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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to explain the unique interaction between Ball State University students enrolled in Parks and Open Spaces Design and Halteman Village during the design of the Halteman Neighborhood Park. This report presents a process and collection of design products, produced by students.



#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Halteman Park was once the home of the lively, yet private, Halteman Swim Club, located in the heart of Halteman Village. However, since the club closed in 2017 the site has not seen nearly the same level of activity that it once did. In order to revitalize the site, Ball State University, represented by LA 202 second year landscape architecture students, partnered with the neighborhood and the city to develop visions for a new vibrant city park. After conducting site visits and facilitating community stakeholder meetings, the students developed several designs based off of the feedback from the community. Further community feedback through a Facebook Qualtrics survey informed the final design based on a program that includes a splashpad, playground, pavilions, walking trail, and open space.



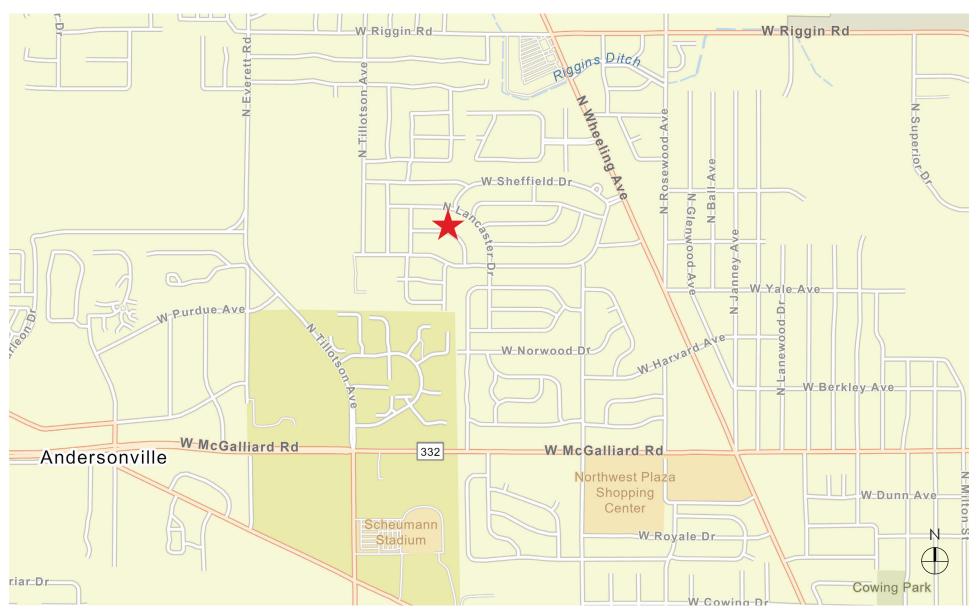
#### **HISTORY**

Halteman Village is one of three neighborhoods – the other two being Vienna Woods and Norwood – that are located north of McGalliard Road and west of Wheeling Ave in Muncie, Indiana. Norwood is the oldest of these neighborhoods, consisting of post-WWII prefabricated homes built in the 1950's. Halteman Village and Vienna Woods are relatively newer, with most homes being built in the 1960's or 1970's in a midcentury modern style. Today, these neighborhoods combined consist of around 1,300 household units – most of these being detached single-family homes - with a population of just under 3,000.

The site that once was the Halteman Pool Swim Club and is currently Halteman Park was originally intended to be a public park or green space. The swim club and its pool served as a vibrant space of recreation for a time, but in 2017, due to rising membership dues and declining membership, it closed down. Although it is no longer realistic for the pool to fulfill the role as an active community space, there is still a great opportunity available for this site to become an equally vibrant public park. Not only will this park serve the residents of

Halteman Village, but it will also provide the residents of northwestern Muncie with a much-needed public park. The nearest park is Matthews Park, which is about a mile away to the southeast of Halteman Village. This park, however, is undersized and lacks recreational facilities. Jack's Park and Cowing Park are two other nearby parks, both about two miles away, but these are too far to serve the community as a close-to-home, neighborhood park.

## **HISTORY**



**VICINITY MAP: RED STAR INDICATES LOCATION OF HALTEMAN PARK** 





### SITE VISIT

On February 17, 2020, LA 202 students visited Halteman Park with Professor J.P. Hall, Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation and President of the Halteman Village Neighborhood Association. Hall informed the students of the history of the neighborhood and the pool, and the lack of recreational opportunities in the northwest region of the city. Then, for the next few hours, despite the chilly weather, students explored the site, taking notes and pictures and discussing their observations. In the coming days, these observations would be organized into Inventory and Analysis maps and a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis. Additionally, these observations would be supplemented by feedback from a public meeting at Mitchell Early Childhood and Family Center located within Halteman Village.



STUDENTS TAKING NOTES



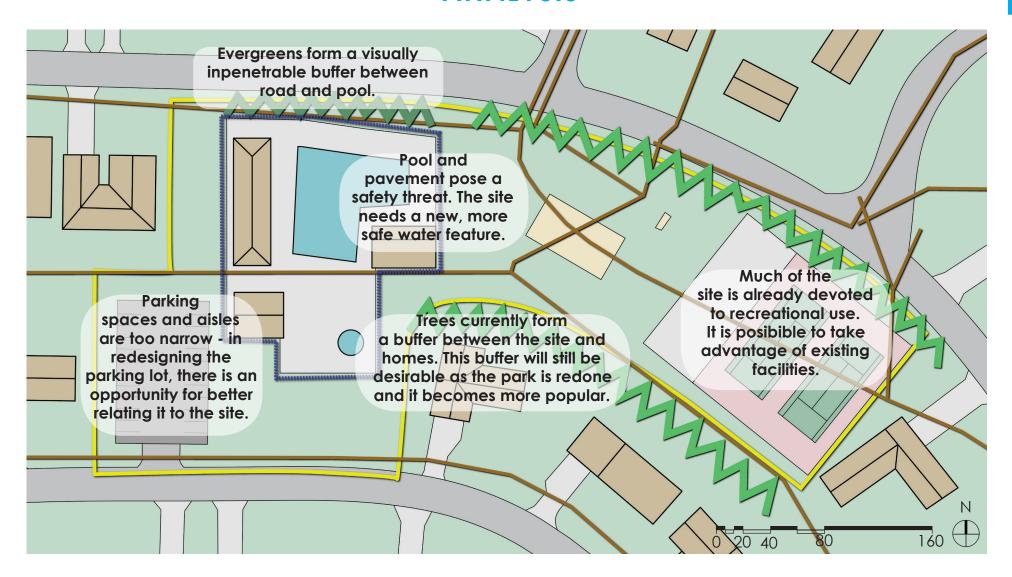
STUDENTS EXPLORING SITE



## **INVENTORY**



### **ANALYSIS**





#### **SWOT**

#### Strengths

- The park currently has a number of spaces designated for recreational activity, such as the tennis and volleyball courts. Existing facilities could be utilized in the new park.
- Plumbing already exists on the site and could be utilized to provide water for a splash pad.
- There are currently two buildings on the site a shower house and a concession stand that can be utilized in the final design for restrooms.



**HALTEMAN SWIM CLUB** 

#### Weaknesses

- The abandoned pool poses health and safety risks, such as providing mosquitos with an ideal breeding ground when stormwater accumulates.
  Also, people who access the pool can fall into the abandoned pool and seriously injure themselves.
  Because of these dangers, the pool should be filled in.
- The concrete slabs surrounding the pool are uneven, and the cracks are filled with tall weeds. While repairing these surfaces, there are opportunities to redesign the park for new uses.
- With the pool closed, there is no clear entrance to the park. A new, clear, entrance can be established that works with the new design.
- There are homes in close proximity to the parking lot. Buffers are needed around the parking lot to help separate the neighboring homes from the busy parking lot.
- Not many people know that the park is public and as a result it sees little activity. A designed park with signage will increase activity.

#### **SWOT**

#### Opportunities

- The city has displayed an obvious interest in the future of the park. The space was officially designated a city park in the summer of 2019, and the city has since installed signage and currently maintains the grass. Additionally, Dan Ridenour, the mayor of Muncie, has expressed his support for the park by attending public meetings. This support will help keep the project moving forward.
- The combined sewer lines (CSO) underneath the park are to be replaced with new, separated lines. A new park could be built during the construction process.
- The residents of Halteman Village have demonstrated their commitment to turning Halteman Park into a community resource, and this passion will help keep the project moving along.

#### **Threats**

 A tight budget could limit park development or necessitate phased construction

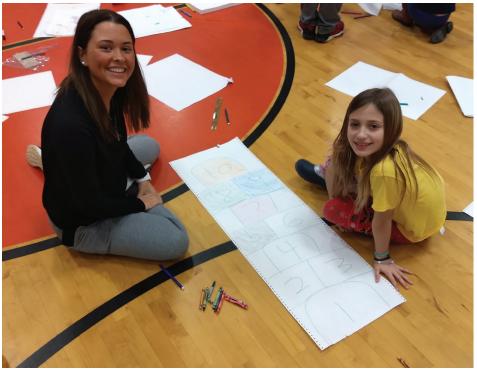


MAYOR DAN RIDENOUR (RIGHT) AT MITCHELL PUBLIC MEETING



## MITCHELL MEETING METHODS

On February 24 - one week following the LA 202 students visit to Halteman Park - a public meeting was held at Mitchell Early Childhood and Family Center in Halteman Village. The goal of this meeting was for students to understand what the residents of Halteman Village and Muncie want their park to become and what role it will serve within their community. The students would use this knowledge to inform and guide future design decisions.



STUDENT AND CHILDREN DRAWING

Residents communicated their desires in three different ways. The first method was to personally speak to a student or professor about their visions for the park. The second method was to answer prompts, such as "Are there things we should know about the Halteman neighborhood that you want to share?" and "Envisioning a future Halteman Park, what park-related activities are important to you?" Residents recorded their responses on sticky notes and placed them on large sheets of paper displaying the prompts. This method allowed for more openness and anonymity in providing comments. The third method, which applied especially to the children of the community, was to draw a picture of the perfect day at the park. By communicating with all age groups, students accumulated feedback on a multitude of factors and from a broad sample of ages.

## **ORGANIZING PUBLIC INPUT**

Students acquired a large amount of information and feedback during the site visit and the meeting at Mitchell. In order to better understand the patterns present in this information they organized responses and feedback into different categories, such as safety, sports, and accessibility. Depending on the number of items in each category and the number of times certain responses were repeated, values were assigned to categories indicating their importance.

The children of Halteman Village offered equally valuable feedback in the form of drawings. To organize these, students used sticky notes to label objects in these drawings. These sticky notes were then collected and organized into categories, such as activities, water features and facilities, and plants. By doing this, students could more easily understand and visualize what was important to the children of Halteman Village.



STUDENTS ORGANIZING FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC INPUT



#### **RESULTS**

From the adults, landscape architect studentsstudents learned that Halteman Village residents are very proud of their community, and the importance of community-shared events, such as Halloween, demonstrate this. Halteman Village is a friendly, active, and creative neighborhood and a great place to raise a family. The neighborhood has a variety of excellent resources nearby, such as the library, the Northwest YMCA, Halteman Park, and a multitude of stores. One issue that was brought up was that many children were homeschooled and, as a result, more isolated from their peers who attend Muncie Community Schools. In a neighborhood that values family and community, this is an important issue towards visioning a new park.



**RESIDENT GIVING FEEDBACK** 

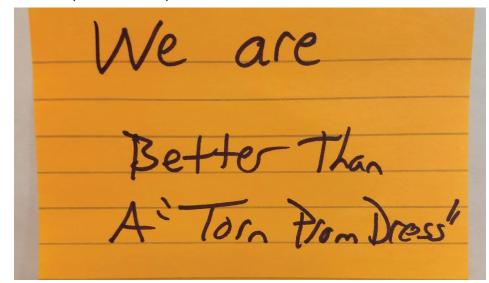
When the public was asked what they would want in a public park, there was a lot of interest in a space that facilitated community and socializing. A frequently requested feature was a pavilion for family and community events, such as birthday parties, movies, and yoga. Of almost equal interest was a water feature - namely, a splash pad. Residents demonstrated their love of exercise and activity by suggesting a park that included walking paths, exercise equipment stations, and spaces for playing sports. These activities spaces should allow for residents and visitors of all ages a space to play and be active during every season of the year. Residents also desired natural elements, such as native plants, tree and plant identification signs, and plants for all seasons.

Based on the children's drawings, LA 202 students learned that children are very interested in being able to play in water, especially in a splash pad. However, they were equally interested in playground equipment, such as slides and swings, and schoolyard games. They also demonstrated an interest in sports, such as basketball, soccer, and track.

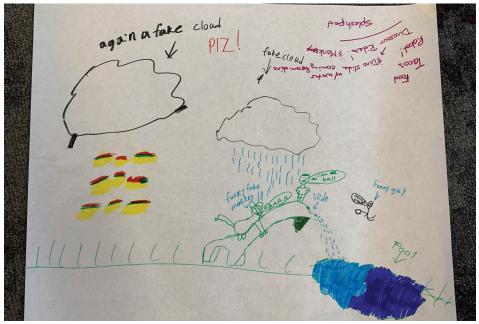
### **RESULTS**



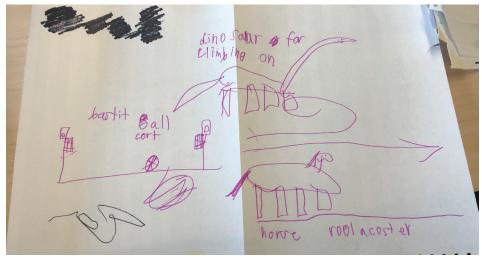
SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL, AND SLIDE



**FEEDBACK** 

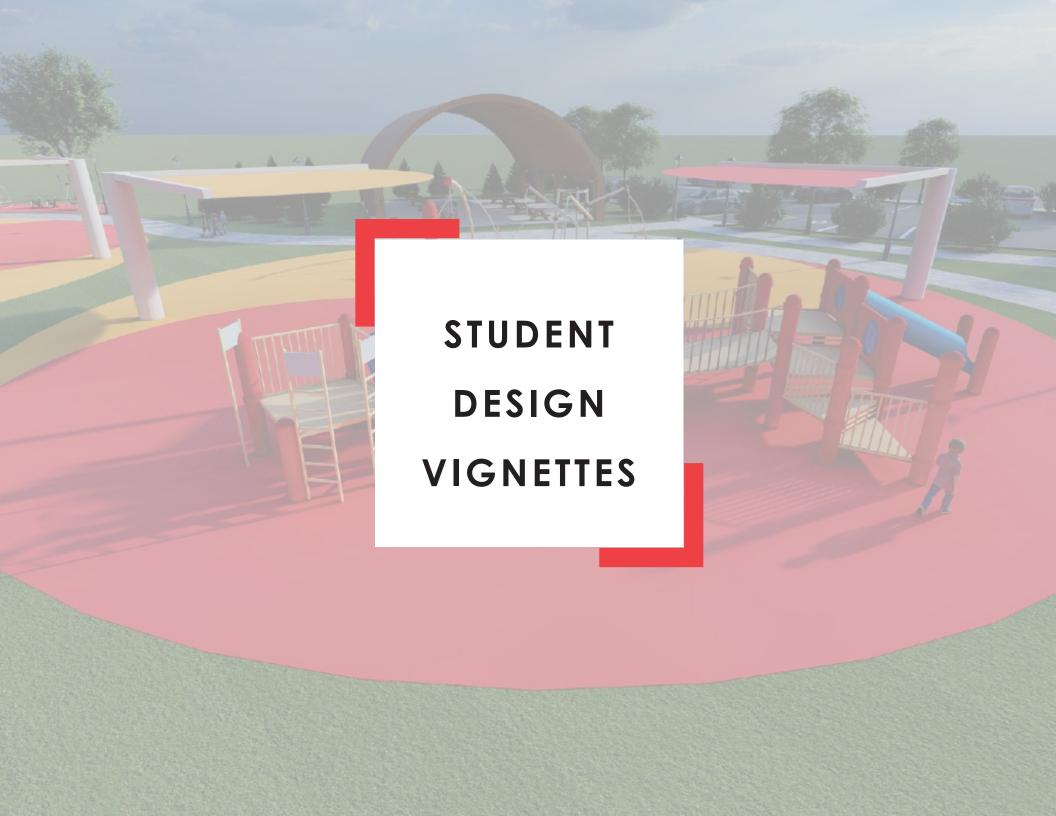


**DINOSAURS, CLOUDS, AND TACOS** 



DINOSAURS, HORSES, AND BASKETBALL





#### **PATTERNS**

In order to produce a wide variety of designs, LA 202 students were divided into groups that focused on certain aspects of the public feedback, such as play and water features. These groups were: traditional parks, nature play, sports, splash pad, and kid-inspired.

#### Traditional Parks

oThe traditional designs included such familiar elements as playgrounds with swings and slides, open spaces, and curving walking paths. Students in this group were challenged to make their park of traditional elements unique.

#### Nature Play

oDesigns focused on nature-play and drew inspiration from natural materials and forms, such as stones, logs, and plant life. These designs combined play, education, and relaxation into one exciting site for the community.

#### Sports

oHalteman Park currently has facilities for sports and other recreational activities, and some students drew upon the park's potential to be a great center for sports. Designs included obstacle courses, sports courts, and paths - there was something for every visitor of every age and skill level.

#### • Splash Pad

oStudents centering their designs on the frequently-requested splash pads included unique water features in their designs, such as misters, water towers, and rivers, to keep families cool and entertained during hot Indiana summers.

#### Kid-Inspired

oThe kid-inspired designs drew inspiration chiefly from the children's drawings - even the most fanciful, imaginative, and seemingly unrealistic ideas. While creating a wonderland for children, these designs did not neglect to address the more practical concerns of the adults, such as safety and circulation.



### A SPLASH PAD PARK

HATBYAN PARK

"This design frames a multigenerational, animated, renewable, and versatile design for Haletman Park. This design responds to requests from the community for a splash pad, pirates, animals, and overall need for a communal space for all walks of life."

**CHARACTER SKETCH** 



**PLANTING BED** 



**SPLASH PAD** 

## A NATURE PLAY PARK

"This park was built with family, education, and inclusion kept in mind with each area having its own learning aspects and challenges."





**CHARACTER SKETCH** 



## A KID-INSPIRED PARK



"We took our thoughts from the inner minds of children and made them a reality in the form of a park. We strive to never bore our visitors."

**GARDEN** 



**CHARACTER SKETCH** 



**CHARACTER SKETCH** 

### A SPORTS PARK

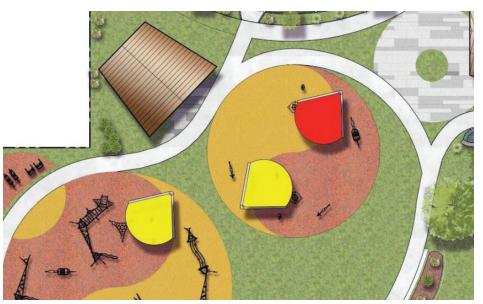
"Halteman Park is designed with the enjoyment of all ages in mind, creating purposeful spaces for different activities, as well as one uniform space for residents of the Halteman neighborhood and Muncie community to enjoy. Halteman Park will become a venue for improving human health alongside bringing together a community of people, all year round."



**EXERCISE STATION** 



**SPORTS COURT** 



**PLAN DETAIL** 

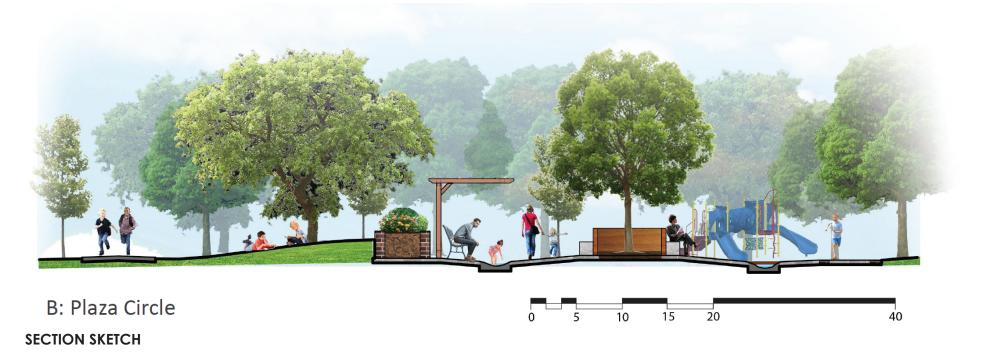


### A SPLASH PAD PARK



"Our vision for Halteman Park focuses on a splash pad, playground, and spaces for recreation. Whether it be a morning workout around the track or cooling off on a hot summer day at the splash pad, Halteman Park is the place to be!"

SPLASH PAD

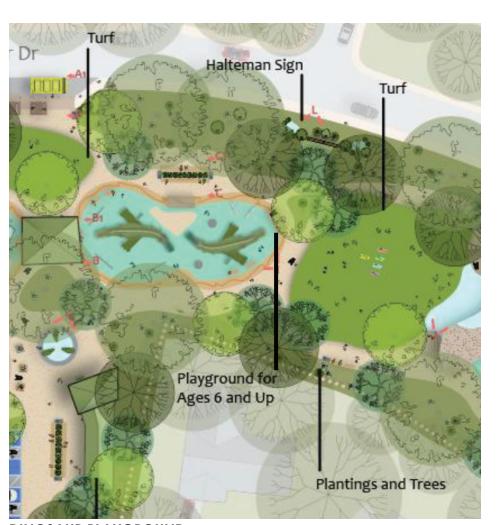


## A TRADITIONAL PARK

"The goal of this plan is to provide an active and lively space for the people of Halteman, Muncie, and Muncie visitors to be able to utilize for their own needs, with that being recreation, leisure, or a need to play."



**CHARACTER SKETCH** 

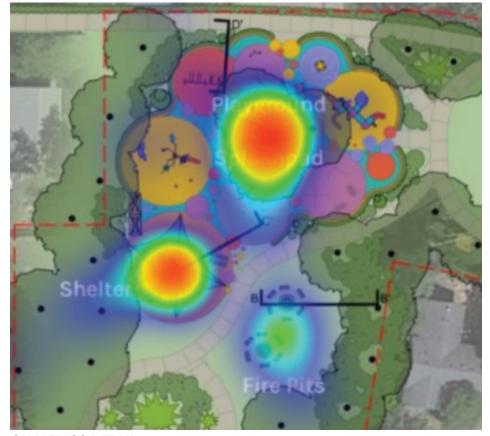


**DINOSAUR PLAYGROUND** 



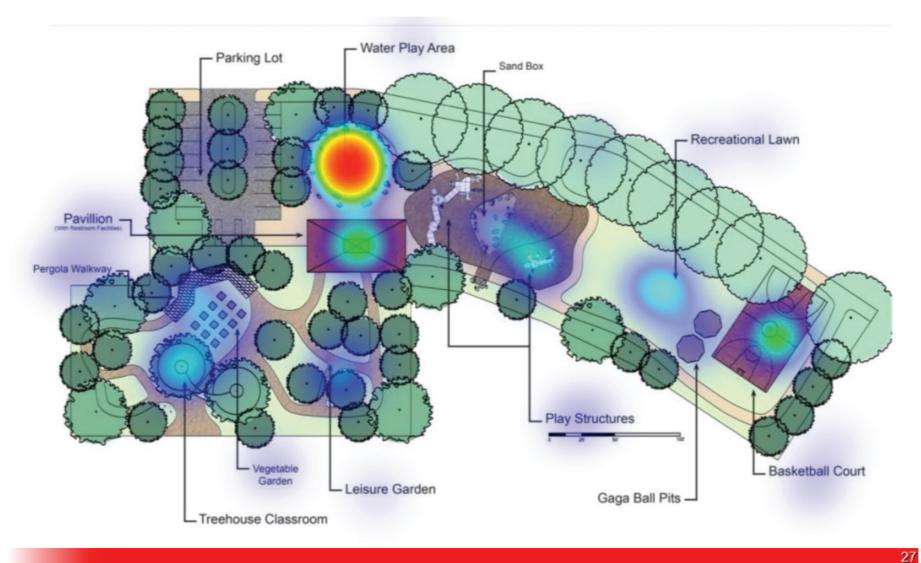
## **QUALTRICS**

After the students finished their final designs, they were published for residents to review and comment. Utilizing a program called Qualtrics, users looked at the designs and clicked on the design elements that were most appealing to them. These clicks were converted into "hotspots", which could be studied to determine how the community reacted to the application of feedback from the Mitchell meeting. The results of these studies confirmed the feedback that had been obtained during the community meeting: residents wanted a splash pad, a pavilion for social events, and a place for children to play, most often manifested as a playground. Students also learned that residents were interested in having open space and fire pits.



**QUALTRICS DETAIL** 

## **QUALTRICS**



QUALTRICS EXAMPLE: ILLUSTRATES INTEREST IN A WATER PLAY AREA, BASKETBALL COURT, AND PAVILLION





#### **PROGRAM**

Visitors driving to the new Halteman Park can park their car either along Lancaster Dr. in parallel parking spots or in a parking lot on the southwest side of the site. Those who park in the southwest parking lot are greeted with a small plaza. On their left is a spacious pavilion with a view to a splash pad, and to their right is a playground. Beyond these spaces is a spacious open lawn, and beyond that is a multi-purpose sports court. A quarter-mile track with exercise stations encompasses the site.

The pavilion includes restrooms, showers, a fire pit, and seating. It is perfect for accommodating families seeking the cool shade while children play, residents hosting community events, and children ready to clean off after a long day of play. The splash pad offers a wide variety of water play structures and a shallow, meandering stream (occasional bridges allow accessibility) for children to play in. Trees and a pergola provide shaded seating in a small plaza to the east of the splash pad.

A pergola marks the entrance to the playground. Here, there are playsets for children ages 2 - 5 and 5 - 12, swings for children of all ages and abilities, a shaded sand pit, and a Gaga ball pit. Here, children can spend hours playing before they even feel a hint of boredom. Trees and seating along the border offer a shady refuge for families.

The broad open lawn contains a small shelter and a gazebo, and is bordered by trees. This space is idealfor field sports like soccer and football, and for family and community events like picnics, movie nights, and yoga. Equally flexible is the multi-purpose sports court, where visitors can play basketball, volleyball, shuffleboard, foursquare, and hopscotch. Color coded lines differentiate the activities.



## **PLAN**



## **PLAN DETAIL**

# **SECTIONS**





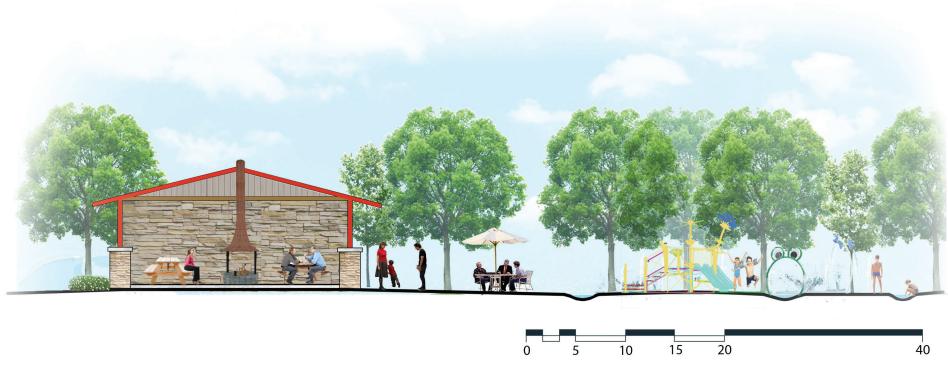
TRACK AND PLAZA SECTION



**BERM AND TRACK SECTION** 



## **SECTION**



**PAVILLION AND SPLASH PAD SECTION** 

# **SECTIONS**



PLAYGROUND AND TRACK SECTION



## **CHARACTER SKETCHES**



PLAYGROUND AND SPLASH PAD AERIAL



SPLASH PAD AERIAL



**SPLASH PAD** 



**SEATING AND SPLASH PAD** 

# **CHARACTER SKETCHES**



**MULTI-SPORT COURT** 



**OPEN FIELD** 



**PLAYGROUND** 



TRACK



## **CHARACTER SKETCHES**



**GAZEBO** 



PERGOLA BY MULTI-SPORT COURT



**SHELTER** 



PLAZA BY SPLASH PAD

#### FRIENDS GROUP

The residents of Halteman Village have demonstrated their passion for turning the closed, outdated Halteman Swim Club into a thriving public space by pushing for action and eagerly attending public meetings. This passion will be vital in maintaining the project's momentum and creatively overcoming any obstacles that might arise. One form of future support of the park might be a Halteman Park Friends Group in the form of a not-for-profit that could raise money, help maintain, and create programs for the park. A friends group could also sponsor and provide labor for small park improvement projects.



### **SUMMARY**

Halteman Park, once the home of the Halteman Swim Club, has not seen the same level of activity since the pool closed in 2017. Ball State University's Park and Open Spaces Design class worked with the neighborhood and the city to develop visions that will bring new life to the park. Students visited the site and met with the community before developing designs based off of the feedback from the community. After further feedback through a Facebook Qualtrics survey, the final design was developed.



### **WORKS CITED**

J.P. Hall, interview with Emma Hawkins, June 2020 Image Credits

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