

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

ABBEY CREEK & HIGHLANDS AREA PARKS - PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

THPRD staff organized a community engagement effort to gather input from neighbors on their values, needs, and desires for the new playgrounds at Abbey Creek and Highlands area parks. The effort included a public neighborhood meeting and a public survey provided online and in color print to area neighbors.

The public neighborhood meeting was held at the Bethany Presbyterian Church on the evening of December 6th, 2018 from 6:00-7:30pm with a total of 29 adult participants attended the meeting, along with approximately 5-6 children of various ages. Attendees represented the demographics of residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the park sites. THPRD Design and Development staff Rene Brucker and Liana Harden facilitated the meeting, which was structured as a presentation followed by a question and answer session. The presentation and discussions were directed to help THPRD understand how the playground equipment in the new parks can best serve the neighborhood and park users.

Facilitators provided a project update and reviewed the master plan phases using image boards of the master plans and example playground equipment. Specific items discussed include Phase 1 amenities: play area with equipment, chip surfacing, pathway access, drinking fountain, bench, picnic table, trash receptacle, doggie bag dispenser and signage. Other items discussed include the park naming process for Highland Park, and project timelines for both parks. Facilitators also outlined the goals for the evening, particularly the intent to gather their input on the following: 1) consideration of choosing a diversity of equipment among the two parks, 2) input on the playground equipment types, colors, and themes, and 3) additional ideas for playground equipment beyond traditional types of play equipment. Subsequently, facilitators explained the color printed survey which was handed out to each attendee. Both adult and child attendees completed the surveys to vote on their preferred types of play equipment and to share detailed comments in writing.

Soon into the presentation, attendees raised several questions regarding the development of these specific parks and the desire for a faster pace of development of new parks in North Bethany. In response to these questions, facilitators expressed their appreciation

THPRD New Parks at North Bethany: Abbey Creek and Highlands Area Parks
Community Engagement Summary December 2018 - April 2019

OVERVIEW

parks

Abbey Creek
Highlands



engagement goal

to gather input from neighbors on their values, needs, & desires for the new playgrounds



29



meeting participants



over 240
input surveys

meeting site

6:00-7:30pm

December 6, 2018

Bethany Presbyterian Church



96

community
comments

that attendees were excited about THPRD resources and positive users of parks. Facilitators also described the long processes of prioritizing projects throughout the district, acquiring property, negotiating with developers, budgeting, and developing parks and trails. Facilitators answered questions to the best of their ability, while also refocusing the conversation on the development of Abbey Creek and Highlands area parks and their respective play equipment. Both verbal and written survey comments were captured regarding concerns and requests for both parks. These are summarized in the following bullet points.

Park amenities requested for both parks:

- Portable bathrooms
- Durable benches and play equipment, especially climbing bars and monkey bars
- Benches, picnic tables, covered picnic areas, and accommodations for older park-goers
- Rain/shade shelters over playground equipment and picnic area for Phase I of development (picnic shelter currently planned for Phase II)
- Sand or sandbox play area
- Splashpad
- Walking paths
- Athletic features, especially basketball and tennis

Concerns for both parks:

- Parking availability for parks
- Need for seeding, irrigation, and mowing of fields
- One comment expressed appreciation for this effort of THPRD to build parks in North Bethany

Next Steps:

Into spring of 2019, THPRD will continue evaluating the current design and the construction costs for Abbey Creek area park. Every effort will be made to provide the best Phase 1 amenities and play design possible with the given budget. THPRD is currently exploring play equipment options for the Highland area park, as well. It should be noted that development of the Highland area park is planned on a longer timeline. While park plans are subject to change based on funding and construction variables, THPRD expects to have more finalized design plans for both Abbey Creek and Highlands area parks by the end of spring 2019.

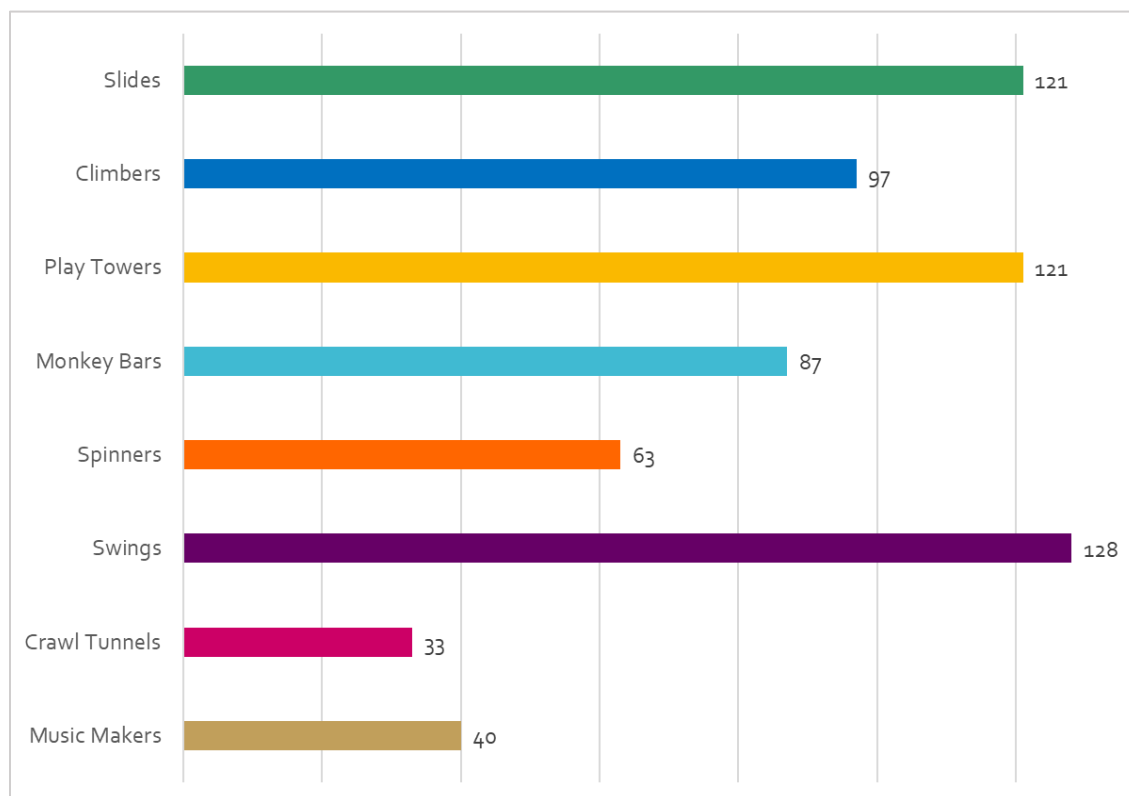
During the community engagement process a total of 172 surveys were collected for Abbey Creek area park and 74 surveys were collected for Highlands area park. Both English and Spanish surveys were offered on the THPRD website for 18 days. The same surveys were offered in color print at the public meeting where all survey respondents chose to complete English surveys. Survey results are illustrated in the bar charts below.

Abbey Creek Area Park – Survey Results

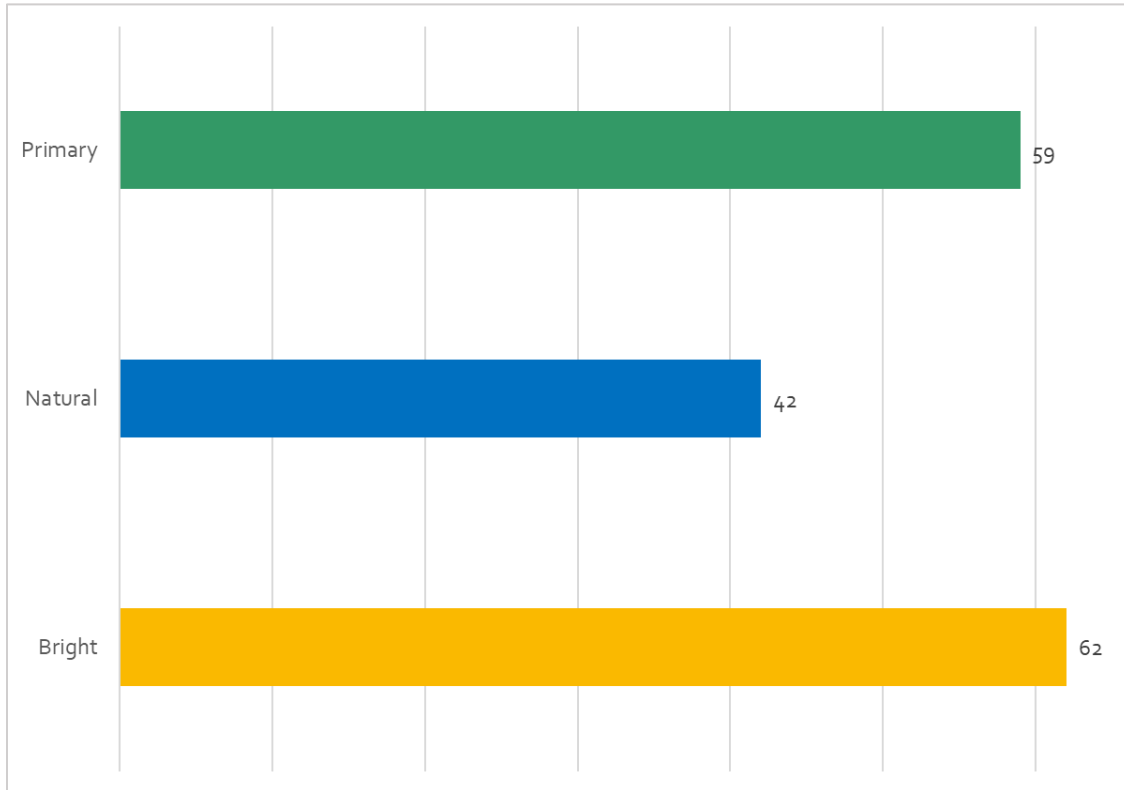
Trends in comments and requests for Abbey Creek:

- Play equipment for younger youth (toddlers to elementary ages); separate toddler play activities from older youth play activities
- Concern that playground might be located too close to the street in Master Plan, and therefore, may need to add a fence or move the playground further away from the road
- Combine playground style with fitness and/or individual play activities

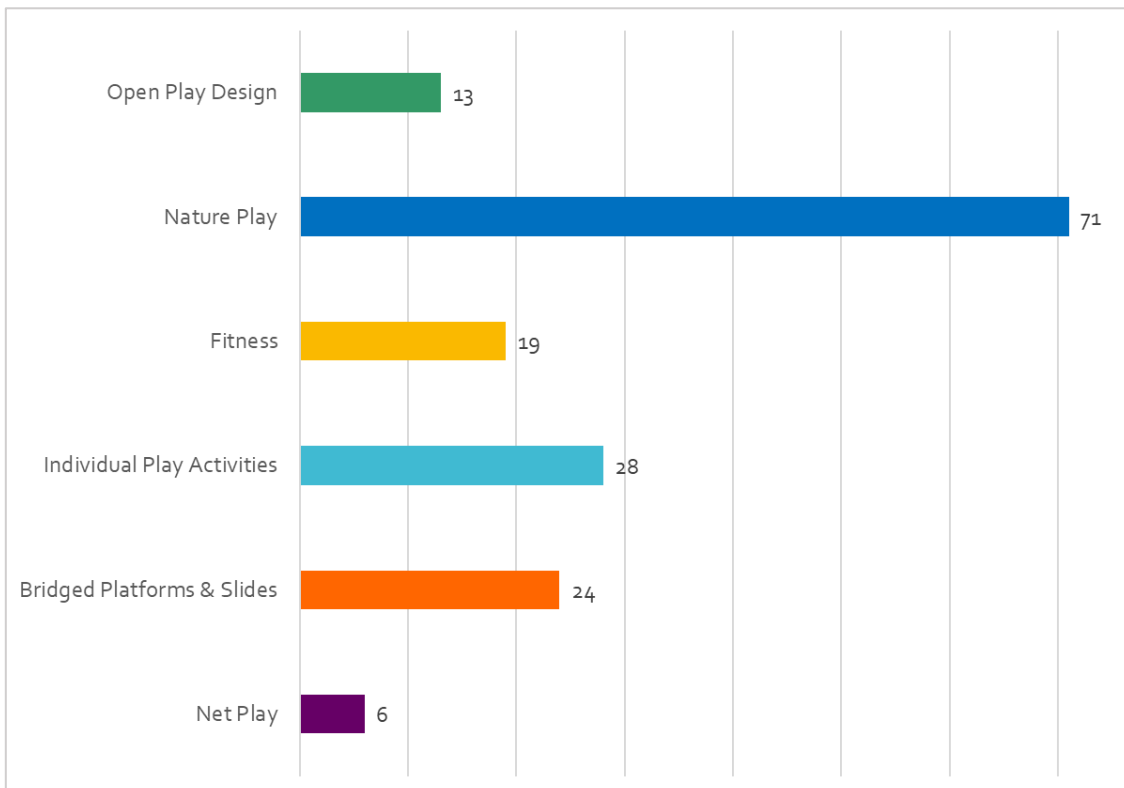
Play Activities: 172 respondents



Color Style: 163 respondents



Playground Style: 161 respondents

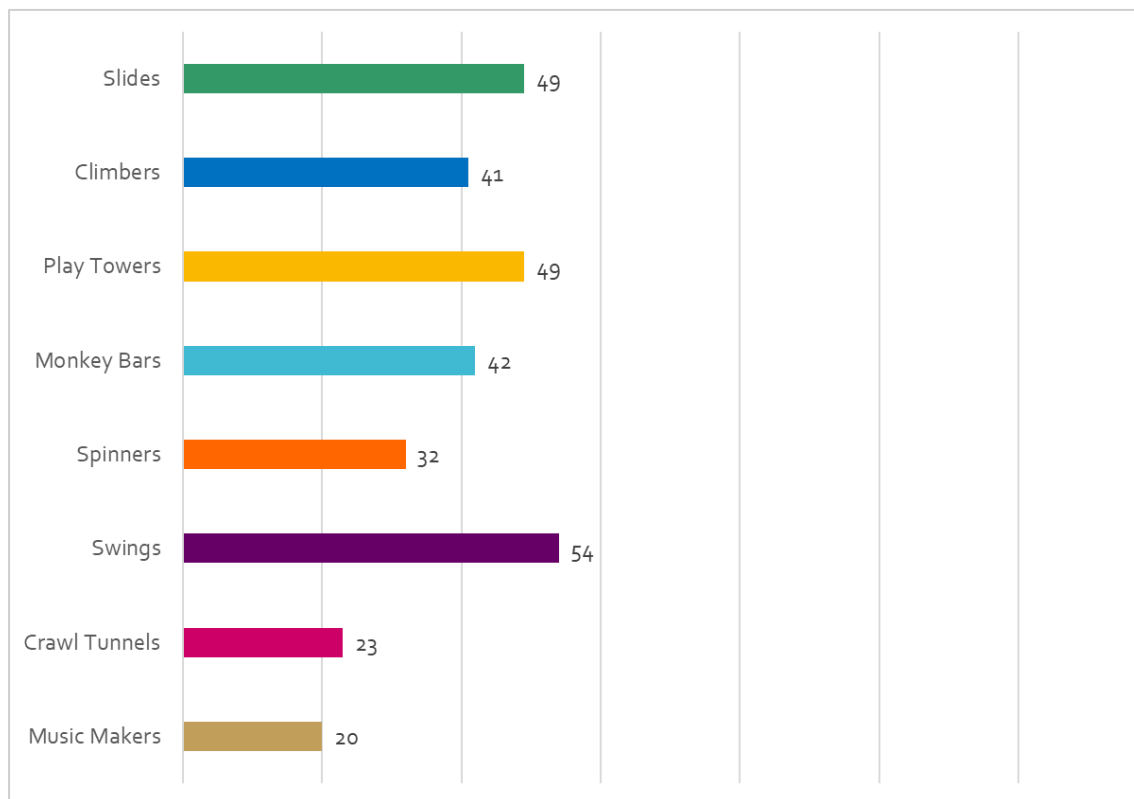


Highlands Area Park – Survey Results

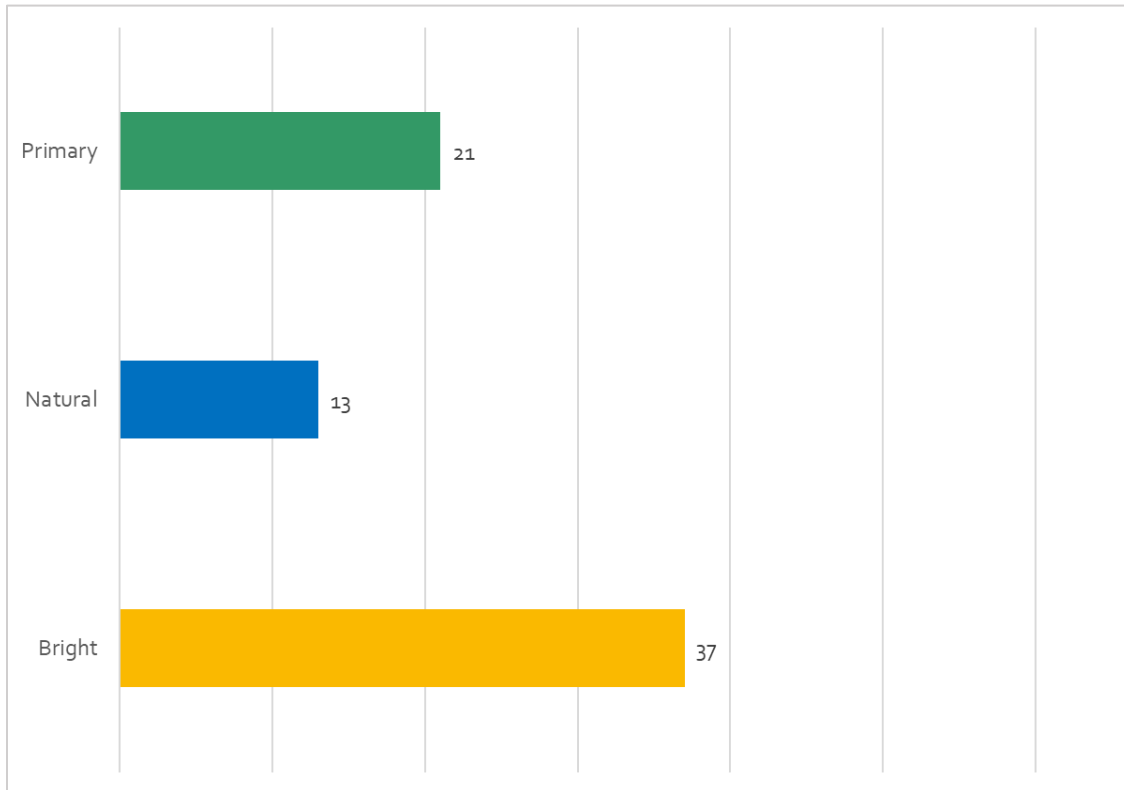
Trends in comments and requests for Highlands:

- Combine playground styles for a hybrid of different styles
- Establish a plant screen in Phase I of development to provide an additional barrier to stopping balls from hitting houses.
- Play equipment for younger & older youth, including swings that accommodate adults
- Request to grade, seed, irrigate, and mow field until construction begins in 2020 to create a safe space for kids and families in the meantime

Play Activities: 74 respondents



Color Style: 71 respondents



Playground Style: 70 respondents

