



Great Parks

SHARON WOODS HARBOR REVITALIZATION:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

June 2025

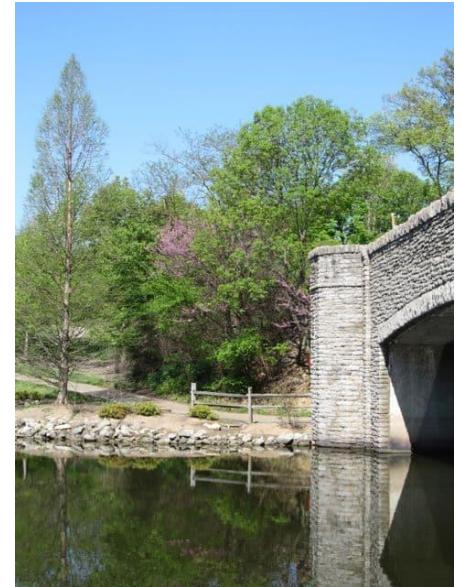


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community engagement overview

The community engagement process for Sharon Woods Harbor aimed to gather initial public input and ideas for the full revitalization of the harbor area, asking participants to imagine it as a blank slate. The design team summarized the major themes of the input, reviewed with Great Parks staff, and incorporated this feedback into the proposed concepts for the future vision of the harbor area.

Throughout the process, over 150 participants were able to share their ideas and concerns. These takeaways are summarized on the following pages. The engagement was conducted through two in-person open house events, a virtual open house, and an online survey hosted over the course of several months.



online survey

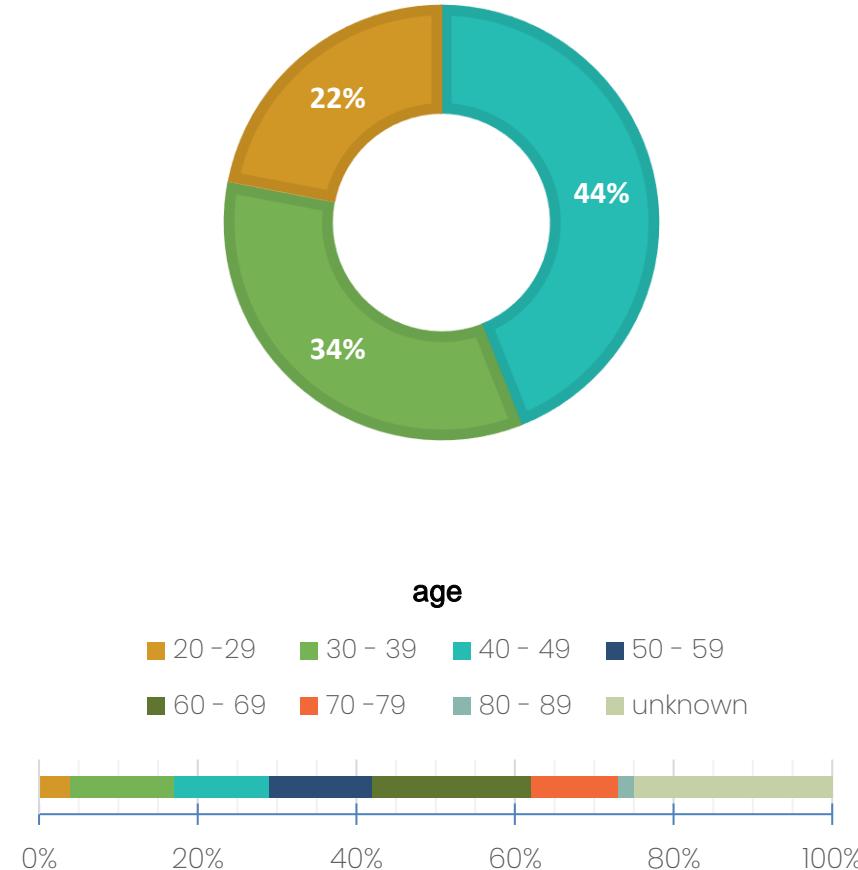


survey overview

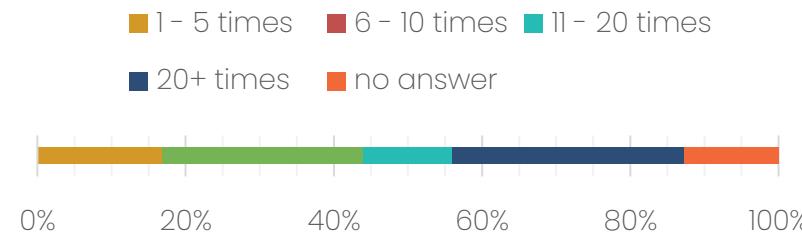
125 responses

the survey was open from 11/11/24 thru 01/31/25

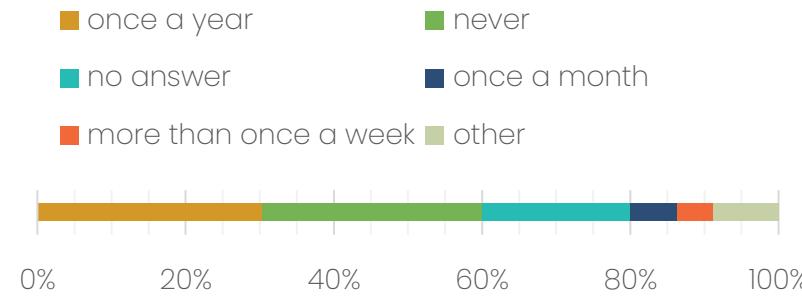
Many of the questions focused on understanding what visitors enjoy about the current park and harbor area, how it could be improved, and what they'd like to be able to do in this area in the future. Most questions were an open response format, allowing participants to write in their ideas.



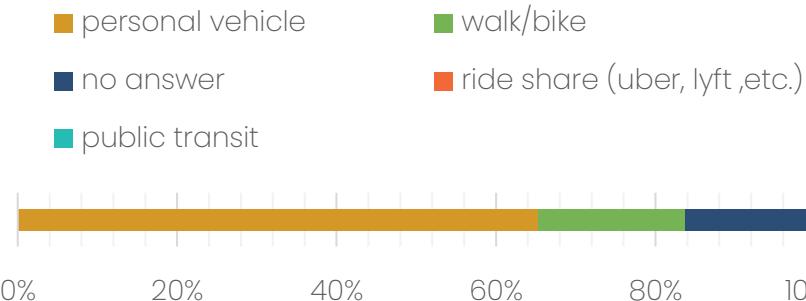
how often do you visit Sharon Woods per year?



how often do you participate in activities/programs at Sharon Woods Harbor?



what type of transportation do you use to get to the park?



how far do you travel to get to the park?

The illustration shows a winding road in a light green color with a dashed white line. Along the road are three icons: a car, a bus, and a person running, representing different modes of transportation.

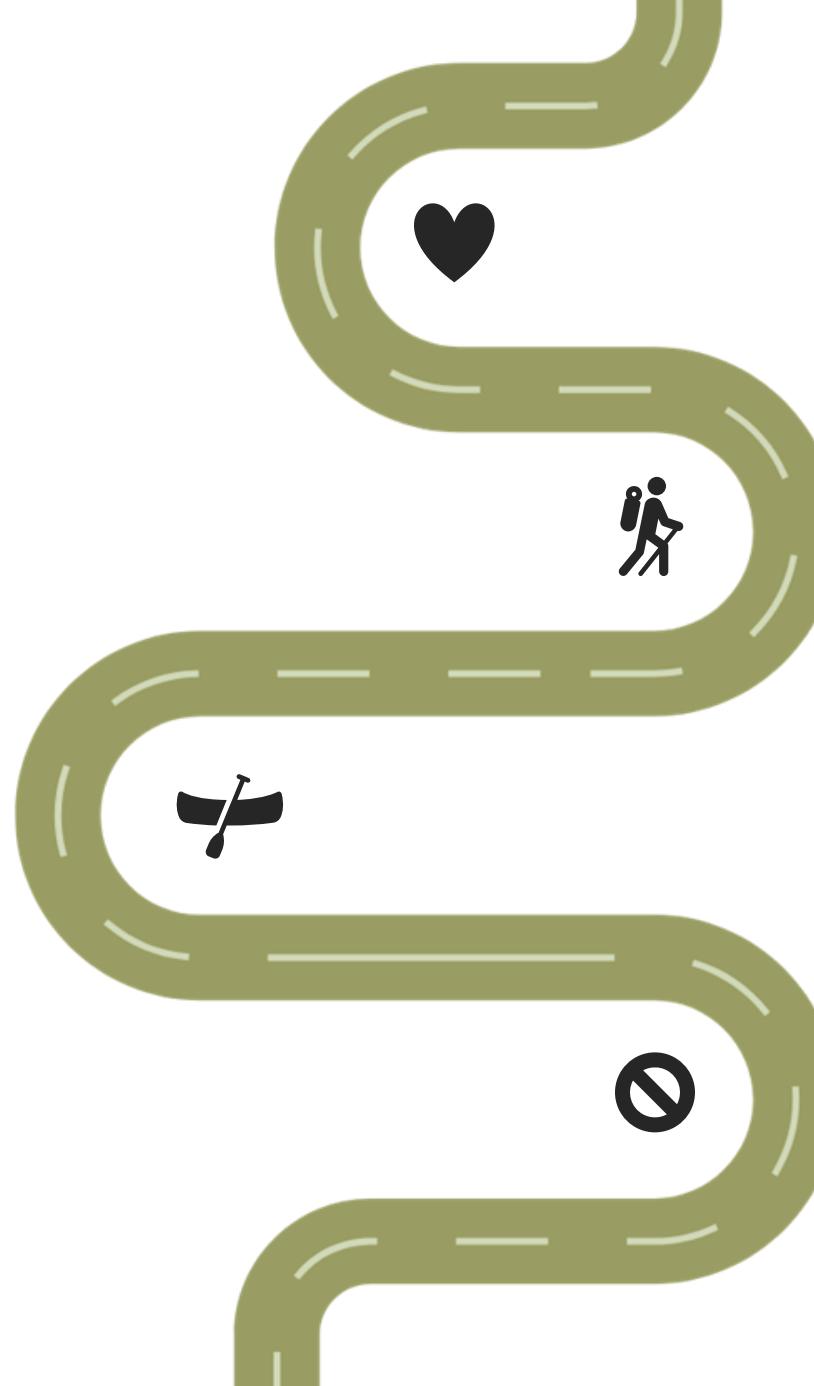


What people love about the harbor now :

- Shared use trail
- Play opportunities
- Accessing the water
- Natural environment

Top descriptors of the harbor:

- Lively, busy, playful
- Scenic
- Peaceful, serene, calming, quiet



Top future activity mentions:

- Walking path
- Kayaking
- Playground/water use
- Picnic areas
- Nature observation and views

Top Issues:

- View to the lake
- Path conditions/accessibility
- Access to lake
- Facility and play area conditions

in-person sessions

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in-person sessions overview

session #1 11.21.24

session #2 01.25.25

Two sessions were held at Sharon Centre to gather in-person feedback on the harbor revitalization. There were approximately 40 attendees across the two events. A variety of activities were set up and facilitated by Great Parks and design team members to get input on different aspects of the future design such as:

- likes and dislikes of current facilities
- treatment and aesthetics of the edge of the lake
- future interpretive opportunities
- ideas for features at the new harbor and facilities



activity #1 – future mapping

This activity asked participants to imagine the harbor area as a blank slate, and what features they would like to see as part of the new design. These ideas were added to post-its and placed on a map to show where they thought that feature should be.

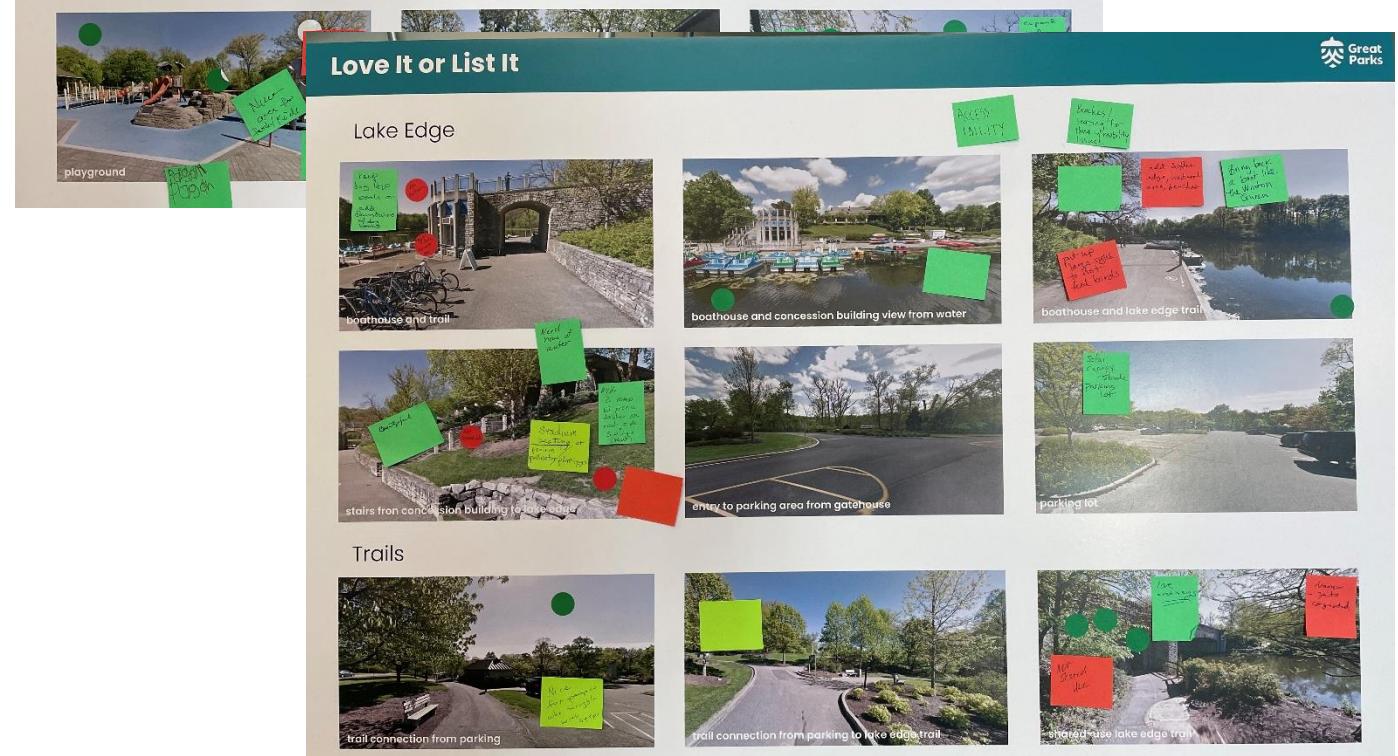
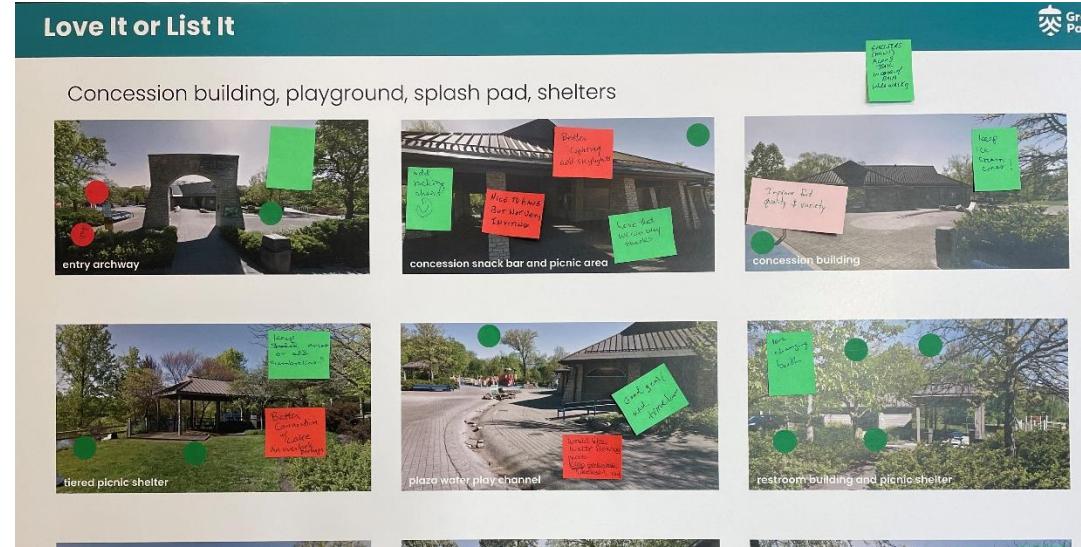


summary of input from mapping activity

amenities	features	events+ programming	food+drink	experience	concerns
<p>"checkpoint" amenities for all visitor types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrooms, changing area, water stations, picnic areas, scenery	<p>moments of pause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• seating, shade, swings, views of lake <p>improved lake access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe, easily accessed boat launch <p>capitalize on the hillside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tiered seating, accessible but scenic paths <p>highlight habitats</p>	<p>flexible areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be able to host gatherings, events, music performance	<p>multiple types of seating areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• families, small groups, large gatherings <p>improved concession experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• better access, more variety	<p>areas for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• kids & families, exercisers, quiet seekers <p>incorporate fun</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• swings, slides, zipline, beer garden, fish viewing, rope course, hammocks <p>keep the natural aesthetic</p>	<p>safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• bike and foot traffic on shared use path <p>accessibility across the entire site</p>

activity #2 – love it or list it

This activity asked participants to comment on current features at the harbor, using green dots and post-its for things that they like, and red for things they dislike. The general consensus that emerged from the comments was that visitors enjoy the *concept* of some of the existing spaces and features, but these could be improved if reimagined as part of a new design.



Love It or List It

Concession building, playground, splash pad, shelters



play area is nice for families

concession bldg. not inviting, blocks lake, dark. improve food quality/variety.

keep prehistoric timeline & water play concepts

changing rooms/ shelters work well

make a bigger overlook area, seating/picnic space, interpretive signage

Love It or List It

Lake Edge



Trails



love the archway, but not wide enough

need an accessible path – make it a feature with seating, gardens, view of water

need shade, seating, restrooms at boathouse level

need shade or solar canopy at parking area

soften water edge

activity #3 – water edge

This activity asked for input on what the character of the lake edge should be as well as kayak and boardwalk features. Participants could make notes using green dots or post-its for things that they like, and red for things they dislike. The overall takeaway was that a soft, natural edge was preferred for the lake, and a kayak launch that is accessible is an important feature.

Lake Edge Access

Dock – No Kayak/Canoe Launch



Simple Overlook Deck - Not Accessible

Multi-Use Deck - Accessible

Dock/Steps – Kayak/Canoe Launch



Concrete Kayak Launch Ramp - Accessible

Canoe/Kayak Launch Dock - Accessible

Canoe/Kayak Rail & Steps - Not Accessible

Boardwalk



Boardwalk Connection to Island - Accessible

Lake Edge Treatment

Hard Edge – Engineered



Concrete Retaining Wall

Wooden Retaining Wall

Stone Slab Retaining Wall

Boulder Edge

Hard Edge – Inhabitable



Formal, Architectural Steps & Seating

Net/Hammock Edge

Informal Stone Steps & Seating

Wood Deck Edge with Seating

Soft/Natural Edge



Grass Edge with Shallow Shelf

Native Plant Edge Barrier

Mix of Native Plants Edge and Hard Edge

Boardwalk with Floating Garden

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Lake Edge Access

Dock - No Kayak/Canoe Launch



Dock/Steps - Kayak/Canoe Launch



Boardwalk



Lake Edge Treatment

Hard Edge - Engineered



Hard Edge - Inhabitable



Soft/Natural Edge



boat and pedestrian access:

- accessible dock and kayak launch
- have a place for cleaning fish
- interest in boardwalks for wildlife and vegetation viewing

lake edge:

- natural edges, native plantings, boardwalks with interpretive opportunities
- use of natural materials like stacked stone or boulders
- seating features near lake edge
- consideration for fishing conditions



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