



Gateway Triangle Project

Engagement Report: Phase 1

Background

The Gateway Triangle Park Project was initiated by a constituent through the Capital Improvement Program and awarded funding in August 2022. The park will be centrally located in the downtown neighborhood and will serve a diversity of residents and visitors while synergies that include Gateway residents, Frontrunner commuters, and recreators along the Folsom Trail. This space is also located near the Union Pacific mainline and the site of the former Grant Tower which served as a critical railroad control point.

Salt Lake City Public Lands began an engagement effort in October 2022 to gather input on the desired features and character of the new park. This primarily consisted of a public survey and discussing the project with key stakeholders. This work serves as an initial phase of engagement to generate ideas for park design and identify high-level priorities. Public Lands staff intends to conduct an additional engagement effort further into the design process.

Engagement Approach

The goals of this engagement effort were as follows:

- Inform the public on the upcoming park project
- Identify key demographics and characteristics of likely park users
- Identify community needs and priorities related to the upcoming park space
- Generate ideas for park design including desired amenities

An online survey was developed to accomplish the engagement goals. The survey was available from October 6th, 2022 to November 7th, 2022. A total of 381 survey responses were recorded. Project information and the survey were distributed through the following channels:

- A project page on the Public Lands website was developed with project information, engagement opportunities, survey link, and project manager contact information. This information was also shared in a blog on Public Lands' website home page.
- Public Lands worked with the Mayor Liaisons to distribute the survey and project information to Downtown Alliance, Downtown Community Council, Fairpark, and Popular Grove.
- The survey was shared on Salt Lake City Public Lands social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. These posts were shared by the Salt Lake City main account.
- Staff posted yard signs and flyers with survey QR codes in local businesses, UTA stations, apartment complexes, and condos near the Gateway.
- Staff tabled information three weekends at the Downtown Farmer's Market and once at Discovery Gateway Children's Museum and Sorenson Community Center.
- Staff interviewed with KUTV about the project and engagement opportunities.

Findings

Key Demographics

Around 45% of survey respondents indicated they live more than two miles away from the Gateway Mall. Approximately 26% live within 0.5 miles. This indicates a broader, city-wide interest in the future of the space. This may be driven by many key amenities close to the park, including the Gateway Mall, Folsom Trail, Gateway Community Garden, and UTA Frontrunner Station. As a regional destination, respondents overall reported utilizing the Gateway most

frequently of these amenities. However, among respondents that live within 0.5 miles, all of four of these amenities indicated more frequent usage.

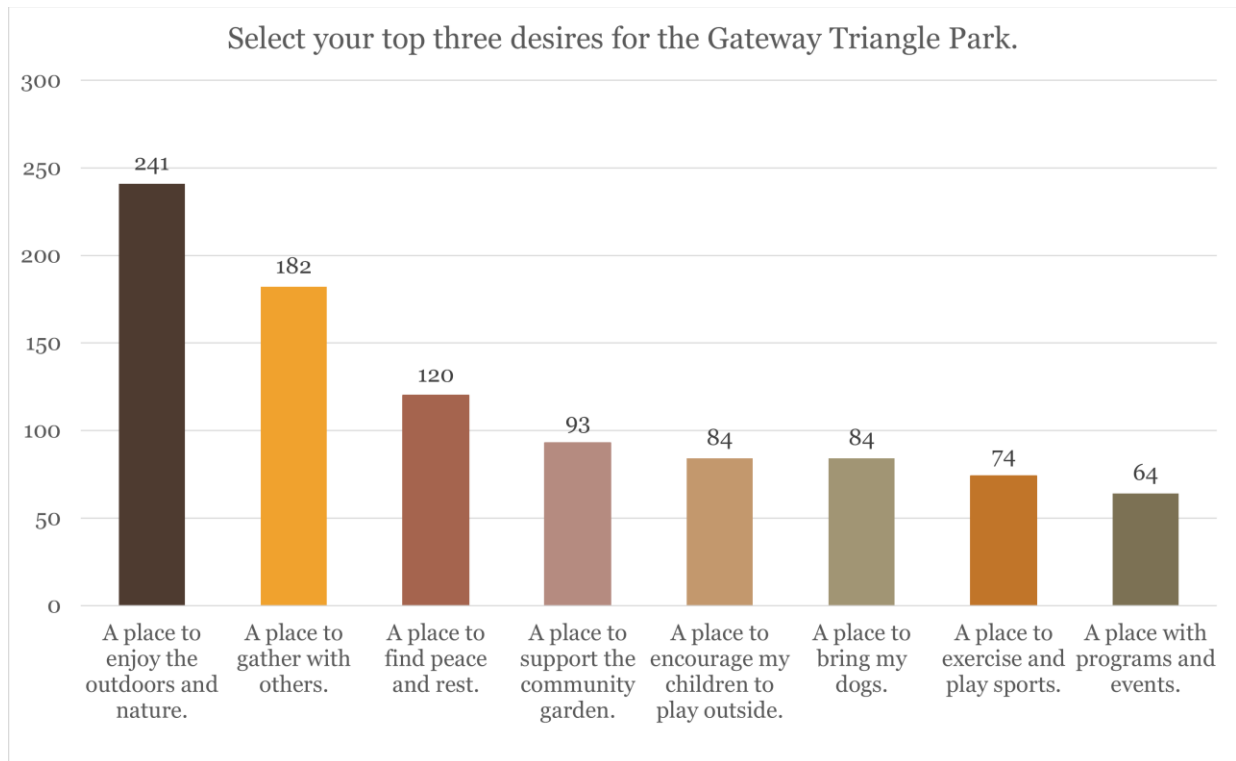
Zip codes reported most frequently were in the downtown and west side communities (84101, 84116, 84103, and 84104). Many participants had a household income greater than \$80,000. Nearly 75% of respondents were between the ages of 18 to 50. Most respondents reported living in either a single-family home (47%) or in a condo/apartment (39%). It is important to note that household income may be skewed by participants that live near the site as many of these apartments rent at market value.

Community Needs and Priorities

Survey results revealed that respondents most value a beautiful, peaceful park space where they can connect with nature and gather with others. They would like to see a unique space that is comfortable and welcoming but is also an attractive destination with amenities they enjoy. Respondents were asked about needs they felt the new park could address. Major themes from the responses were:

- There is a need for better sense of safety in this area. The concerns primarily stem from unsheltered residents currently utilizing the site as well as other perceived illegal activity. Uncleanliness and lack of lighting were specifically identified in this area.
- The city lacks a dedicated space for train enthusiasts to gather and watch trains as they pass. This is a significant amount of train history in the city, and this site is especially significant due to its proximity to the former Grant Tower site.
- The multifamily development in this area has led to increased open space needs the growing population. Dog owners currently use the large median to walk their dogs but would like a more dedicated space. Similarly, respondents requested areas for families and children to play. There is a desire for a place to gather.
- The Gateway Community Garden has an extensive waitlist for garden boxes. This is also driven by the rapidly growing population in this area. There is a strong demand for additional garden boxes at this site to support community gardening, healthy food access, and food security.
- Many respondents identified a need for more green space in the downtown area. They cited distance to other parks and would like a location that is easier to access.
- Shading is a growing concern among residents as summers become increasingly hotter. There is a lack of trees or other coverage on this site.
- Respondents indicated a strong desire for skate features as there are no other such amenities in the downtown area.
- Users of the Folsom trail and the North Temple Frontrunner Station do not have a place for rest and recovery as they travel. Other respondents also cited wanting a place to seek refuge from apartment living and the bustling atmosphere of the Gateway Mall.
- A unique place that stands out in downtown and differentiates it from other parks. This will help make this site a destination of its own.

Desired Amenities and Park Design



An “Other” option was provided, and 85 people contributed an additional response. A majority of these write-options were related to a train viewing amenity.

Barriers

Respondents were also asked what might prevent them from visiting this space. The top responses here were that the park is not maintained or that the space does not feel safe. These are related challenges that intersect with concerns over illegal activities in this space. An additional barrier is that the park does not have features they find enjoyable. This emphasizes the importance of community involvement as park design continues.

Next Steps

Feedback from this survey will inform the development of conceptual plans in early 2023. Once the conceptual designs for the park are developed, Public Lands will conduct another round of engagement to receive public input. In addition, Public Lands will work to integrate these engagement results with the visioning work currently taking place for the City Creek Daylighting project along the Folsom Trail. It is anticipated that construction on the Gateway Triangle Park site will begin in 2023.