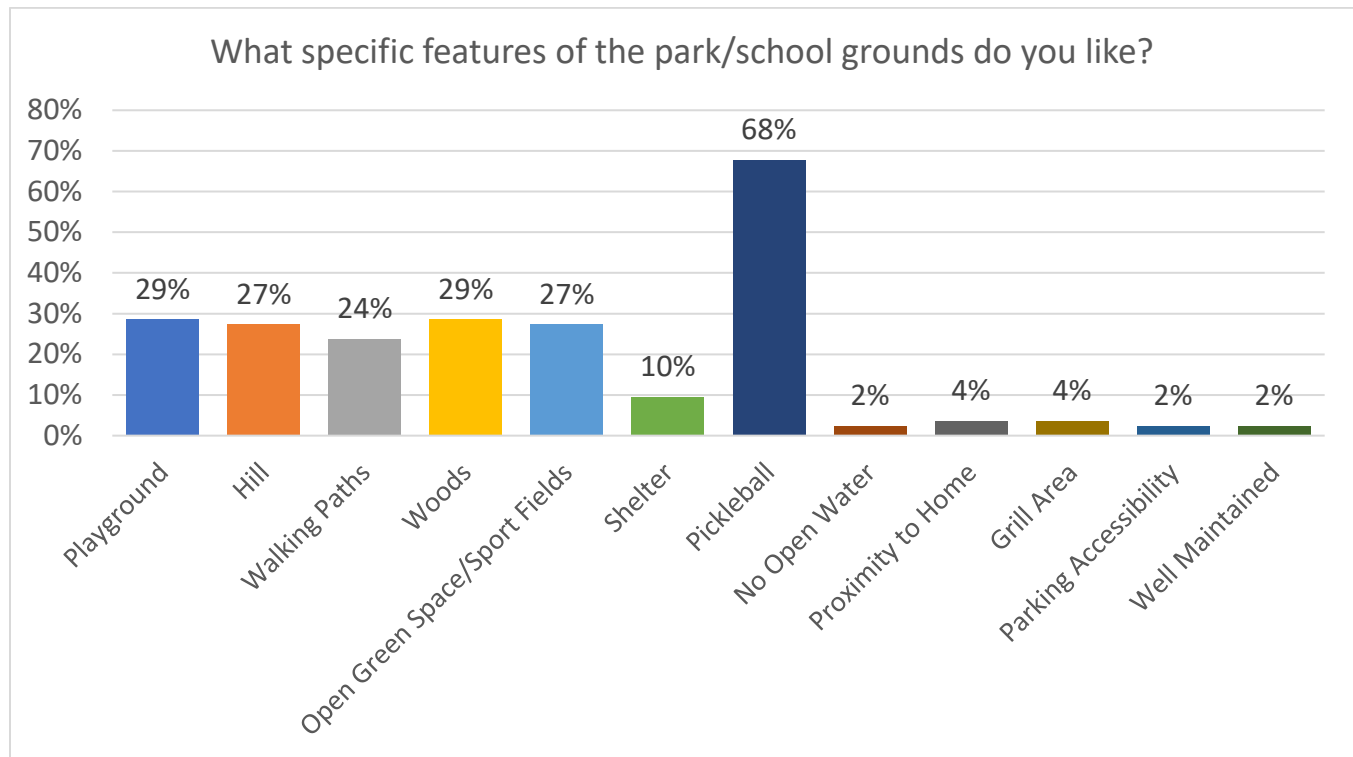


Pickleball Courts
The woods, trails, and park playground. We use them on a daily basis.
The green space it brings to the community
Trees are large and mature, high neighborhood use, safe place for our kids to explore and play.
We live across Our kids love the wooded area, the access to the playground, and the hill.
Picked ball courts and playing on the fields with my grandchildren. It is a beautiful park.
Love the woods and seeing the kids play in the woods. love to view the green space.
both open and natural wooded areas
that is a neighborhood park, has multiple uses, and is used by MANY Golden Valley residents
Pickleball courts
Love Pickleball and amazed how busy the courts are being utilized.
good spot for a picnic, fly a kite, take telescope to look at stars, sled on hill
Openness, appearance, and neighborhood ambiance that attracted us to the neighborhood.
Lack of swamp that decreases number of mosquitoes, unlike Hampshire park which is very buggy.
Open space and the courts
It's a safe place for my kids to play. It is so nice having the playground buffered by all the trees
The pickleball courts; the picnic is really nice for community building/gathering; stands of trees
Pickleball courts are great.
I love having such a great amount of green space in the neighborhood.
It is nice to have an area for recreation, sports, and kid's entertainment in the neighborhood.
Appreciate seeing neighbor/school kids enjoying the park and woods so close to home.
The hill and the large open field, the shelter.
Pickleball courts
pickelball
Proximity to our house for walking the dog, exercise and pickleball
Like the new Pickleball courts.
Neighborhood location, multi-use Park, large open space, very nice pickle ball courts
The 6 pickleball courts
Pretty and well maintained
I value the wildwood pickleball courts.
I play pickleball daily when weather & my work schedule permits
Brand new pickleball courts. Place to play with kids and dog
The pickle ball courts and the attention to the nature
Location and available Pickleball courts.
Pickleball Courts
Pickle ball courts.
Dense trees provide exploration for kids. Neighborhood group meeting.
Convenience, beauty, sports activity
Lots of outdoor activities
Pickle Ball it's a wonderful activity. Meeting many new people.
Nice pickleball facility
I like the dense woodlands on Kelly Drive, and the path through them. Also, pickleball courts.

The kids love the wooded area & hill. We also enjoy the pickleball courts and playground.
Love the sense of community my wife and I get from pickleball there--with mostly other GV residents.
Open space. Like park. Don't like the traffic and constant pickle ball.
the serenity and beauty of a suburban woods
We value the ability for a place our entire family can enjoy - sledding, playground, sports
The Pickleball courts
We like the open area, pickle ball courts, forest for exploring, and the playground.
Wild space
Pickleball
The pickleball courts which are rare in quality and quantity, are often in use due to high demand
Nice open park to play with the dog in and get recreational exercise in on a daily basis
It is a very great place to exercise and gain new friends who have similarities interests
Open space, playground, walking path, pickleball courts
convenience
Pickleball
The variety of things that are utilized in a fairly small space visited by many each day.
Openness, space, play, picnic all ages in neighborhood
it is a "wildwood" type setting.
Close to my house and my daughter's house who lives in Golden Valley
Close to home, great facilities.
The pickleball courts are fantastic!
The nice, beautiful pickleball courts.
Great place to play pickleball with my husband and adult children and to just relax.
i like to programs the school holds outdoors for the children. (I teach at the school)
It serves so many households nearby, having the property available for recreation is very important.
Green space
Playground, pickle ball courts, sliding/playing on hill. Having the school open and being
The beauty, the nature, being proud that we have the SEA school kids have somewhere to play.
It's a beautiful neighborhood park with lovely pickleball courts.
Proximity to our house, open fields, and pickleball courts

## What are specific features of the park or school grounds you like?

Of the 84 responses to this open-ended question, 68 percent referenced “pickleball,” 29 percent referenced “playground,” and 29 percent referenced “woods.”



### Responses (printed verbatim)

The playground, the hill and woods.
the playground, woods (with trails), hill, large fields, park shelter
The playground, the woods (our kids love exploring/ building forts), the hill, pickleball
Gret before/after school play and area, no concerns about water safety
All of it
Playground, Walking Path, and Sledding Hill / Field
Close to home. A great open field area for large play like football and kite flying.
Playground, walking path, pickle ball courts and location
The pickleball courts and SEA playground are HEAVILY utilized by community members.
It's a nice open space in a residential area that is used by many residents for recreation.
playground, woods, trail, open spaces for playing.
The playground and the hill by the sports fields for winter time sledding.
Park, sledding hill, pickleball, walking trail
Dedicated Pickleball Courts
The trees
Surface & spacing of Pickleball courts
The woods, the playground, the hill for sledding, trails for walking our dog.

The green space it brings to the community
Trails, woods, picnic shelter, grill area.
The wooded area, the hill, and the playground.
Woods which are rare in this area.
pickle ball court, community gathering, walking
Has multiple uses, makes the park unique, vs Pennsylvania Woods which has minimal uses
Has the only dedicated outdoor pickleball courts in Golden Valley.
Pickleball
Pick.eball!!!
sledding w/kids, open field to throw a ball and play catch
Trees, paved pathways, parking, accessibility, natural setting.
We like the paths, trees, playground, courts, and fields.
walking trail and the courts
Biking in the parking lot, playing in the woods, and the playground.
Pickball courts, walking path, stands of trees, playground, grassy areas
We use the pickle ball courts often and walk our dog through the park.
Pickleball courts.
Our neighborhood uses shelter for picnics & gatherings. Love natural plantings & outdoor learning.
The hill and the large open field, the shelter for picknicks and as a meeting area.
Pickleball courts
pickelball court
Pickleball!!!! Please do not remove!
New pickle ball courts
Great for walking & in my case, playing Pickleball.
PB courts, rolling hills
Pickleball
Pickleball courts
PICKLEBALL!
Pickleball courts. Open areas
Pickle ball courts
Pickleball
The Pickleball courts
Playground, picnic shelter, ball courts, open flat space for play, walking path
Pickle Ball courts, playground
Hill
Pickle Ball
Dense woods, pickleball courts, hill for sledding, open field for kite flying
zip line, hill, pickleball courts
The courts, of course, but also the playground where we always see many families playing.
When kids young we loved the ball fields. Playground and hill.
the woods,wlking trail and playground
The playground, pickle ball courts and open field to sled, fly kites and play sports together

The pickleball courts
Sledding hill, open area to run, bike path, pickle ball courts, forest for exploring.
Tree cover
Pickleball courts
The pickleball courts, and basketball court
Pickleball courts, the woods, the hill, and the big open fields.
The pickle-ball courts
Walking path, pickleball, playground
pickleball courts
Pickleball
Basketball hoops, sitting area, pickle ball, and hill that is used for sledding
Wide open space
trees and grass
Pickleball courts
Well cared for. Ports potty.
See above
The pickleball courts.
Pickleball courts and sideline areas to sit and watch others playing.
The woods; open hilly grounds - good for kid PE classes, exploring, play, and sliding in the winter.
The tennis/pickle ball courts are most valuable.
Pickle ball courts
playground, zip line, pickle ball courts, woods. A place for the neighborhood to gather.
Pickleballghorhood is a plus. Have friends from other suburbs that come there to play.
Pickleball courts.
Pickleball, baseball fields



# Flooding Issues

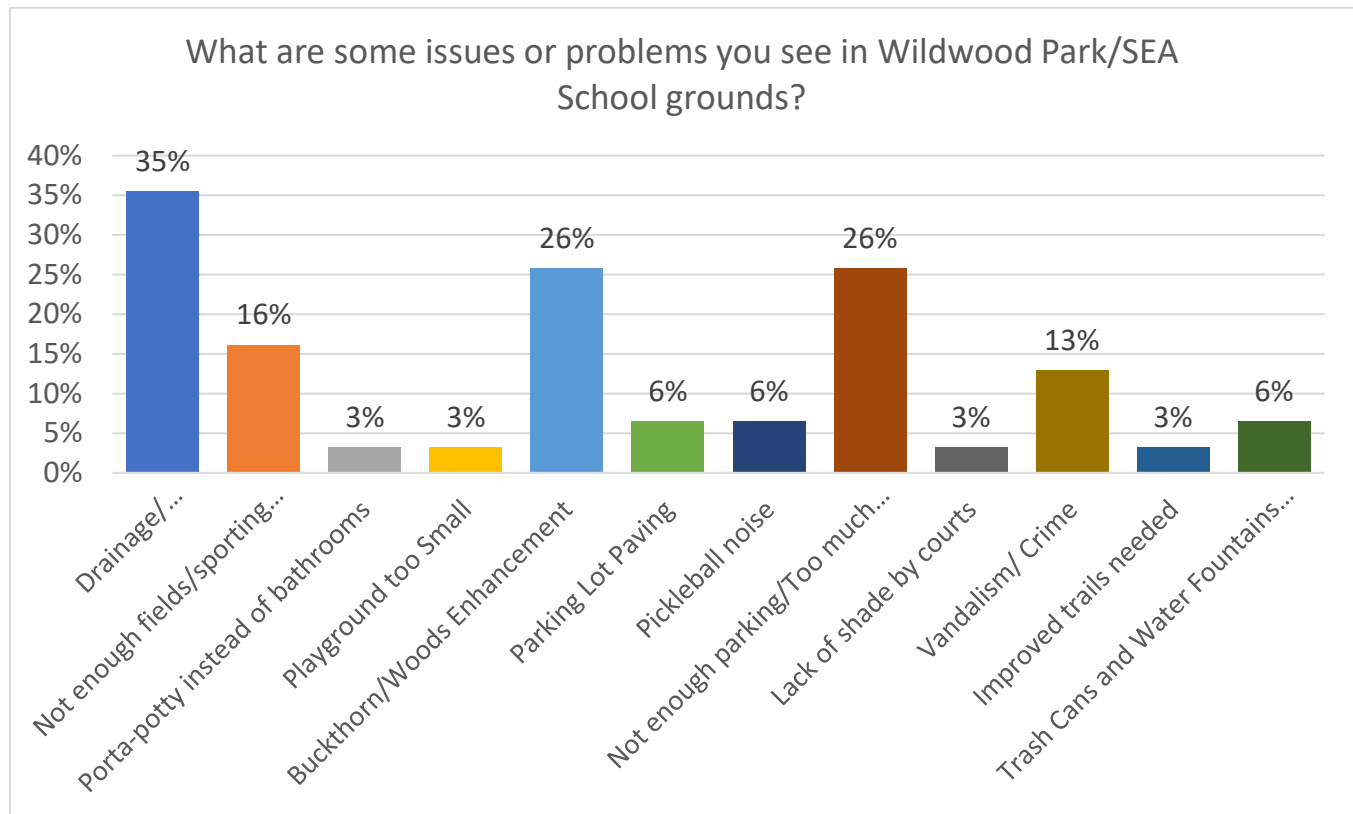
## Before today, did you know that the DeCola Ponds Area experienced flooding issues?

Of the 98 respondents who answered this question, 60 (61 percent) answered “Yes” while 38 (39 percent) answered “No.”



## What are some issues or problems you see in Wildwood Park / SEA School grounds?

Of the 65 respondents who answered this question, 35 percent referenced “drainage issues,” 26 percent referenced “buckthorn/woods enhancement,” and 26 percent referenced “not enough parking/too much traffic.”



### Responses (printed verbatim)

The field gets muddy and soggy. There are some low spots which remain soggy after a small rain.

Playground should be larger for school activities and neighborhood kids. Would be nice to have a park shelter and not a porta-potty for the restroom. Fields not well maintained, consider actual soccer goals or baseball diamond or neighborhood pool.

Buckthorn growing in the woods

A lot of \$\$ have been invested to n the PB courts. The community and networking that happen there make the city stronger.

While I understand that the woods area can get soggy, it hasn't been a concern to me. My child does play in those woods from time to time.

The sea school parking lot needs paving. We love having SEA as part of our neighborhood.

Too many vehicle trips during the week

Lacking shade area for Elderly Pickleball players to sit - already one ♥ attack.  
Windscreens on courts to reduce sound for neighbors.

Sometimes errant youth have vandalized the location, set fires

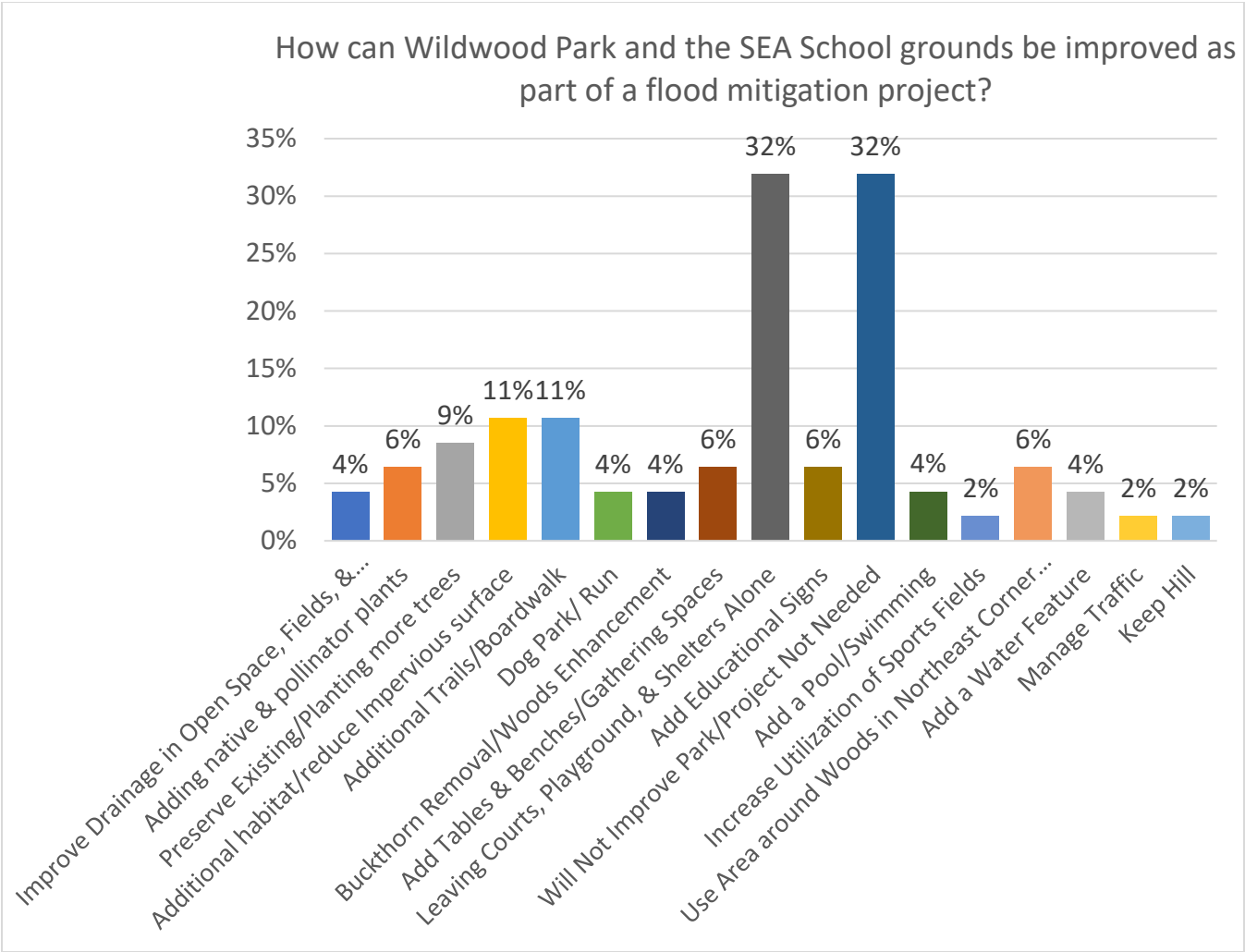
Buckthorn! Street parking by pickleball players tends to take over the street. Woods need improved trails. People use it as a dog park. Trail on S side of SEA has a wonderful wood boardwalk, but the school won't connect it to the parking lot.
Pickleball is a nuisance in noise and traffic. Could be better handled at Brookview anyway.
A lot of \$\$ have been invested to n the PB courts. The community and networking that happen there make the city stronger.
Due to the popularity of the new pickleball courts, there are times of street congestion, making it difficult to see walkers and bikers along with cars parked on both side. Perhaps one-sided parking would create more visibility, safety.
A lot of \$\$ have been invested to n the PB courts. The community and networking that happen there make the city stronger.
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It would be nice to expand the forest area.
Sometimes the trail floods/ices over near the playground in the winter. Having the kids cross the road where the buses go in order to get to the playground seems problematic; the asphalt area for basketball seems small for how popular it is.
I'm not sure how SEA School uses the woods as part of learning but think it's an asset on the property. Maybe needs some cleanup? Would like to hear input from SEA staff on this and what they see as greatest benefit and problems.
Lots of Buckthorn in the woods. Poor drainage on the field and the northeast corner. Both get muddy after a pouring rain. They stay that way for several days while other parts of Wildwood dry out.
Parking
A lot of \$\$ have been invested to n the PB courts. The community and networking that happen there make the city stronger.
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Limited parking for the amount of activity the park brings.
A lot of \$\$ have been invested to n the PB courts. The community and networking that happen there make the city stronger.
Buckthorn, dead trees,
Small bit of standing water in woods by the school for a small amount of time in the spring
Local kids from Dover Hills use the basketball court and are frequently using foul language and being disrespectful to other children and families. They have also stolen things from neighborhood children, such as bicycles.
Traffic. More than expected. People not stopping for stop signs is big problem. School and pickle ball. Need off street parking for pickle ball people.
The open field and baseball diamonds are not maintained -- the community would use them more if they were maintained and if the park/open field itself had more to it to be more community focused
Managing large storm events

Not enough pickleball courts, they are in high demand especially for the older demographic who can get much needed exercise. Nicer parking lot would be nice too.
None really, baseball fields are always overgrown though.
The woods are overgrown near the playground and they flood. They generally flood in the spring thaw.
A lot of \$\$ have been invested to n the PB courts. The community and networking that happen there make the city stronger.
Buckthorn that reduces openness and security in the woods
A lot of \$\$ have been invested to n the PB courts. The community and networking that happen there make the city stronger.
Needs water fountain.
Geese poop on the grounds. Potential crime/safety issues in the woods. I remember some boys having their bikes stolen by older boys when playing on the grounds in the summer, a couple of years ago (e.g 2018?)
The softball fields could be improved. Could be used for soccer at certain times of the year. Could use year round trash bins for dog walking patrons and others walking through the park.
Parking lots needs work.

# Area Improvements

## How can Wildwood Park and the SEA School grounds be improved as part of a flood mitigation project?

Of the 55 respondents who answered this question, 32 percent referenced “leaving the courts, playground, and shelter alone,” and 32 percent said the project will not improve the park and is not needed (see complete answers below the bar graph).



Responses (printed verbatim)
Yes, improve drainage on the field
Ponds can be pretty and can bring new wildlife, but their are other places to observe this in the neighborhood already and they are often filled with algae and not clean. A large surface pond would detract from what makes this park great. Keep small
If you're going to do anything to this area, I hope you only impact the giant field or any open areas. I'd hate to lose all the trees, or the playground or the pavillion

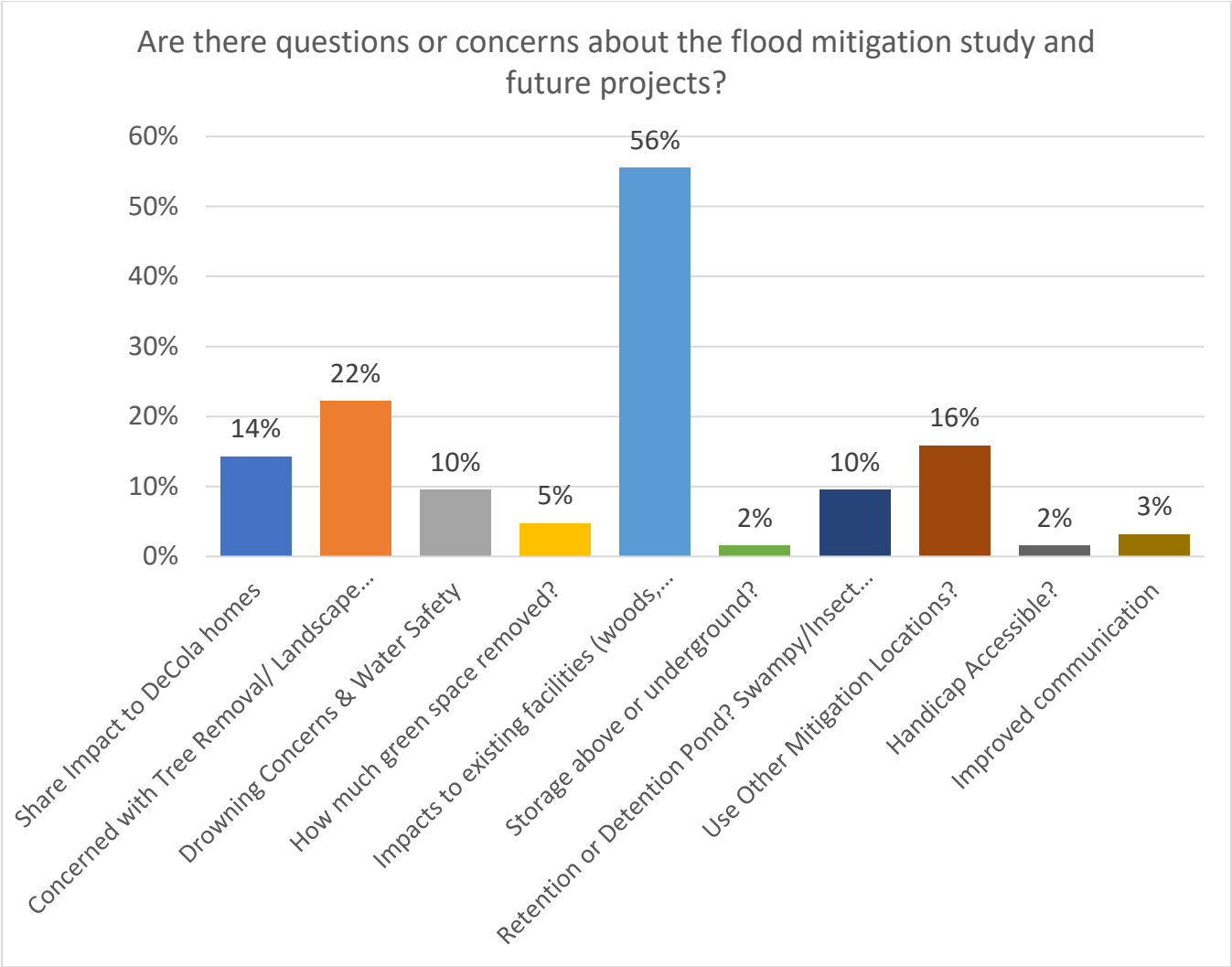


I'm not sure if it can. I appreciate the open green space which remains dry (opposed to other parks). I also don't want a large water feature where my small children go to school and play due to safety concerns.
Don't add another unsightly pond, which would remove our recreation
I have never seen flooding in the SEA school grounds.
Add a community pool!
If part of the park is needed for additional floodwater storage, the wooded area in the NE corner seems like a reasonable location. I hope that the playground and pickleball courts are not affected, as they are both very heavily utilized.
I can't see any improvement but a step backwards in the area. I
I'm not a city planner or civil engineer. I can't answer how to mitigate water issues. I think there are people more qualified to answer this question than the general public.
Not qualified to make that judgement but would be extremely disappointed to lose the only Pickleball Courts in Golden Valley for flood mitigation
In the spring and summer of 2019 we experienced significant rainfall and no flooding. The spring of 2020 again we experienced rainfall of 1" or better numerous times according to my rain gage. Still no flooding.
By not removing the playground and woods.
Creating a space for pollinators, planting trees, wildlife habitat
Trails in the woods. Trail or Bridge to Oregon Ave. Dog park area. Buckthorn removal.
Establish a wetland area/pond at the pickleball court and picnic areas. A short boardwalk might be a nice touch.
Leave the way it is because it is of great value to our area and does not help the flood issue enough to make the change. Would be a huge mistake to make the change.
I rarely notice softball games, is this area under utilized?
Don't do it This is a HUGE mistake
some tables and chairs would be nice
Not adding a swamp or pond. We should deepen the ponds in other areas, like Hampshire park, instead.
Make the wooded hill into a marshy area while keeping the courts.
I do not see flood mitigation at this park as an improvement.
Not being an engineer it's pretty hard for me to say. However, given that there is an elementary school AND a neighborhood park right there it seems like adding a water element is potentially quite dangerous.
While I appreciate the stated benefits re water quality, ecological diversity, habitat, education, I am still unclear about necessity of this at this time. Better walkways and paths to/from the street, etc. SEA in much better position to respond.
Improve the drainage on the field. Eeduce the parking on the South side. I rarely see more than 1 or 2 cars park there. Cars mostly park on the West side of the school. Perhaps create a "dog run". A long narrow fenced dog path. (Not a dog park.)
Please don't take away the PB courts. It seems that there is plenty of space. It seems a shame to destroy perfectly good facilities. I think of the money that was spent to build the courts. It would be a waste of money spent to tear them out.
Leave the courts
Retain courts and some grassy areas for family gatherings.
Maintain varied uses of the space. KDPGA hosts events in the park several times per year.
Best choice: Leave it alone. See how all the other flood mitigation (Liberty Crossing, B and C remediation) works out before doing something even more that might not be necessary,
Water feature?

If there is a way to maintain the Pickleball courts, great. If not please find some other place for the flood mitigation project.
Holding ponds with walking paths with native plants labeled for learning. Not part of flood management but we need monitoring of traffic. Cars and mostly empty buses.
Dont see the need for mitigation. You are taking away from my wife and I a beautiful setting we enjoy every day for the last 51 years and replacing it with a ditch that will turn into a algae infested body of putridwater
Ensure that there is minimal impact to the playground/field/pickle ball courts -- it'll be really disappointing if you're unable to use that space. If you can ensure there are better trails created because if it, that would be fantastic.
Less impervious surface. Add wetlands
As long as the pickleball courts stay it can't be that bad
They could get rid of part of the woods on the far side from the school or one of the baseball fields.
Consider how to mitigate the effect on the developed "need" for pickleball courts
The open area would lend to prairie grasses and flowers. I would like to see any improvements coincide with the outdoor learning needs of the SEA school.
Flood holding storage but keep playground, courts, fields Improve water quality in ponds so suitable for swimming!!!!
Leave the pickleball courts!
Not sure. But please don't get rid of the hills/variable terrain (hills.) That makes the school grounds superior to those of other schools.
Just don't get rid of the tennis and pickle ball courts!
Not sure what is needed for flood mitigation @ Wildwood Park since the other ponds were expanded/created the last 2-3 years. Maybe replace some of the trees that have been cut down on school grounds as well as park.
Not be disturbed

**Do you have any specific questions or concerns about the flood mitigation study and future project?**

Of the 63 responses to this question, 56 percent asked about the potential impacts to the park’s existing facilities (woods, playground, shelter, hill). See complete answer below the bar graph.



Responses (printed verbatim)
Will the actions taken at SEA school and park actually have a significant impact on the DeCola homes?
I was concerned by the number of trees that were removed in Pennsylvania woods. At Wildwood Park, I am concerned that any flood mitigation will impact the unique nature of the park that is used significantly by my children and all the neighborhood.
I really don't want to lose this park. Also- I'm a little worried about having a pond so close to our house because we have little boys who love to run and I worry about them drowning.
Reducing green space, water safety
As local residents (live on corner of Duluth St. and Maryland Ave) it would be disappointing to lose the playground, hill / field, and walking path amenities over there.
I don't want to lose Park as a place to gather

I think there has to be a more economically way to solve the problem like increasing the capacity of the existing ponds. Why dig another pond when it would be easier and less costly to use the current pond sites.
concerned about losing the trees and ability to explore the woods with family. Losing the large areas of space that we can use to run around in.
The playground is critical to this neighborhood and the school. I do not want to see that effected in any way. The sledding hill is also used heavily by the neighborhood.
Please don't take our park and sledding hill away. My kids build forts in the small amount of woods left in Wildwood park. We are surrounded by ponds already. What are the actual plans for the park? Would the playground survive?
Of course How would the future project impact the existing park area & facilities
I observed the Decola B & C ponds immediately after a 1.5" rainfall. Water levels were controlled with no turbulence.
Yes. The potential of removing and/or altering the wooded area and playground would be big concern.
I don't want a simple, ugly holding pond installed... I support water management & quality but not on the cheap or aesthetically displeasing. I've seen the mitigation around Decola Pond and REALLY hope more plantings are added!
Open water near a playground and school sounds very dangerous. Where does the parking lot drain its water? The ravine to the South floods if the grass clippings clog the drainage grate. Perhaps switch to no-mow area with prairie plants?
Lower the water level in Pond A if you need more flood control. Don't mess with Wildwood Park.
What would happen to the woods?
A pond along with ducks and geese would make a great amenity to this park, as well as providing additional flood storage for the neighborhood.
Am concerned that the decision has already made and that my input has no value. I have lived here for 47 years. Please don't force me to leave GV because of your mistakes. I am very upset about this. I thought you had greater intelligence
Do not remove pickleball courts
will the water storage @ SEA be underground or above ground. would hate to lose the pickleball courts.
Why is disturbing this setting so important that other options are not being considered.
My concern is for the quality of the park for the neighborhood and the usability of the space for more than a swamp.
When I purchased my home, that decision was made in large part because of the park. I find adding a pond to be dangerous to my children and the potential for them to drown when that chance was not present before.
That park is HUGELY popular and gets heavy use by walkers, young families, pickleball players, younger teens, and SEA kids. Taking out elements such as the playground or the pickleball courts would be a big loss to the community and city.
How will the grounds be changed through this process? If it becomes flood storage, how will children be kept safely away from the water should there be heavy rains?
I appreciate the work being done in Pennsylvania Woods but did NOT realize Wildwood Park/SEA project was moving so quickly. We're still adjusting to the Penn Woods project! What does School think about this? What amount of flood prevention gained?
Only that I'd like to see something done to control the flooding on pond D, E, & F sooner rather than let another 10-15 years go by.
worry about a huge pond next to the school playground. Seems a little dangerous to have that water by the school.

If you have to move the pickleball courts, can you put them back at SEA or another nearby park like Hampshire or Seamans?
I'm curious as to why you would be destroying pickleball courts that are not yet 2 years old? Did the City not know when the courts were built, that there was a flooding issue nearby?
I think it would be a shame and a total waste of tax payer dollars to rip up the Pickleball courts there. The courts were just built and are used by many seniors and people of all ages.
I am concerned that there are no other outdoor courts in the area. Is Holden Valley willing to spend another sum of money to move the pickleball courts to another area?
odor and insect control in ponds.
The city of GV needs to have more Pickleball courts at another park if this project comes to fruition. Even now, six is not enough.
Will flood mitigation be wet all the time or only as contingency during flooding? How will water be diverted to Wildwood park? What options are considered or rejected about addressing flood water upstream- I.e. in Crystal and New Hope?
Where does the water go after discharge from DeCola ponds? Can the discharge rate be increased? Can the storage level, prior to an event, be lowered to increase storage capacity?
Hoping no more trees are cleared out
Why would the city build 6 brand new beautiful courts and then take them. Waste of money.
Has the city kept up to date with the dredging in the existing ponds A-F? Keeping current flood capacity available and usable might be all that is necessary.
There is no information about ideas regarding plans for this area. We would not want to lose the pickleball court, as it is heavily used and even hard to access on some days.
Anything you do to support us not flooding is great. Outlet relief to declola ponds. Many in area too old to clean out outlet.
yes, I believe you are using the coronavirus and subsequent distancing and alternative communication as a means of sneaking a project thru without every citizens input.
The impact to the park itself.
Removal of the pickleball courts, creating a swampy pond like at Hampshire Park.
I'd like to know more about how the grounds would be altered to be part of flood mitigation.
I'm a GV resident who frequently plays Pickleball at Wildwood. The courts are an amazing asset to the community. People of all ages, especially seniors and kids, enjoy playing on these courts daily. They are often full. I hope the City will ...
That you're plans will take away the pickleball court and cripple the active community of golden valley
I hope it doesn't get rid of the pickleball courts because they are nearly always busy when I walk and drive by them multiple times a day.
If this goes through will the pickleball courts be taken out?
Will the woods be totally removed or would it be next to them? I know there is a buck thorn issue in there.
Much better long term planning to minimize the cost of effects on other Golden Valley assets
I would like to see this not be a mosquito breeding ground. The kids use the field a lot during the school year. There needs to be places for kids to run safely. Also, ensure that it is handicapped accessible with minimal trip hazards.
Clean water!!!
Where will courts be built. Wesley is close and Brookview is already set up for tennis.
Is there a way to do this without destroying the pickleball courts?



Yes! Please leave the pickleball courts. They are an excellent recreational facility that are used by many residents of all ages who want to keep physically and socially active. There are no other pickleball courts in Golden Valley to use.
Keep the pickleball courts!
See above.
Yes - the recreation courts at the park are a great community asset, and I do not want to see them removed as part of any flood mitigation work.
Why are we not just dropping the level of the ponds we have to accommodate flood waters?
I live on Kelly Drive directly across from the park. I have NEVER had any water in my basement since I moved in 36 yrs ago. I can remember only 1 time that there has been some flooding to houses on Kelly across the park.
My concern is that this little park will be taken away from us.
Concern over losing the pickleball courts.

## Additional Questions Or Comments

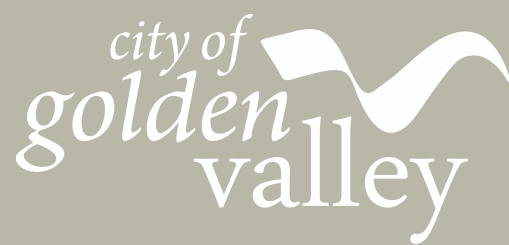
Twenty-eight respondents had additional questions or comments.

Responses (printed verbatim)
I would like to participate or organize a committee representing our neighborhood and providing feedback on any plans at Wildwood Park. If open water flood mitigation is utilized, we must avoid the algae problems of Hampshire park and other ponds.
I realize it's important to minimize flooding problems, and if part of Wildwood park needs to be turned into a pond to achieve that, I would hope that only the wooded area on the northeast corner of Wildwood is used.
Would be nice to see some of the buckthorn removed from the woods. I know Theo Wirth park has used goats before to remove it.
Would the hill survive? Would the new pickleball court survive? Would the woods survive? You just circle the park in the map but are vague what the changes would actually be.
Besides killing hundreds of trees, turtles, bushes and who knows how many amphibians this project has opened the ponds to access by waterfowl. Notably Canadian geese. Now the geese are taking over these ponds and defecating everywhere.
Also hope this won't become a haven for mosquitoes! Thanks for the opportunity for feedback!
Our house connects to SEA on S side. We clear the buckthorn and plant the understory with hosta over time. Want to participate in landscape plan if S side is impacted. We rebuilt the boardwalk surface in 2019 but it could be something far better.
LEAVE THIS AREA AS IT IS.. There is not enough flood control benefit to make this change.
PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS, IF YOU WANT MORE AREA FOR FLOOD CONTROL USE MORE OF PENNSYLVANIA WOODS. IT IS RARELY USED AS COMPARED TO WILDWOOD PARK. THIS MAKE SENSE AS CUTTING DOWN A FEW OLD TREES IS NOT A BIG DEAL BECAUSE THEY ARE FALLING DOWN ANYWAY.

I would ask that you consider adding a storm water lift station to better control water levels giving the existing ponds more capacity for large rain events.
I understand that flood mitigation is important. The Pickleball community which greatly appreciates the courts at Wildwood Park, would be willing to give up the courts for this purpose if 12 new courts could be built at a separate location.
The pickleball courts are a very heavily used and appreciated feature of the neighborhood. I think they should stay there. Perhaps the wooded area could be used for mitigation if necessary.
While communications are difficult at this time, I think no plans should be put in place re Wildwood/SEA until residents can meet in person with the city. I hope you follow-up with another request if you don't get good response to June 11 letter.
The newly surfaced tennis courts at Wesley park would be an ideal location for 12 pickleball courts. Unlike Wildwood, there would be plenty of parking and the noise would not be an issue to neighbors.
Also a holding pond right next to a school sounds like a recipe for disaster.
If the pickleball courts are taken out, the city should build 12 in 1 location, where there is off street parking available. Ideally lighted for play after sunset. The game is exploding. Perhaps Scheid or Wesley Parks? 6 courts is not enough
Please consider adding pickle ball courts (6, preferably 12) to the South Wesley Park. It seems to be a centrally located area. I understand an option is for the courts to be at 100 and GV Road but is not centrally located. Let's support the sport
I think it would be a waste of money to tear out courts that were just built a few years back.
Ensure that the weir at the end of Pond F is kept operational and in good repair. That weir alone is one of the best flood mitigation tools there is for ponds E and F.
Would love having someone control pond levels better. Inlet vs. Outlet power.
no new pond
... figure out a way to preserve the courts. They were recently constructed and it would seem fiscally irresponsible to destroy them for a bigger pond. Thank you.
These are the best public pickleball courts for miles, they were just recently converted from tennis courts and there is a flourishing community. To take them down would be something only done by a Stoooge or a Sellout.
What about adding more ponds to the Hampshire Park marshy wetland areas instead?
Why were my tax dollars spent building wonderful and well utilized pickleball courts, keeping Golden Valley residents in Golden Valley, as well as drawing non-residents in to spend money in Golden Valley, only to have them torn out?
There are no other pickleball courts in GV. With increasing interest in pickleball, it would be really disappointing to lose the courts, especially when I just started playing. Otherwise, please convert some of the tennis courts at Brookview.
Water finds its own level, digging more ponds and leaving them full at all times does nothing. It's pretty simple, I don't think we need any more studies on the issue. Dredge the ponds and leave them half full at all times.
Where does the water go from the park now? To the sewer system or ponds? The school did extensive replacement of sewer at low point in their road for water. Don't want a pond like Hampshire Park that turns green every summer from lawn runoff

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Interactive Map Comments**



# Interactive Map Comments

The interactive map component encouraged residents to engage by dropping a pin on the map to make suggestions or comment on specific features or features in the study area. One hundred twenty-six people participated.

Responses (printed verbatim)
My kids love to explore the woods
Family visits the park almost daily. Could be larger for the school.
Neighborhood kids love to play on the hill in summer and winter. Very unique.
Kids love to visit the chickens.
Kids love to explore the woods.
Would be nice to have a shelter with restrooms rather than porta-potty
This corner is a gathering place for our neighborhood and the annual pumpkin festival.
Small berms are a nice touch rather than just flat ground.
Pickle ball courts bring significant traffic/congestion. Need more pickle ball courts in the city to ease congestion here.
Fields are under utilized. Could we have better maintained baseball or soccer fields? Dream would be a community swimming pool here.
Neighborhood friends gather at shelter on Friday nights. Could upgrade shelter/seating.
This area is a bit underwhelming. Spruce up basketball courts/asphalt area for school and neighborhood kids.
big rock is fun for kids to climb on
I would hate to see the playground disappear.
I use this trail if I want to walk around the wood rather than the entire campus.
Do not remove please
Sledding hill is key and a MN staple of growing up
The new pickleball courts are always busy
My family loves having this sledding hill
So many people use this to fly kites, practice softball
Awesome playground is seldom empty
Children build forts in these woods
The woods are nice but invasive plants need an organized clearing effort
New shelter is really nice
Needs more seating areas around playground for parents so we're not taking over the picnic shelter
Overgrown with buckthorn
Fantastic new courts!
Needs a walkway from street to court area. Needs seating areas around court - perhaps another picnic shelter for gatherings and parties.
Please update the lights in parking lot so light aims down vs out. the LED streetlight improvements are a good example.
No trail or bridge that connects to Oregon Ave. Boardwalk heavily used.
Regular flooding in spring
Woods floods from snow melt in spring

Woods are enjoyed by the kids in the neighborhood. Lots of mature trees, but also lots of buckthorn.
These woods are used by the neighborhood kids a LOT - it's such a great wild area with so many mature trees. Many dead trees too that need upkeep. Overgrown with buckthorn.
Note that maps commonly refer to the boardwalk as a "trail" with the dashed red lines. When I asked about this, planning staff indicated it's actually NOT on the sidewalk or trails plan, or wasn't at the time (2015?) Maybe it should be?
Our kids love exploring the wooded area
Our kids love to sled and play on the hill
I rarely notice softballs games, is this area under utilized?
very popular new pickleball courts
chickens
woods
trail
Nice walking trail in the neighborhood
Nice to have recreation close to home
Nice to have place for kids to play safely near home
pickleball courts are nice
i haven't been back there in a bit but am looking forward to walking the dogs around the loop
The courts should not be changed.
I like the playground. The park would not be the same without one.
I like the shade and nature of the wooded area.
I like the hill for sledding.
I like the sports field for games.
Add more ponds to Hampshire park.
The pickleball courts are a very heavily used and appreciated feature of the neighborhood. I think they should stay.
Perhaps the wooded area could be used for mitigation if necessary.
Great viewing spot
The shelter is a good meeting spot and Picknic area
Reduce this lot. Rarely see many cars here.
Poor drainage. Many low spots which stay wet for several days after a rain.
Buckthorn has infested the woods
Add acoustic noise reducing fencing or require use of "quiet" paddle and post hours. They start playing before 7am.
I play 5-6 days a week, and this is frankly the best community gathering spot I've found in all of GV outside of pride feat and concerts in the park
These courts are used 7/week
Play PB almost everyday here.
♥ Pickleball
Pickleball courts
Love pickle ball
Pickle ball has been a very popular addition to the area.
Nice and dense forest

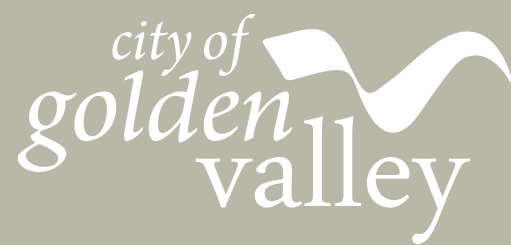


Great trail through the woods
These courts are great and heavily utilized!
Kids love to play in here
This is great for sledding in the winter.
I'm sure the school uses this area.
I never see these used outside of school.
I never see the baseball fields used outside of school.
Playground is new and nice!
Awning is helpful
very nice and useful pickleball courts
very nice and useful pickleball courts
very nice and useful pickleball courts
Best pickleball courts around
Don't know what I would do without pickleball
Pickleball is well used
We go there whenever my cousins come over
I play with my dog here on a daily basis
Sledding, flying kites, and relaxing are all great things about the hill
Great used by school and neighbors
Fun for families summer, winter
Add trees
Add BBQ grill
Good use of space Gets a lot of use
Replace trees cut out.
replace trees and bushes cut out. Remove buckthorn bushes
Like nature area kids can play there SEA can uses classroom now
Improve area for softball, soccer, track, add spectator seats
Great use for courts
Great to play in + observe nature for SEA students
Nice playground + biplane
Could convert road to outside classroom
Could convert to exit road for school buses/cars
Replace cut down trees and bushes
remove buckthorn + replace trees /bushes
Add prairie grasses, wild flowers
Perfect for sledding, running, flying kites
Add BBQ grill
Improve softball field add soccer, track
Kids play and wildlife uses
Used from sun up to sun down

Hill used in winter by many
Area to sit under shelter is important to us
Pickleball
Pickleball
Playground
Hill
These are wonderful courts!
If the city is planning to remove the Pickleball courts, you need to relocate these courts. These courts are only two years old. Perhaps we need to look at the extended city planning to save some tax payer resources.
Could convert to exit road for school buses/cars
Replace cut down trees and bushes
remove buckthorn + replace trees /bushes
Please keep the pickleball courts
Please keep the pickleball courts!
Please keep these!
Pickle ball STAY
open sports area
beautiful grass area, picnic area

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Social Media Engagement**



# SOCIAL MEDIA REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## SEA School/Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project

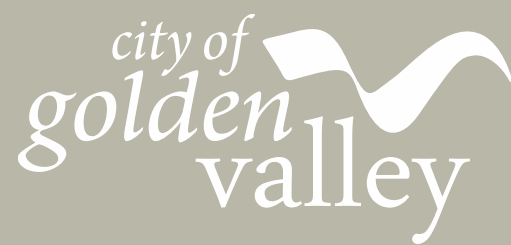
*Reach = Number of people who saw the post*

*Engagement = Number of people who interacted with the post*

May 4, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	730	32	0	1	0
Twitter	199	9	1	0	0
June 9, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	611	9	0	0	0
Twitter	504	13	1	2	0
June 15, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	915	118	4	2	0
Twitter	335	10	1	0	0
June 22, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	692	24	1	0	0
Twitter	384	7	1	0	0
June 29, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	443	10	0	0	0
Twitter	341	17	2	0	0

# **APPENDIX C**

## **Email Comments**



**From:** [Eckman, Eric](#)  
**To:** [Eckman, Eric](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 2:07:10 PM

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**From:** [James Geisinger](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:13 AM  
**To:** [Fonnest, Larry](#)  
**Subject:** Jim Geisinger from Unity

Larry,

I hope you are doing well. I miss seeing you and everyone else at Unity.

The reason I am writing at this time is I have been informed that GV is considering taking out the pickle ball courts at Wildwood Park.

I just wanted to let you know that those courts are very important to me. I play for 2-4 hours about 5 times a week. Its fun. It gives me exercise. Please do what you can to keep or replace them.

Jim

Thank you,

***Jim Geisinger***

CRS, ABR, GRI, CNE

612-868-7653

[www.geisingergroup.com](http://www.geisingergroup.com)

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**From:** [Eckman, Eric](#)  
**To:** [Eckman, Eric](#)  
**Subject:** FW: pickleball courts at wildwood park  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 2:19:18 PM

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**From:** [Stephen Elias](#)

**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 4:20 PM

**To:** [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)

**Subject:** pickleball courts at wildwood park

Hello GV City Council Members,

I am a 31 year home owner & tax payer in GV.

It has come to my attention that the recently installed dedicated pickleball courts will be removed in favor of holding ponds for storm water. I have become an avid pickleball player over the past 5 years & love playing with the wildwood pickleball club of golden valley at these beautiful courts when weather permits. It is financially painful to hear that the courts are going to be demolished. Members of our club alone fill the courts many mornings & evenings. Others from around the metro area come to play at these courts too, which is great for GV.

I understand that some of the neighbors are not happy with the traffic & noise that comes to the park across the street from their homes. I sympathize with them & park my vehicle on the park side of the street. Still the noise from ball hitting paddle must be annoying when trying to sleep late in the morning or early in the evening.

I live on Regent Ave between Scheid & Gearty Parks & use those courts too. You probably know the recently resurfaced court at Gearty is already failing. This too is a sad situation. Can there be any remedy arranged with the installer company?

The main reason for reaching out is this: 6 courts at another park is not enough right now. It certainly won't be enough in a few years as this game continues to grow.

12 courts in 1 location should be the goal. I understand Scheid & Wesley Parks are under consideration. Both have off street parking, which is absolutely necessary. Both have areas to locate the courts away from homes. Naturally I prefer Scheid because I live closer, but Wesley, Brookview or Lions Park might be better if they have larger parking lots.

Furthermore, all tennis & pickleball courts need signage saying roller skating &

skate boarding is expressly prohibited. I have seen skateboarders doing tricks & breaking the surface of the courts. They have no remorse & won't stop when asked. I've seen pickleball players wearing rollerblades at wildwood & refusing to change into shoes. I've politely asked them to stop & they refuse. No one wants to get into an argument or fight. Signage is absolutely necessary!

12 courts minimum so the club members can play together at 1 location along with non- club members because non members don't want to share their court or substitute new players in. Especially in the time of Covid 19

Thank you.

**Stephen Elias**

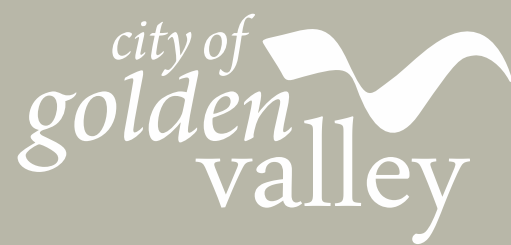
**2460 Regent Ave. North**

**GV 55422**

**(763) 439-5000**

# **APPENDIX D**

## **Concept Plan Review Feedback**



## Responses (printed verbatim)

option 2 is by far our favorite. The woods to the north of the park have been and will continue to be invaluable to our childrens nature play. I hope that aspect is preserved!!!

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent who's kids attend SEA school. I am also an ER nurse at Children's Hospital, a pediatric level 1 trauma center. I am vehemently opposed to option 2 with its above ground storage pond. Water is a very big attraction for young kids and I worry a child could easily wander, unnoticed from the playground during school hours, or after hours when playing at the park with parents. I have witnessed too many lives changed forever by a couple unguarded minutes near open water.

I really like option 1. This option aligns with the school curriculum of environmental improvements. It creates much needed habitat for animals and pollinators. The prairie and meadow can be planted with native grasses and pollinator friendly flowering perennials. The fact that this would also be the lowest cost seems like a win-win situation.

I do hope with both option 1 and 2 that includes the narrowing of Duluth, you look at the annual ice buildup in Duluth. The intersection of Duluth and Pennsylvania is quite hazardous most of the winter. Water from melted ice pools there and approaching the intersection from the west is at a downhill. I recommend aggressive, environmentally friendly de-icing or sanding to improve that intersection which will be worse when the road is narrowed.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Kate Antonenko

As a parent of a SEA student, I would like to express my concern for a plan that has a large open water element for this Flood Reduction Project. Having a large body of water next to an elementary school seems like an invitation to potential drowning hazard. Especially since the pond would be right next to the playground where kids visit multiple times a day. I also have concerns about mosquito breeding possibilities so close to the school.

It seems there are other options that are less expensive, that would not pose this potential hazard. I would hope we can investigate those options more closely.

Thank you.

From a cost perspective I can understand Option 1 being the favorite. My concern would be if this would become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Other than that as someone who lives very close to the park I'm ok with it. Option 2 could also be nice, but I would like to see a small bridge over the water where the current path would be cut off on the east side of the park. Option 3 of course is wonderful, but I'm guessing the funds aren't there. If I had my choice it would be Option 3, then option 1, then option 2.

I noticed that in all 3 options the school exit is dumped right to the top of Maryland Ave. Lately people have been driving VERY fast on Kelly drive. So much so that the police setup a temporary speed display. I would like to see a 4 way stop at Maryland/Kelly/School exit. Lots of kids live in this neighborhood, including mine, and I'm not happy with how fast people drive. Can we get a 4 way stop sign installed as part of this project?

Thanks,  
Ryan Kratochvil

From a purely business level perspective what I see missing is a 4th option - and of course for some this is probably unattractive, but "do nothing" IS an option.

I'm seeing that option 1 and 2 are probably the most viable, but what I believe we've learned over time is that man made structures will eventually fail. Nature does what it does, whether it be New Orleans, Yosemite, or Golden Valley. We are seeing this in the Dekola holding ponds, buiding houses and a school in a flood plain, or creating a structure for overflow storage of millions of gallons of water.

I can point back to a levee along the Winnebago River in my former home town, Mason City, IA. When the "100+ year storm" hit MC the levee failed, and houses along the river were flooded to include first floors of some. My old grandpa, bless him, always maintained that buying / building a house in a flood plain is flat out a bad idea, and 60 years later he was proven to be correct. The declared houses in this area uninhabitable, and houses were moved, demolished, etc., but with tax payer assistance.

This is not to say that it is the answer for GV, but it points to the eventualitiy - nature always wins. I feel bad for homeowners along the current ponds. Their basements are probably wet or wanting to be wet much of the time. I know my current house is on the order of 40 feet higher than the land in question, and our sump pump runs for months at a time. There IS UNDERGROUND FLOW of water in this area, and this must be accounted for or these engineering level plans will fail.

Did I say fail? I think it's safe to assume this will happen, and the goals of this project will only be partially met. What was the land like before houses were built in the 1960's? My bet is the SEA School land was entirely marsh, as were the areas where the current ponds now exist.

I don't want to be negative nellie - far be it, but my belief is that the source of the water needs to be identified and examined, and then an appropriate plan may surface. Maybe you've already done this, but when we have rain storms and I see water bubbling out of the side of the hill on my property I can assure you there is something bigger in play. Feel free to engage me - I'm willing to show you what I'm talking about at my own property, and I can assure you no one is thinking about this.

In regular (Non-Covid-19 times) we walked to the playground and the fields nearly every single day; sometimes walking around the SEA school parking lot and then to the hill or the playground. In Covid-19 times, We still walk through or around the playground every day but spend less time in the playground. We love the park, it is like having an extra set of lungs in the neighborhood. I understand that the Pickle Ball courts are popular, but it always appears to be people driving in from outside of the neighborhood and parking along Duluth. Could the improvement offer a way to cut the amount of cars on the street?

As a family, we think that the expansion of a pond would be a huge gain for the community and the SEA School both as a wetland and as a living classroom for neighborhood children both attending SEA and other schools as well. Please preserve the sledding hill. We request bathrooms that are centrally located, not just a port-a-potty by the pickle-ball court.

Please leave some of the trees around the playground, if possible could an effort be made to remove the buckthorn?

We love the space and, like our neighbors are invested in its use and improvements!

My concern after watching the video is the narrowing of the streets of Duluth and Kelly Dr.

I have driven on Olympia after it has been narrowed and in the winter it is dangerous. Cars are parked on one side but you can not see oncoming cars on the hill. It can be perilous.

We have 20+ cars show up for pickle ball from early spring to late fall. We also have the majority of the buses from Sea School driving on Duluth street. They come from and go to the Immersion school twice a day. I have counted 25 buses twice a day pass by my house on Duluth St. With the narrowing of Duluth it, it will be dangerous with the pickle ball court parkers, the school traffic and the neighborhood walkers on a good day and worse in the winter. This neighborhood has a lot of walkers who must use the streets. There are no sidewalks.

I will leave it to the experts to determine if all of this is necessary with all the other work for flood mitigation that has happened. I am unsure how excess water will get to the proposed locations.

my preference would be #1. But, I am still wondering if it is even necessary. the land in question seems to be higher and hence would require the pumping of water into it. am I wrong.?

What is the reason that the large sport fields were not used for underground storage. I see they are a bit higher elevation wise but it seems like a much easier site with greater layout efficiency?



Plan one seems the most feasible. I'm not sure how underground storage works but it sounds costly and potentially unnecessary. The areas targeted for additional water storage aren't highly used and are mostly green space. I appreciate how the nice features have been spared, such as the pickleball courts, hill, trees, park and sports field for the school.

I don't quite understand how this space will link into the other ponds and how water will go from one area to another.

It seems that the most significant way to reduce flooding would be to have the water flow controlled by a city official, as I believe that people in the neighborhood currently adjust it but I'm not sure how this is performed and the parameters under which it is conducted.

I would be interested to know the impact on wildlife of these projects overall.

CONCERN #1: I am deeply concerned with Options 1 & 2 where Duluth Street (between Pennsylvania and Kelly Drive) and Kelly Drive (between Duluth Street and Green Valley Drive) are proposed to be narrowed. Traffic flow is already a problem--on Duluth Street where Pickleball players park on the south side of the street, and on Kelly Drive where SEA School parents park on the west side of the street. Furthermore, while we are supposed to get curb-to-curb plowing every winter, this does not happen and both Duluth Street and Kelly Drive get narrower over the course of the winter.

CONCERN #2: I am unhappy with the fact that the details being proposed regarding the narrowing of Duluth Street and Kelly Drive were not presented in the first survey. Also, nowhere in your survey report do you even indicate alternative site proposals that I know people submitted (e.g., woods immediately south of the south SEA School parking lot).

CONCERN #3: I DO NOT favor either Option 1 or 2. I don't care that Option 3 is 3-4 times more expensive...it is the ONLY viable option in my opinion as long as you believe that gutting Pennsylvania Woods is necessary. Personally I still OPPOSE this entire Pennsylvania Woods flood mitigation plan.

CONCERN #4: I don't believe a city-wide survey on this matter is appropriate here. I am deeply concerned that the people most directly impacted by these options should have the only say at this point.

CONCERN #5: Based on your reported results from the last survey, I don't believe you will be willing to abandon your misguided plan to gut the Pennsylvania Woods. Those of us who live in the area are not being listened to. Why do you continue to pursue this options when none of us want it?

Thank you for allowing the study summary to be posted on your website to enable easy and convenient review.

In studying the presentation, there does not seem to be a very comprehensive explanation of why there is a need to convert any of the Wildwood park into a flood mitigation area. I have lived across the street from the school for 37 years and only once was there a flood problem in the area - that was after we had the deluge in late 1980's of over 10 inches of rain. The flood damage occurred only on the DeCola ponds.

I searched the report for information on where the storm runoff from Wildwood/SEA is currently going.

Also I gathered from reading the responses to the report that many people were concerned for the proximity of open water to the school and a playground, in addition to the algae covered pond surface.

Yes, I would be available either by phone or email to discuss my concerns.

It was hard to make a good comparison between the three options in the video. Having a comparison chart of features, capacity, cost, etc would be VERY helpful to give you better feedback.

Option 1 seems like the best way to go. I think it will offer more wildlife options than any open water. The downside to more open water in the area is just too big. The other ponds to the north are great, but they're great because they're big. Something this small being open water just seems silly.

It would be nice to see a dog park on the turf area - there are so many unleashed dogs that use the school's sports field area, without any police monitoring, it seems like we really need that.

If the SEA school is getting a new driveway, please ensure that SEA is required to repave the ENTIRE parking lot so that the pavement is up to code, and bring the parking lot lighting up to the current lighting code as well.

Prefer Concept 1:

Most natural and cost effective; could this be done without narrowing Duluth? Many pickleball cars are parked there and it feels narrow already.

Thank you.

I prefer concept number 2 (above and below ground storage with a pond). It looks nicer and will provide more area for wildlife

Q: Will the residents directly adjacent to the park be assessed any special fees/taxes for the park and road work?

Q: How long will the construction last for each scenario? When will it start?

Q: Is the narrowing of Kelly Dr. and Duluth Str. required? Where will all the pickleball players who park on Duluth Str park?

Q: Which side of Kelly Dr. will parking be permitted? I do not wish to loose resale opportunities because of street parking.

Q: Are there examples of the type of vegetation and wetland proposed already in GV that the residents could view?

Q: Will the residents adjacent to the park be eligible for flood insurance? Will our homes be designated in a flood plane? (My house is the low yard near the park - I don't expect that the city will pay to fix my house when it floods)

Q: Is the decision to convert Wildwood park to a flood overflow still in consideration or is the project proceeding - just which option?

Q: Can I sell my house before the project starts without disclosing it to the buyers?

Q: How will the city and school protect children from the pond (option 2)?

Q: Which option will have the least odor from rotting/decomposing vegetation?

Q: None of the options describe how the flood water is going to be diverted to the park. Please provide community information on water diversion plans.

Q: If the wooded area to the North of the playground was not protected, could the 10acre water capacity be achieved without loosing street width; what about the pickleball courts? When community feedback was requested last spring, no one understood that they might loose street parking. I think the residents impacted by the flood reduction project would give up the pickleball courts in order to keep the street width.

As a frequent park user AND a taxpayer, I like the idea of concept 1 best. Cost effective, maintains the Woods and sledding area. Homeowners on Duluth and Kelly may dislike narrowing of the street. I can't blame them. Is there a potential for foul odor from the wetlands? I wouldn't want to subject my neighbors to that/wreck their property value as part of this.

I dislike the idea of an open pond along Kelly, as that change would seem pretty stark compared to meadow and wetland.

And option three is just crazy pants, and I can't imagine you'd actually do it unless sued or something.

Please preserve the woods at all cost. I get some outlying trees will come down and be replaced.

I greatly appreciate the communication process the City is using for this. I also commend the City for listening to, and including input from the residents.

Questions first-

1-Why isn't the baseball field a possible location for underground storage?

2-How does the cost of the project effect DeCola Estates homeowners?

3-With one primary source of flooding coming from the East side of the railroad tracks from pond C and F, why isn't underground storage considered under the large industrial parking lots on that side of the tracks for mitigation purposes?

4- How much storage volume loss if Duluth is not narrowed?

Plan Response A & B- Due to the heavy use of the Pickle Ball courts by non walkers, both Pennsylvania Ave and Duluth St. are used for parking by these participants. Narrowing Duluth St. further will create additional traffic stress and potential conflict area for pedestrian and car traffic. UPS/Fed Ex/Mail delivery, thru-truck traffic, etc. currently creates traffic problems when one side is occupied by parked cars.

I do think Plan A and B have some visual benefits but my reaction to each depends on what will happen if the area becomes wet. See question below;

Plan A & B- When wet, will the wet area become a Mosquito incubator?

Plan A & B- When wet, will the algae/bacteria from the ponds flow into these areas?

Plan A & B- When wet, will the outflow of oil and foam, (we see annually in pond F coming from the culvert under the train tracks after the first heavy rain), flow into this area?

Thank you,

Bernie Vrona

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback. Wildwood park is very important to our community. Following are some comments on the proposed plans:

Narrowing of Duluth St. and Kelly Dr:

We live on Duluth St and traffic already travels very fast down this road and uses it as a thoroughfare between Douglas Drive and Winnetka rather than going on Olympia which is designed for this purpose. By narrowing the road I have concerns that this will only make these faster cars more dangerous to kids going to and from the park with no sidewalks. If this plan proceeds, is there a way to also slow traffic on Duluth and Kelly?

In addition, the pickleball courts have become very popular, driving up traffic as well as parking along Duluth and Pennsylvania. Is there a plan to manage parking with losing some along Duluth St?

Wet Pond:

The wet pond at Hampshire Park is covered with green algae most of the year. It could be a beautiful asset to the park but with lack of regular maintenance becomes an eye-sore that can also smell and attract mosquitos. If a wet pond option is introduced, there needs to be a way to maintain it better than other wet ponds in the neighborhood. This also removed trees east of playground that provide some shade from morning sun. Playground has no shade from afternoon sun. Need more shade.

Dry Surface Storage:

This will be the least appealing visually, will take a long time for plantings to mature, and will likely just be very mucky/muddy ground much of the year. This approach was less than ideal at Pennsylvania woods, it would be a disaster here. This also removed trees east of playground that provide some shade from morning sun. Playground has no shade from afternoon sun. Need more shade.

Underground Storage:

The rolling mounds are a very nice feature of the park. If the underground tanks are installed, will there be a plan to replace them?

I appreciate that there has been an attempt to keep the playground and sledding hill. I hope that there is an opportunity for more interactive engagement to discuss a wholistic approach to the SEA School/Wildwood park that includes some of the improvements discussed in the previous survey response in addition to how to make sure the flood reduction project does not negatively impact this prized park.

Lastly, can the city share the cost/benefit analysis that went in to determining these measures are necessary? With measures that have already been put in place at Liberty Crossing and Pennsylvania woods, what is the likelihood of flooding at this point and what lengths are we willing to go through to reduce an unlikely flood event further?

My first question is, how will the water from Pond D,E and F flow into this proposed flood litigation for SEA School area and Wildwood Park? How will the water be filtered before entering the area?

(no toxins, fertilizer runoff) Third question: Can the water be diverted to the current water and/or sewer system from these ponds without including SEA school grounds and Wildwood Park?

The plans that call for reducing the width of Duluth Street and Kelly Drive do not seem possible since 25 large buses arrive and leave each morning and afternoon. Also, large trucks service the school including an 18 wheeler that delivers food several times per week. Both Duluth and Kelly are used as main arteries for traffic by parents and anyone having business with the school and for residents coming/going from their homes. The new pickle ball courts are in use April-November 7:30am-7:00pm most days, so there is a lot of cars parked on Duluth Street.

With 375+ children at SEA School and very young children from our neighborhood and others use the playground, especially the zip line, it does not seem safe to have standing water that could cause potential drownings.

If the project must be done then only the 3rd option (all underground) would seem to work. I am wondering if the cost of the project would be any less with the underground storage placed under the school's softball area which would cause less disruption to the existing driveway for the school and other current features of the park?

I like concepts two and three with the exception of narrowing The street.

With climate change we will continue to see historic rainfall events happening more often. It is wise to think about where water will be stored during and after these events so I applaud the city for continuing with these projects. I like the sound of the overall goals of being prepared to store water, improving water quality, crating natural habitats, etc.

I like the sounds of plan 1 because it will provide for natural habitats, and above ground storage at less cost. I do not live directly adjacent to the park so I don't have personal interests in the streets of specific changes to the park. My input is based on what I perceive to be a good option that meets the desired goals while minimizing cost.

I understand that concept 3 is the most expensive, but it is our top choice. I don't want to see our street narrowed, and also don't want anything to change about the Wildwood park area. Personally, there is so much public use of this park, and I'd like to see nothing done with it at all.

1. Narrowing the streets to 24 feet with the bus and car traffic from the school. Very bad idea. I do not feel safe on the current street with the traffic. I will be contacting the mayor and city council members about this. Narrow streets were a big issue over by Medley park, Cavell when the new streets were only 26 feet and they do not have any where near the traffic.

2. Where will the water come from that would flow into this new area?

3. How much will this really affect the existing ponds?

4. What is being done about the water that comes from the north side of the tracks from the area around the ball field and surrounding businesses? There is a lot of water that comes in from that direction the should be diverted else where.

5. In reality how much storage is really needed to prevent the flooding that is discussed (especially in the years listed) since this area was once a large wetland and now it is not. Hard to fix what man has drastically changed! Nickel and diming small areas that is being done does not seem like it is going to fix the problem. Should spend the money just one time on a big purchase (like where Liberty Apartments are) and be done with it. In the in cost will be all the same.

6. Where is most of the water coming from that causes the problem? What is being done about the source.

I wouldn't support either of the options that call for narrowing of Duluth and/or Kelly Drive. There's too much traffic, including buses, and too many people that park there to play pickle ball and use the park to have that street narrowed. Additionally the idea of above ground water storage is not appealing. The ponds already appear dirty with garbage collecting on the edges. I can't imagine that adding another water area would fare differently.

The third option may be workable but given the expense I have to ask if it's really necessary? I don't think we've had flooding in that specific area for a very long time. With the construction of Liberty Crossing and the rework of the nature area nearby, shouldn't that be sufficient?

One thought...Can there be an arrangement for off street parking, perhaps at SEA school for the jammed pickle ball courts and the many on street parkers here. Especially needed if narrowing the street.

24 ft is unacceptable. The park area is used by many homeowners with children. Really. Please get another certified opinion on this , do not ruin another neighborhood

Options 1 and 2 look like great options. I know there's concern about narrowing the street—especially with school traffic but with some planning and communication, I don't see that as an issue. Please add a retention pond, I think it would be a great asset to the area and our students learning. I'd love there to be some signage that would explain plants and animals in the project so residents and children could learn when they visit. I don't care for the underground water storage because of the cost.



My primary use of the area is with regard to the playground. My kids go there regularly to burn off energy, and it's also a communal meeting place for parents in the area with young children. I'm not going to say what you need to do, as you all are the professionals in the design, however, I would like to let you know about some general concerns I have:

1) If we are to have above ground storage, safety must be a priority for any open water. I noticed in concept 2 there was a row of bushes or trees between the playground and pond. This is unacceptable, because parents of children too young to swim need an unobstructed line of sight in order to determine if a young child is too close to the water. If a kid is hidden in tall grass or bushes it could be game over for the little one. I feel having the above ground storage adjacent to the pickleball court where adults are would be safer than having the open water near where young children are.

2) I would be more open to the idea of narrowing the road if a sidewalk were incorporated into the design so pedestrians and cyclists could have a safe place to commute. Plus if there is flooding then folks probably won't be walking around much anyway, so it could still be included in the "storage". If the road is narrowed with no sidewalks then I would not be very happy about the change.

Dislike option 1 and 2, because of the narrowing of the streets. Kelly Drive is dangerous enough of our children who walk to school. Making the street narrower would put our kids at more danger. If the city is thinking about putting in a sidewalk On Kelly from Olympia To Duluth. Maybe option 1 and 2 would be okay. But still we loss all that land that the neighborhood can use for fun events.

Like option 3, because the neighborhood can still use this area for fun events. Plus it would not narrow the street.

There is quite a bit of traffic on Kelly Drive because of the school, and most of that traffic comes down Duluth Street and Kelly Drive. If you narrow those streets, with all of the pickle ball players, we're going to have a ton of problems in that area. Perhaps the school driveway should go out to Pennsylvania instead (in on Kelly and out on Pennsylvania?)

Also, we live on the corner of Maryland and Kelly and I'm really not excited about having the driveway aligned with Maryland. Even though our road doesn't really go anywhere, I don't want to encourage people to go straight down our road. We have a ton of kids on our street. Maybe Maryland should become a dead end with two culdesacs to keep people from going through there...

Otherwise, i don't mind the #1 plan with the swampy areas. I REALLY don't want standing water in the park if at all possible. I am worried it will become dangerous for my young kids, and also the young kids in the school.

Option one is the best with regards to being able to accept floodwater but stay “dry” during normal times. How often will this be wet? Can a person walk through it during normal times?

I do not like the re-alignment of the exit from the school to Maryland. This is a driveway, not a road and should be treated as such. The re-alignment will exponentially increase the traffic on Maryland.

Can the dirt that is removed be left onsite to increase the size of the sledding hill? This will lower costs, and save on wear and tear of our roads.

I am fine with reducing the width on Kelley Drive.

1) A compelling case has NOT been made for why we need this project--why here and why now? It feels like this is being pushed through during a time when many are not paying attention and public gatherings and forums are more challenging to organize. Please consider hosting a Zoom Town Hall in which these questions are answered in depth. 2) I do not like option 1 or 2. Buses for SEA School and garbage trucks already struggle to get through Kelly Drive; so I don't like the idea of narrowing. And when I look at the swampy algae pond in Hampshire Park it makes me especially afraid. If this must be done, I support Option 3. But I feel more explanation--in a public forum via Zoom, where we can ask questions--is needed.

Thank you for allowing feedback on this potential project.

Is there a place where we can learn more about why this project is necessary? All options come at significant budget and quality of life costs for the neighborhood, and beyond a few buzz words I haven't been able to find a real case for this project.

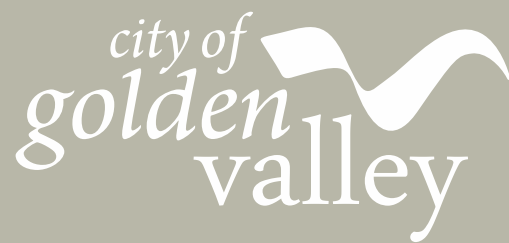
Options 1 and 2 seem problematic by narrowing the roadway, which is used by school traffic frequently. The open area where the project proposed is used often by the neighborhood, with children playing in the field daily. Many of us bought houses here because of the park. I understand the desire to keep the other amenities of Wildwood Park, including the pickleball courts. Drive past the park any day and you'll notice the pickleball courts in use, and the myriad cars parked by the users. This shows how the courts are used more by people outside the neighborhood and not the immediate neighbors.

If any project is need, I hope option 3 is the one chosen.

Finally, should property values decrease due to the elimination of the park area and the addition of what appears to be an unattractive drainage swamp, is there a process in recoup that from the city?

# **APPENDIX E**

## **Virtual Open House Feedback**



## Responses

Hi there. In the opinions of everybody in our home, concept 2 is the clear winner. The diversity in habitat created, the new pond, the floating platform—all of these make for a magical new experience. There is still plenty of concentrated turf area for recreation, and the (relatively) low price tag seals the deal for sure. Thanks for accepting feedback.. fingers crossed for option 2!

My preference is for concept three - Wet Meadow.

concept 2 is the best.

I am concerned about open water near a playground that was designed for younger children. My preference would be a plan that would allow kids and people to play in the northeast section of the park as often as possible.

It was difficult to see what was being planted but I prefer that kids be allowed to run, chance dogs and enjoy that open area as much as possible.

I reviewed the video and I definitely see many more advantages for the cost with Concept 3. The cost of Concept 1 just doesn't make sense based on the low returns for the removal of phosphorus and the reduced amount of wetland/prairie.

Concept 2 is good too, but it appears we'd get more benefits for the money with Concept 3. The outcomes for flood reduction and reducing the structures at risk are the same for all three concepts, which makes Concept 3 even more reasonable.

I am quite concerned about the loss of forest in the northeast portion of the project, near the corner of Duluth and Kelly. Right now, there is mainly woods/forest facing Kelly Drive from the corner down south past the playground. We have seen already the loss of mature trees in Pennsylvania Woods, only to be replaced by prairie. While prairie is indeed native to Minnesota, these woods and trees have also been here a long-g-g time, and should be preserved. We don't need to have prairie absolutely everywhere.

Also, the Pennsylvania Woods project for ponds B and C has only been recently completed. In addition, the above-ground storage north of Liberty Crossing and just south of Medicine Lake Road has rarely, if ever, had water in it. While I realize that the SEA School project is intended mainly for ponds D, E and F, some of the prior flooding in those ponds has been attributable to the runoff further north, which is now addressed by Liberty and Pennsylvania Woods. Must we jump in and do another project without even knowing if the prior two projects will suffice?

Take a breath, please. You get one shot at Wildwood Park, and the park shouldn't be altered (or even ruined) because of a perceived need based only on modelling. Can you wait?

I think all three designs look great and maintain the features enjoyed by the neighborhood and school. You probably don't really need to keep the turf areas on Duluth and Kelly Drive or near the pickleball courts if it is needed for additional storage.

The water feature and dock on #2 is really nice; though not sure if that would be a mosquito magnet since it may be standing water vs. the flowing water that exists in the ponds.

The extra filtration of #3 is a nice bonus and the variable stream of #1 is also nice a feature. I don't think you can go wrong with any of these choices!

I like option 3 best. My house looks directly at the playground on Kelly Drive. Is there any option to move the playground to the school property, near the park? My thought is that if the playground was relocated and still accessible to the city park, the school children would still have access to use the playground during construction. I

assume that for some portion of the construction the playground would be unsafe due to heavy equipment in the area. By moving the playground, there might be enough surface area to avoid moving the school drive and orchard, reducing disruption to the school and students. I'd like feedback on why the playground cannot be relocated to school property - the school is already crossing to city park to have a playground for the kids.

Since the city does not do anything to maintain the trees in the wooded area, mostly invasive and weed trees such as buck thorn, box elder and elm trees are there, why not take out some of the trees on the north end and make larger holding capacity. This I assume would be cheaper than moving the exit road out of the parking lot. Currently there are several dead trees tipped over but hung up in other trees in the woods and are a hazard considering the number of kids that play in there.

Will there be any positive outcomes vis a vis flood water mitigation for the properties to the south of this area ((e.g. along Pennsylvania Ave. N. 1500's block and other side streets south of Olympia Ave.)

I really hate the idea of taking all of the trees down in all three of the options considered. From 48-54 seems like a lot of trees to lose. That's such a nice area (on Duluth street/Kelly Drive southeast of the school).

Also concerned about the open water in the second (?) option given that the school is right next to it. Are there any plans for a fence around the water with access via a (lockable) gate in case the school wants to have educational activities for the students?

Thank you for the update on the various options for this project. I am happy to hear that Duluth Street and Kelly Drive will not be narrowed especially with the 22 buses that come to the school morning and afternoon and the 100 cars that drop off and pick up family members due to the current Covid-19 situation. In addition to the large number of cars that park on Duluth St and Pennsylvania Ave for pickle ball games.

My first choice is no changes to current layout of the park. This park has a lot of use because of the pickle ball courts, SEA school recess time, playground with zip line, neighborhood gatherings and dog walkers and walkers.

My second choice of the concept options would be Concept #1. It would seem to maintain some turf area and would not have a pond as in concept #2. With the removal of existing trees maybe more new trees can be planted.

Bob McCarthy

I like the idea that the school can get access to multiple habitats for outdoor learning. Concepts 2 and 3 seem more reasonable than concept 1. You probably could explain why so many trees have to be cut in order to implement any plan.