

Lewiston Community Park
Public Involvement: Story Map Survey

In coordination with Lewiston City Staff, JUB Engineers and its public involvement subsidiary, The Langdon Group, created a survey to collect public feedback on the preliminary design alternative for Community Park. The survey was open for a 30-day period, from April 11, 2022 – May 11, 2022. The survey was advertised on the City's Facebook page and shared by the Big County News and Daily Fly social media accounts. The survey could be accessed directly, or via the Facebook link, by visiting the project website at lewistoncommunitypark.com.

The website which hosted the survey gave background information for the project and contained an interactive Story Map for community members to explore the park design. In addition to being able to view and zoom in and out of an aerial map of the alternative design, the Story Map provided the opportunity for the public to drop "pins" directly onto the map to target specific amenities in association with their comments. Users could also view pins with comments submitted by other community members. Survey questions were designed to be unbiased and to collect both generalized comments as well as direct feedback on specific amenities and design elements. The survey included 11 questions in total, including multiple choice and short answer response types.

In total, 96 responses were submitted via the survey, and 251 comments were received on the City's advertisement post on Facebook. 67% of respondents said they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the park design. 15% responses were *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* with the park design. 78% commented they would use the park at least once a week or more.

The most common short answer responses included commentary and questions on sports fields and athletic amenities, construction timeline, neighborhood impacts, and cost. Overall, the community expressed support for the project and is curious about the proposed design, viewing it as an opportunity to bring great value to the local and regional community.

The following are main themes which the community expressed **support** for via both the survey and Facebook comments:

- Recognition that Community Park will be a great asset to the economic health of the community.
- ADA designed park amenities should include consideration for the elderly as well as sensory and mobility impaired people.
- Overall high support for the design layout and efficient use of land.
- Retention of walking trail
- The softball complex was overwhelmingly the most liked amenity in the proposed design. Commentors expressed support and interest in the softball fields supporting league play and tournaments.
- The natural open space and multi-purpose fields were highly supported amenities as well.

The following are main themes which the community expressed **concern or lack of support** for via both the survey and Facebook comments:

- Interest in reducing the number of softball fields, to be replaced with alternative amenities (namely soccer, basketball, and multi-use fields).
- Concern for the impacts to surrounding roadways and transportation systems.
- Request for increased parking space to reduce off-street parking during tournaments and events.
- Concern for fencing around the playground.
- Desire for a dog park, and off-leash areas for dog-walkers.
- The least liked amenity was the RV park. The main concerns related to the regulation and daily impacts of the RV park, including cleanliness, length of stay by visitors, and enforcement of rules.

Additional comments of note include:

- Eagerness for construction to begin and be completed in a timely manner.
- Confusion around funding mechanisms for Community Park. Confusion around the separation of City funds for dedicated uses (parks and recreation projects vs. transportation, etc.)
- Consideration for parent and child park usage, including support for stroller-friendly sidewalks, increased visibility near parks, etc.
- Curiosity for how the surrounding natural habitat and Lindsey Creek will be considered
- Many commented with a desire to see more dedicated indoor community space. Several folks cited wanting a facility similar to the HUB, and/or an indoor swimming pool.

In coordination with Lewiston City Staff, JUB Engineers and its public involvement subsidiary, The Langdon Group, created a survey to collect public feedback on overall support for the proposed concept design for Community Park. The survey was open for a 30-day period, from August 18, 2022 – September 18, 2022. The survey was advertised on the City’s website and social media, and on the project website (lewistoncommunitypark.com).

The website which hosted the survey gave background information for the project and contained an interactive Story Map for community members to explore the park design. In addition to being able to view and zoom in and out of an aerial map of the alternative design, the Story Map provided the opportunity for the public to drop “pins” directly onto the map to target specific amenities in association with their comments. Users could also view pins with comments submitted by other community members. Survey questions were designed to be unbiased and to collect both generalized comments as well as direct feedback on specific amenities and design elements. The following questions were included in the survey:

- Do you support the development of Community Park?
- How do you feel about the proposed design of Community Park?
- How often would you use Community Park?
- Where do you live?
- Is there anything else you would like the project team to consider, regarding support for Community Park?

In total, the survey received 192 responses. 37% of respondents said they were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the proposed park design, and 17% felt *neutral*. 42% commented they would use the park at least several times per month.

The most common short answer responses included comments on specific amenities, general support for the design and hopefulness for positive community impacts, and interest in receiving more information about funding sources. While many supportive comments were submitted, there were also a notable number of responses which expressed frustration due to the current economy.

The follow are main themes summarized from the comments submitted for additional consideration:

- Excitement and support for the variety of amenities and recreation planned for in the design. Encouragement that the park will provide something for every family member.
- A moderate number of responses asked for more pickle ball courts, basketball courts, and soccer fields. Soccer was of high priority for many respondents, including both adult and adolescent leagues.
 - Some expressed confusion regarding the perceived focus on softball and baseball fields in lieu of basketball and/or soccer fields.
- Many commented on the City’s economic health, noting a desire for attracting new businesses.

- Support for the open spaces, walking trails, and natural areas. Desire for as much “quiet space” as possible.
- Support and excitement for the splash pad as a good amenity for local children.
- Desire and support for adequate parking spaces, and thoughtful transportation planning to consider access to the park.
- Many expressed the desire to see a clear budget and funding plan.
 - Some used sentiments such as “take care of X,Y,Z” first, although many items were outside of the Parks and Recreation department’s budget. For example: A focus on current infrastructure elsewhere in the city that needs maintenance, or the development of a homeless shelter or mental health facility.
 - Many expressed a desire for identification of grants and alternative forms of funding sources.
- Concern for senior community members on fixed budgets being impacted by the cost. Confusion regarding whether a new tax would be implemented, and if so, for how much.
- Eagerness to see construction begin soon. Inquiries regarding timeline and the order in which amenities will be built.
- Desire for shade trees and a focus on quality landscaping.
 - Several commented a specific request for shade around children’s playgrounds.
- Requests for specific design elements to be considered, including the materials used on playgrounds to be all-weather, accessible features, art, lighting for safety, etc.
- Some commented on specific amenities being provided elsewhere in the area that they would like to see maintained or rehabilitated, including BMX/bike trails, basketball courts, and the community pool.
- Requests to see Tribal inclusion and representation in the design of the park.