



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Doug Story, Community Services Director
DATE: August 16, 2022
SUBJECT: **Update on Stewart Park Improvement Project – Community Outreach and Survey Results**

Background and Analysis:

On April 5, 2022, City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement with PlaceWorks for landscape architecture and engineering design services for the Stewart Park Improvement Project. Staff began meeting with PlaceWorks weekly to discuss the project and began working on Community Outreach strategies to ensure community involvement in the planning and design stages of the project. On June 27, 2022, a digital survey was released to the community in order to compile feedback from residents on park usage, amenities, design features, inspiration for themes, and ideas for future events to be held in the park. Staff began advertising for the survey and worked the Fourth of July event, which is held at Stewart Park; to ensure plenty of community involvement and interaction with the survey in order to gather as much data as possible. At the conclusion of the month-long survey period over 800 unique community members were surveyed.

The results attached to this staff report include a comprehensive summary of questions and responses received. Some key takeaways from the community survey include:

- The playground and splash pad will be a central element of the park. It will be important to consider universal accessibility in the design and develop a play environment that offers a fun, quality, inclusive experience.
- Beaumont residents want to see overall park upgrades to make Stewart Park a more inviting destination. Beyond specific amenities, survey respondents indicated that they want to see general park improvements, like landscaping, lighting, and benches throughout the park that create spaces where people might want to go for photographs or special events.

- Beaumont residents want to keep using Stewart Park and have great ideas for additional events there. A large, permanent stage may not be necessary for the park year-round, but a smaller bandshell or stage may work for these types of events.
- While not the highest priority, active uses like basketball, walking, and outdoor fitness are considered important activities in the park. Creating spaces for flexible exercise, such as open fields for classes, informal sports, or disc golf, will be a consideration for the design.
- The existing skate park is likely the appropriate size for Stewart Park. People indicated support for the skate park to be upgraded but not significant support to expand it.

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated cost to prepare this report is \$175.

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the survey results. Make any suggestions or remarks pertaining to the results and future improvement plans of Stewart Park.

Attachments:

- A. Survey Results – Presentation Slides