

Key Findings

Major Themes

Major themes that emerged from Open House and survey comments included the following:

- **THE RIVER:** The community would like the Riverfront Park to be, first and foremost, a place where one can view and enjoy the Rappahannock River. The park should also contribute to the river both visually and ecologically, enhancing the overall beauty of the river while contributing to the improved health of the Rappahannock River watershed.
- **A PLACE FOR EVENTS AND GATHERINGS:** A strong majority would like the park to serve as a venue for events. However, the park should be a beautiful and appealing place to visit on days when there are no events. Opinions differed on the size and types of events, as well as whether event facilities should be permanent or simply accommodated within the park as needed. Some members of the community would like to see an amphitheater included in some form, possibly relocated elsewhere on the site.
- **FAMILY-ORIENTED:** The Riverfront Park should be a place to bring family members and should accommodate family-friendly activities. In particular, the park should include areas and elements where children can play, but it should not be just a playground. Numerous community members identified water features (such as fountains and water play areas for children) as desirable elements.
- **EXTENSION OF, AND ANCHOR FOR, DOWNTOWN:** Many view the Riverfront Park as an opportunity to extend downtown to Sophia Street and the riverfront, as well as a destination that will draw people downtown. The park could be a place where one can bring and eat food or ice cream purchased from downtown businesses, and it could also include a location for food trucks, a café or other vendors. The park could also serve as a catalyst for the revitalization of Sophia Street and new businesses on the west side of the street.
- **NATURAL AND GREEN:** The park should include natural elements and green spaces. It should celebrate the natural processes and ecology of the river, while also offering open spaces for picnics, recreational activities and “hanging out.” Some members of the community would like the park to include a landscaped garden area.
- **RELAXATION AND QUIET:** Many community members envision the park as a place to relax, escape the city, and engage in quiet reflection.

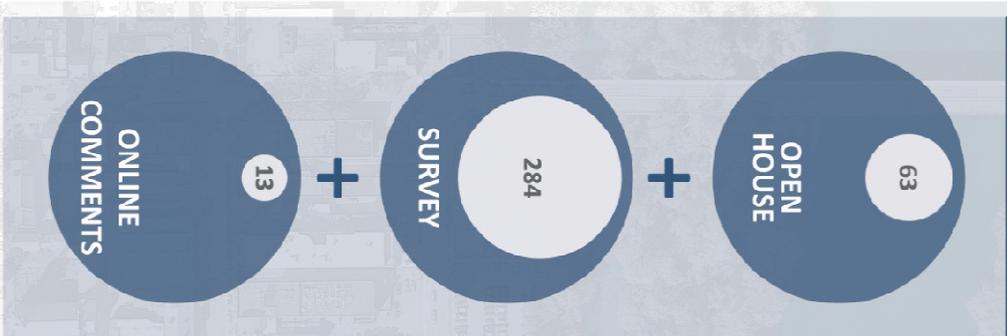
- **CONNECTIONS:** The Riverfront Park should be connected to surrounding trails, walking paths and bicycle routes. It is envisioned as a key destination along a riverfront trail system, connecting the park to City Dock and other Fredericksburg parks.
- **REFLECTING FREDERICKSBURG'S HISTORY:** The park should reflect and tell the story of Fredericksburg's history and the site's history. However, while the park should include interpretive elements that highlight key aspects of the city's history, historical themes do not need to be a defining or dominant element of the park.
- **PARKING AND ACCESS (TOP CONCERN):** There was no clear consensus among community members with regard to whether or not parking should be included on the park site. However, there was widespread, general concern about parking availability downtown and how already-tight downtown parking would be impacted by the park and potential events at the park.

Secondary Considerations

In addition to the major themes identified above, the following additional considerations were noted by numerous community members:

- **Maintenance and Durability:** The park design should be durable and easy-to-maintain to minimize maintenance costs and responsibilities as well as impacts from flooding.
- **Shade:** The park should include trees and structures that provide shade on hot and sunny days.
- **Flood Resilience:** The park should be designed to minimize impacts from flooding events.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Restroom facilities should be provided at the park.
- **Safety, Security and Visitor Behavior:** Community members expressed some concern about security, safety along the river banks, and the behavior of park visitors (loitering, vandalism, noise).

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



MAJOR THEMES

THE RIVER
RIVERFRONT PARK TO BE A PLACE TO SEE AND ENJOY THE HAMPDEN/ANNOCK RIVER

PLACE FOR EVENTS & GATHERING
SERVES AS A VENUE FOR EVENTS WITH FARM ATTIRE/IN SOME FORM

FAMILY-ORIENTED
ACCOMMODATE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CHILDREN PLAY AREAS & WATER FEATURES

EXTENSION OF, AND ANCHOR FOR, DOWNTOWN
EXTEND DOWNTOWN TO SOPHIA STREET AND THE RIVERFRONT

NATURAL AND GREEN BEAUTY
CELEBRATE THE NATURAL ELEMENTS, GREEN SPACES AND PROCESSES AS WELL AS ECOLOGY OF THE RIVER

RELAXATION AND QUIET
ENJOIN THE PARK AS A PLACE TO RELAX, ESCAPE THE CITY AND ENGAGE IN QUIET REFLECTION

PARKING AND ACCESS
PARKING AVAILABILITY DOWNTOWN AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PARK AND EVENTS

REFLECTION OF FREDERICKSBURG'S HISTORY
REFLECT AND TELL THE STORY OF FREDERICKSBURG'S AND THE SITE'S HISTORY

CONNECTIONS
CONNECT TO SURROUNDING TRAILS, WALKING PATHS AND PARKS

RIVERFRONT PARK

Fredericksburg **Riverfront Park** Vision for the Park

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