



# Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan

Virtual Public Meeting

August 7, 2024



SHAKER HEIGHTS

**MKSK**

# Question & Answer Session

## Instructions

If you have a question, there is an icon on your screen with a question mark that says Q&A. Type your question there anytime during the presentation and we will answer it live at the end of the presentation.



The format of this presentation will also include 6 polls that will pop-up on your screen

## Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan

Virtual Public Meeting

August 7, 2024



SHAKER HEIGHTS

MKSK

settings ^



Chat



Raise hand



Q&A



Show captions

# Project Team

Introductions

CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS

ADVISORY GROUP



**MKSK**

Consultant Team Lead  
Park Planning, Urban Design,  
& Community Engagement

PARK  
RESEARCH  
& SYSTEMS  
EXPERTISE

**pros**  
consulting  
Inc.

Parks & Facilities Research,  
Needs Assessment &  
Planning

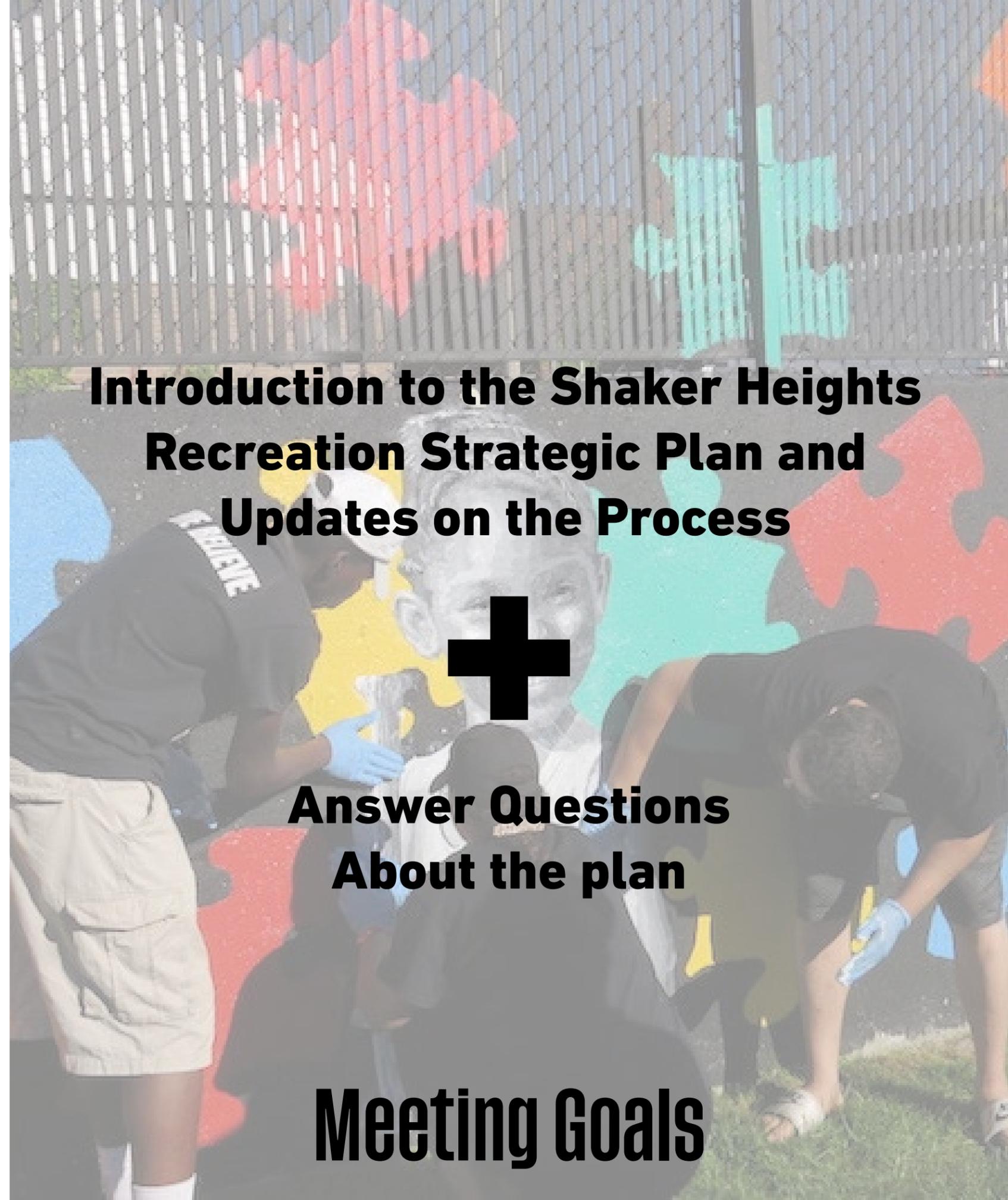
CREATIVE  
BUILDING  
REUSE,  
DESIGN, &  
PLANNING

**RDL**  
ARCHITECTS

Park Buildings,  
Architecture and Urban  
Design

# Tonight's Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project Background + Purpose
3. Existing Conditions + Parks Overview
4. Project Sites
5. Engagement Overview + Results
6. What's Next
7. Question & Answer



**Introduction to the Shaker Heights  
Recreation Strategic Plan and  
Updates on the Process**



**Answer Questions  
About the plan**

**Meeting Goals**

# POLL QUESTION #1

What Shaker Heights neighborhood are you joining us from?

**Project Background + Purpose**

# Background

## How Did We Get Here?

### Previous Plans + Studies

- Lee Road Action Plan (2023)
- Community Attitude Survey (2018, 2023)
- Forward Together Vision Plan + Building Assessments (2019)

#### FORWARD TOGETHER + FACILITIES PLAN



Forward  
strategy for Shaker's facilities

Examine area around bus garage, potentially move or repurpose to increase access and use at Chelton Park

#### LEE ROAD ACTION PLAN



City of Shaker Heights  
**LEE ROAD ACTION PLAN**

SHAKER HEIGHTS

March 21, 2023

Prepared by

WSP | IcoMiller | Peter Lorenz Jones

Consider possibilities of Colonnade such as sports fields or outdoor theatre

Expand access to Middle School facilities such as the pool



# Background

## Project Phases

We are here

Current Plan

### 2024 - 2025

#### Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan

- Visioning & Framework
- Community Engagement & Needs Assessment
- Conceptual Facility Plans

Future Plan

### Future Date

#### Operations & Implementation Plan

- Phasing Plan
- Financing Plan
- Partnerships and Best Practices

# Purpose

Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan

***The City of Shaker Heights will engage with the community to develop a long-term recreation plan that prioritizes improvements to select parks and recreation facilities to provide high-quality amenities for all neighborhoods and residents.***

# Goals + Objectives

## Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan

- 1 Evaluate each site and facility's unique context, location, challenges and potential opportunities.**
- 2 Create a vision and plan that serves the diverse population and its needs.**
- 3 Provide community facilities that have the capability for gathering and bringing people together.**
- 4 Create an actionable framework that helps prioritize the next steps in Future Operational and Implementation Plans.**

# Timeline

## Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan



**12 - 13 months**

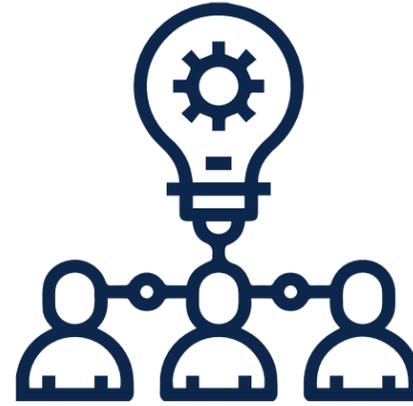
# People

Who is involved?



## Advisory Group

Through an application process, individuals volunteered to provide feedback from different perspectives within the community.



## Stakeholder Groups

Groups consisting of individuals or organizations representing recreational facilities, sports leagues, civic and community institutions, and residents who share common interests related to the Recreation Strategic Plan.

**That's YOU!**



## Shaker Residents

Shaker Heights Residents are a key component to the development of the Recreation Strategic Plan, providing insights and feedback on their recreation needs and helping to create a vision for the future of the sites.

# POLL QUESTION #2

How often do you visit a park or engage in recreation activities in Shaker?

**Existing Conditions + Parks Overview**

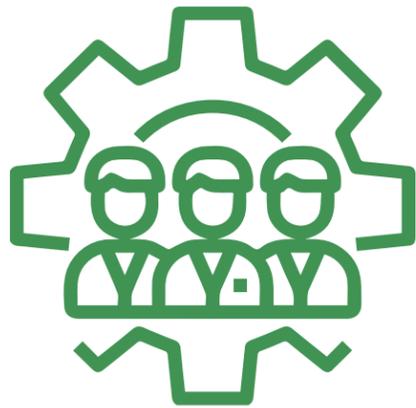
# POLL QUESTION #3

How important are parks and recreation to the quality of life for residents?

**Existing Conditions + Parks Overview**

# Existing Conditions

## Discovery & Analysis



### Inventory + Plan Review

Creating an inventory of the existing facilities and amenities in order to evaluate the current state of recreation as well as reviewing previous plans to build on past efforts.



### Recreation Trends

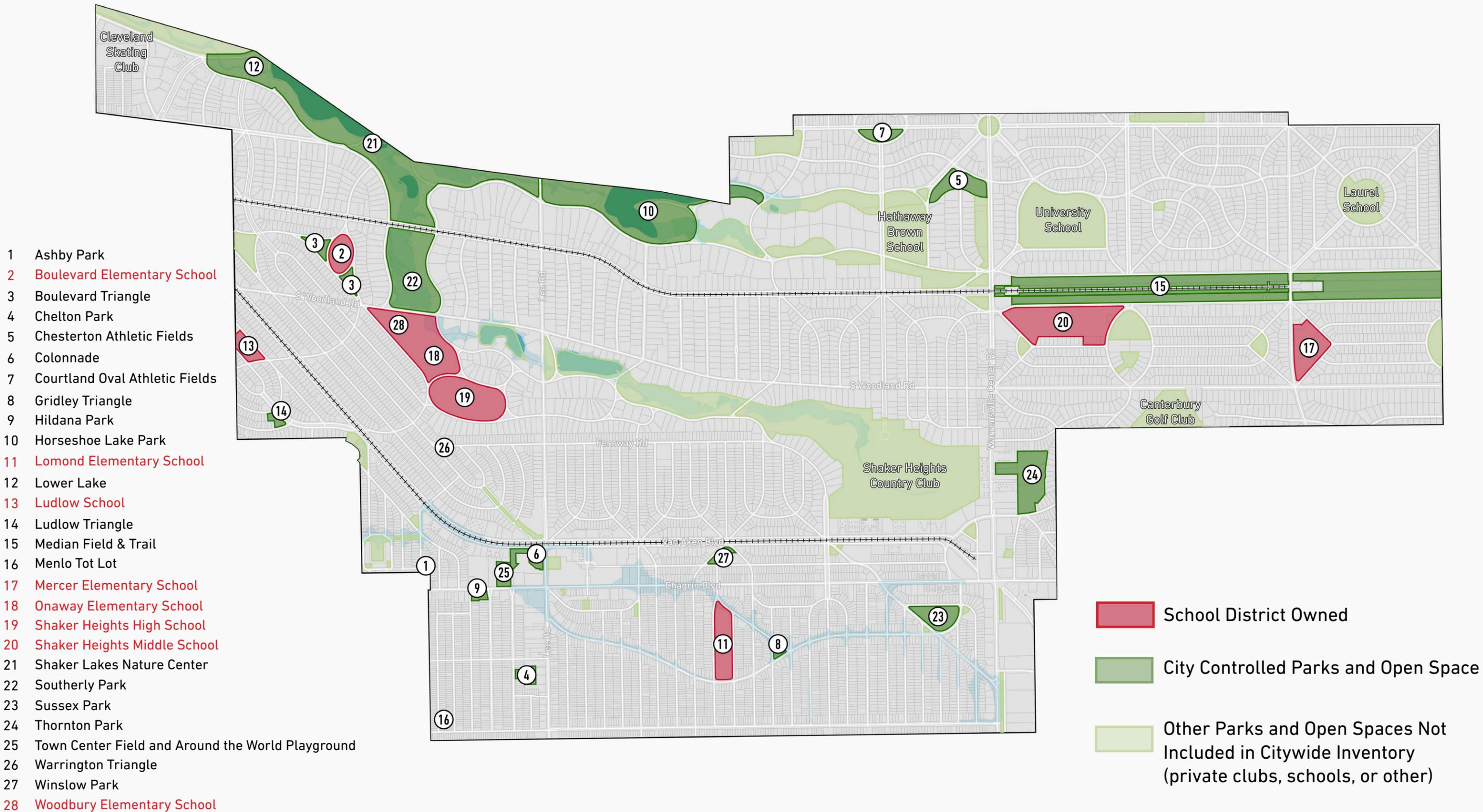
Provide insight into the makeup of the population and identify market trends in recreation. Data collection provided by PROS from the SFIA (Sports & Fitness Industry Association).



### Community Benchmarking

Determining where Shaker Heights stands amongst peer cities, both similar and aspirational, to find the greatest areas of contrast, identify areas of improvement, and establish goals to pursue.

# Shaker Parks & Recreation Sites



- 1 Ashby Park
- 2 **Boulevard Elementary School**
- 3 Boulevard Triangle
- 4 Chelton Park
- 5 Chesterton Athletic Fields
- 6 Colonnade
- 7 Courtland Oval Athletic Fields
- 8 Gridley Triangle
- 9 Hildana Park
- 10 Horseshoe Lake Park
- 11 **Lomond Elementary School**
- 12 Lower Lake
- 13 **Ludlow School**
- 14 Ludlow Triangle
- 15 Median Field & Trail
- 16 Menlo Tot Lot
- 17 **Mercer Elementary School**
- 18 **Onaway Elementary School**
- 19 **Shaker Heights High School**
- 20 **Shaker Heights Middle School**
- 21 Shaker Lakes Nature Center
- 22 Southerly Park
- 23 Sussex Park
- 24 Thornton Park
- 25 Town Center Field and Around the World Playground
- 26 Warrington Triangle
- 27 Winslow Park
- 28 **Woodbury Elementary School**

- School District Owned
- City Controlled Parks and Open Space
- Other Parks and Open Spaces Not Included in Citywide Inventory (private clubs, schools, or other)

# Shaker Parks & Recreation Sites Overview

***11 total parks***

***27 outdoor recreation facilities***

***2 indoor recreation facilities***

***140 acres maintained by the Recreation Department***



# Shaker Heights Recreation Overview

## Nationwide Trends Analysis

### **Examined national and local trends for participation, programming, and activity levels**

#### **National Trends:**

- Team sports recovering from pandemic shut downs – returning to near 2019 levels
- Pickleball –fastest growing sport, doubled participation in 2022
- Other popular growing sports – yoga, Pilates, kettlebell workout, indoor climbing, hiking, gymnastics, volleyball, softball

# Shaker Heights Recreation Overview

Shaker Heights Market Potential

## Local Trends:

### General Sports:

Tennis, Golf

### Fitness:

Yoga, Aerobics, Pilates, Walking, Weightlifting, Swimming

### Outdoor Activities:

Hiking, Biking

### Commercial Recreation:

Book Clubs, Live Theatre, Art Gallery visits, Museum visits

# Shaker Heights Recreation Overview

Community Benchmarking



**Shaker Heights**

## Peer Communities

**Cleveland Heights (OH)**

**Kirkwood (MO)**

**Lakewood (OH)**

**Mason (OH)**

**Oak Park (IL)**

**Oak Park (MI)**

**Reynoldsburg (OH)**

## Benchmark Metrics

Population

Jurisdiction Size

Acreage Managed

Number of Facilities + Square

Footages

Indoor/Outdoor Facilities

Transportation + Access

Staffing

Operating Budget

Capital Budget

Revenue

Programs

# Shaker Heights Recreation Overview

## Community Benchmarking

Agency	Population	Jurisdiction Size	Population per Sq. Mi.
Park District of Oak Park (IL)	53,224	4.70	11,324
Lakewood Parks & Recreation (OH)	49,658	6.70	7,412
Oak Park Recreation (MI)	29,108	5.16	5,643
Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation (OH)	45,312	8.14	5,567
Shaker Heights Recreation (OH)	29,439	6.33	4,651
Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation (OH)	41,117	11.24	3,658
Kirkwood Parks & Recreation (MO)	29,279	9.18	3,189
Mason Parks & Recreation (OH)	34,800	18.63	1,868

Shaker Heights population size, jurisdiction size, and population per square mile served is middle-of-the-pack amongst the community peers.

# Shaker Heights Recreation Overview

## Community Benchmarking

Agency	Total Operating Expenses	Budget of Dept. Compared to City Budget
Park District of Oak Park (IL)	\$19,947,851	N/A
Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation (OH)	\$2,500,000	10.00%
Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation (OH)	\$3,600,000	8.14%
Shaker Heights Recreation (OH)	\$2,100,000	2.90%
Mason Parks & Recreation (OH)	\$3,391,000	2.50%
Lakewood Parks & Recreation (OH)	\$1,400,000	2.00%
Oak Park Recreation (MI)	\$965,476	1.70%
Kirkwood Parks & Recreation (MO)	\$5,700,000	0.01%

# Shaker Heights Recreation Overview

## Community Benchmarking

Agency	Total Operating Expenditures/budget for Programs	Revenue Generated by Programs
Park District of Oak Park (IL)	\$3,100,00	\$5,300,000
Oak Park Recreation (MI)	\$865,672	\$697,661
Kirkwood Parks & Recreation (MO)	\$3,600,00	\$2,800,000
Lakewood Parks & Recreation (OH)	\$1,400,00	\$990,000
Shaker Heights Recreation (OH)	\$2,000,000	\$1,100,000
Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation (OH)	\$4,470,000	\$800,000
Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation (OH)	\$1,800,000	\$118,780
Mason Parks & Recreation (OH)	N/A	N/A

**Shaker Heights ranked fifth of peer cities with a 55% cost recovery for their programs.**

**Almost all agencies run at a program deficit.**

# Existing Conditions

## Key Takeaways

**1**

**Shaker has a diverse set of park and recreation offerings that are spread throughout the community and accessible.**

**2**

**Changing recreation trends, demands, and facility age have resulted in the need to upgrade or invest in Shaker Heights Park and Recreation**

**3**

**Division of City and School controlled facilities may create various shared use opportunities and also challenges.**

**4**

**Shaker Heights Recreation is average in comparison to its peer communities.**

**5**

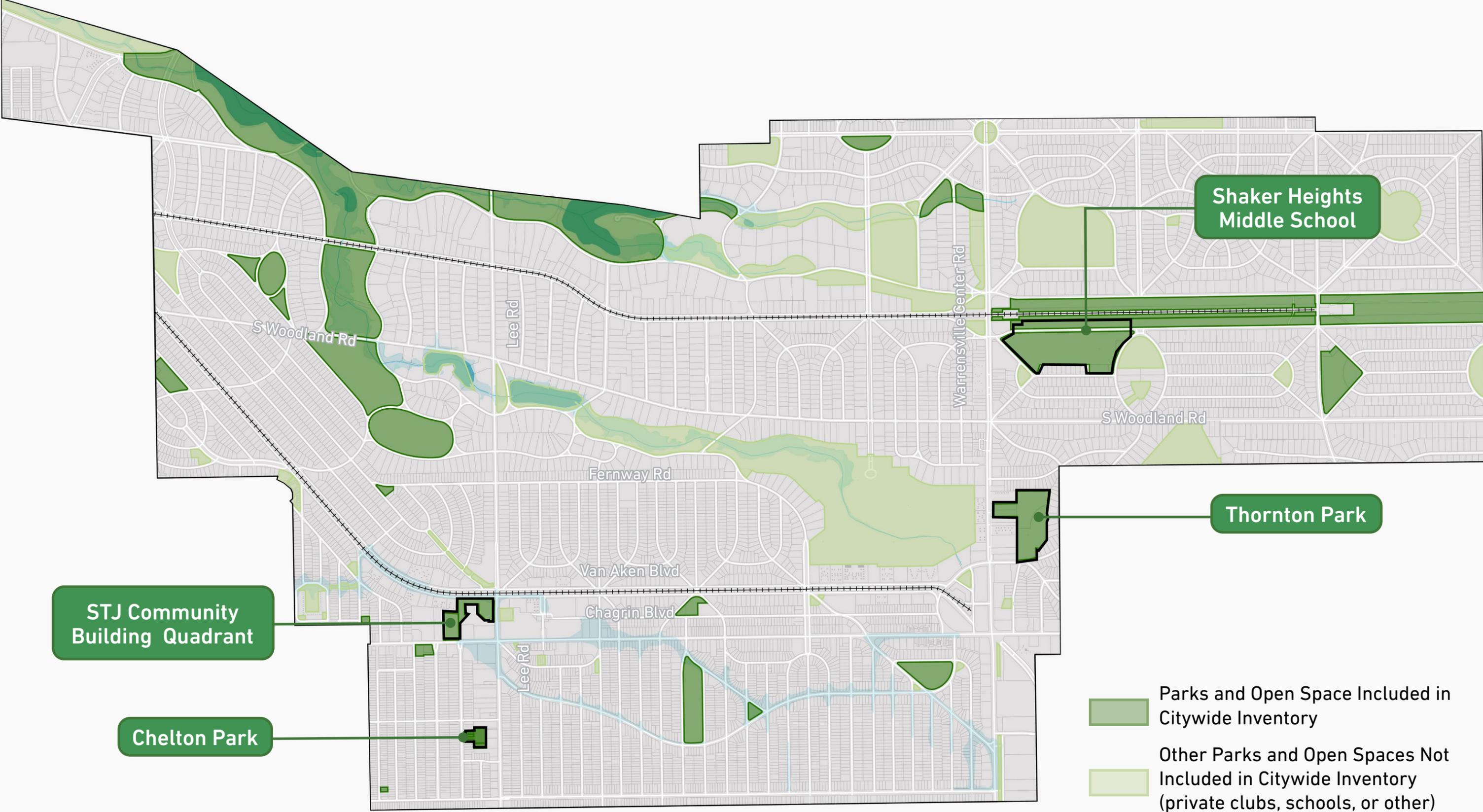
**Shaker Heights is a stable, well performing parks and recreation department measured against its peers, with a moderate amount of growth still possible.**

# POLL QUESTION #4

How satisfied are you with the recreation facilities in Shaker?

**Project Sites**

# Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan



# Chelton Park

<b>Address</b>	3645 Chelton Rd
<b>Size</b>	5.1 acres
<b>Amenities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bus Depot</li><li>• Baseball Field</li><li>• Youth Basketball Hoop</li><li>• Playground</li><li>• Multi-Purpose Grass Field</li></ul>



# STJ Community Building Quadrant

<b>Address</b>	3450 Lee Rd.
<b>Size</b>	8.1 acres
<b>Amenities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STJ Community Building</li><li>• Library</li><li>• Colonnade</li><li>• Playground</li><li>• Multi-Purpose Grass Field</li></ul>



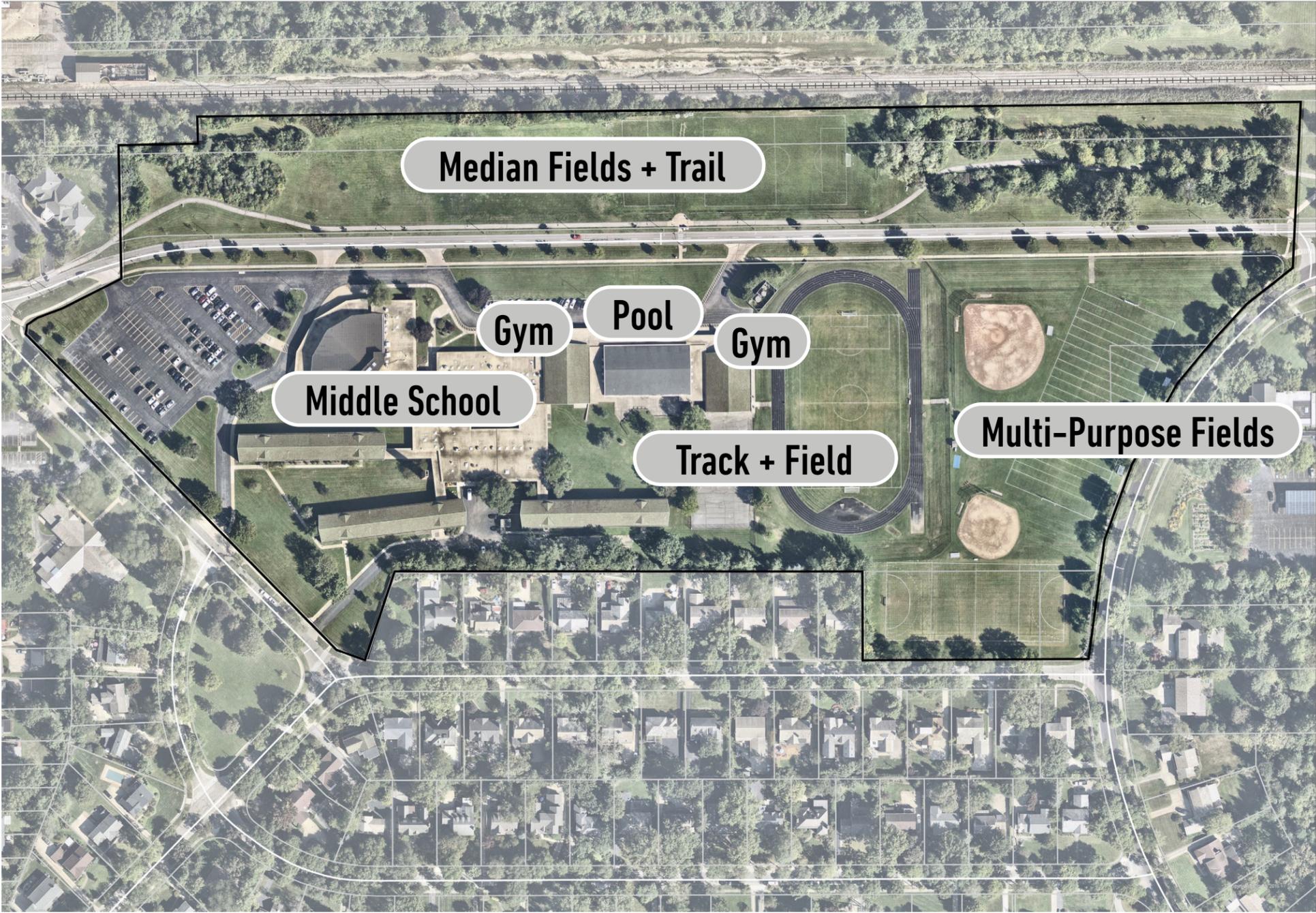
# Thornton Park

<b>Address</b>	3301 Warrensville Center Rd.
<b>Size</b>	13 acres
<b>Amenities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ice Skating Rink</li><li>• Outdoor Swimming Pool</li><li>• Tennis Courts</li><li>• Basketball Court</li><li>• Skate Park</li><li>• Sand Volleyball Court</li><li>• Playground</li><li>• Sledding Hill</li><li>• Gaga Pit</li></ul>

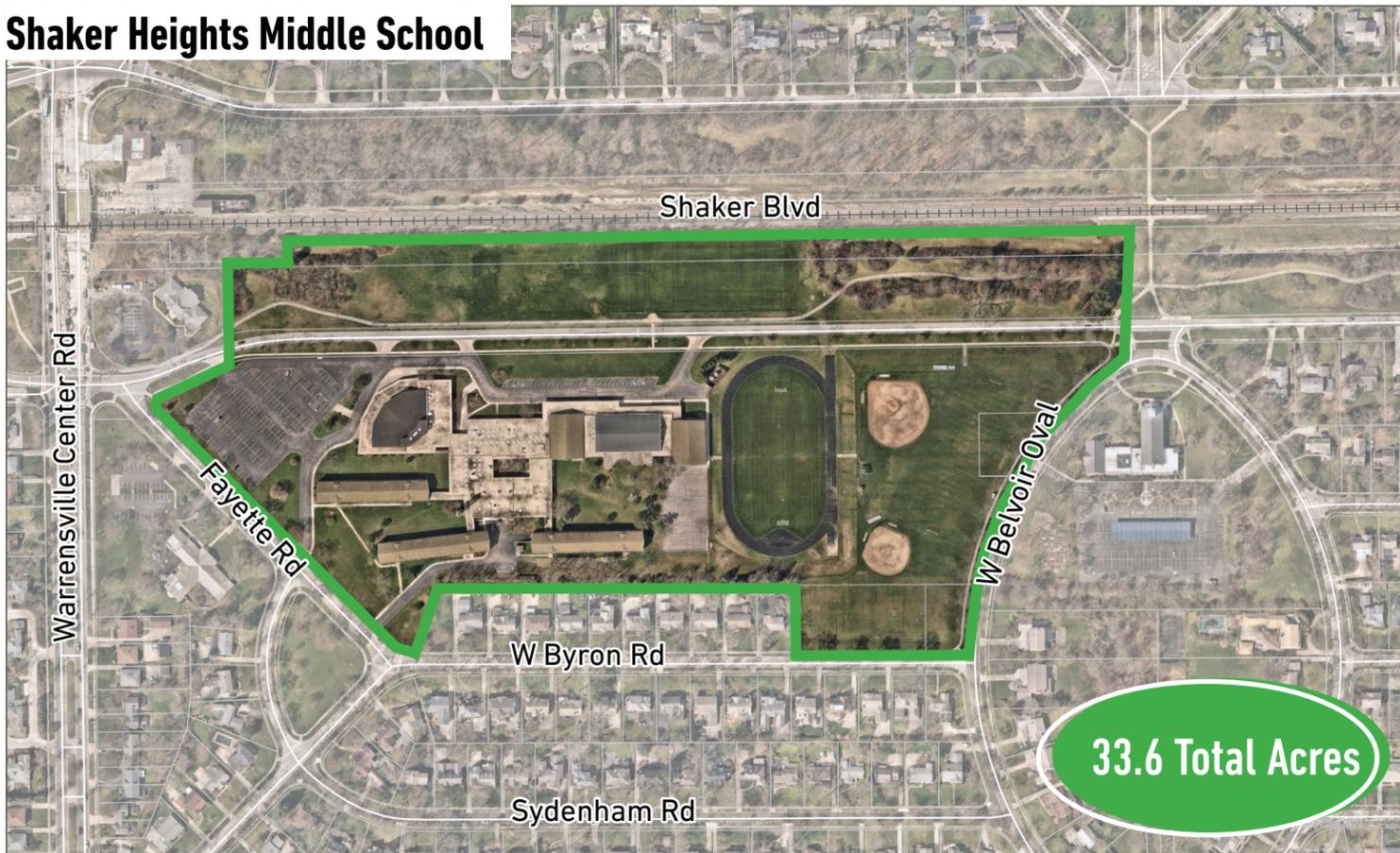


# SH Middle School

<b>Address</b>	20600 Shaker Blvd.
<b>Size</b>	33.6 acres
<b>Amenities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SH Middle School</li><li>• Indoor Swimming Pool</li><li>• Baseball Fields</li><li>• Track</li><li>• Multi-Purpose Grass Fields</li><li>• Trail</li></ul>



**Shaker Heights Middle School**



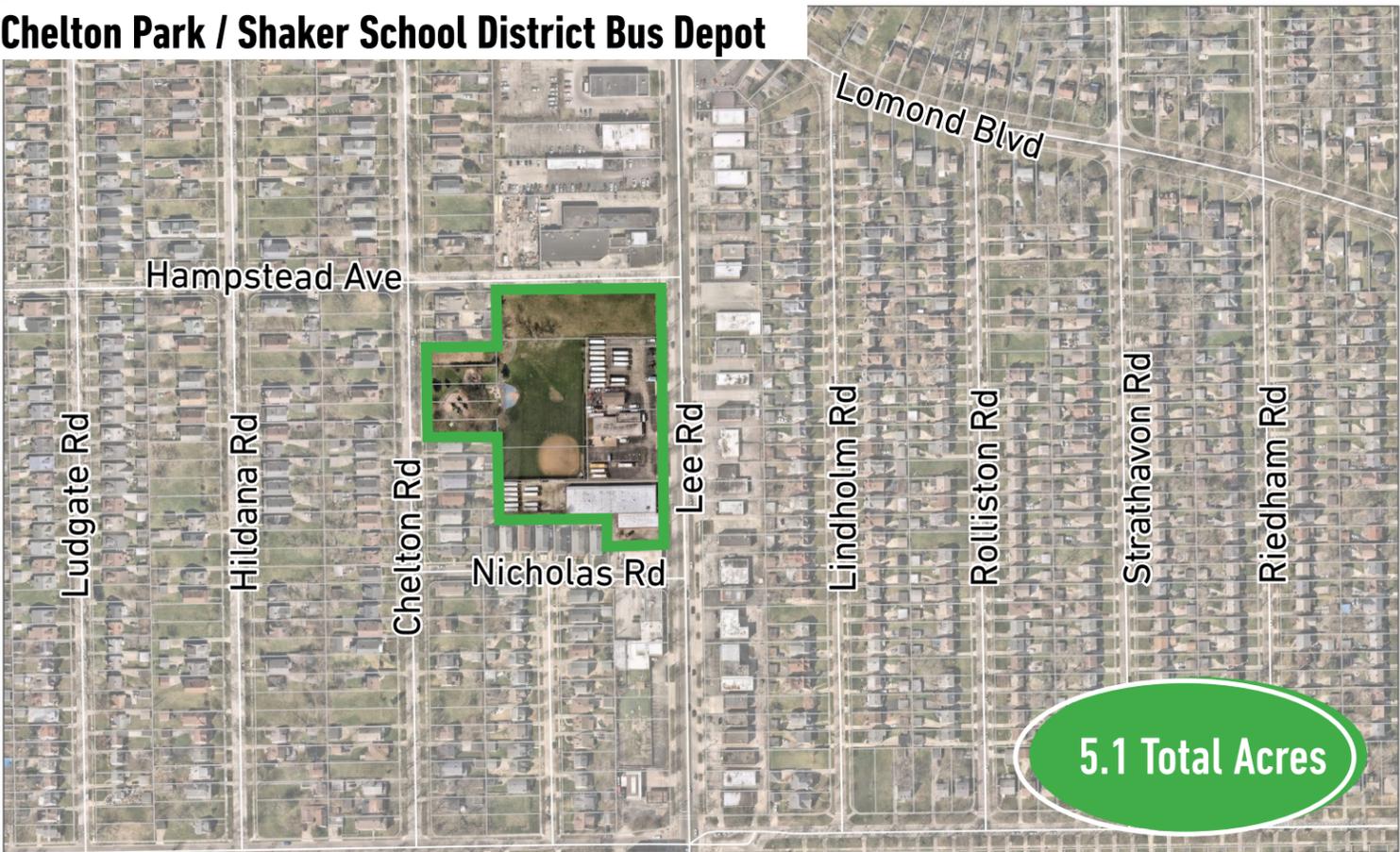
**STJ Community Building Quadrant**



**Thornton Park**



**Chelton Park / Shaker School District Bus Depot**



# Facilities and Amenities Findings

## Specific Site Observations

- 1 Thornton Pool and Ice Rink are great assets in good location but may require significant capital investment in the future - how can these be re-envisioned or re-purposed to continue serving the community.**
- 2 The Middle School site present a large opportunity to create an innovative community-wide recreation destination.**
- 3 Chelton is a key asset for the Moreland Neighborhood and has the potential to expand and leverage improvements that are part of the Lee Road Action Plan.**
- 4 STJ Community Building does not function well as a recreation facility - former library layout is not conducive to a variety of programming and activities.**

# POLL QUESTION #5

In the past year, at which of the previous four sites have you or a member of your family participated in recreational activity?

**Engagement Overview**

# Community Engagement

## Outreach Methods



### Online

- Project Website
- Mapping Activity
- Vision Board



### In-Person Engagement

- Advisory Group
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Pop-Up Events (Mapping Activity)
- Public Meetings

# In-Person Engagement

## Advisory Group



### Advisory Group

Through an application process, individuals volunteered to provide feedback from different perspectives within the community.

# 19 Participants

# 4 Total Meetings

## (2 Completed)



### IDEATE & ITERATE WORKSHEET

**PROMPT**  
Describe your improvements or changes to this site. How can we make this site better for Shaker Heights residents?

- Your table markers indicate which park you'll focus on for this activity. Please see below:
- Chelton Park
  - STJ Community Building Quadrant
  - SH Middle School
  - Thornton Park

**1**  
Individually, develop up to 3 ideas in 3 minutes.  
• Be bold! Be Creative!  
• Ideas can be phrases or sketches.

Idea goes here	Idea goes here	Idea goes here
----------------	----------------	----------------

**2**  
Individually, develop up to 3 new ideas or build on the ideas above in 3 minutes.  
• Be bold!  
• Ideas can be phrases or sketches.

Idea goes here	Idea goes here	Idea goes here
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**3**  
Individually, develop up to 3 new ideas or build on the ideas above in 3 minutes.  
• Be bold!  
• Ideas can be phrases or sketches.

Idea goes here	Idea goes here	Idea goes here
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# In-Person Engagement

## Stakeholder Interviews



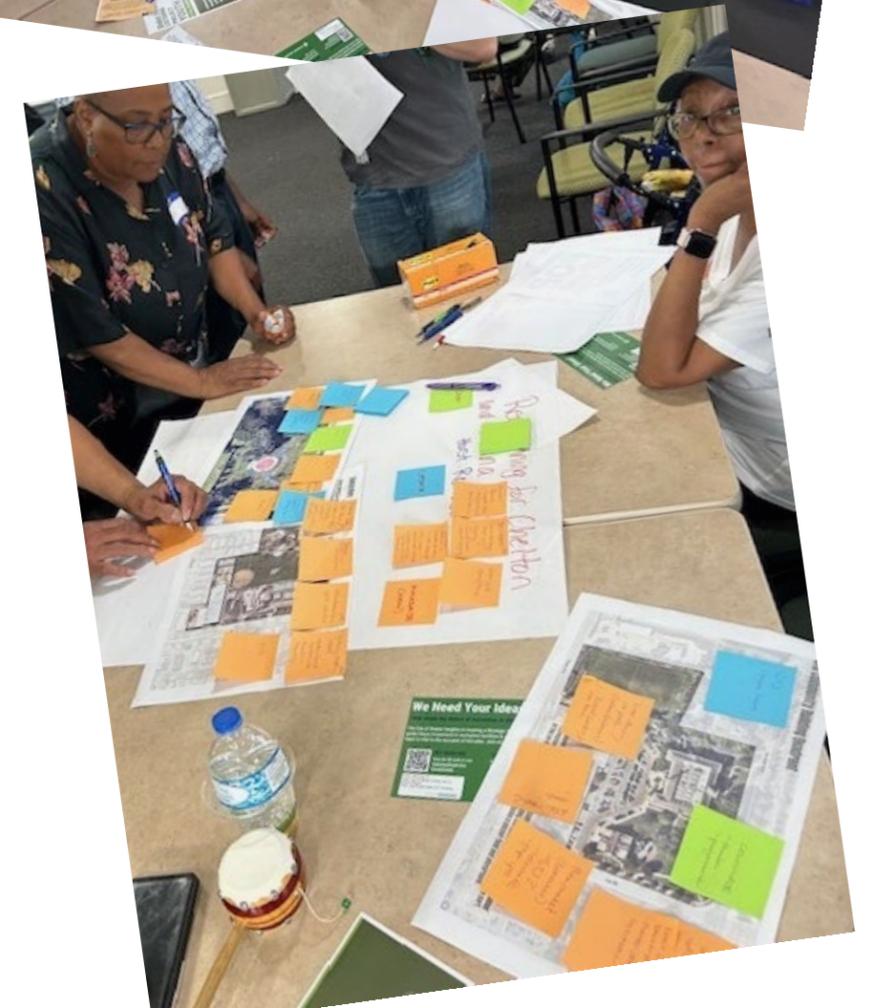
### Stakeholder Groups

Groups consisting of individuals or organizations representing recreational facilities, sports leagues, civic and community institutions, and residents who share common interests related to the Recreation Strategic Plan.

## 60+ Participants

- Athletic Courts + Gyms
- Athletic Fields
- Pools
- Ice Rink
- Under served Populations
- School District/ Athletic Department
- Recreation Department
- Parks + Open Space
- Senior Adults
- Youth
- Moreland Neighbors
- Non-Users

## 12 Groups



# In-Person Engagement

## Pop-Up Events

- Independence Day Pool Party
- Swim Lessons
- Recreation Committee (virtual)
- Library Engagement (2)
- Van Aken District Block Party
- VAD Community Band Concerts

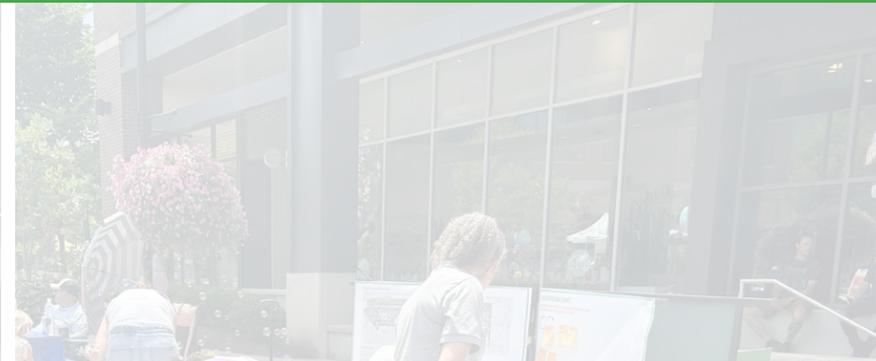
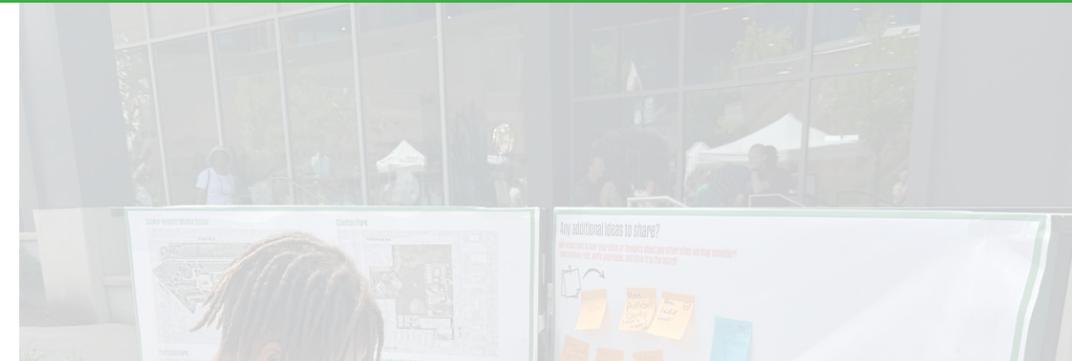
- Moreland Neighbor Night
- Learn to Skate
- Van Aken District Live Music
- Dive-In Movies
- Shaker Safety Day

- Lee Road Block Party
- Moreland Neighbor Night
- Pool
- Park - Chelton Park
- Playground - Lomond, Ludlow, Sussex
- Senior

- Camp Discovery, Camp Explore, Jr. Raider Basketball Camp, and Jr. Raider Tennis Camp, Safety Town

# In-Person Engagement

## Pop-Up Events



### KEEP

What existing park facilities or amenities do you frequently use or want to remain at each project site?

### UPDATE

What existing park facilities or amenities would you like to see improved at each project site?

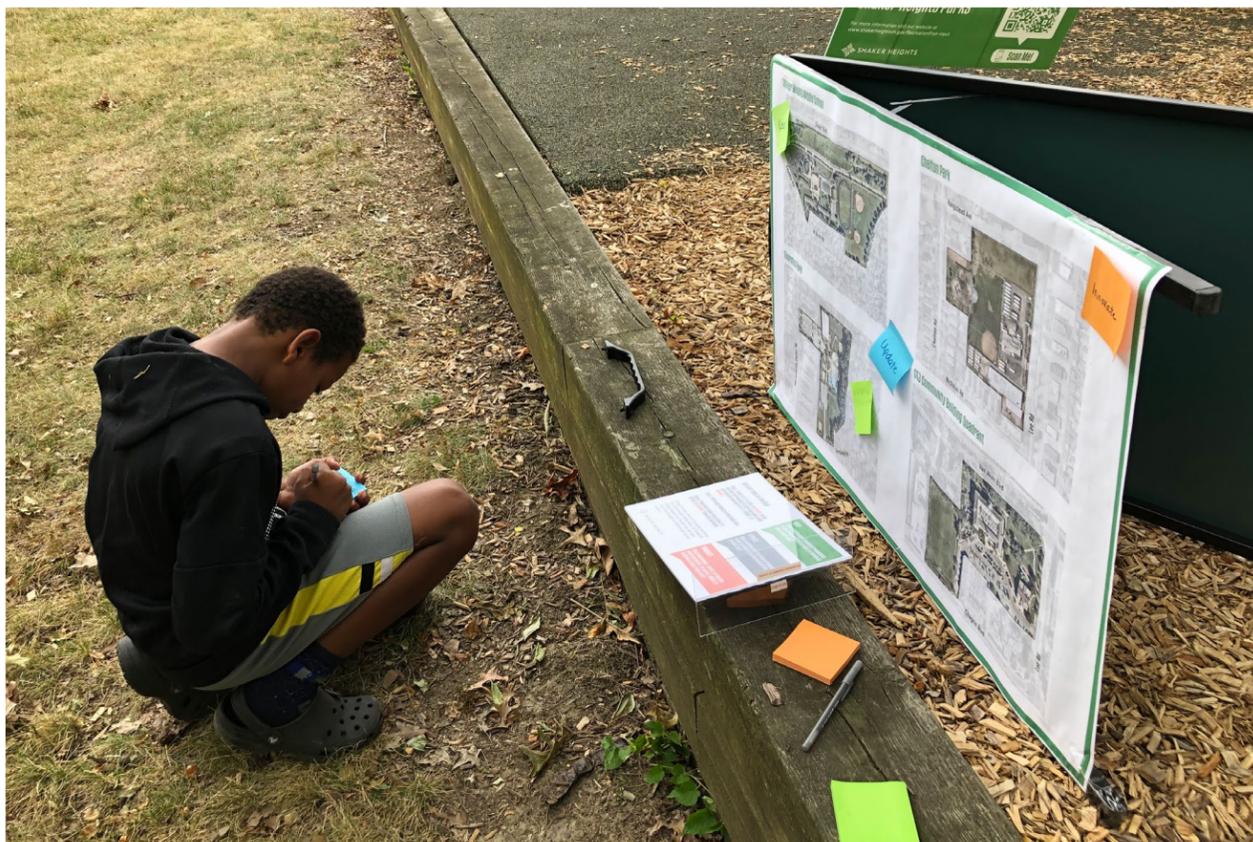
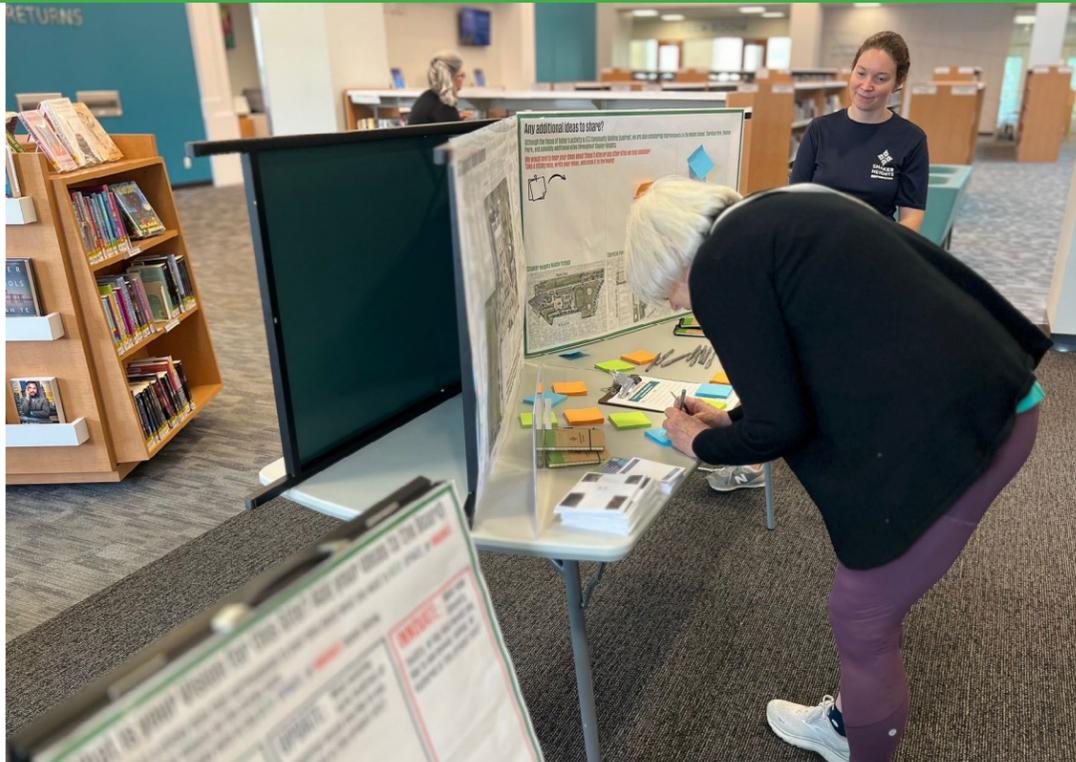
### INNOVATE

What new amenity, facility, or big idea would you like to see moved, added, or explored in this plan?



# In-Person Engagement

## Pop-Up Events



# www.shakerheightsoh.gov/RecreationPlan-input

The screenshot displays the website for the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan. The main header includes the city logo and the title "Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan". A large image shows a coach interacting with children on a field. The page is divided into several sections: "Project Overview" with introductory text, a "Timeline" with four phases from March 2024 to March 2025, and "Project Sites" featuring an interactive map of the city with callouts for "Chelton Park", "STJ Community Building Quadrant", "Shaker Heights Middle School", and "Thornton Park". A "Project Sites" sidebar is also visible at the top right.

## Project Sites

Shaker Heights Strategic Recreation Plan / Project Sites

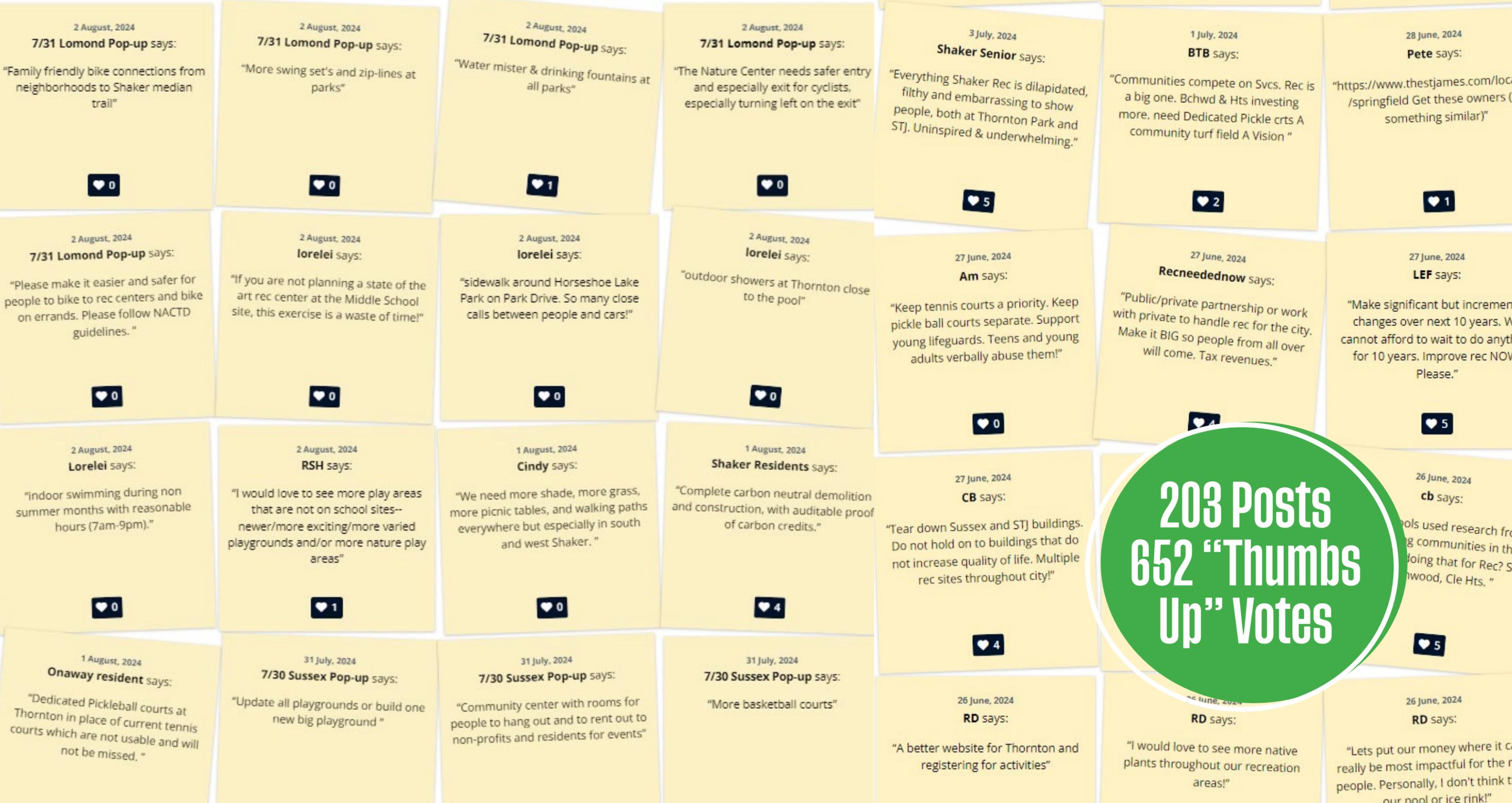
### Overall Sites

The focus areas for this project are Chelton Park, Shaker Heights Middle School, STJ Community Building Quadrant, and Thornton Park, which are high

### Chelton Park

# Online Engagement

## Project Website - Vision Board



203 Posts  
652 "Thumbs Up" Votes

# Online Engagement

## Project Website - Mapping Exercise

### KEEP

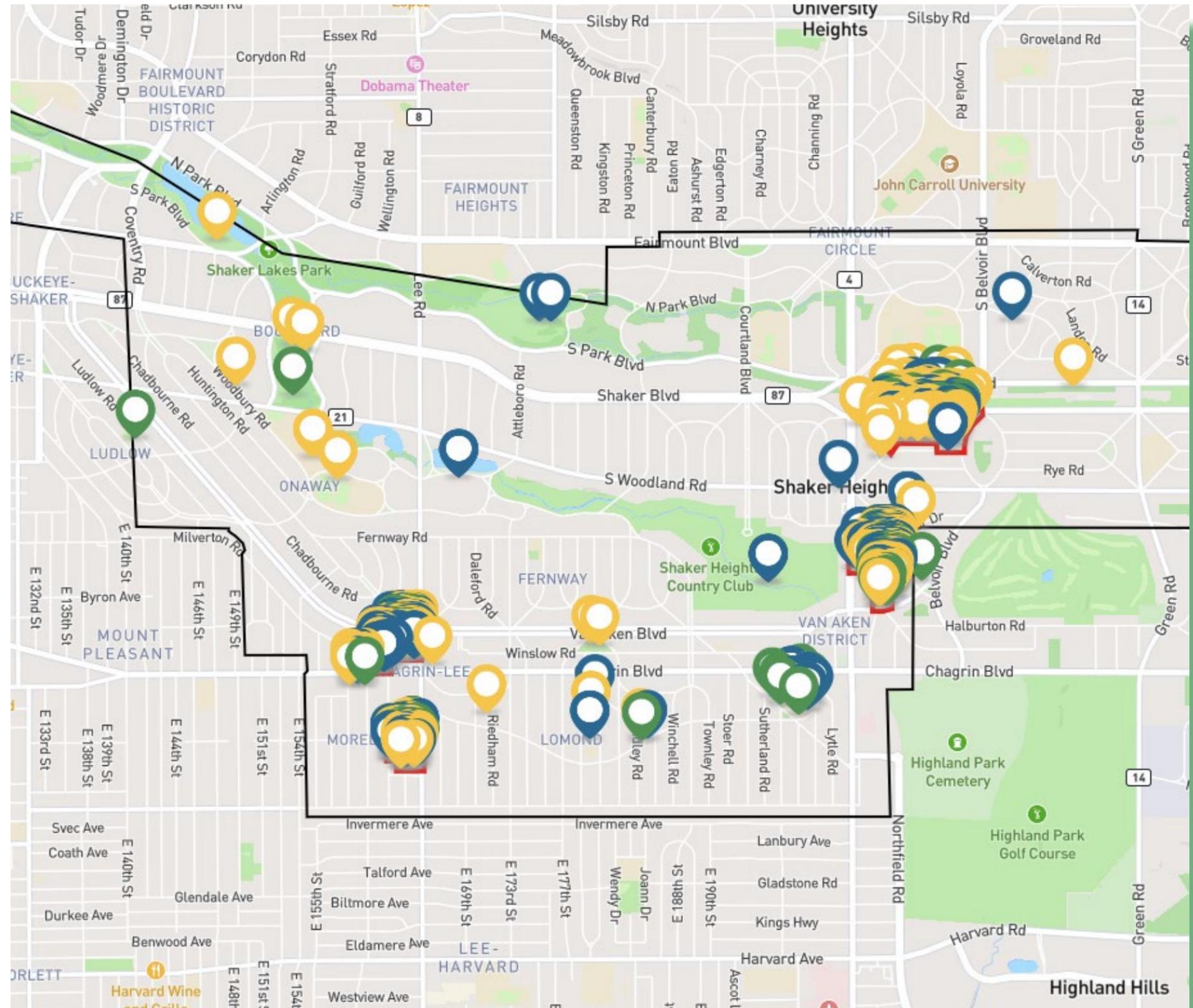
What existing park facilities or amenities do you frequently use or want to remain at each project site?

### UPDATE

What existing park facilities or amenities would you like to see improved at each project site?

### INNOVATE

What new amenity, facility, or big idea would you like to see moved, added, or explored in this plan?



# POLL QUESTION #6

Have you provided feedback on the Recreation Strategic Plan not including this meeting?

**Engagement Results**

# What We Have Heard - Summary

Stakeholder Interviews + Advisory Group

**Parks should service both pick-up and organized activities**

**Create areas to sit in parks - watching games, waiting for practice, or just hanging out**

**Coordinate with School District and City**

**Maintenance + field usage / condition + equipment**

**Programming + areas for teens, seniors, those not in sports**

**Update facilities at Thornton - Pool + Ice Rink**

**Need a community recreation center - accessibility, year round use**

**More space + times for activities**

**Facilities that create staying power in SH + represent SH well to visitors**

# What We Have Heard - Summary

Vision Board Online + In-Person Sample Comments

"More senior activities during the day. Strength training, bicycle groups, pickle ball, water aerobics."

"The skating community is growing and thriving- let's build something that will help reach the goals of the youth, coaches."

"An indoor rec center and an indoor pool - the current middle school location would be perfect for this."

"Make Thornton Park like what Beachwood and Mayfield Heights have (water park + playground)."

"A true recreation center, a place where kids and adults can go to play and move indoors. "

"Install features on athletic fields that provide shade and protection from the sun on the sidelines."

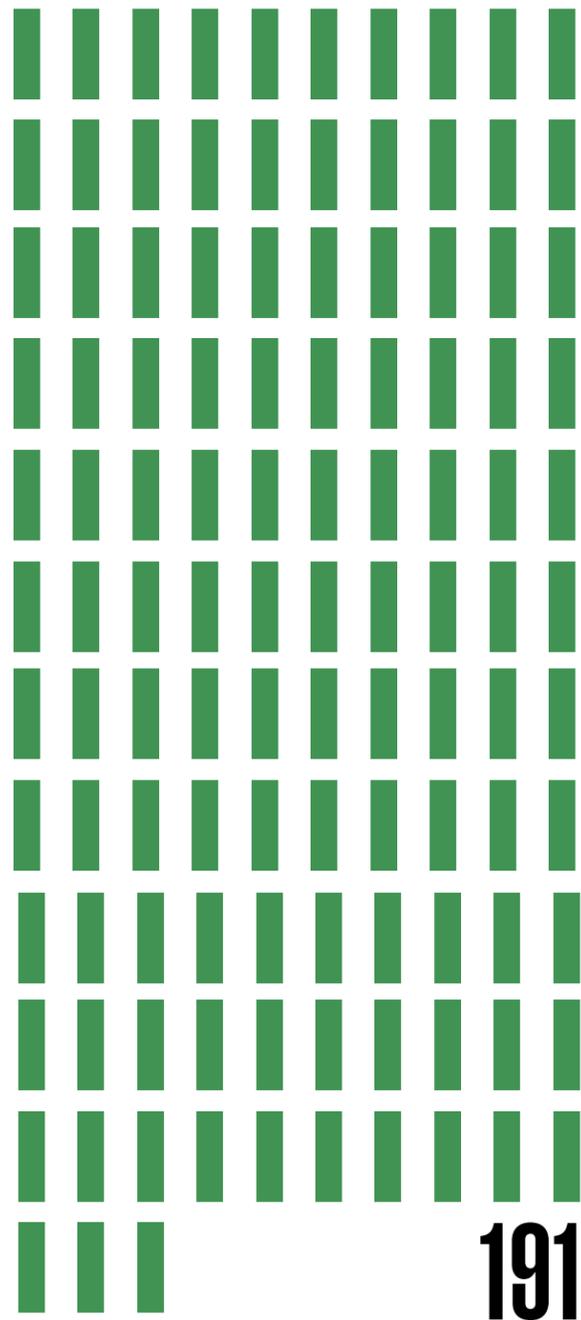
"Consolidate all rec into a new state-of-the-art facility at old middle school site."

"Indoor and outdoor pickleball courts & new tennis courts. All should have amenities like shaded benches, rest rooms."

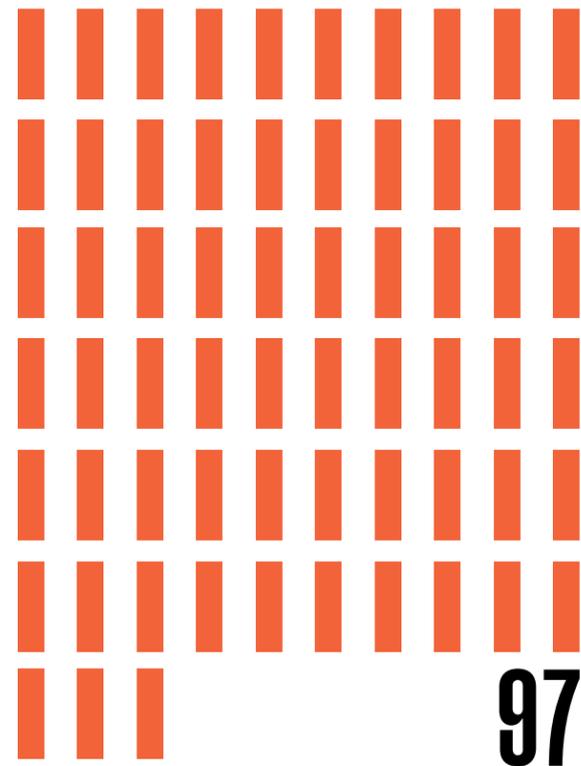
# What We Have Heard - Summary

Vision Board Online + In-Person

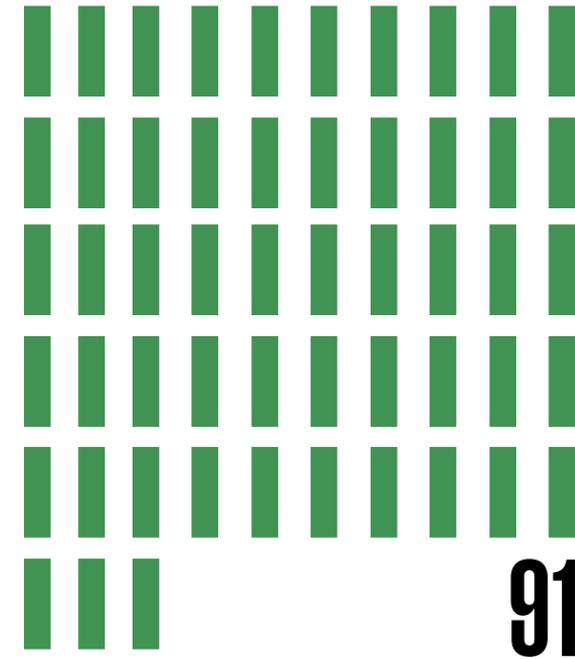
## Recreation Center



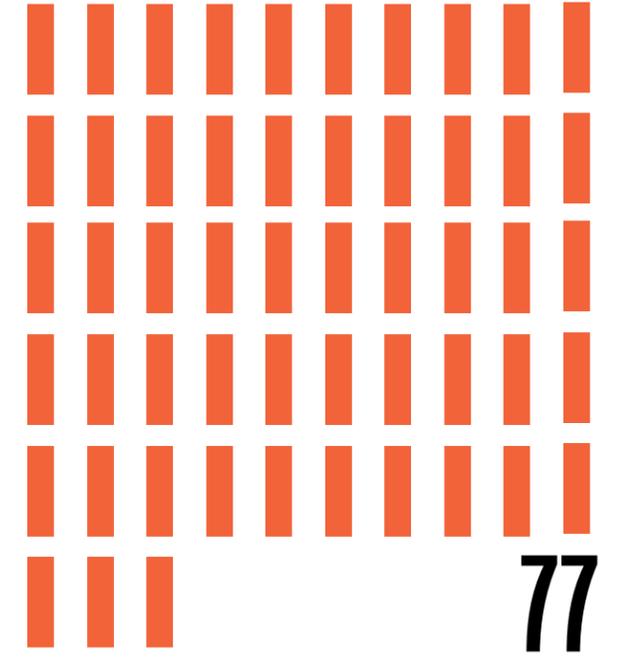
## Outdoor Pool



## Fields / Courts



## Ice Rink



### Other Mentions:

Indoor Pool - 66

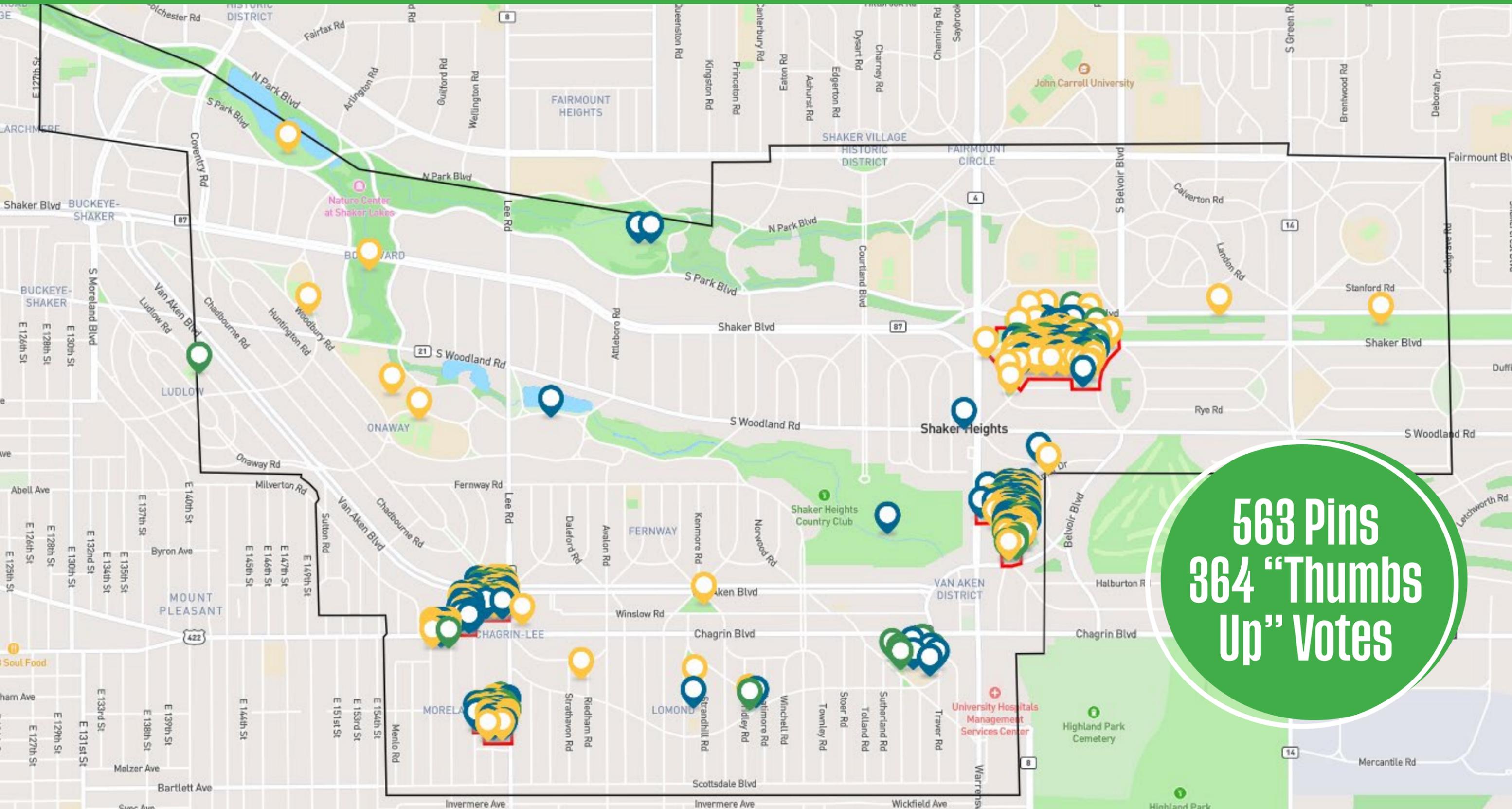
Pickleball - 56

Turf Fields - 27

Dog Park - 21

# What We Have Heard - Summary

Mapping Exercise Online + In-Person



**563 Pins**  
**364 "Thumbs Up" Votes**

# What We Have Heard - Summary

## Chelton Park



### Keep

- Open field + baseball field
- Shade + trees
- Neighborhood mural



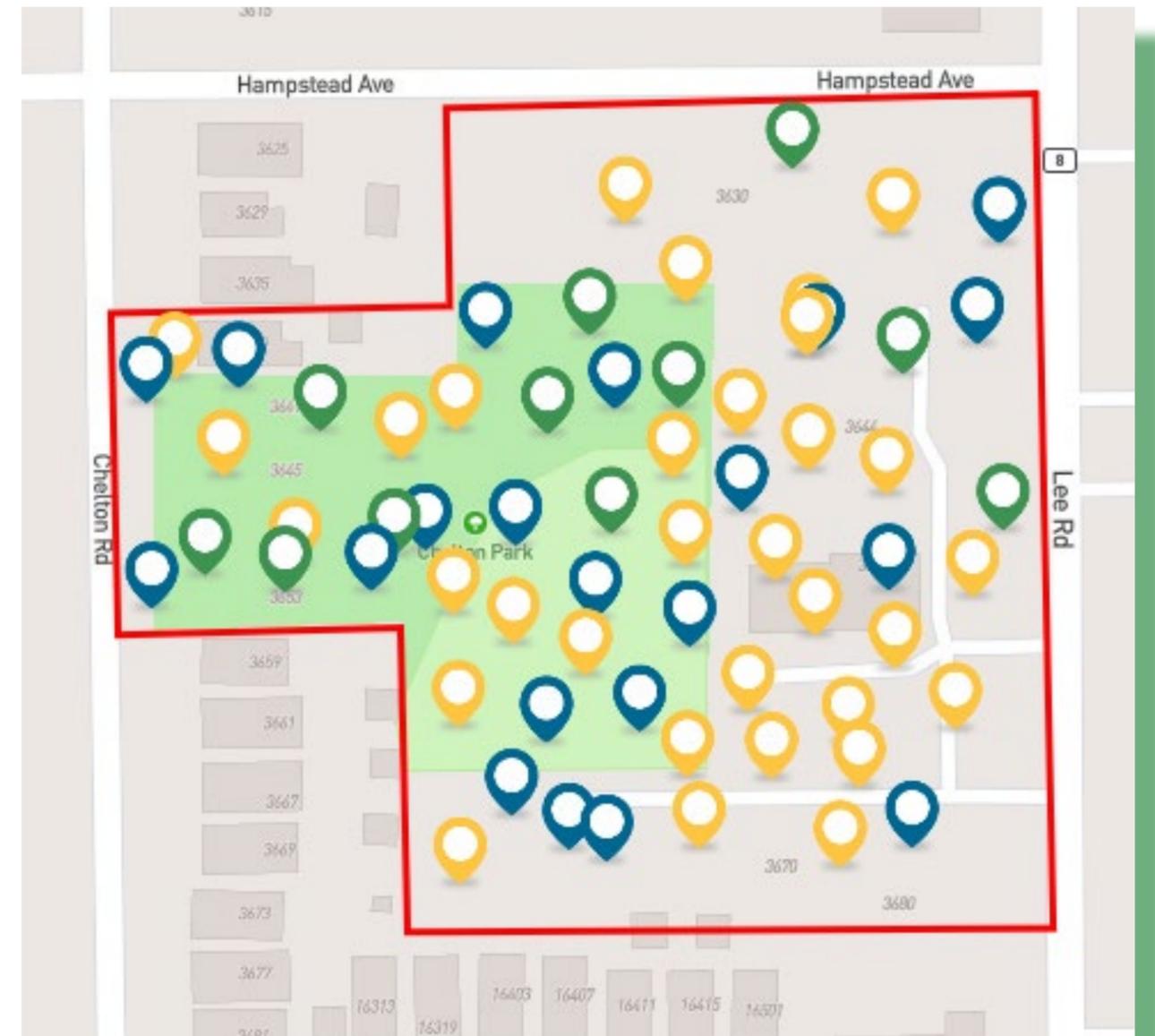
### Update

- Improve the field for multi-sport use
- Provide benches and tables for the playground
- Clean-up the park and provide on going maintenance
- Expand basketball court to be full size



### Innovate

- Think Big! Connect to Lee Rd
- Add parking for visitors
- Create accessible options for play and recreation
- Teen programming
- Access to power in the park
- Add grills
- Add performance space



# What We Have Heard - Summary

## STJ Community Building Quadrant



### Keep

- Love the Library!
- Greenspace and playground are important
- Colonnade for performance



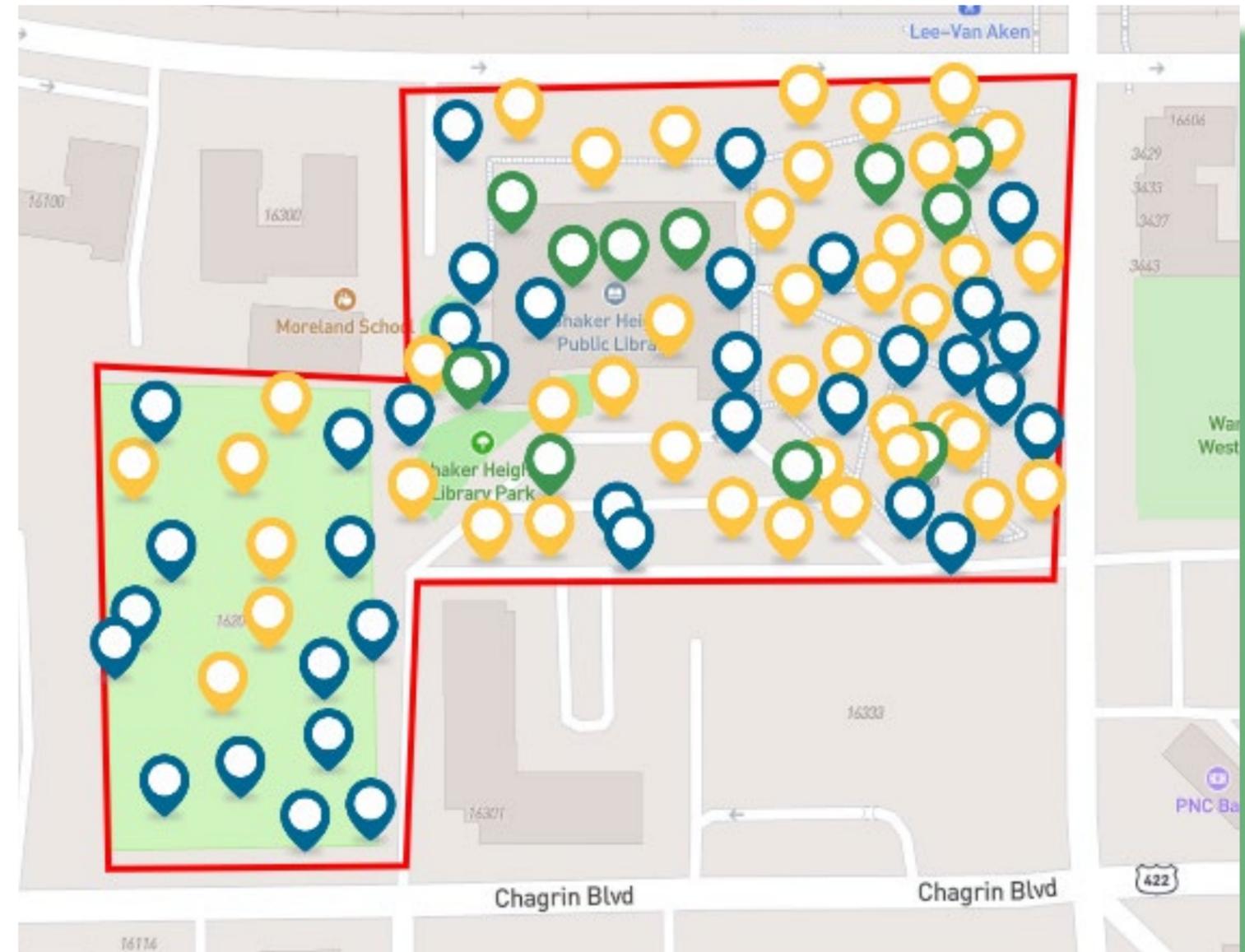
### Update

- Add benches + make field more accessible - year round use
- Additional maintenance to make the field more usable



### Innovate

- Youth Focus
- Indoor/outdoor field house
- More classes, meeting rooms, art + music programs
- Add basketball courts, tennis courts, + pickleball courts



# What We Have Heard - Summary

## Thornton Park



### Keep

- Love the outdoor pool - location, size
- Sledding hill



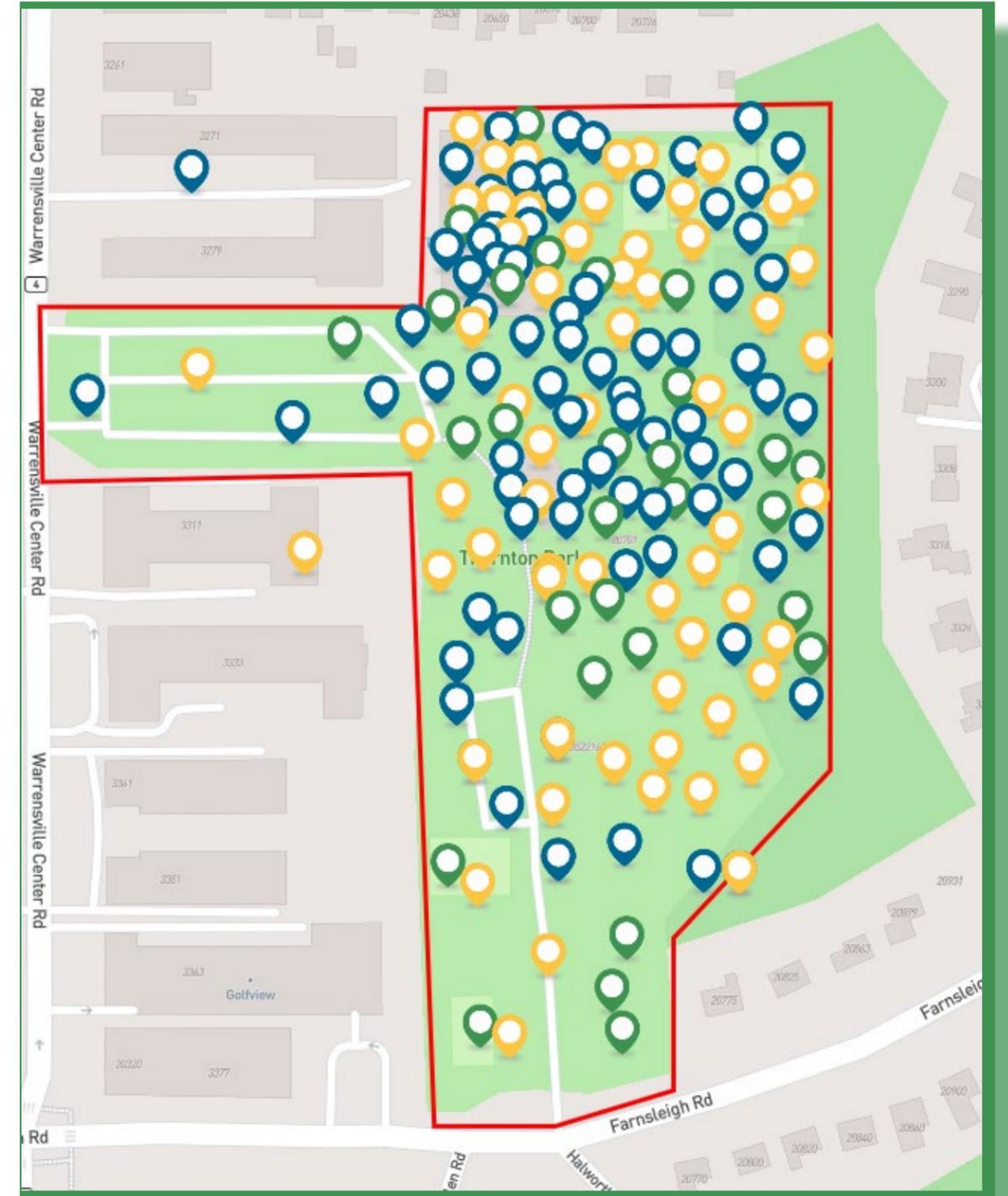
### Update

- Ice rink - add rink, more community and training/exercise rooms, update facility
- Pool - transition area, splash pad, changing area
- Tennis courts
- Access to the park + parking



### Innovate

- All-inclusive playground
- Comprehensive rec facility - indoor/outdoor, expanding upon the existing facility to offer more sports
- Pickleball courts
- Community garden
- Rec/community center with additional programming



# What We Have Heard - Summary

## SH Middle School



### Keep

- Auditorium - great for event space
- Greenspace and fields- more park-like feel



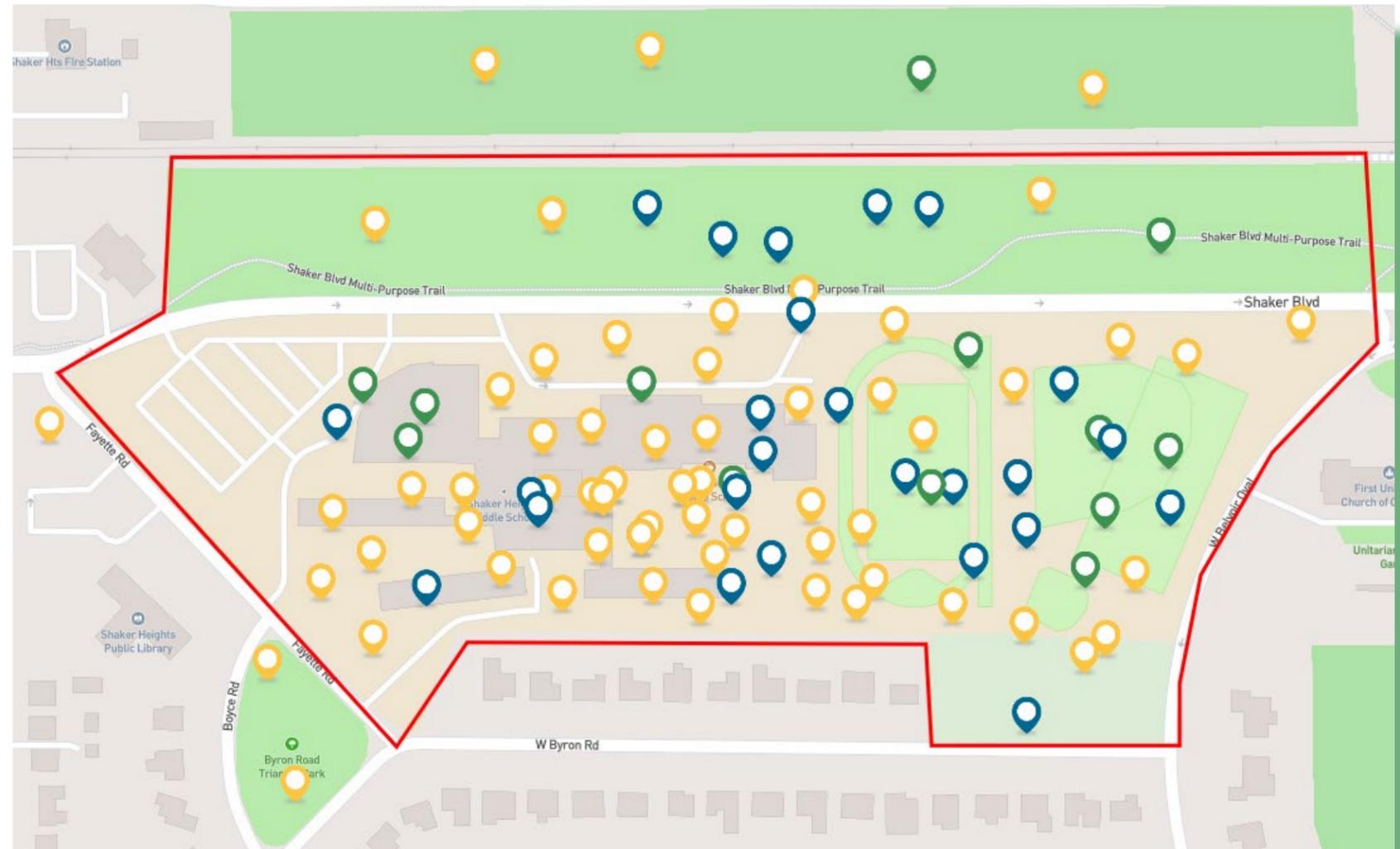
### Update

- Fields to withstand more use - turf
- Indoor pool



### Innovate

- Rec/community center - indoor / outdoor sports, pool, classes, programming, gym, etc.
- Field house for year round activation
- Pickleball courts
- Add a dog park
- This is a huge space - be innovative!



# What's Next

1. Public Meeting Tomorrow Night!  
August 8th @ STJ Building 6:30pm
2. Pop-Up Events  
Chagrin-Lee Block Party, Aug. 10, noon-4
3. Engagement Summary
4. Conceptual Park Plans
5. Public Meeting #2 - Late Fall



# Join Us for Tomorrow's Activity

## Design Your Site!

### PUBLIC MEETING VISIONING ACTIVITY

#### INSTRUCTIONS

With the members of your table, answer the two questions to the right. The facilitator will record the notes under each prompt.

Once you have completed the questions with your table, follow the instructions for the visioning activity using the map at your table and the folder of recreation footprints.

Each table will reflect and record the ideas that were developed during the visioning activity on the back of this sheet.

Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan

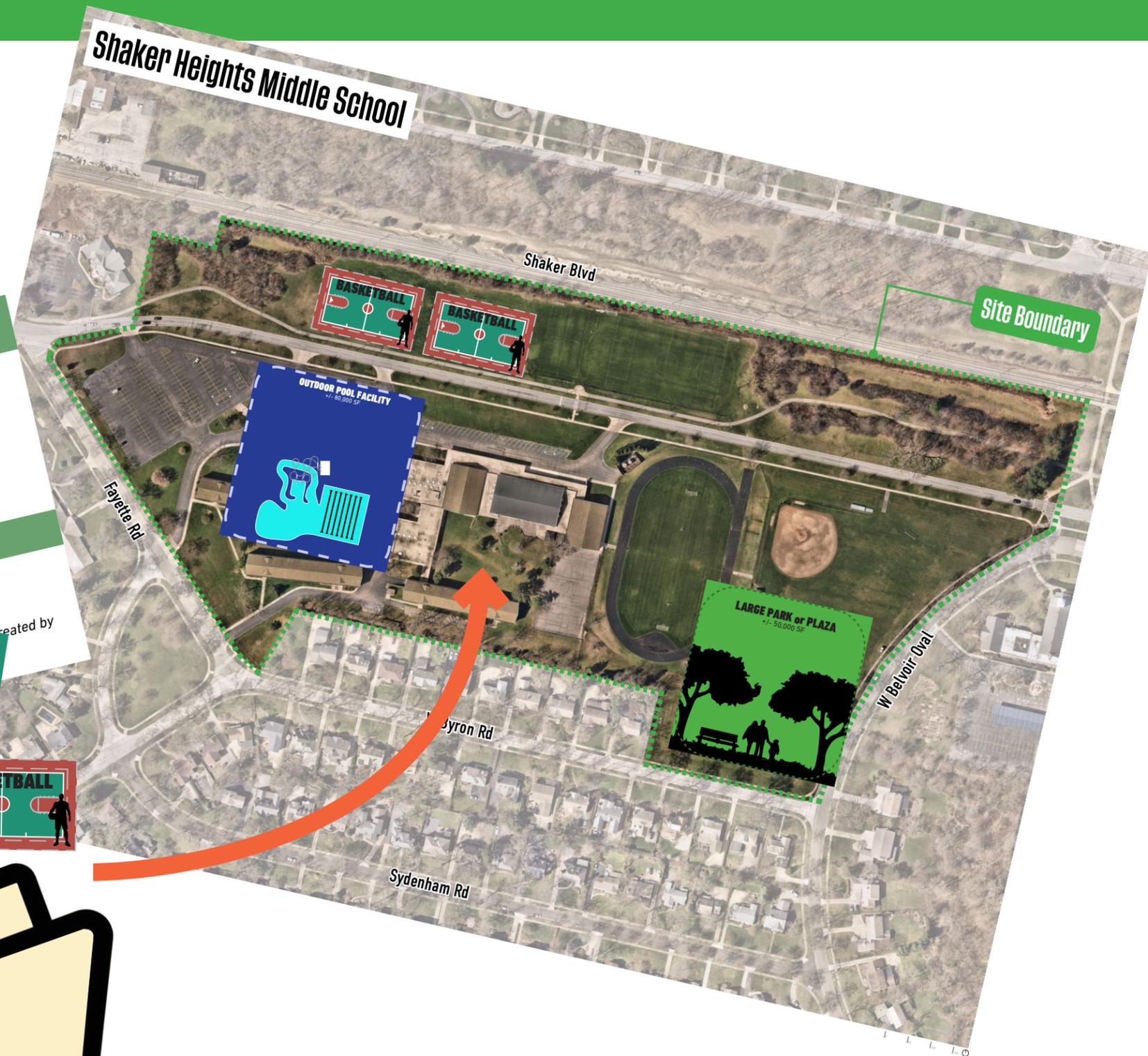
### Shaker Heights Middle School

**1** Indoor recreation space has been mentioned - what are your thoughts about building indoor spaces for ice, pool, gyms, exercise, etc.?

**2** MS site gives opportunity for other uses, what other uses, including outdoor recreation uses, like fields and playgrounds, would you like to see?

**3** Create different possible options or scenarios.

1. Remove the recreation footprints from your folder.
2. As a group, work on arranging the pieces to create your vision.
3. Create different iterations of possible scenarios that accommodate the vision.
4. Before developing second, third, and fourth options, have the group.
5. Have the facilitator record notes and ideas for each scenario on the back of this sheet.



Public Meeting Tomorrow Night!

STJ Building 6:30pm

A photograph of children playing flag football on a grassy field. In the foreground, two boys are running; one is wearing a blue and red patterned shirt and grey shorts, while the other is in a light blue shirt and black shorts with a red flag. In the background, other children and an adult are visible, along with white bleachers. The scene is outdoors and appears to be during the day.

**Thank You!**

**Question + Answer Session**

**For more information visit the project website:  
[www.shakerheightsoh.gov/RecreationPlan](http://www.shakerheightsoh.gov/RecreationPlan)**

**or contact Kara via email at:  
[kara.odonnell@shakerheightsoh.gov](mailto:kara.odonnell@shakerheightsoh.gov)**