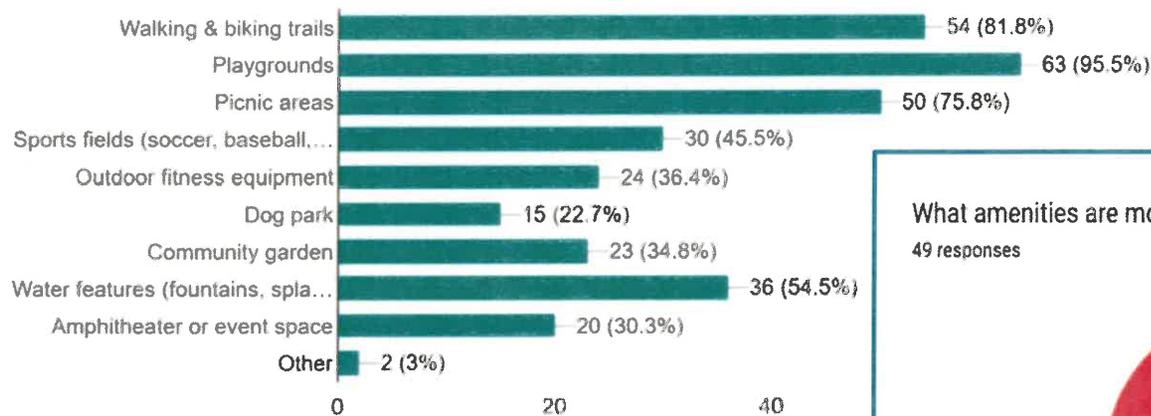# Community Engagement

Community Survey Findings
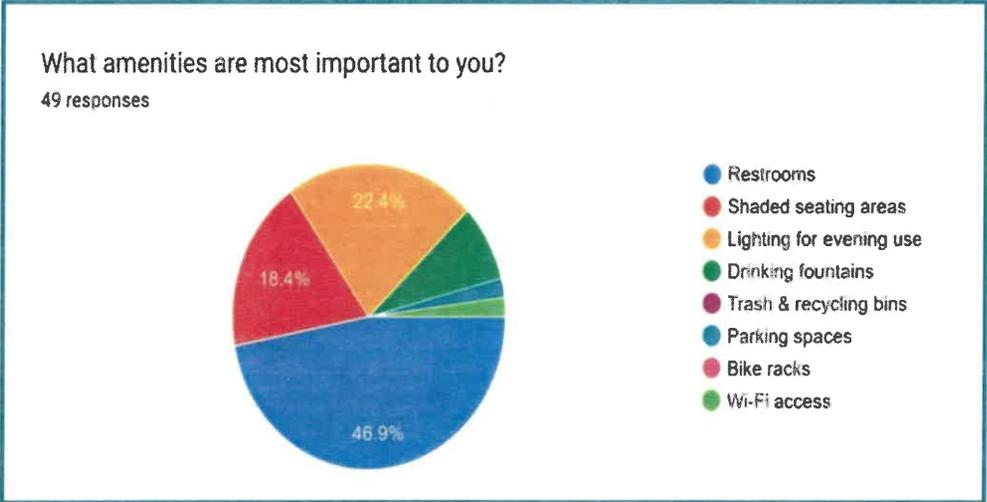
What types of activities would you like to see in the park? (Select all that apply)

66 responses

Activity	
Walking & biking trails	54 (81.8%)
Playgrounds	63 (95.5%)
Picnic areas	50 (75.8%)
Sports fields (soccer, baseball,...	30 (45.5%)
Outdoor fitness equipment	24 (36.4%)
Dog park	15 (22.7%)
Community garden	23 (34.8%)
Water features (fountains, spla...	36 (54.5%)
Amphitheater or event space	20 (30.3%)
Other	2 (3%)

What amenities are most important to you?

49 responses

- Restrooms — 46.9%
- Shaded seating areas — 18.4%
- Lighting for evening use — 22.4%
- Drinking fountains
- Trash & recycling bins
- Parking spaces
- Bike racks
- Wi-Fi access

Community Survey Findings

What is one feature that you think would make this park unique?

45 responses

Playground equipments for children

Walking/Biking

Fishing Pond
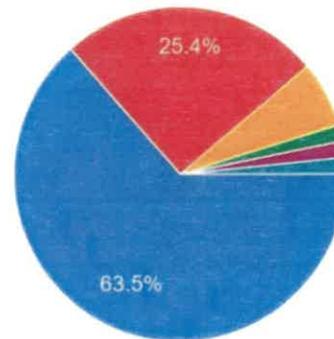
Walking pads

Water feature for kids

pond

landscape

Historic Information Safe-Open Space

Splash pad

Would you prefer the park to include educational or cultural elements (e.g., historical markers, nature exhibits)?

63 responses

- Yes
- No
- Thriving Communities Book Walk
- Neutral
- Thriving Communities Bike Walk
- Yes, but I think it is more important to have safe, useable play equipment and a walking trail before focusing on extras.

25.4%

63.5%

Community Outreach | Park Event

On March 22, 2025 the CPAT volunteers hosted a community-wide event at the Town Park. This was an opportunity for the residents of Autaugaville to learn more about the project, and participate in activities to help the team gain a better understand of how the park is used, and what the residents would like to see in future updates.

We learned from the event and the community survey, that most residents utilize the park for the walking trial and the playground areas, and would highly value improvements to both. The walking trails need a completed loop and the playground area should be located towards the front of the park to increase safety.

Outreach Event Activities

During the park event, we had several activities for the community to participate in giving them an opportunity to share their feedback:

- Visual preference boards
- Brainstorming
- Surveys

Many residents voted on the ideas of including more lighting and shaded areas in the park, in addition to those upgrades already expressed in the survey (i.e. trails, playground).

A community garden was another idea that had some support and could be a value asset, one that could be a partnership with local groups.
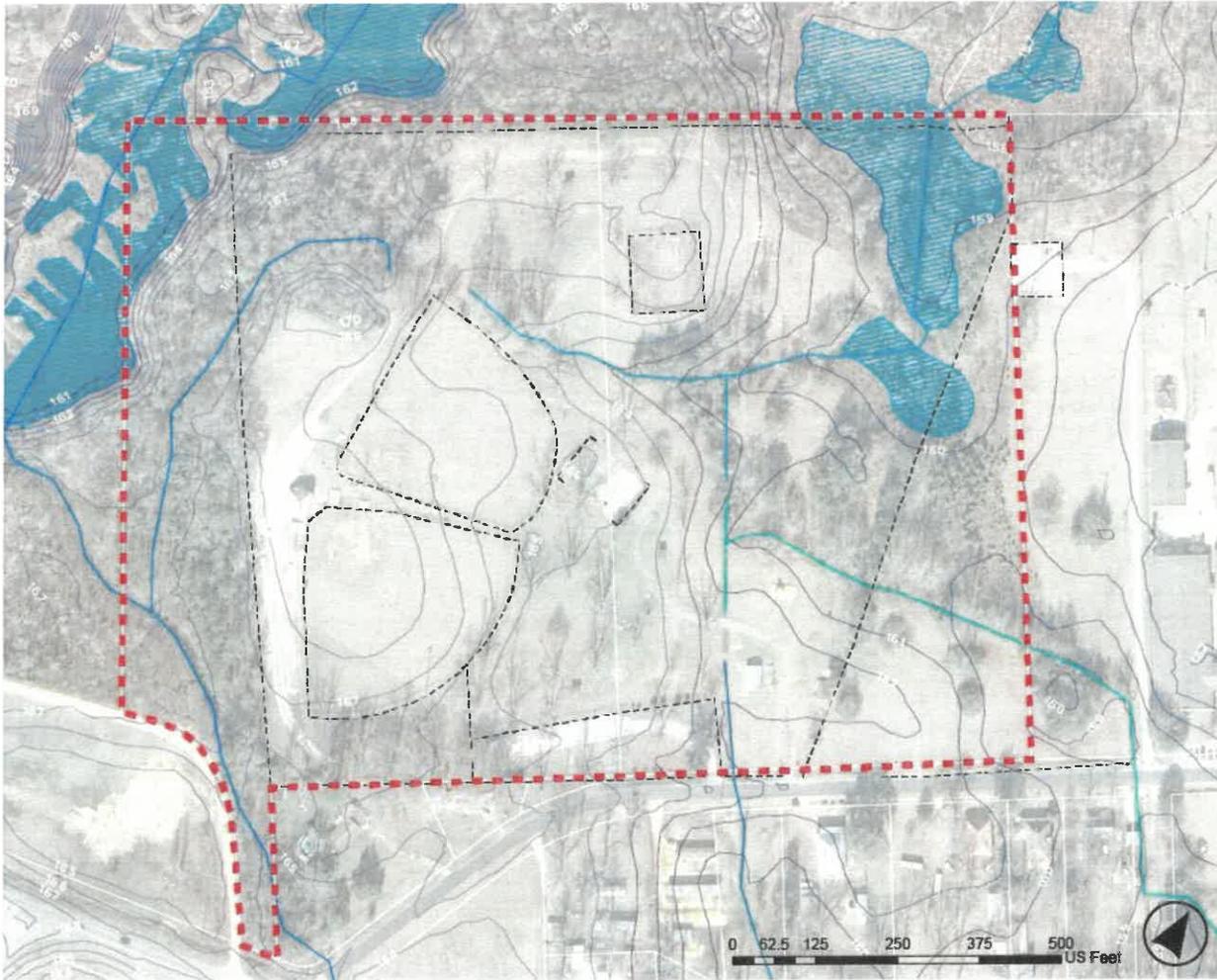

What would you like to see in the park?

AUTAUGAVILLE TOWN PARK
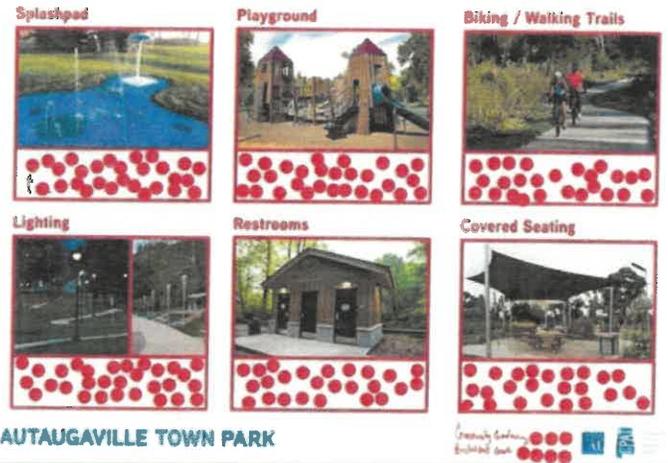
Any other ideas for the park?

AUTAUGAVILLE TOWN PARK
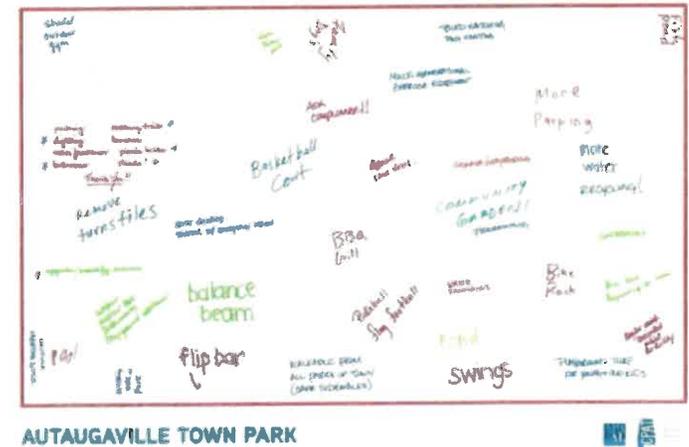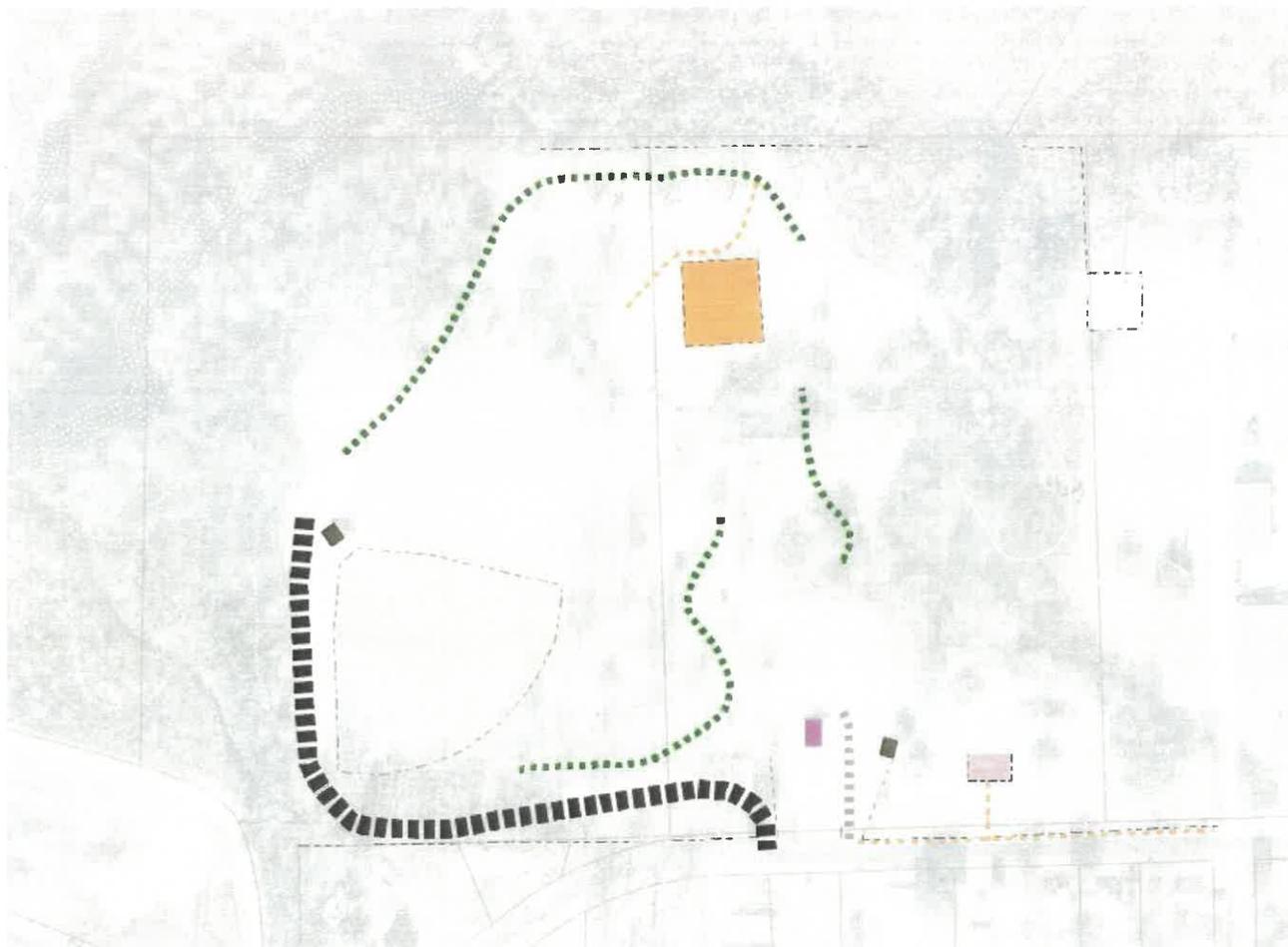
Plan Development

Current Park Conditions

This map shows the park boundary, water features, and topography, as it currently exists.

Map to scale

Existing Walkways & Roads

The current roadways and walkways in the park are in need of repair, and they do not currently create a complete loop or network.

This map illustrates the existing entry road and paved sections of the walking paths.

Map for diagrammatic purposes only

Natural
Area

Event
Area

Sports &
Recreation
Areas

Community
Gathering
Area

Natural
Area

Playground
& Activity
Area

Space Program

This map shows the high level themes for the organization of park programming.

The team attempted to coordinate the spaces in the park based on use.

It was important to consolidate the play and activity areas towards the front of the park for easy access and safety.

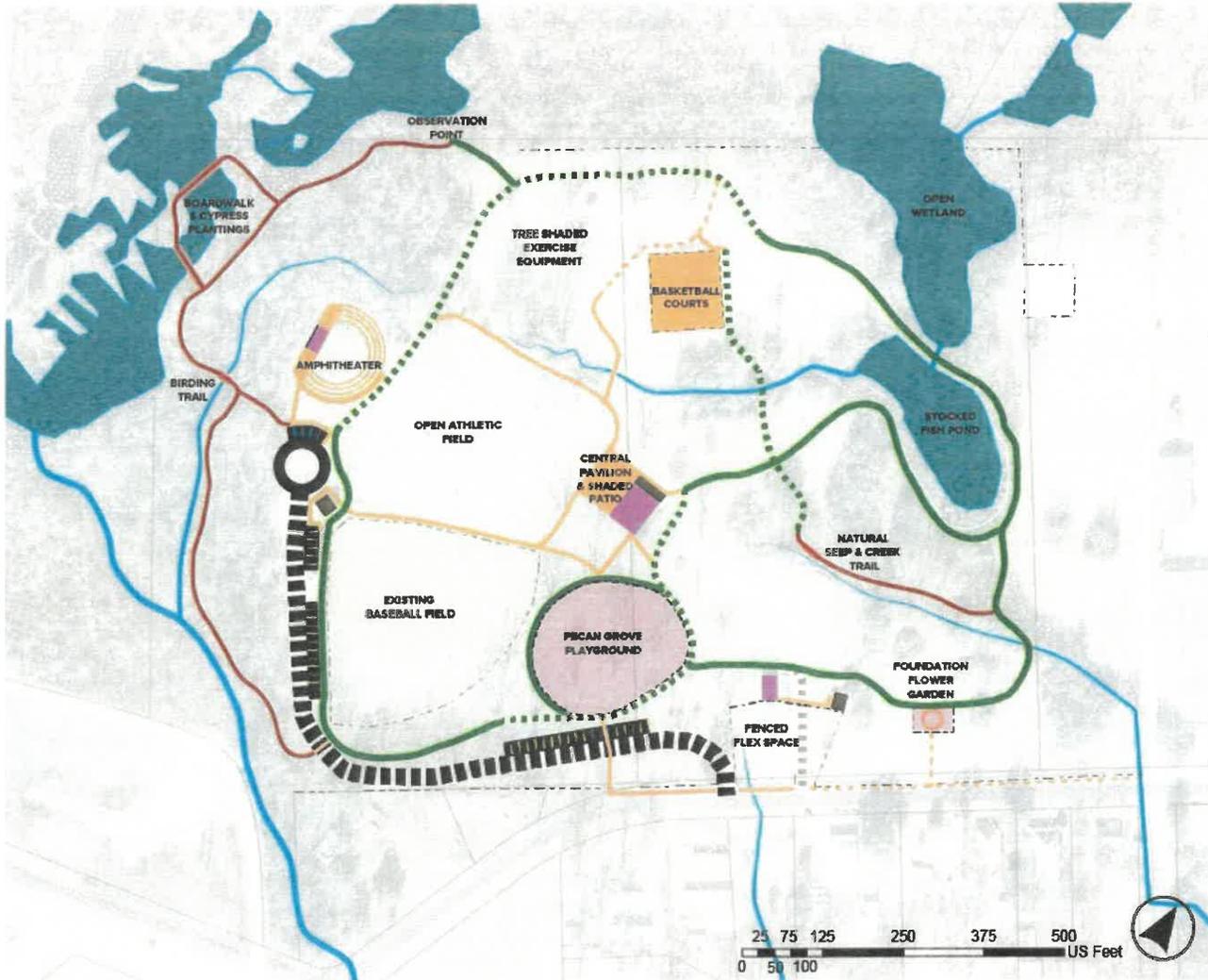Natural areas form the border of the park create a buffer to the surrounding land.

Sports and recreation areas divide the park with community gathering and potential future event area.

Map for diagrammatic purposes only

"Pecan Grove" Park Concept
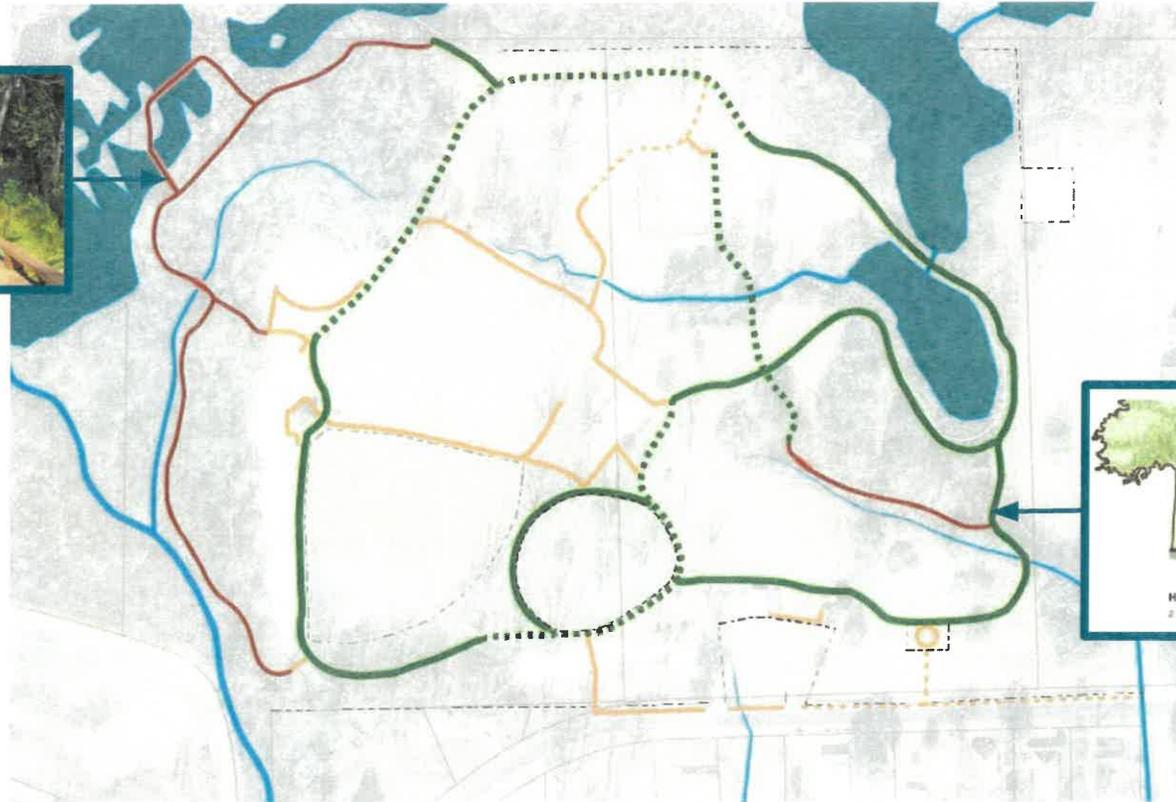
Autaugaville, AL

Scale: 1"=140'

Conceptual Boardwalk (170 ft)	
Conceptual Natural Trail (1900 ft)	
Existing Greenway	
Conceptual Greenway (3400 ft)	
Existing Sidewalk	
Conceptual Sidewalk (2400 ft)	
Existing Gravel Bed	
Existing Road	
Conceptual Road Paving (225 ft)	
Parking spaces (30-40)	
New Fencing (875 ft)	
Old Fencing	
Waterbody	
Stream	
Pavilion	
Patio or Paved Court	
Fenced Mulched Area	
Building with Restroom	

Map labels:
OBSERVATION POINT
BOARDWALK & CYPRESS PLANTINGS
TREE SHADED EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
BASKETBALL COURTS
OPEN WETLAND
BIRDING TRAIL
AMPHITHEATER
OPEN ATHLETIC FIELD
STOCKED FISH POND
CENTRAL PAVILION & SHADED PATIO
NATURAL SEEP & CREEK TRAIL
EXISTING BASEBALL FIELD
PECAN GROVE PLAYGROUND
FOUNDATION FLOWER GARDEN
FENCED FLEX SPACE

25 75 125   250   375   500
0 50 100   US Feet

16

Pedestrian Network

Boardwalk
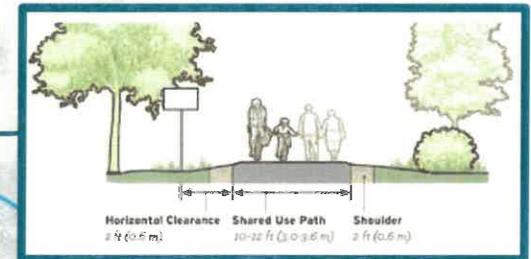
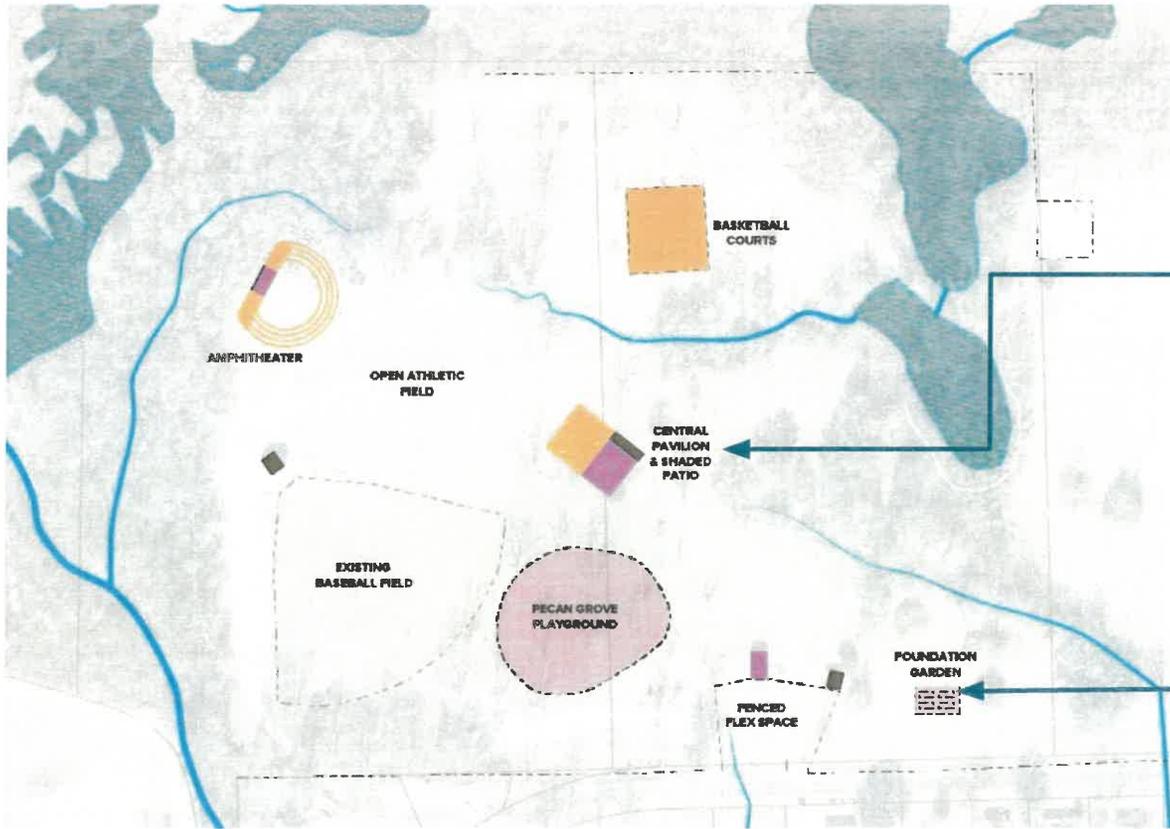This diagram illustrates the proposed network of paths and trails.

Scale: 1" = 140'

- Conceptual Boardwalk (170 ft)
- Conceptual Natural Trail (1900 ft)
- Existing Greenway
- Conceptual Greenway (3400 ft)
- Existing Sidewalk
- Conceptual Sidewalk (2400 ft)

Shared Use Path

Structures

Central Pavilion

Community garden fencing

Map labels:
- BASKETBALL COURTS
- AMPHITHEATER
- OPEN ATHLETIC FIELD
- CENTRAL PAVILION & SHADED PATIO
- EXISTING BASEBALL FIELD
- PECAN GROVE PLAYGROUND
- FENCED FLEX SPACE
- FOUNDATION GARDEN
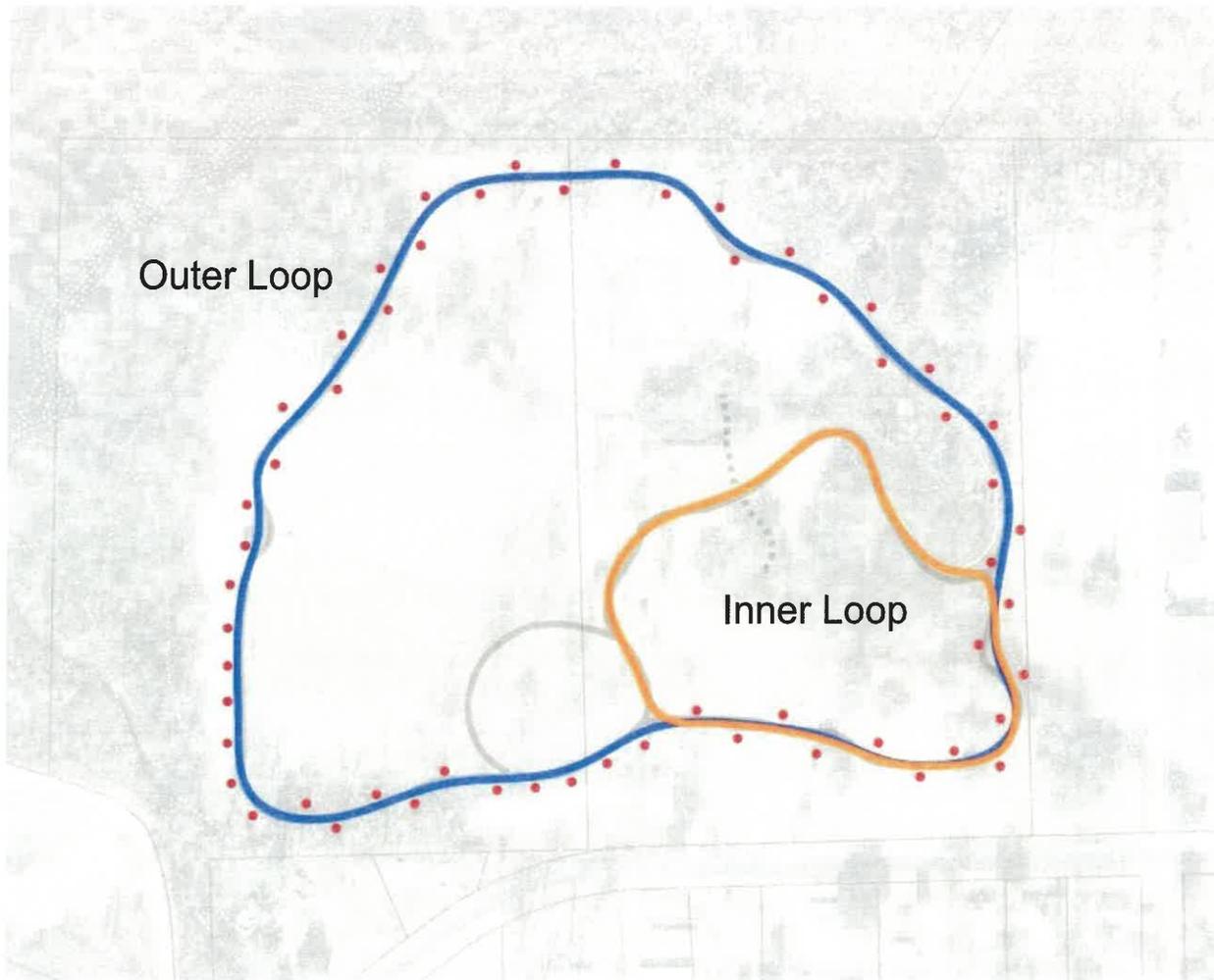
Lighting Plan

Improve Park Lighting at the entrance to the park and in all parking areas.

Install pedestrian lighting around the inner and outer loop of the park trails.

Lighting should also be designed specifically for the gathering areas, like the pavilion and playground.

Map for diagrammatic purposes only

Lighting Plan

Detailed Lighting Plan and specifications should consider aligning with the principles for responsible outdoor lighting.

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

DarkSky | IES Illuminating

Responsible outdoor lighting is

1 Useful
Use light only if it is needed
All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.

2 Targeted
Direct light so it falls only where it is needed
Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.

3 Low Level
Light should be no brighter than necessary
Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.

4 Controlled
Use light only when it is needed
Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.

5 Warm-colored
Use warmer color lights where possible
Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

Source: DarkSky and the Illuminating Engineering Society (www.darksky.org)

Illustrated Park Plan

Amphitheater

Basketball Court

Flex Field

Central Pavilion

Fishing Pond

Baseball Field

Playground Area

Dog Park / Community Garden

Park Amenities

There are several amenities the Town could add throughout the park to improve the user experience and create a safer environment.

- **Seating throughout park and along walking trails**

  Consider partnering with local groups (e.g. woodworking groups, girl/boy scouts) to build and furnish benches

- **Lighting**

 Explore grant opportunities to fund installation.

Park Identity & Signage

The Town would benefit from working with a graphic designer to create a unique and cohesive visual identity for Town Park.

The effort should be thought of holistically as part of a larger system that could be implemented for future locations.

Suggested uses:

- Monument Entry Sign
- Birding Paths
- Interpretive Signage
- Boardwalks
- Wayfinding
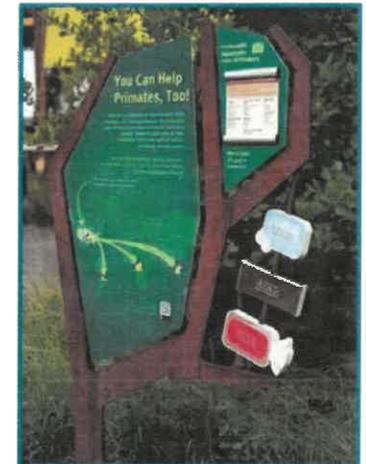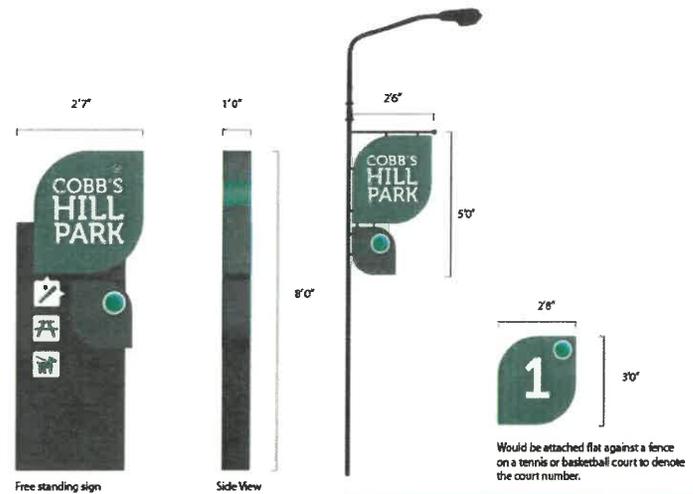
Graphic examples of wayfinding and signage

Recommendations

Proposed Short-term Improvements

High Priority	Improvement Type	Cost Estimates
Improve Walking Trail	Enhanced Health + Wellbeing	$$$
Consolidate Playground Area	Promoting Physical Activity	Varies based on surface
Lighting	Beautification, Park Safety	$$$
Wayfinding & Signage Update	Beautification, Park Circulation	$

Low Priority	Improvement Type	Cost Estimates
Flex Athletic Field	Promoting Physical Activity	Labor
Flex Fenced Space	Promoting Physical Activity, Park Safety	$
Community Garden	Enhanced Health + Wellbeing	$

Cost Scale:
$ - Less Than $25,000

$$ - $25,000 - $50,000

$$$ - Over $50,000

Proposed Long -term Improvements

High Priority	Improvement Type	Cost Estimates
New Pavilion		$$$
Fishing Pond		$$$
Upgrade Basketball Courts		$$

Low Priority	Improvement Type	Cost Estimates
Amphitheater		$$$
New Parking Area		$$$
Boardwalk		$$

Cost Scale:
$ - Less Than $25,000

$$ - $25,000 - $50,000

$$$ - Over $50,000

Plan Implementation

Funding Sources, Federal and State

Grant	Project Type	Funding Agency	Funding Cycle	Match/ Shared Cost	Eligible Project(s)
CDBG-CE	Multiple	ADECA	Summer	10%	Community Centers, Senior Centers, Recreational facilities
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Recreation	ADECA	Fall	50%	Outdoor recreation assets and support facilities (i.e restrooms)
Recreational Trails Program	Recreation	ADECA	Fall	20%	Construction of new trails & maintenance

Funding Sources, Federal and State

Grant	Project Type	Funding Agency	Funding Cycle	Match/Shared Cost
State Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant	Recreation	SCRC	Spring	50%
Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program	Multiple	Rural Development-USDA	Year-round	Direct Loan, Grant (graduated scale)

Funding Sources, Corporate and Non-Profit

Grant	Project Type	Funding Organization	Funding Cycle	Match/ Shared Cost	Eligible Project(s)
AARP Community Challenge	Multiple	AARP		0%	Public spaces improvements, access, and walkability
T-Mobile Hometown Grant	Multiple	T-Mobile	Every quarter	0%	Build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces (i.e. outdoor parks and ball fields)

Funding Sources, Corporate and Non-Profit

Grant	Project Type	Funding Organization	Funding Cycle	Match/ Shared Cost	Eligible Project(s)
Quadratec Cares "Energize The Environment"	Multiple	Quadratec	June 30th and October 30th	$3,500	Trail building or restoration, litter prevention initiatives, sustainable land management activities, and community environmental education projects
Collaborative Capacity Program for Forests & Communities	Multiple	The National Forest Foundation	July 25, 2025 (Mini grant), August 1, 2025 (Standard grant)	Mini Grants (up to $10,000), Standard Grants (up to $75,000 with 20% match)	Supports partnerships that enhance recreation opportunities, build wildfire resilience, improve forest health, and boost rural economies

Funding Sources, Corporate and Non-Profit

Grant	Project Type	Funding Organization	Funding Cycle	Match/ Shared Cost	Eligible Project(s)
On Common Ground	Multiple	Trust for Public Land (TPL)		up to $30,000	Supports parks and public space projects to foster social connection and bridge community divides
MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation grant	Multiple	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation	Annual		Funds may be used to support capital projects (e.g., field renovations), baseball/softball programs, and education initiatives.

Partners

Goal #2 of the Recreation/Senior Services Goals in the Town's Comprehensive Plan is to *"[d]evelop partnerships within the community and region to make better use of available resources and increase funding sources through sponsorships for recreation facilities, special events, athletic tournaments, and other exhibitions."*

Below are agencies and organizations that may be of assistance with **grants and continued implementation support**:

- **ADECA**
- **Autauga County**
- **CARPDC**
- **The Alabama Cooperative Extension**

Below are agencies and organizations that may be of assistance to the Autaugaville greater community **to promote further design and planning work**:

- **Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association**
- **Design Alabama**
- **Your Town Alabama**

Appendix

AL-APA CPAT Team

Meshach Adams, Alabama A&M student
Laurey Hood, Auburn student

Lady Kassama, AICP
Sara Kovachich, PLA
Mac Martin, AICP
Phoenix Robinson
Broxton Sanders
Corey Sosebee, AICP
Trae Watson

CPAT team at Autaugaville Park