

Fostering diversity
a study on racial diversity in swope park

by

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A REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning
College of Architecture, Planning and Design

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Abstract

Race tension has increased in America as contemporary issues occur. Riots and protests are becoming common once again. The research presented shows how park space can help foster diversity and in turn improve race relations in the Kansas City area. The study shows how communities in Kansas City became segregated based on historical laws, regulations, and common day practices that reinforced racial boundaries between communities. Many still feel racial tension stemming from historical events today. A focus on integration within communities can be the first step in creating harmony and healing people who have felt these negative impacts on their lives. A literature review, including historical documents from Kansas City and similarly structured racially divided cities, such as St. Louis, Missouri, Detroit, Michigan, and Chicago, Illinois, were analyzed. Research lead to focusing in on Swope Park and the surrounding community. Swope Park has a complex history of segregation and is located near Troost Avenue, which is one of the greatest racial divide lines in the United States. To the west of Troost Avenue the race is predominantly white while to the east is composed mostly of African Americans. On site observational surveys and short interviews with users of Swope Park were conducted to determine current use, users, and park qualities. Qualtrics Surveys were released to community organization to survey a larger group of people, some of whom might not currently use the park. The analyzed information gathered helped shape an innovative design suggestion and strategy to promote diversity and integration at Swope Park. This research can help shape a diverse future of racially integrated communities in the Kansas City area to promote economic stimuli, break down racial stigmas, and increase education, understanding, and celebration of diverse racial backgrounds.

Fostering Diversity:

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A report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree:

Master of Landscape Architecture

Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning

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All of you have made my future bright and I will forever be grateful!

Introduction

01

Dilemma

Over the last decade, racial tension in America has been on the rise. Between uncharted presidential elections and highly publicized trials; such as George Zimmerman, a White Hispanic, who shot and killed Trayvon Martin an African American, race issues are being televised like never before. (Rounds 2014). These events, along with others, are thought to have helped fuel this rise in racial tension in American communities today. The following research is heavily based upon Critical Race Theory, which acknowledges, “Racism is engrained in the fabric and system of the American society.” Racism is not necessarily about an individual racist but more about the “institutional racism (that) is pervasive in the dominant culture.” (UCLA 2009)

Research

The research focuses on how people have been historically excluded from public space based on race and how design can help reshape social construct to break down the racial barriers that divide our communities. Racial groups tend to use outdoor space differently due to perception passed down through generations (Finnly 2014). Saxton-Ross, recounts how her grandmother would take her to the only area African Americans could visit when the park was still segregated, years after segregation had ended. Watermelon Hill, was the only place she felt safe (Lemming 2016). The research focuses on Kansas City, Missouri, which, according to many professionals, is one of the country’s most segregated cities (Vaidyanathan 2016). Preliminary literature research has been separated into sections that cover past and present day relationships between Kansas City’s Caucasian and African American Communities. The driving goal of research is to understand the past to respond to the present in order to create a better future.

Research begins with an investigation into the history of segregation in American. The information then leads into specific issues Kansas City, Missouri has faced. The research has an emphasis around the racial divide line of Troost Avenue and Swope Park.

Historical documents and maps were examined to garner a better understanding of segregation practices at the local policy level. The second part of the literature review, explores potential design strategies that emphasize the importance of feeling safe and secure, balance between familiar and unknown, and inclusion of both programmed and open space. Lastly, successfully diverse communities and reclaimed past crime-ridden parks are referenced to further understand how to best design a space that fosters diversity. The strategies focus on community, education, improved aesthetics and amenities. This helps to better determine what can be done to heal past issues in the Kansas City community and promote diversity in the future.

*Understand the Past ...
to Respond to the Present ...
to Build a Better Future*

Figure 1.1 Past to Future



Figure 1.2 Protest March on Racial Segregation

Problem

The problem I wish to address is how can racism and other race related issues be reduced through strategic design of park space that promotes diversity. Race issues have always been prevalent in American. From the beginning, America was built on slavery, prejudice, structural inequalities and segregation of minority races. Eventually, laws were overturned and racism became illegal, but the wounds it left behind have not been healed in many communities, such as Kansas City. Public space allows for casual interactions between all races to help break down barriers that separate us due to race.

Research Question

How can parks, such as Swope Park, be a bridge where people from diverse racial backgrounds can be encouraged to form an understanding and appreciation for one another?

Secondary Questions

How can differences and similarities be celebrated to help communities heal from past and present day race related issues?

Historically, what has shaped racial segregation in the Kansas City area and how can improved park design help heal segregated communities?

Literature

02



Figure 2.1 Brown vs. Board of Education Win

Introduction

Public space, such as parks, can be a bridge where people of diverse racial backgrounds can form an understanding and appreciation for one another. Differences and similarities can be celebrated in these spaces to help communities heal from past and present day race related issues. To help inform the reader over subject matter, preliminary literature research has been developed and is presented below in three parts. First, an overview of the history of segregation in America and the specific issues Kansas City has faced. The second part investigates strategies that can be done to heal past issues and move forward as a city through use of park space. Lastly, examples from other cities that have implemented design strategies to bring separated communities together show possibilities for the future of Kansas City, Missouri.

American History with Race

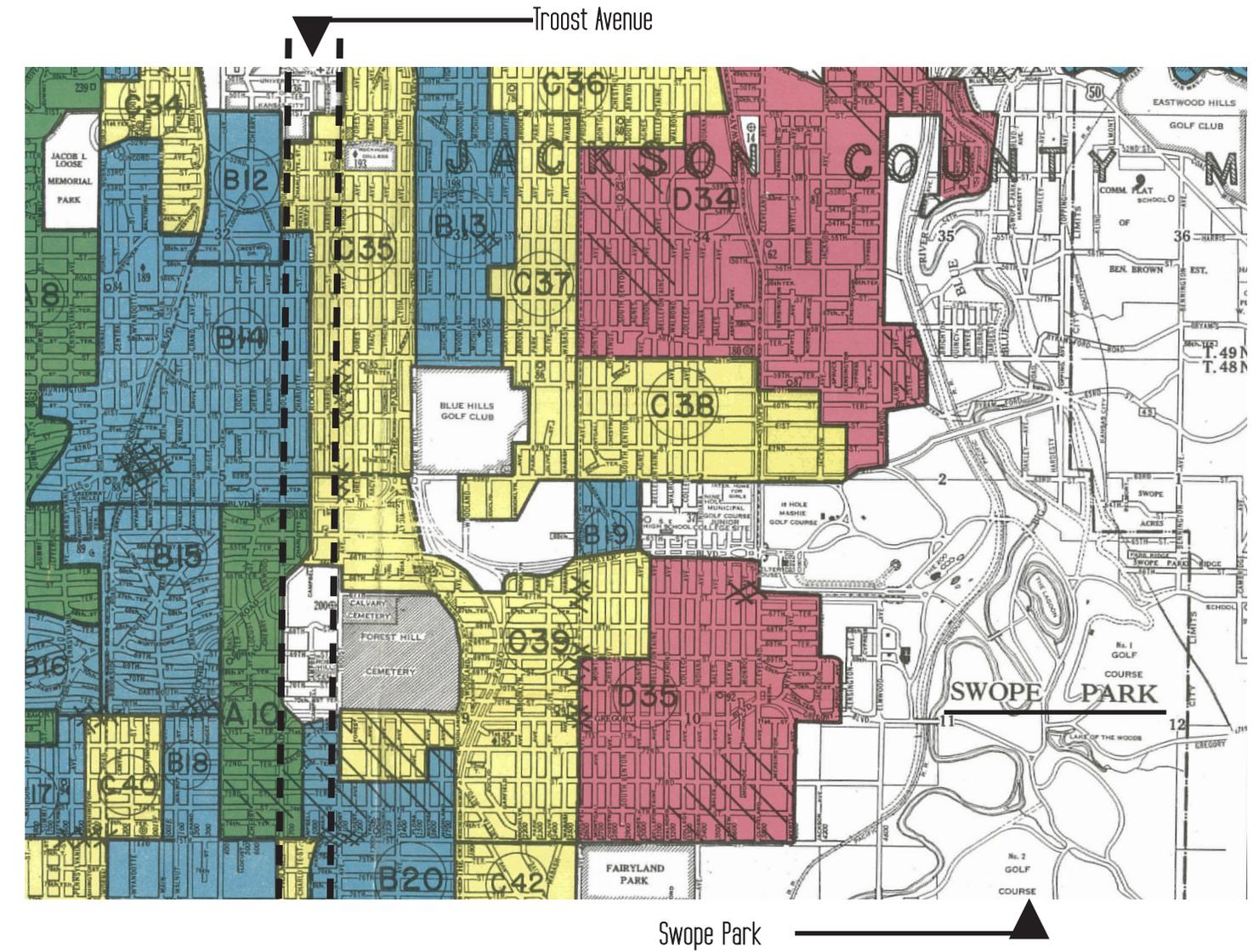
The United States has a complex history of race and culture. Slavery was a customary practice in the beginning of America and continued for several years (Gordon 2008). Slaves were commonly used for crop production, which helped build the economic foundation of the nation. However, many Americans still fail to acknowledge the extent of the horror that continued for people of non-white races and cultures even after the “end” of slavery in 1865 (Locke 1998; Schein 2006; Hartman and Squires 2010). After slavery, came the policy of “separate but equal”. Opportunities were not equal between the segregated communities. White communities continued to receive the majority of benefits and resources including parks. Parks were placed on the outskirts of cities, limiting use to the wealthy white population that could afford to travel long distances. Laws and practices were implemented that negatively affected minorities. Jim Crow laws enforced the separation of black and whites in public places, schools, and the workplace from 1877-1960’s. Next came the National Housing Act that lead to the practice of legally-sanctioned redlining in 1934 and the rise of Restrictive Deed Covenants in Kansas City starting in 1948. Home Owner Loan Corp (HOLC) Maps, as seen in Figure 2.1, helped loan providers, housing developers, and insurance providers track white and black neighborhoods.

J. C. Nichols was a prominent developer of the Kansas City community. He was a big supporter of segregation. Although, J. C. Nichols was not the first to implement restrictive covenants, he had a major impact on their use in the Kansas City area (O’Higgins n.d.). These are just a few of the historical legal practices that shaped where people in the United States could live (Gordon 2008; The State Historical Society of Missouri 2016; Hartman and Squires 2010).

Legend

- A - First Grade (Best)
- B - Second Grade (Still Desirable)
- C - Third Grade (Definitely Declining)
- D - Fourth Grade (Hazards)
- Sparsely Built Up
- Industrial
- Commercial
- Undeveloped or Farmland

Figure 2.2 KCMO Redlining



Kansas City's History and Race

Kansas City is in a unique location because it is placed along a national cultural divide where the historical attitudes about slavery and race issues between the southern and northern states meet. To summarize, the typical Southerner viewed whites as superior and everyone else (people of color) was viewed as inferior and thus should be separated. It was widely believed, especially in the south, that white and black should not mix (Hartman and Squires 2010). Separation laws caused by this mentality lead to an increase of racism and unfair treatment of blacks. Minority groups were forced to live in deteriorating communities with limited access to jobs and few of the privileges that white communities offered, such as modern day conveniences, adequate schooling, and park space (Hartman and Squires 2010, Gordon 2008). Over time, many of these laws have been overturned, but the effects still remain.

In Kansas City, along Troost to the west was historically known as "Millionaire's Row" (O'Higgins n.d.). As the economy boomed, moderately priced homes were built to the east. Then in 1890 with a national economic crash, these homes were sold at extremely low prices that were enticing to low and middle class families of minority races. Due to segregation laws and racist beliefs at the time, as soon as a non-white person moved into a neighborhood it would be completely transitioned

to a minority filled community. Primarily white, upper class neighborhoods still surround this area of Kansas City, making it harder for minorities to assimilate into the surrounding communities (Gordon 2008). The way a neighborhood functions is directly correlated with its location and surroundings (Squires and Kubrin 2015).

"Place and race continue to be defining characteristics of the opportunity structure of metropolitan areas. Disentangling the impact of these two forces is difficult, if not impossible. But where one lives and one's racial background are both social constructs that significantly shape the privileges (or lack thereof) that people enjoy" (Squires and Kubrin 2015, 1).

What can be done through design to help break down the walls that history has built between diverse cultures and races?

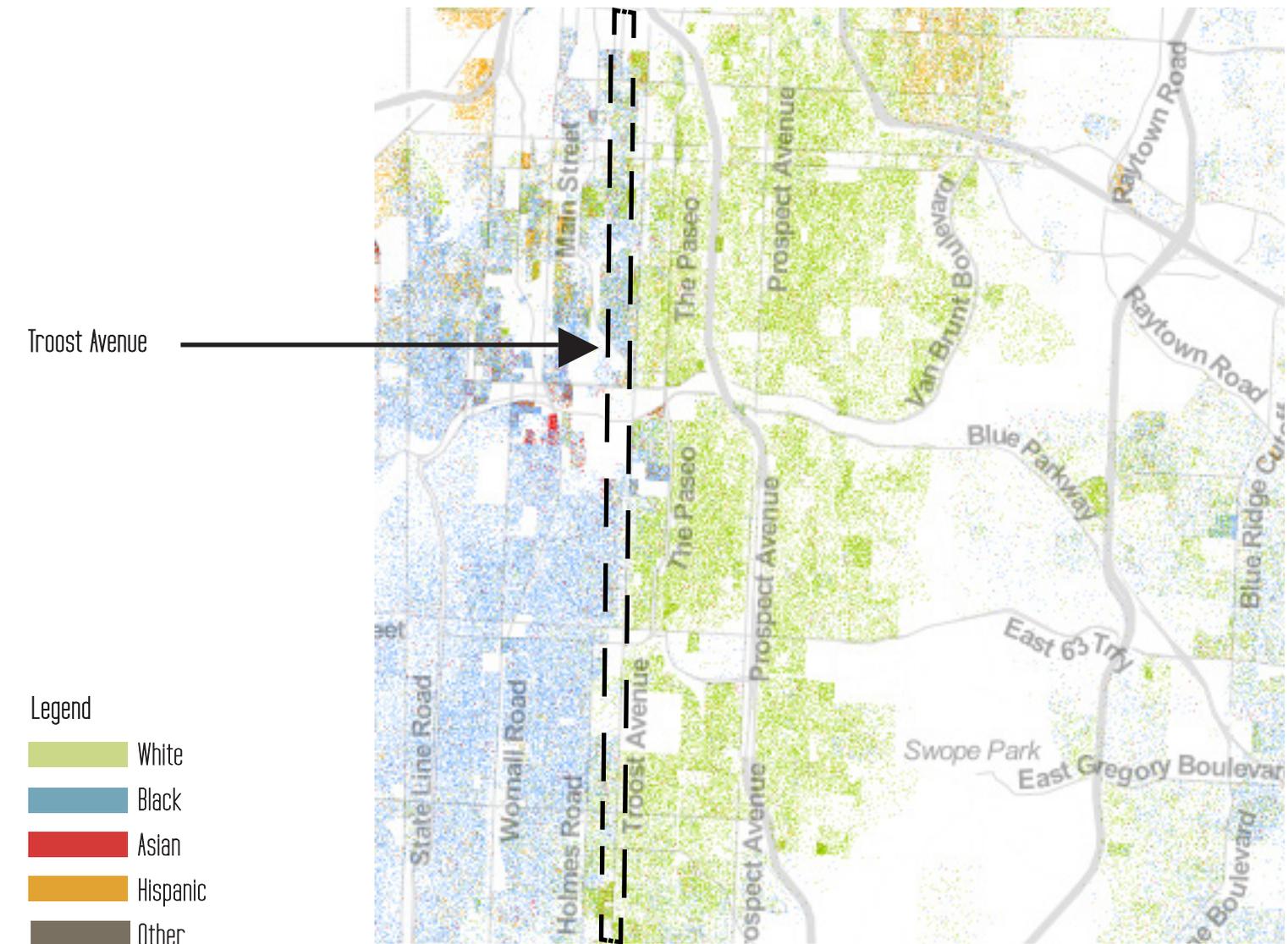


Figure 2.3 Troost Racial Divide

Potential Design Strategies

Historically parks were viewed very differently between white and black populations. White upper-class populations, where the first to have access to open park space. Pastoral landscapes, initially designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, became popular on the edges of towns. High-class families were the only patrons who could afford to travel distances to parks. As time went on, park space moved into neighborhoods and communities but was still primarily an amenity only to white families (Cranz 2009). Segregation practices kept African Americans off these naturally landscaped properties or to restricted, usually undesirable, areas. In the case of Swope Park, through the 1950's and 60's Watermelon Hill at Shelter Number 5 was the only place accessible to people of color (Ferruzza 2013). These strict boundaries still affect African American communities. People of minority races report feeling unsafe and less accepted in parks than white users of the space (Kweon et. Al 2016). How can these fears be mitigated?

“Place diversity – the phenomenon of socioeconomically diverse peoples sharing the same neighborhood, where diversity is defined by a mix of income levels, races, ethnicities, ages, and family types. “ (Talen 2008)

The ability to take a public space and make it a destination that many people can enjoy is a challenge. To try to address deep-rooted issues in the community only heightens it (Franck and Stevens 2007). As Kihato et al. (2010) notes, downtown urban space provides the perfect location for interactions with people who are different than one's self due to the diversity of racial populations. The key to harmony and positive interaction between people is respect and understanding.

“In a well-designed and well-managed public space, the armor of daily life can be partially removed, allowing us to see others as whole people. Seeing people different from one's self responding to the same setting in similar ways creates a temporary bond” (Kihato et al. 2010, 23).

Every place has a distinct history that needs to be considered when designing a place to bring people together. However, there are some basic design strategies that have proven to be successful. Foremost, people must feel safe and comfortable (Franck and Stevens 2007; Giesecking et al. 2014; Knapp 2015; Talen 2008). This can be accomplished by degrees of enclosure, eliminating blind spots, and simply having basic comforts like resting places and facilities. Emily Talen (2008), brings to light the

paradox of diversity, “a source of innovation and creativity, and, a source of tension and conflict.” Especially with the escalation of recent race tension in the United State, people tend to stick to the familiar because they feel the most safe. When one gets too comfortable, creativity and imagination can lack. Public places must have a balance between familiarity and the unknown (Franck and Stevens 2007; Knapp 2015). Familiarity with a place aids in comfort, while unknown places can spark people's curiosity. The unknown can be represented through symbols, artworks, or strategic design strategies. The unknown to one person is the familiar to another. This relationship forms a platform to gain knowledge and understanding from those around you through casual interaction. Programing of a space is another factor in the success of a particular place (Franck and Stevens 2007; Giesecking et al. 2014; Knapp 2015; Low 2005). Volunteer activities, cultural festivals, and education are a few common programing elements successful places have implemented. Many other factors play a role in the success of a project. The three basic strategies of feeling safe and comfortable in a space, balance of familiarity and the unknown, and programing of the public space are most commonly used for bringing communities together. See Figure 2. 4.

Diverse Public Spaces

Various cities around the world have created successfully diverse and integrated places. The following are a few cities that show the process of successful integration between diverse groups in many forms. Researching these cities and places within them helps show different ways to approach successful integration based on the existing community structure. These lessons can be used to help recognize and shape future public parks that promote diversity within them and their surrounding communities. The three main themes that arose were cultural celebration, passive and active space, and educational space. See figure 2.5

Marseille, France

Marseille is home to extremely diverse groups of people due to elevated levels of immigration. Cultural celebrations are open and encouraged to the whole community, which allows for diverse groups to educate the public on their ethnic and cultural heritage (Purivs 2007). It is currently illegal for any city official to record citizen's race, religion, or ethnicity (Purivs 2007). This shifts the focus on structural assimilation versus cultural assimilation in Marseille, France, therefore allowing people to openly celebrate what makes them unique (Floyed 1999). Being a port city, it is easily accessible and inviting to an assortment of people looking for new opportunities or places to live (Turner 2015). Cultures, race, and class all vary throughout the city, but there is rarely any unrest due to race or cultural differences. A primary reason for this is that people's differences are celebrated through festivals, education, and other events in public spaces, including parks (Turner 2015). Public space serves as a common ground to show what is unique about cultural or racial groups. Thus, allowing others to learn about differences between people, which sparks curiosity instead of ignorance and prejudice.

Central Park - New York, New York

Central Park was built as a rural oasis within the harsh environment of city living. The park was meant to be a refuge for the wealthy as well as working class people. It was built with plenty of space to allow diverse groups their own privacy while also providing large open areas that presented opportunities for mingling (Franck and Stevens 2007). Care in keeping the park safe and beautiful makes this place enjoyable for all people even today. Central Park was designed with basic principles that include plenty of familiar and unfamiliar settings. Sparking imagination to explore and room for creativity to flourish. The vastness of open green space that allows for many different activities is a key component of the parks success. Nature filled parks can help people escape from the surrounding city, allowing for existing problems to be temporarily forgotten. This creates a happy environment where human interactions can be more inviting (Talen 2008 and Floyd 1999). Research and recent surveys have shown that the park continues to cater to multiple economic classes as it was originally intended to (Rodriguez n.d.).

Amelia Island, Florida

Amelia Island is host to a diverse population off the northeast coast of Florida. America Beach, on Amelia Island, was one of the first established beach resorts for African Americans while segregation laws were still in place. Ironically, the island was once a major part of the slave trade (Clark 1996). Today, the area is deemed a national historic site. Amelia Island has kept its history alive by honoring it through historic tours and festivals that celebrate and teach about the past (Low et al. 2005). Elaborate murals are painted along the alleys to help tell the stories and preserve the culture of Amelia Island. Instead of the community trying to hide the history, they bring it to life. Specific events are held to honor historical significant happenings on the island. The site brings people together from all diverse backgrounds to experiences a glimpse of history. Instead of covering up why the beach was created, the history is used as a form of education and entertainment that children and adults can all enjoy and learn from (Low et al. 2005). Kansas City, as previously discussed, has a culturally diverse background. Much if this history is tainted with laws and regulations that are now viewed with disgrace. However, Swope Park host some significant ground breaking positive racial changes for the United States. Swope Park is home to one of the first desegregated boys camp and a desegregated community pool before the law required it. (LNC 2017) Spots such as this provide a perfect opportunity for education within a park.

Design Components from Literature

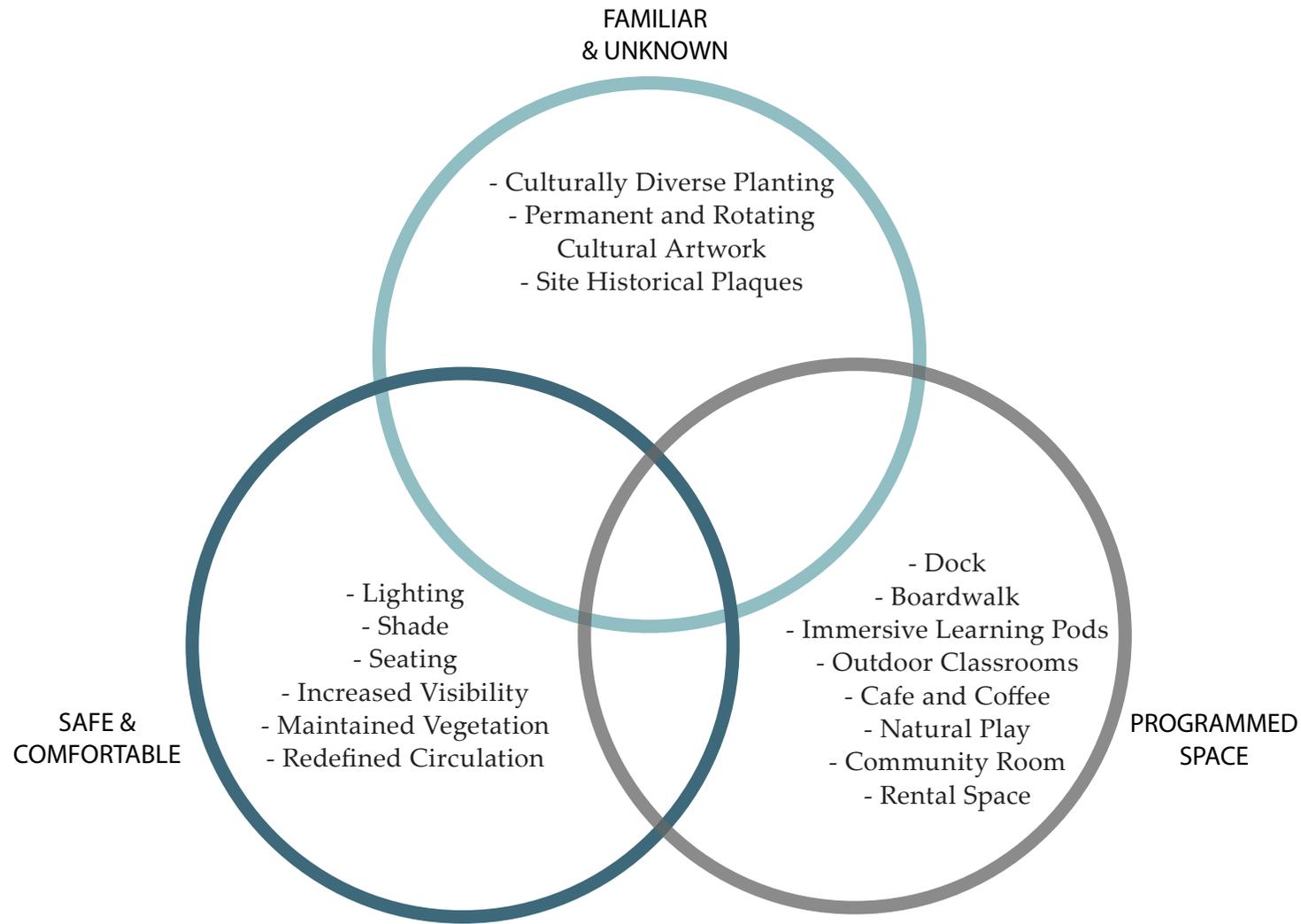


Figure 2.4 Literature Design Components

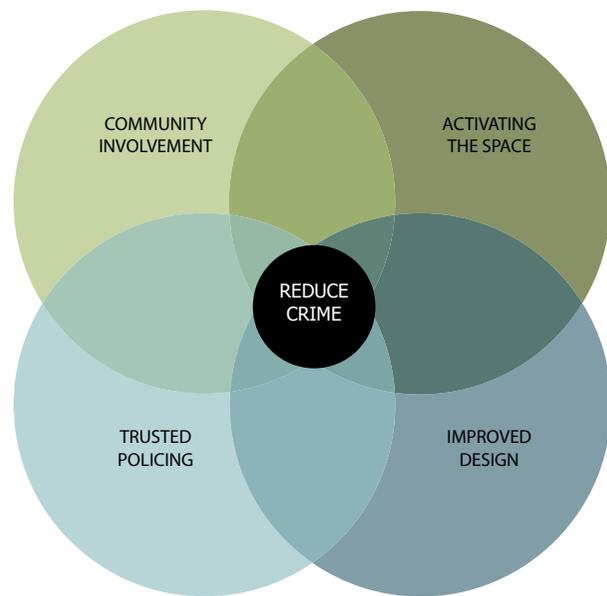
Design Components from Precedents



Figure 2.5 Precedent Design Components

Reclaimed Crime Ridden Parks

Within the middle of Swope Park, there is a site called Lake of the Woods. This site currently holds many negative connotations to park-goers. To improve the park as a whole, it is important to improve the most unfavorable areas first, such as this site. Bryant Park, MacArthur Park, and Acacia Park are three parks that used to be filled with crime. They have since been reclaimed and now are key community spaces.



Bryant Park

Location: New York, New York

Size: 9.6 acres

Crime Reduction: 33% (Fowler 1982)

Key Changes: Bryant Park was once dominated by gang activity and its associated crime. The community avoided the park and those that could not rush by it as quickly as possible. One of the main problems identified was poor visibility, which supported illegal activity. Many public and private organizations banded together to form the current Bryant Park Corporation (City Parks Alliance 2017). The Corporation implemented increased lighting, vegetative maintenance of overgrown areas, minor updates on pavement and current structures, free parking, and temporary amenities (City Parks Alliance 2017). The minor improvements proved to be a hit sparking a complete park redesign that brought permanent amenities, restoration of the great lawn, and other major improvements. The space has even helped improve the economy. Housing and business located directly across from the park have drastically increased in price (City Parks Alliance 2017). The Park is now a favorite of the community and a draw for tourist. (Fowler 1982)

MacArthur Park

Location: Los Angeles, California

Size: 32 acres

Crime Reduction: 24% (Hilborn 2009)

Key Changes: Once a site filled with gang violence and homicides, MacArthur Park has been restored to its former glory. A large contributing factor was the combined efforts of community policing, LAPD, and the FBI. Relationships that lead to trust were formed to combat the horrors of the park (Hilborn 2009, Del Barco 2008). Once crime was under control, redesign of the park was needed to keep gangs and the associated violence out of surrounding community. An education and design campaign shaped design improvements, maintenance updates, and new policy, which improved community awareness of the parks future. Many of the surrounding businesses say the true success of the park is shown by how many families have returned to the space (Hilborn 2009).

Acacia Park

Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Size: 3.5 acres

Crime Reduction: 55% in the park and 14% in surrounding community (Hilborn 2009)

Key Changes: Acacia Park is located in the downtown area of Colorado Springs near social service locations and directly across from a high school. It was determined that these two factors combined with deterioration of the park structures lead to high crime rates. (Downtown Partnership 2007) Drug dealers knew this location gave them access to prey on young kids and vulnerable homeless teens and adults. At first, traditional policing was used to deter criminal activity but that was found to only make a temporary impact. The community, local businesses, and law enforcement devised plans to create a police service center on the site, improve transit (site specific and downtown), update structures, and focus on activating the public space (Hilborn 2009). Local businesses and communities started hosting events that brought families back to the area. As park users increased, the police service station kept a positive appearance in the community and crime became less prevalent.

Figure 2.6 Reclaiming Crime Ridden Places

Summary

As previously stated, three factors were identified through literature review as basic design strategies: people must feel safe and comfortable, public places require a balance between familiarity and the unknown, and programming of the public space is essential. When combined with themes that emerge through precedent studies of diverse communities: culturally significant celebrations, plenty of space to allow for passive and active areas, and educational opportunities, Swope Park has the possibility to foster diversity. Diversity helps strengthen communities and promote innovation, which is beneficial to all people. (American Progress and Policy Link 2015) In order to achieve diversity or any usage at all within Swope Park at the Lake of the Woods, the park must address another issue, crime. The three parks above demonstrate how involving the community, policing, activating the space, and improving the design can reclaim crime ridden spaces.

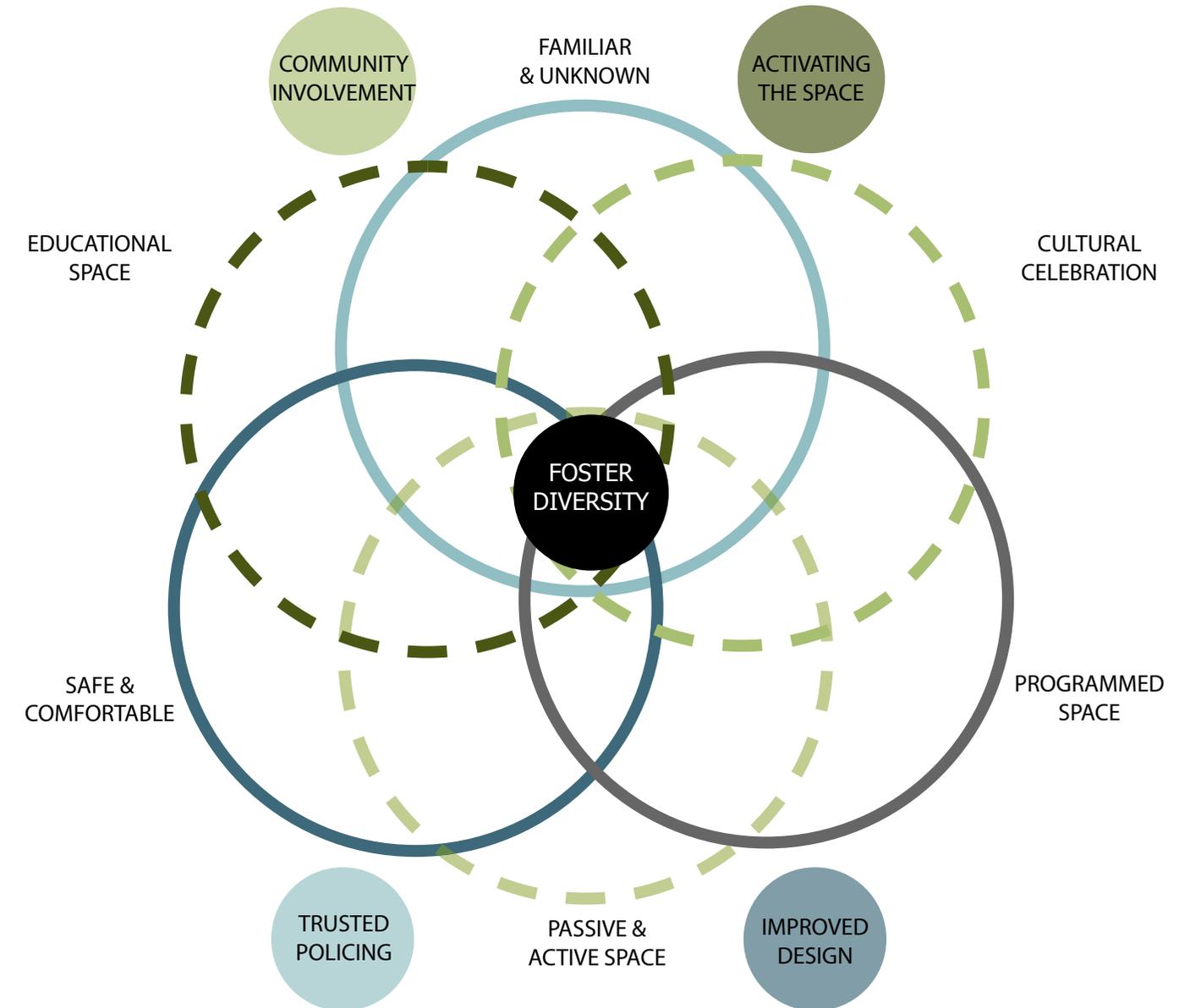


Figure 2.7 Key Diversity Components

Methodology

03

Research Question

How can parks, such as Swope Park, be a bridge where people from diverse racial backgrounds can be encouraged to form an understanding and appreciation for one another?

Site

The focus site, Swope Park, is 1,805 acres in total (KC Parks 2016). Data collection focuses on park users and non-users of the public spaces. To best answer the research question, several types of data collection were conducted. Data collection was performed at different scales moving from a broad city and neighborhood scale to site specific (Figure 3.1). Kansas City was chosen as a focus area based on its historically segregated past and access to history of the park space. Kansas City has also shown trending signs of diversity, which makes a stronger case for promoting diversity in the chosen area.



Figure 3.1 Project Scales

Methodology Phases

Every community has unique racial tension based upon historical context and present day dilemmas. To best design a space specific to Kansas City, Missouri needs, it was important to first understand the historical context and then understand the current community.

Historical literature and documents were analyzed to better understand how the community was shaped and the racial barriers that first developed. Then surveys were conducted online and in Swope Park. The surveys were generated from questions that would allow for a better understanding about current usage of the park by race and also what has contributed to the lower numbers of interracial interactions in public spaces such as parks. The questions were formed from the *Report on the Public Use of Central Park* and from Emily Talen in *Design for Diversity*.

Historical Analysis – City Scale, Kansas City

Historical analysis of Kansas City is important to help understand how deep rooted segregation is in this area. Historical data was read and analyzed to help build a better understanding of the complex history. Historical policy, housing practices, and maps were studied to see how and why the Troost Divide was shaped.

Literature forms that were analyzed consist of city documents, newspaper articles, copies of speeches, and books. By investigating these different forms of literature, differing opinions arose on the shaping of segregated housing in Kansas City.

Planning measures, schools' boundaries, restrictive deed covenants, and redrawing of neighborhood boundaries time and time again largely enforced segregation (Gotham 2014). To fully understand and begin to visualize theoretical boundaries and actual boundaries, historical maps were analyzed. Maps such as Homeowners Loan Corporation (HOLC) of Kansas City, Missouri proved to be extremely insightful.

Data that was analyzed helped shape survey and short interview questions, and will continue to help shape design and programing proposals for Swope Park once more data is collected.

Qualtrics Survey – Neighborhood Scale

Data from surveys was collected through Qualtrics. A link was sent out to the Executive Director of Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE²). The director forwarded the email to the organization's database contacts. This survey gathered demographic information about potential users and non-users, diversity in responder's daily life, and their uses for park space. See Appendix A for specific questions.

Observational Surveys, Short interviews, and Initial Site Observation – Site Scale, Swope Park

Two groupings of on-site visits were conducted: once in late fall and again in early spring. The visits consisted of six hours on a weekday and six hours on a weekend day. Combined there were twenty-four hours of observational survey data. Three observation spots; Kansas City Community Gardens, Lake Side Nature Center and Educational Trail, and Oakwood Trail Head of Swope Urban Trails were chosen based on initial site observation and human traffic flow. The observer spent two hours at each site per day. Observational Surveys aimed to gather perceived data on park users to gage racial diversity in the park. See Observational Survey data collection sheets in Appendix B . Short Interviews were collected in conjunction with observational surveys. The Sort Interviews aimed to gather information on current uses of the park and the correlation between uses and race. Two interviews were conducted per observation hour. See Short Interview Questions in Appendix C.

Data Collection Design Drivers

The outcome of the methods showed the current uses of the park, positives and negatives about the park, potential hesitations for use of the park, peoples' understanding of social diversity, and its benefits to communities. This has helped determine the possibility and potential of fostering diversity in the area and how best to go about doing that. Major outcomes from data collection lead to the chosen site to be redesigned. The end analysis will consist of graphics showing uses of the park compared to percentages of users based on race, site design strategies, programing strategies, and ways to mitigate perceived fear of parks. Table 3.4 starts to show the differences and similarities in park importance based on one's race. The over all trend showed that Black/ African American responders used park space most unlike other non- white and white races. However, Kansas City racial groups do have more in common relating to park usage than compared to national numbers.

Mode of Transportation to Park	
Type of Transportation	% of Interviewees
Car	100%
Other	0%

Table 3.1 Park Transportation

Spaces That are Maintained Better Than Others	
Areas	% of Interviewees
Private Areas (Admission Costs)	65%
Public Areas (Free Spaces)	0%
Main Entrance	25%
None	10%

Table 3.2 Park Maintenance

# of Different Amenities used on a Park Visit	
# of Amenities Used	% of Interviewees
One Only	85%
Two or More	15%

Table 3.3 Amenity User Trends

Legend

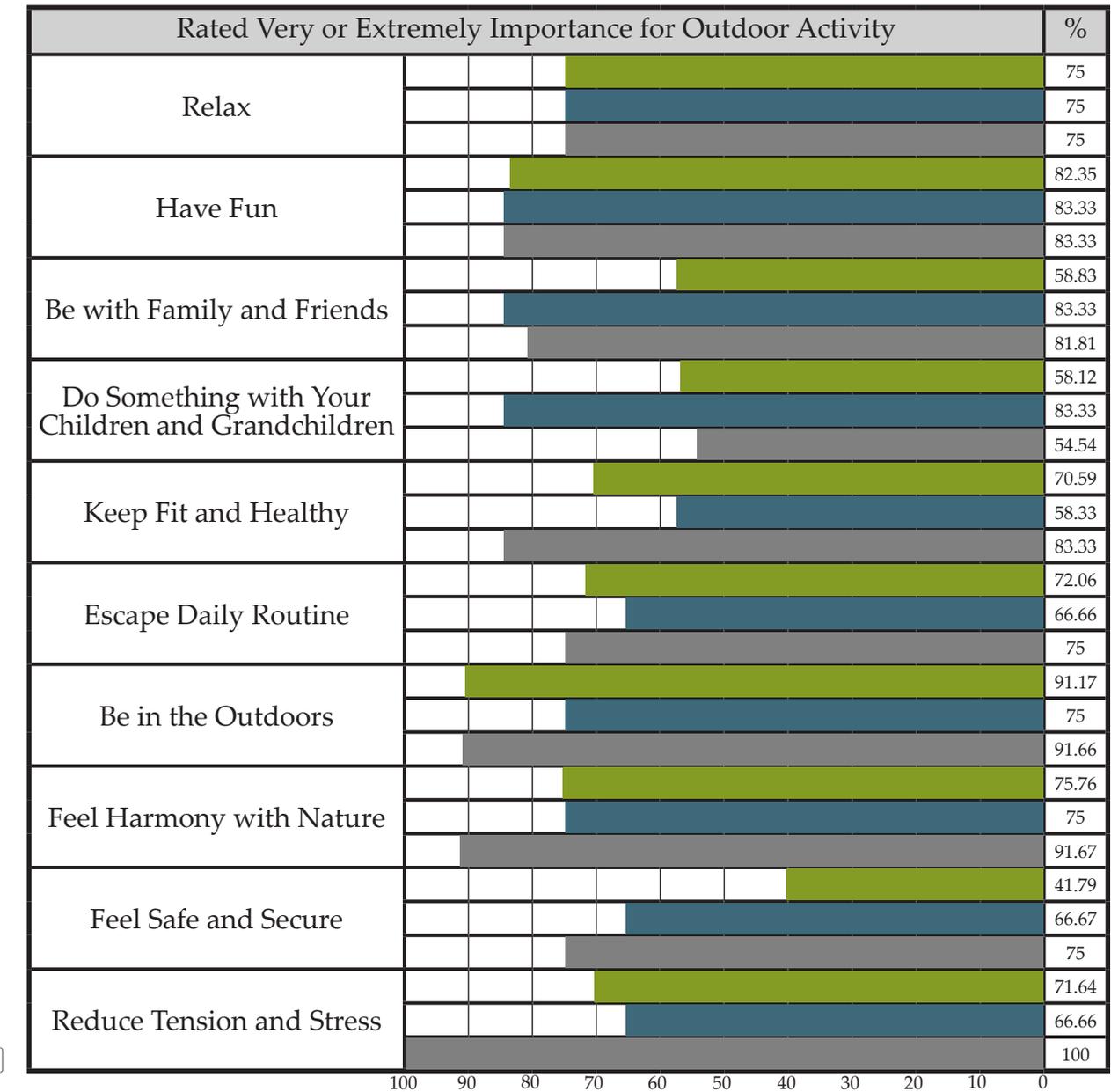
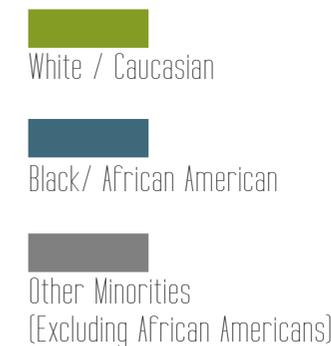


Table 3.4 Outdoor Activity Importance

Design 04

Design Introduction

The outcome of the methods showed current uses of the park, positives and negatives about the park, potential hesitations for use of the park, peoples understanding of social diversity and its benefits to communities. This has helped determine the possibility and potential of fostering diversity in the area and how best to go about doing that. Major outcomes from data collection lead to the chosen specific site to be redesigned. The end analysis will consist of graphics showing uses of the park compared to percentages of users based on race, site design strategies, programing strategies, and ways to mitigate perceived fear of parks.

The design is driven by the need to improve race relations in communities like Kansas City. The goal is to take a area that has negative connotations and racial issues and redesign it to create an inclusive space. The space serves to foster interracial interactions by casual encounters. When people see others engaging in similar activities it starts to break down perceived fear, people become more human to each other. When empathy towards others is formed, many negative racial stigmas can be disproved.

Initial Site Observations

The outcome of the methods allowed for an indepth analysis of current uses of the park, positives and negatives about the park, potential hesitations for use of the park, peoples understanding of social diversity and its benefits to communities. This has helped determine the possibility and potential of fostering diversity in the area and how best to go about doing that. Major outcomes from data collection lead to the chosen specific site to be redesigned. The end analysis will consist of graphics showing uses of the park compared to percentages of users based on race, site design strategies, programing strategies, and ways to mitigate perceived fear of parks.

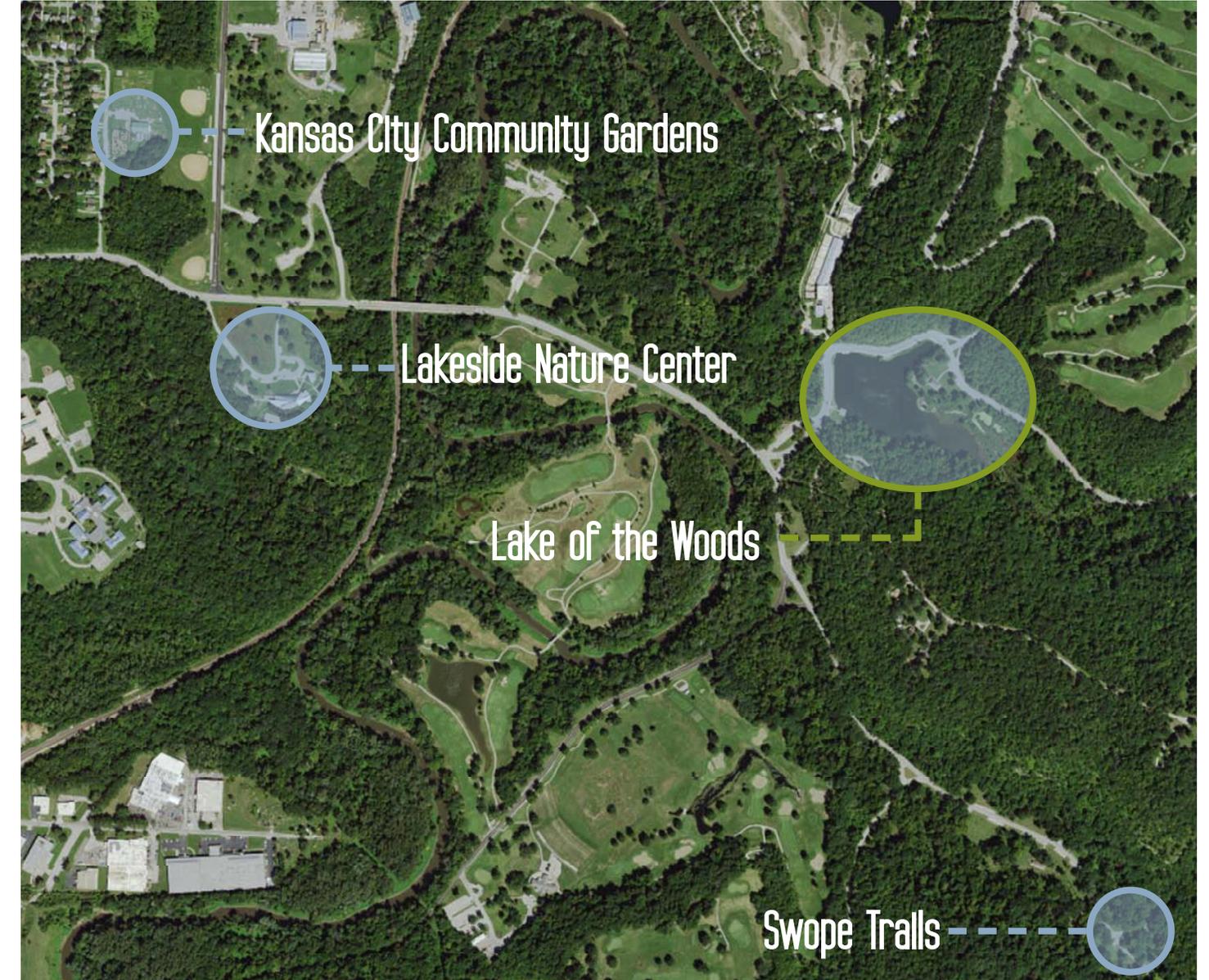


Figure 4.1 Data Collection Locations

Racial Composition of Survey Responders

Due to the nature of the project, it was extremely important for the data to adequately represent the current racial breakdown. Compared to Kansas City, Missouri's racial breakdown, the observational surveys, short interviews, and online surveys collected from a diverse pool that was relatively close to the city's percentages.

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White or Caucasian
- Biracial or Multiracial
- Other

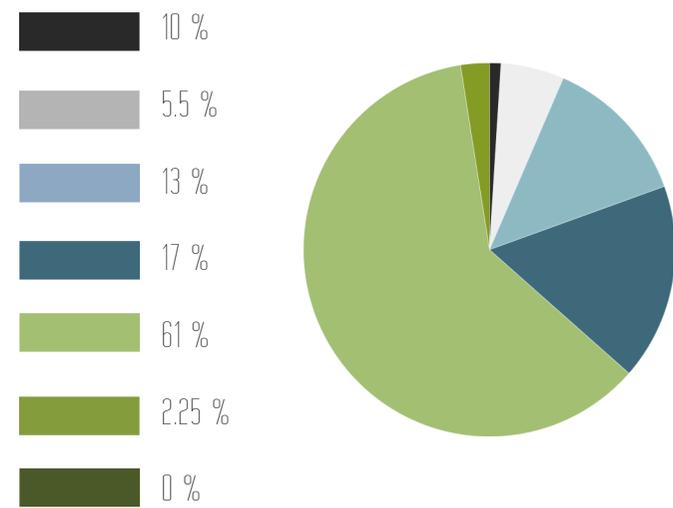


Figure 4.2 National Race Breakdown

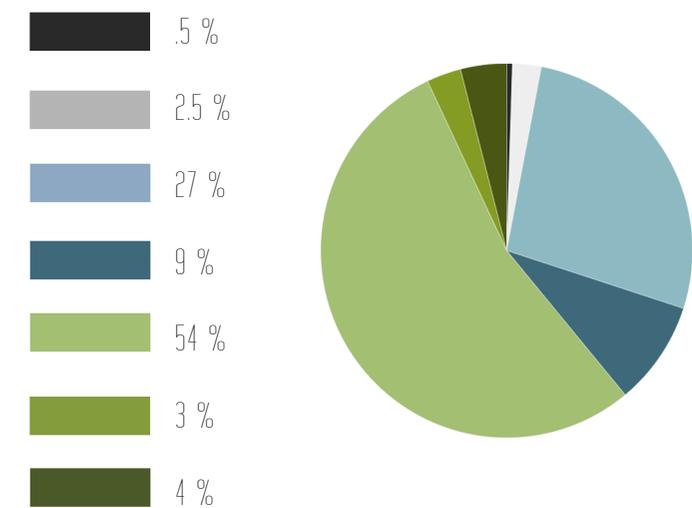


Figure 4.3 KCMO Race Breakdown

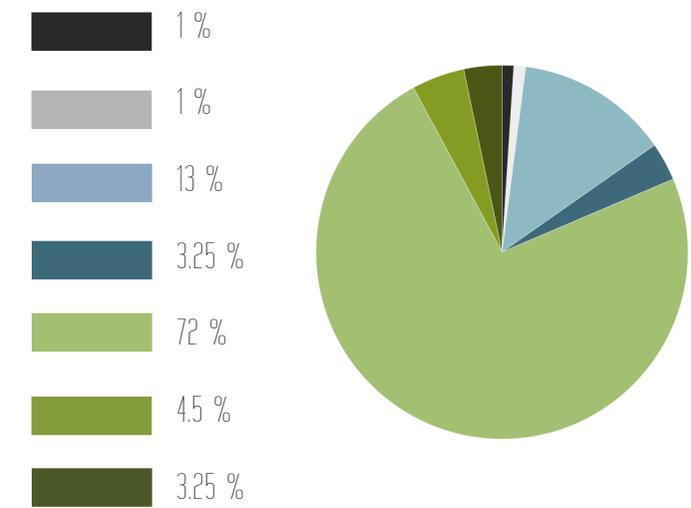


Figure 4.4 Online Survey Race Breakdown

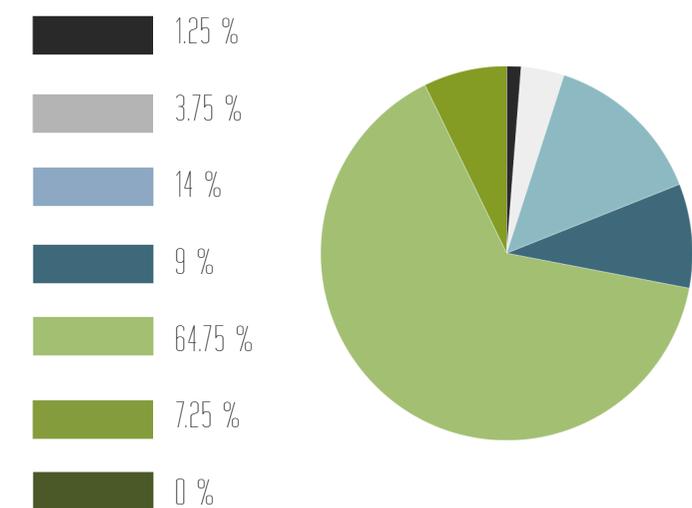


Figure 4.5 Observation Race Breakdown

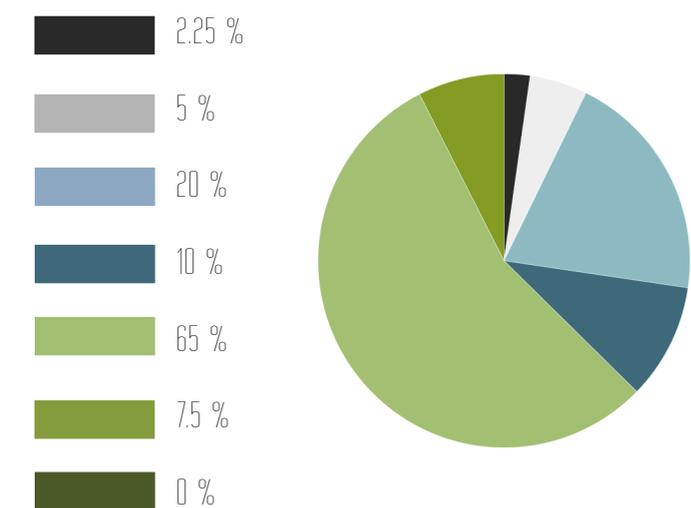


Figure 4.6 Short Interviews Race Breakdown

Site Suitability Analysis

Observations of the site showed a space that was littered with alcohol bottles, drug debris, and other trash. The amenities on site consisted of an outdated deteriorating shelter, picnic tables, and seating. There were two charcoal grills, trash cans, a spillway doubling as a fishing dock, an open field, and many large shade trees. At least a third of the site is inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation. Erosion is a major problem along the edges of the lake and the rest of the site due to runoff and flooding. Currently, the area is only comfortably accessible by vehicle as there are no sidewalks connecting other parts of the park to the lake. There is one sidewalk from the shelter to the dock area that is directly next to the busy roadway, making it an undesirable and seemingly unsafe walk.

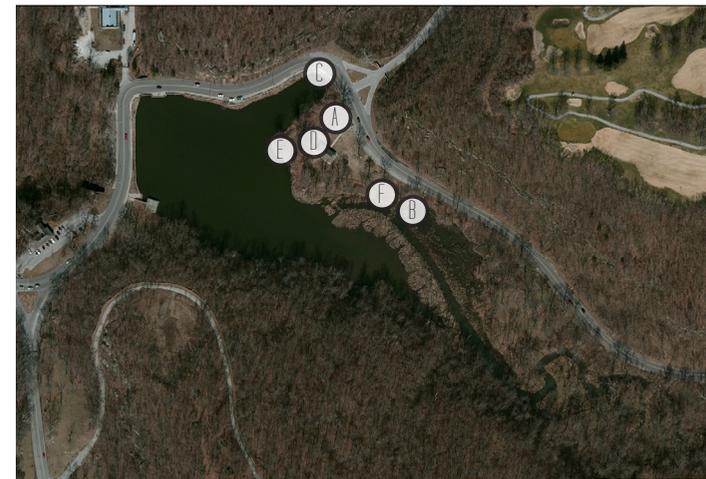


Figure 4.7 Site Aerial Image



Figure 4.8 Street to Shelter



Figure 4.9 Wetlands



Figure 4.10 Uncomfortable Sidewalk



Figure 4.12 Extreme Erosion

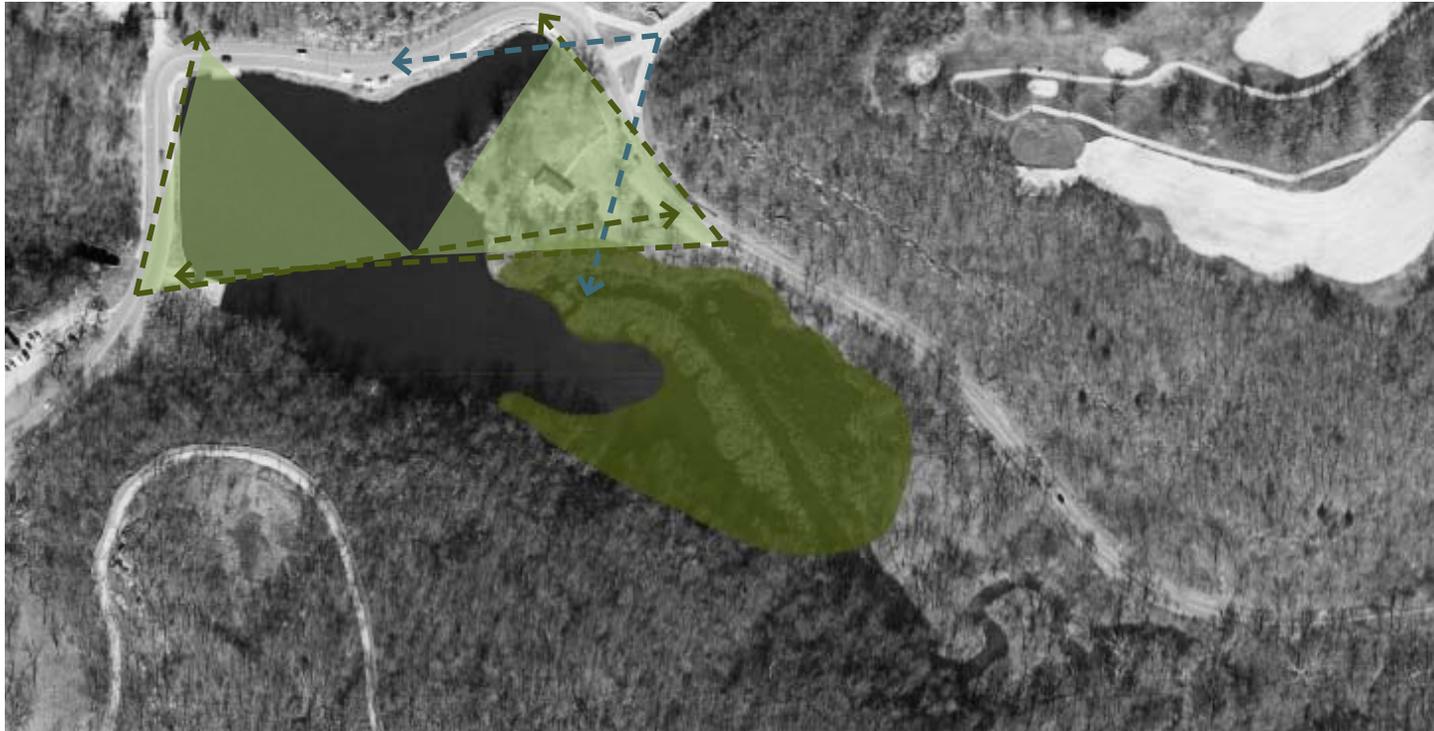


Figure 4.11 Troubled Vegetation Growth and Erosion



Figure 4.13 Drug and Alcohol Paraphernalia

Site Development Diagrams



Legend

-  Primary Views
-  Secondary Views
-  Hidden From View

Gregory is a main east west corridor of Swope Park. In order to grasp park user's attention, it is important that the predominate site features are placed in the most viewable locations. The building, bus stop, and rotating sculpture work are all placed strategically within the initial viewshed of both the primary and secondary views.

Figure 4.14 Primary Viewsheds



Legend

-  Large Trees to Remain
-  Tree Mass
-  Small Trees / Large Shrubs

Lake of The Woods has many mature healthy trees on site. It is important to preserve as many tree as possible for both the environment and keeping in city code regulations. Only three should need to be removed for this project to be successful. This is the case due to the specialty designing of the deck which contains openings for the trees to continue growing. The trees will help serve as shade to provide comfort on site.

Figure 4.15 Trees to Remain

Site Development Diagrams



Legend

- Water Movement to Big Blue River
- Water Runoff

Lake of the Woods is a tributary of Big Blue River. This lake is fully stocked annually with fish and provides a diverse ecosystem for wildlife. The diversity allows for many different interactions with the water at one location. Flooding occurs periodically with large storm events.

Figure 4.16 Water Movement



Legend

- Wetlands
- Extreme Erosion

Runoff and flooding have caused extreme erosion on-site. However, the soil from erosion helped to build up the wetlands area diversifying the lake's ecosystem even more. These areas are important to identify and incorporate remedial measures to stabilize the site.

Figure 4.17 Sensitive Areas

Soil Suitability Analysis

	36083	36020	36074	10141
Soil Type	Kennebec silt loam	Kennebec silt loam	Bremer silt loam	Snead-Rock outcrop complex
Slope	1-4%	0-2%	1-3%	14-30%
Flood Probability	occasional	occasional	occasional	rare
Concrete Erosion Probability	high	high	moderate	high
Corrosion of Steel	high	high	high	high
Structure Suitability	very limited	very limited	very limited	very limited
Lawn	somewhat limited	somewhat limited	very limited	not rated
Playgrounds	somewhat limited	somewhat limited	very limited	not rated
Trails and Paths	somewhat limited	somewhat limited	very limited	not rated
Ecological Site	Wet Upland Drainageway Prairie & Loamy Floodplain Prairie	Loamy Floodplain Prairie	Wet Upland Drainageway Prairie	Interbedded Sedimentary Backslope Savanna

Analysis of the soil suitability influenced design, plant selection, and material selection. Visually apparent and confirmed via soil analysis, the site is not conducive to concrete. Flooding occurs occasionally on-site, which prompted the direction for a lifted structure. This would allow water movement and fluctuation under the structure without causing major damage.

The site's soil is prone to erosion and will need efforts in stabilization. This can be achieved with use of native grasses and other plant species with stabilizing roots. Traditional "lawn" is not rated well for areas with in the site. Instead, native grass species will be used and kept trimmed in specific areas to achieve the feeling and atmosphere of a lawn.

Table 4.1 Soil Suitability Analysis



99001 (Water) 36020 36083 36020 36074 Boundary

Figure 4.18 Soil Map

Design Drivers

Research lead to three negative factors that could be transformed into three positive design themes which support racial diversity.



Figure 4.19 Racial Diversity Design Drivers

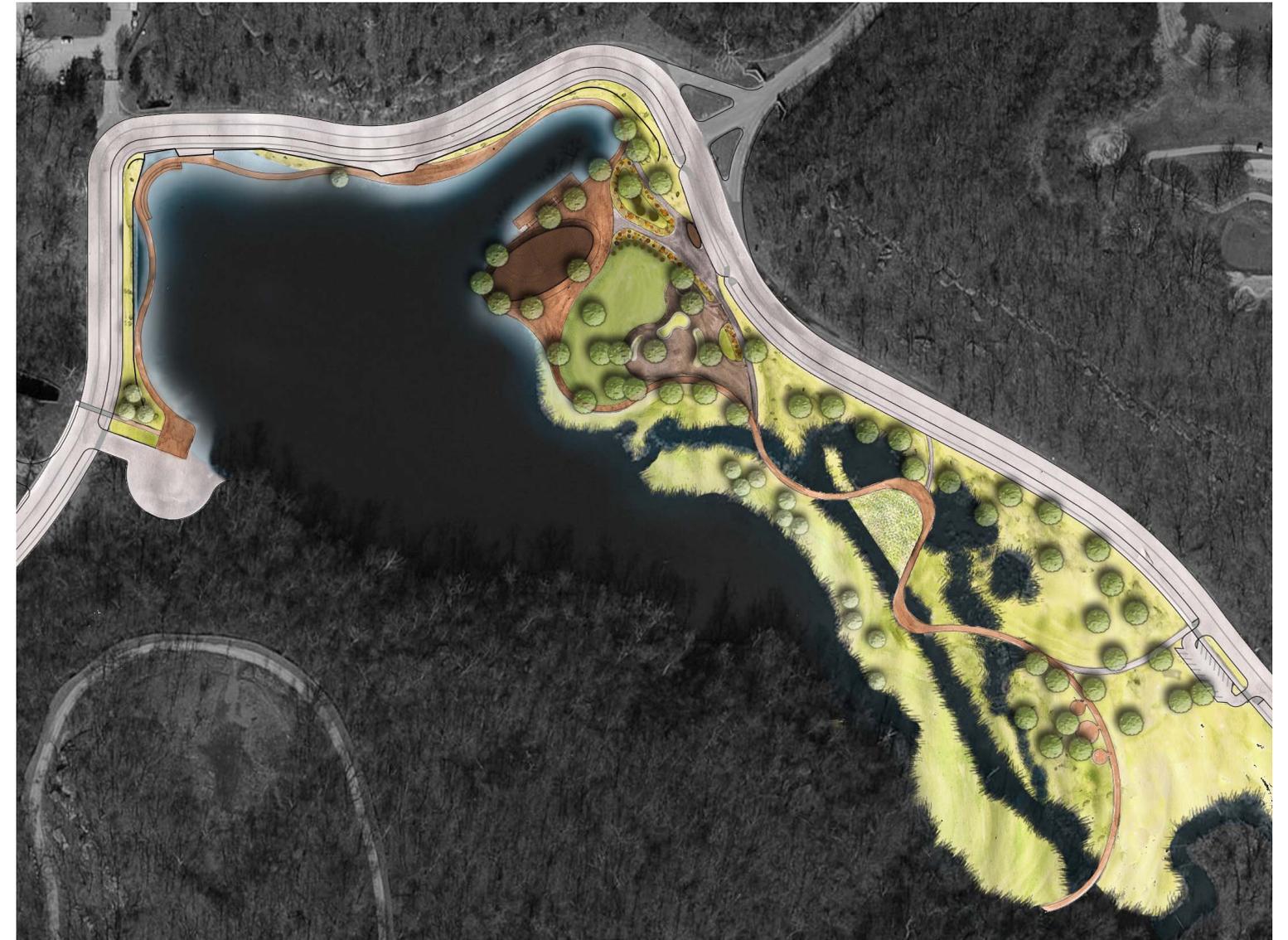


Figure 4.20 Site Plan

Crime

Survey and Interview Analysis

Many participants addressed crime as a major deterring factor as to why they do not use Swope Park for recreation and activities. Participants did acknowledge that some of the fear is from past criminal activity and might not be as accurate today. Whether fear is perceived or real, it has a negative impact on users and the surrounding community. Among places in the park, participants listed Lake of The Woods, as having a lot of illegal activity, which kept people away from that specific area.

Community

Survey and Interview Analysis

Participants across all races indicated the importance of park space providing opportunities to interact with their friends and family. Categories involving interactions between family and friends received the most “extremely important” and “very important” ratings. Many respondents stated they only go to the parks for community events and would like there to be more opportunities for them.

Literature Analysis

Data collected points to Kansas City having a HIGH rating of crime compared to the national average. Kansas City has 648 crimes reported per year per 1,000 people (City Data Crime 2015). Since 2001, the overall trend of crime rates in Kansas City are going down. However, past crimes in the community will continue to discourage usage until the space can be proven safe for the community.

Literature Analysis

A major combative of crime is to have an active and present community (Hilborn 2009). When people are present; crimes, especially gang related activity, is greatly reduced. Not only does a strong community help reduce crime it can actually increase your life span. People who are involved in their community on average live 50% longer than their counterparts (Holt-Lunstad et al. 2010). Active communities tend to also have better economies, especially those that are diverse.

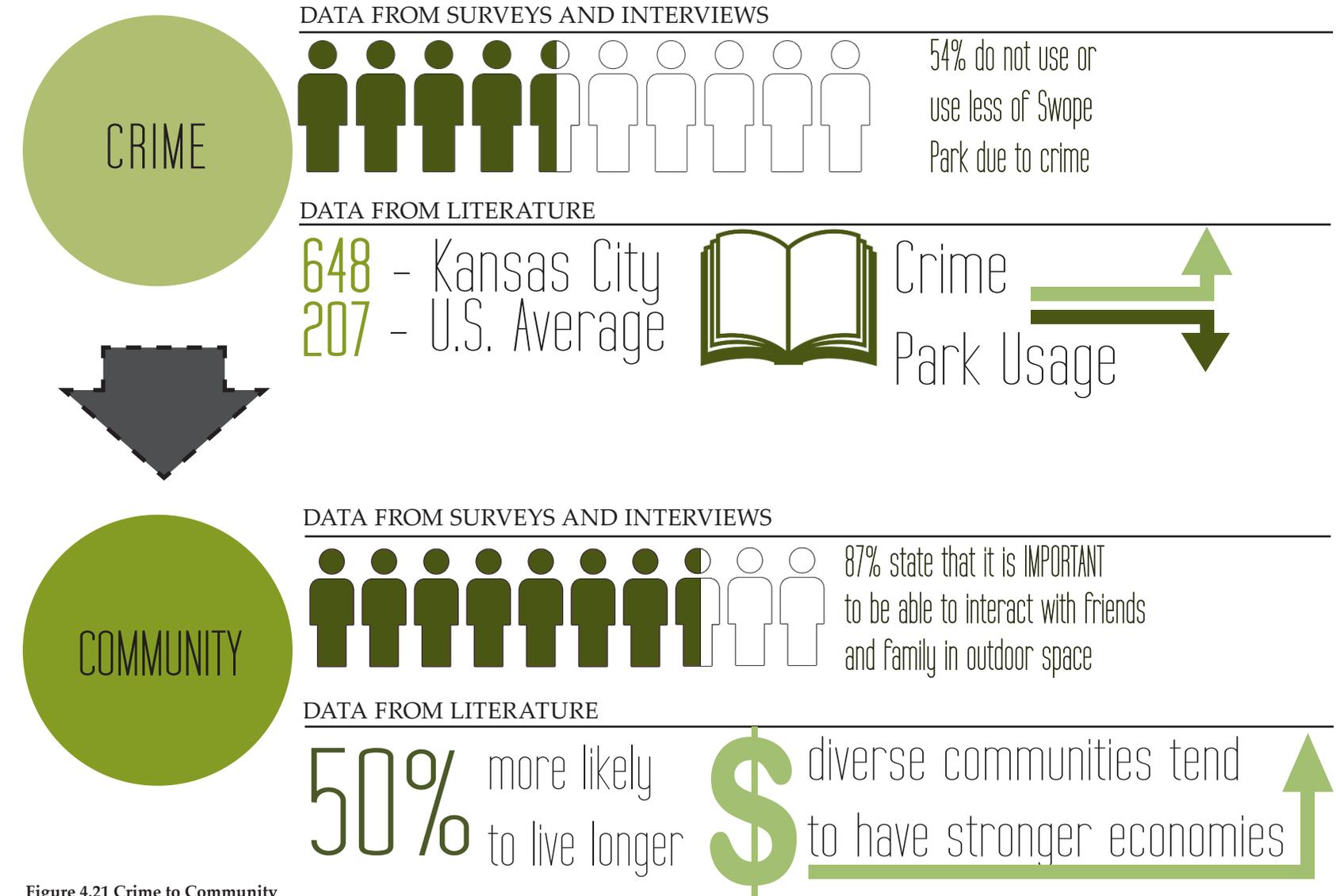


Figure 4.21 Crime to Community

Safe Connected Community

Programming Potential

The proposed design creates a space that can be used by the community to help strengthen it. Lakeside Nature Center and the Welcome Center on-site can work together to initiate community gatherings with local business and organizations. These small events will help spread news of an updated site in Swope Park and encourage potential users to visit. Community programmed events could include:

- Health and diet class
- Group fitness classes
- Worship study focus groups
- Art exhibit
- Group activity (paddle boarding etc.)
- Children play dates
- Art classes from local plant dye
- Cultural holiday celebrations

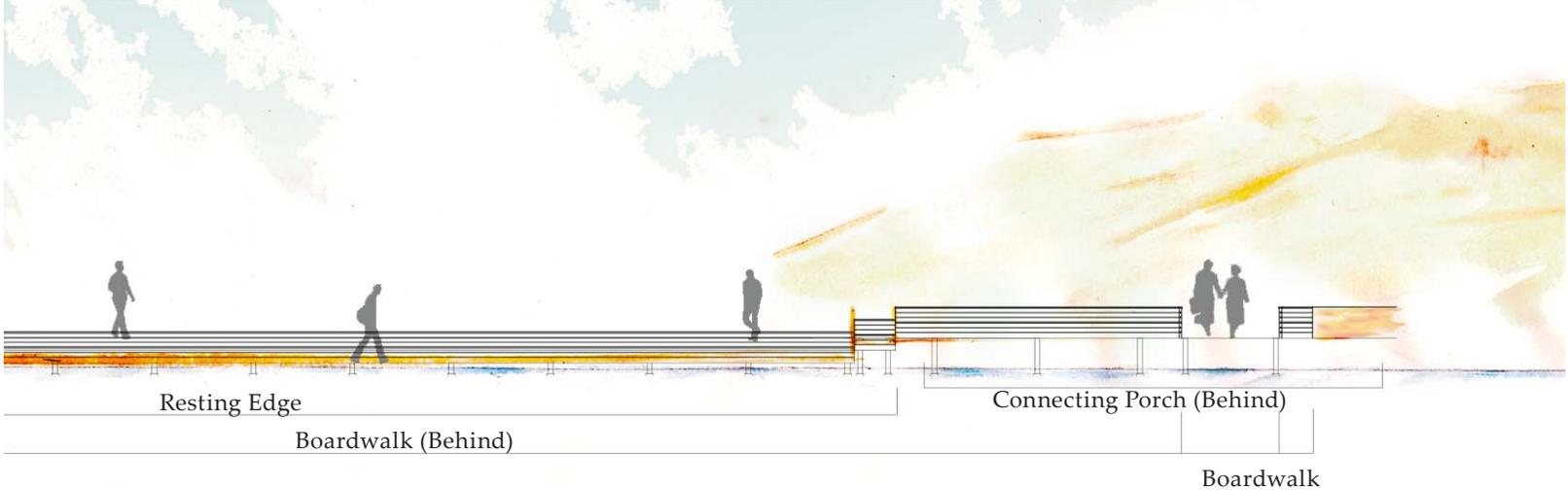
LEGEND

A	WELCOME AND SECURITY CENTER
B	INDOOR GATHERING SPACE
C	PICNIC / LARGE OUTDOOR LAWN SPACE
D	SAFE ZONES / ENTRANCE POINTS
E	BUS STOP
F	BICYCLE RACKS
G	RESTING COVES
H	CULTURAL PLANTING
I	CAFE
J	TRAIL CONNECTION
K	SPORTING DOCK

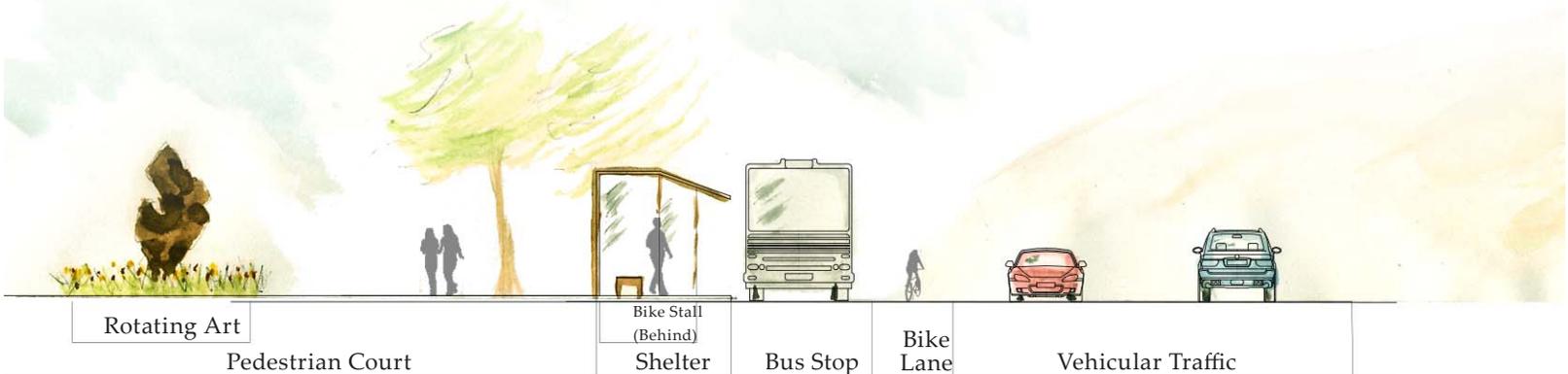


Figure 4.22 Connected Community

Safe Connected Community



1



2

Figure 4.23 Community Connection Sections

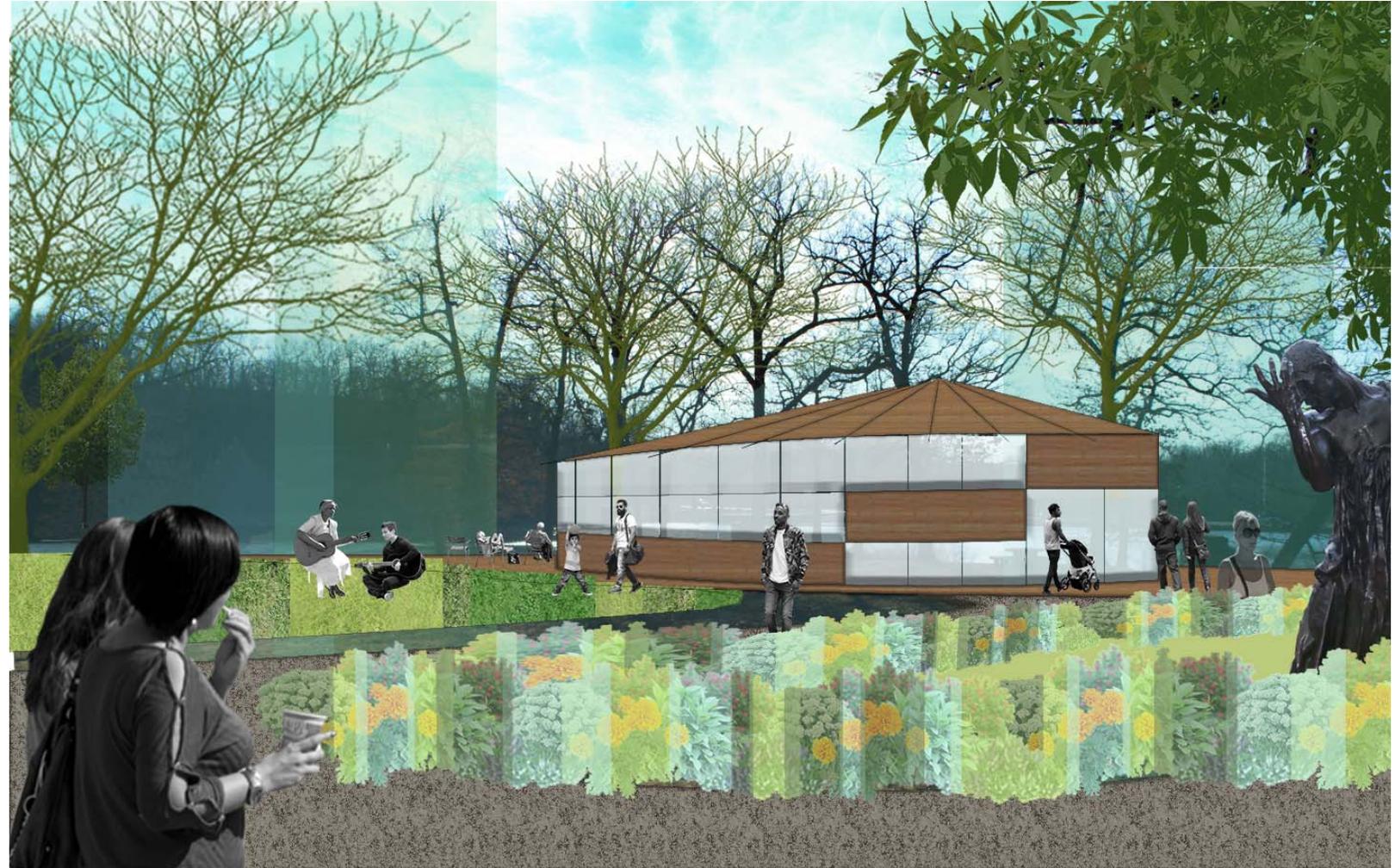


Figure 4.24 Community Building

Deteriorating Aesthetics & Amenities

Survey and Interview Analysis

Swope Park has potential to provide a multitude of different activities to its users. However, the amenities that are currently provided are not accessible to all people due to cost. Amenities that are still free to the public are rapidly declining as noted by many survey participants. Many responders stated they no longer attend the public parts of Swope Park or do so less because the options offered. Lack of children's play areas, free sporting fields, and picnicking space were many of the reoccurring themes listed as current problems.

Literature Analysis

Beautiful park space can give back to the community in many ways. Not only will attractive park space increase users but it will also help boost the surrounding economy. This is proven to hold true even in low-income neighborhoods (Sherer 2006). It is widely agreed amongst professionals that if a park is aesthetically pleasing and maintained people will use the space. If it is not maintained and the public views the space as ugly, people will not visit the park (Franck and Stevens 2007; Giesecking et al. 2014; Knapp 2015; Talen 2008).

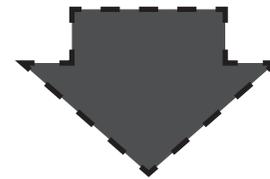
Free Amenities & Improved Design

Survey and Interview Analysis

Historically, many of the amenities that cost today used to be free. Now, many of these areas have added a price of admission or have been removed. A common concern was the lack of free sporting fields like there used to be. Recently, a new state-of-the-art soccer complex was built that does bring added benefits to the community but it also restricts the use to paying users. Many expressed their concern about rising rental prices and not being able to use the space anymore.

Literature Analysis

Race is shown to influence how you use public and park space (Taylor et al. 2009). Data collect from surveys supported this statement for the Kansas City area. This helps to show the likelihood of activities within seperate groups. Income also influences how individuals use park space. If a family does not have much disposable income they will use more free amenities provided in a park space. This is extremely important to note due to the surrounding neighborhoods having a \$37,000 average income (City Data Income 2015).



DATA FROM SURVEYS AND INTERVIEWS

"Many of the free [amenity] areas are over grown and have a lot of trash lying around" - Surveyor
 Overall maintenance of park and amenities received a **6.5** out of **10**

DATA FROM LITERATURE

60% Price increase for commercial property value around park space
Beautiful space attracts visitors while **Ugly** space deters them

DATA FROM SURVEYS AND INTERVIEWS

"The fees that have been added to previously free attractions at Swope Park, such as the Zoo, [make me] no longer visit Swope Park." - Surveyer

DATA FROM LITERATURE

Minority groups tend to use public space passively
Caucasian trends show it being used more actively **\$37,000** the median income directly surrounding and within Swope Park

Figure 4.25 Free Amenities & Improved Design

Improved Amenities and Design

Programming Potential

The proposed updated site plan aims to create a space that is inviting and appealing to diverse groups of people. The innovative design incorporates passive and active space that has multiple free options. Free amenities are a large draw for park users. Free rentals that will be monitored on site include the following:

- Paddle board
- Kayak
- Paddle boat
- Fishing equipment

Other amenities that will increase usership are:

- Nature playground
- Updated picnic sites
- Cafe
- Open room space
- Wetland educational walk
- Boardwalk along site

Program possibilities:

- Local art exhibits
- School learning programs
- Yoga on the lawn
- Fishing lessons

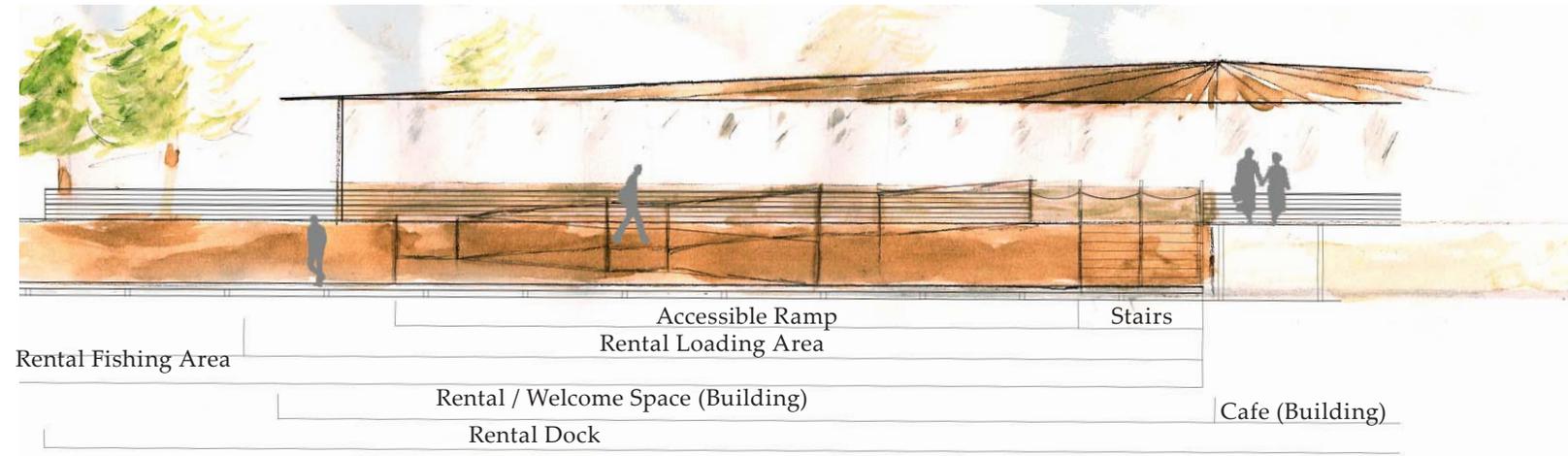
LEGEND

- A WELCOME AND SECURITY CENTER
- B INDOOR GATHERING SPACE
- C PICNIC / LARGE OUTDOOR LAWN SPACE
- D NATURE PLAY
- E BOARDWALK
- F RESTING COVES
- G SPORTING DOCK
- H PUBLIC LOADING DOCK
- I CAFE
- J TRAIL CONNECTION
- K SITE CIRCULATION AND CONNECTION
- L IMMERSIVE LEARNING PODS

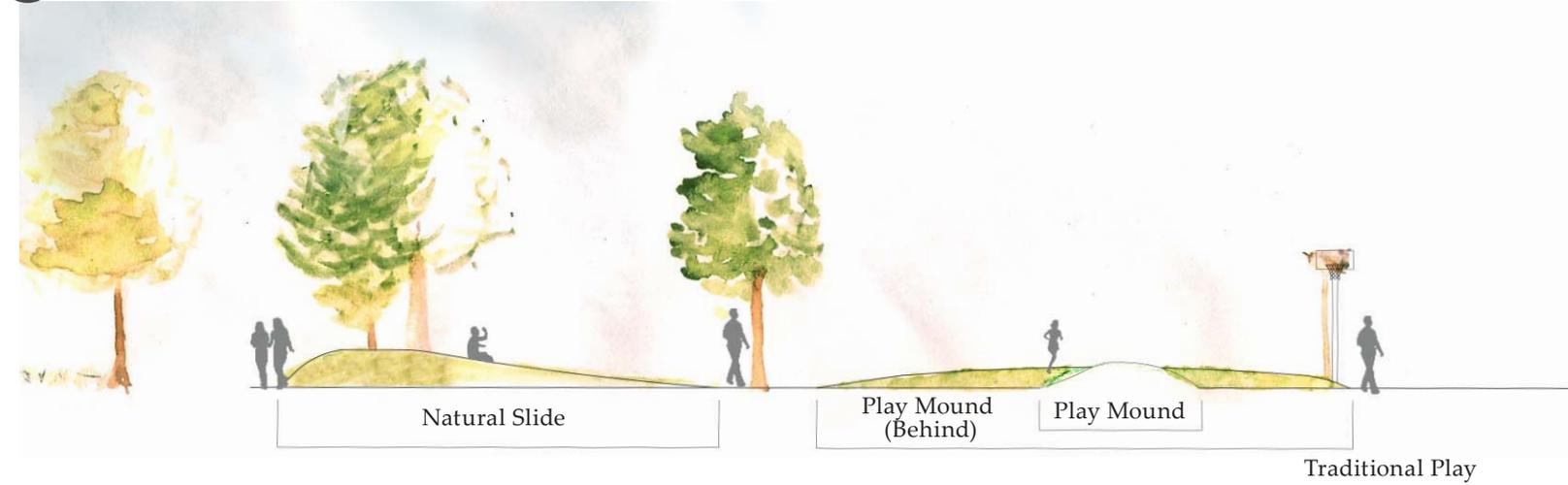


Figure 4.26 Design Amenity Improvement Plan

Improved Amenities and Design



1



2

Figure 4.27 Design Improvement Sections



Figure 4.28 Rental Dock and Raised Walk

Negative Connotations

Survey and Interview Analysis

Many responders between all racial groups had negative feelings about the park space. One even stated, "I don't believe anything about Swope Park has ever been anything but a racial divide." The community simply has many negative feelings about the space which influences their use. Minorities especially reported the importance of feeling safe and secure in a space, which historically is not the case around the country (Taylor et al. 2009).

Literature Analysis

The National Park Service conducted surveys to understand why minorities were not using park spaces and discovered many did not use them because they had experienced a form of racism or knew someone who had a negative experience due to their race (Taylor et al. 2009). Historically, many minorities were also not allowed in public spaces which has left an imprint on current generations.

Education

Survey and Interview Analysis

Data collected showed the importance of having a public educational space. Over 70% of minorities say it is important to have educational spaces in a park. Two of the three on site data collection spots provided learning opportunities and are some of the most frequented public areas within Swope Park.

Literature Analysis

Outdoor immersive education is proven to have benefits on school aged children. One study in California showed 70% of children who had outdoor learning experiences had increased test scores on one or all subjects (California Department of Education 2000). Outdoor education also promotes creativity which helps children develop unique problem solving strategies. (The Outdoor Classroom Project 2003).

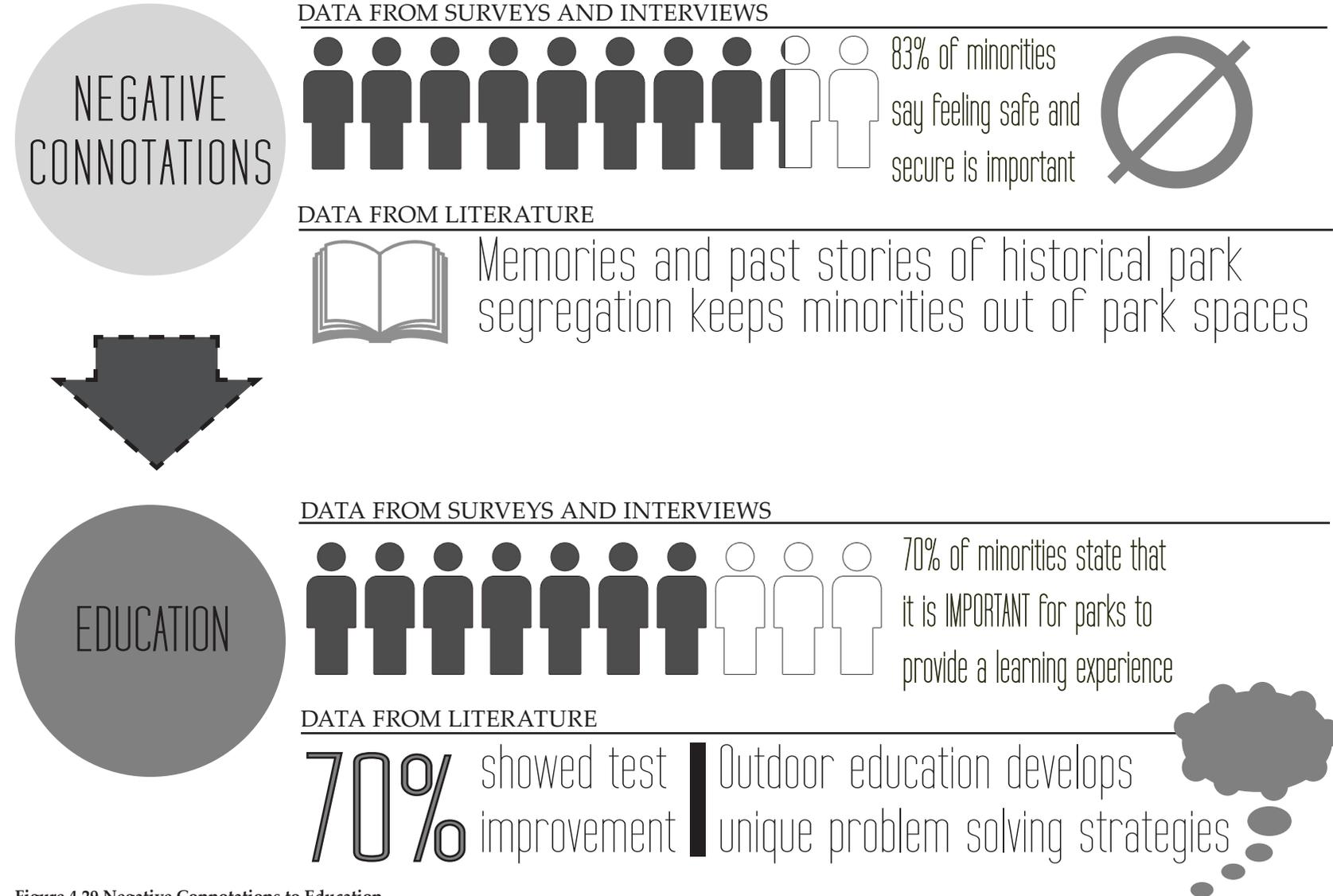


Figure 4.29 Negative Connotations to Education

Immersive Education

Programming Potential

Lake of the Woods has a diverse ecosystem and historic racial importance, which supports an education rich environment. Adults and children have the opportunity to learn about the local environment while also learning about diverse cultures. New and unique educational opportunities will draw people to the space. Lakeside Nature Center can add on to their current free educational programs.

New educational programming will include:

- Plant growth systems
- Local fish and wildlife
- Cultural Art
- Culturally significant plants
- Water health
- History of Swope Park
(focus on racial millstones)
- History of the first Lakeside Nature Center
- History of Camp Lake of the Woods

LEGEND

A	WELCOME AND SECURITY CENTER
B	IMMERSIVE LEARNING PODS
C	SPORTING DOCK
D	NATURE PLAY
E	BOARDWALK
F	OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS
G	TRAIL CONNECTION
H	CULTURAL PLANTING
I	NATIVE PLANTING

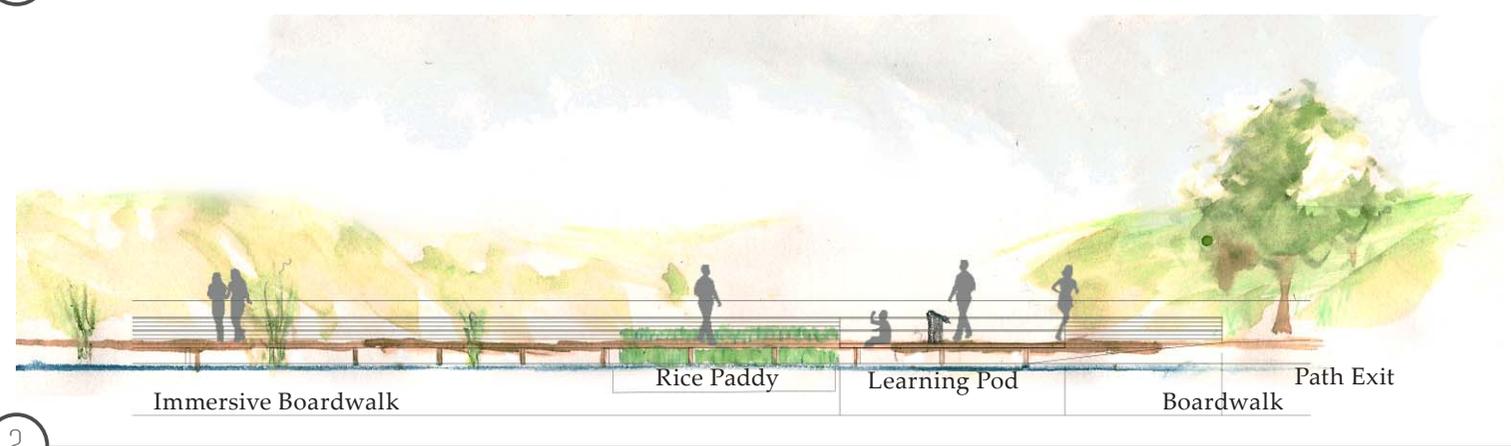


Figure 4.30 Educational Opportunity Plan

Immersive Education



1



2

Figure 4.31 Immersive Education Sections



Figure 4.32 Immersive Educational Walk

Circulation and Safety

Visibility and Lighting

Good visibility and lighting are main contributors in the perception of park safety. Street lights, on-site pole lights, and rope lighting along the immersive education walk are placed strategically throughout the site. For lighting to have an effect on the park as a whole, streetlights would be a positive addition.



Figure 4.33 Street Lighting

Separating Transportation Modes

Currently there are no sidewalks that connect to other parts of the park. The sidewalk that is present, is degrading and sits directly next to Gregory Boulevard. The proposed site design at minimum, moved the sidewalk behind parking and a bike lane.



Figure 4.34 Pedestrian Separation

Safety and Emergency Response

Safety Kiosks are strategically placed around Lake of the Woods. They serve as both a safety feature and a deterrent of criminal activity. After business hours, there might not be a staff member on location. The safety kiosk will always be available to anyone who needs assistance.



Figure 4.35 Emergency Kiosk

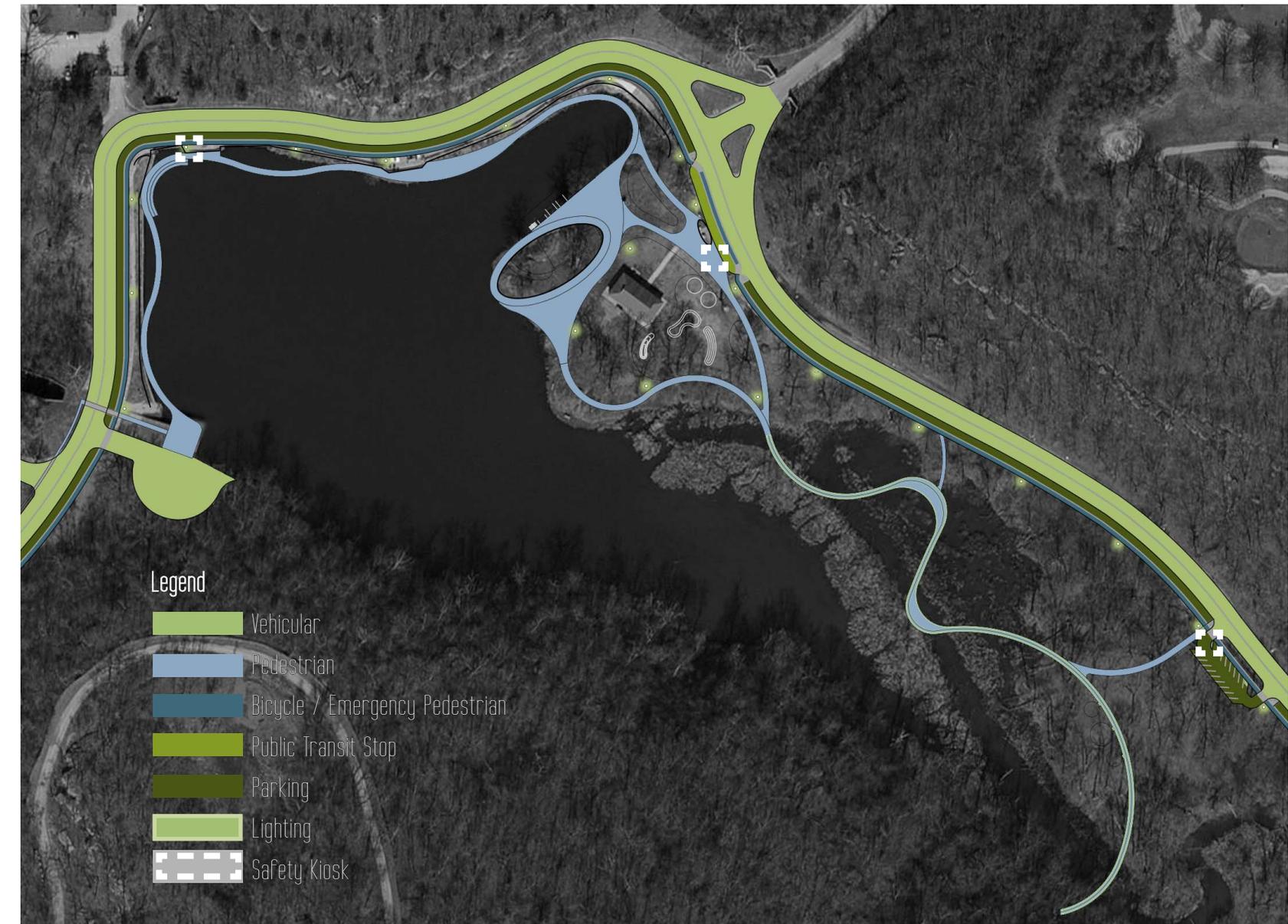


Figure 4.36 Circulation and Safety Plan

Culturally Inclusive Materiality

Hardscape Materials



Figure 4.37 Porous Asphalt

Flood frequency on parts of the site determined that part of the trail design must be made with a flood durable material, like porous asphalt.

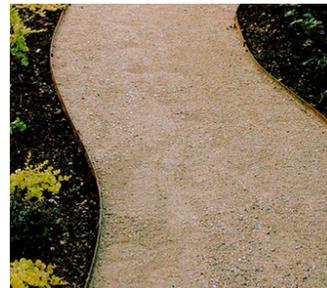


Figure 4.38 Decomposed Granite

Areas of the site that will not flood frequently will have a reinforced decomposed granite trail. This is due to concrete being deemed not suitable on-site with current soils.



Figure 4.39 Wood Deck & Boardwalk

Flooding determined the need for lifted walkways and buildings to allow water the ability to flow underneath. Lifted structures resolve flooding issues with buildings.

Building Materials & Concepts



Figure 4.40 Glass Windows

Parallel with the idea that parks can help break down racial barriers. Windows and glass structures provide increased visibility. (Ong 2013)



Figure 4.41 Wood Siding

Wood is a material that resonates positively with the broadest group of people. Wood creates a comfortable, warm, and safe feeling. It is key to accentuate the natural earth tones. (Ong 2013)

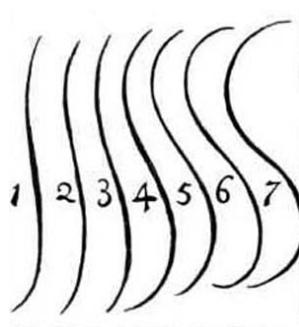


Figure 4.42 Serpentine Lines and Rounded Edges

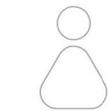
Straight harsh lines give a negative sterile feel. Serpentine lines are found in nature and give off a feeling of warmth and acceptance that helps users feel comfortable. (Princeton University Art Museum 2017)



Figure 4.43 Hardscape Diagram

Culturally Significant Planting

Plant Group A



Asian American



African American



Hispanic or Latino



Native American



Pacific Islander



Caucasian



Figure 4.44 Maize



Figure 4.45 Bamboo



Figure 4.46 Rice



Plant Group B



Figure 4.47 Marigold

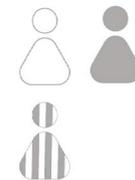


Figure 4.48 Rose

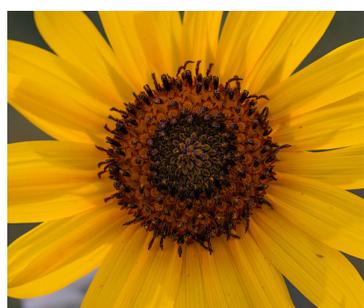


Figure 4.49 Sunflower



Plant Group C



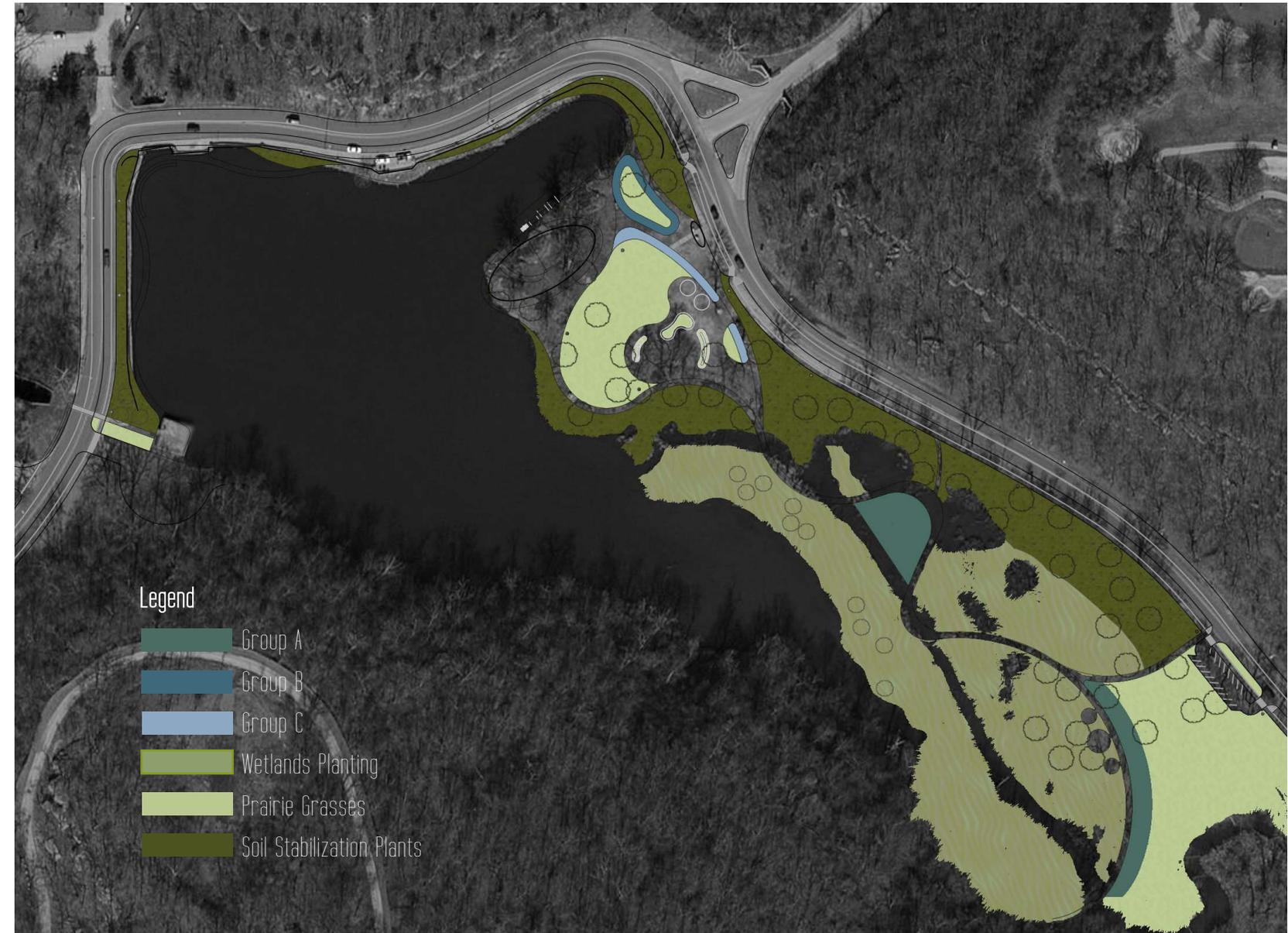
Figure 4.50 Camellia



Figure 4.51 Taro



Figure 4.52 Okra



Legend

- Group A
- Group B
- Group C
- Wetlands Planting
- Prairie Grasses
- Soil Stabilization Plants

Figure 4.53 Planting Diagram

Conclusion 05

Research & Findings

Racial tension in America has been an ongoing conflict since the beginning. Little by little, progress is made but there is still a long way to go in the way of social racial equality. Legally, you cannot discriminate against someone based on their race, but race is so ingrained in our societies that discrimination is still active within our communities at schools, work, and other public spaces.

Disproportionately in America, the average users of national park spaces are white. With 2016 being the National Park Service's centennial, there was a big push for increasing diversity of users. However, what could be done to improve diversity at a more community level in local parks and what benefits could this have? It was found that many racial issues that arise are due to ignorance and fear about people that one does not understand. This sparked an idea about how public space can be a platform that helps to diminish fear and ignorance about others who are different than you.

Results from literature and data collection proved the potential of creating a space to improve race relations. Once the groundwork was laid, connections and development were made in how diversity could be fostered in Swope Park specifically.

Three main themes were identified through research that help to foster racial diversity within a space; community, free amenities and improved design, and educational opportunities. The design to create a space that incorporated those three themes was created using ten design components. The design components were derived from literature and precedents studies over diverse communities and reclaimed crime-ridden parks. Literature design components were; safety and comfort, familiar and unknown space, and programmed space. Diversity precedent design components were; education space, cultural celebration, and passive and active space. Reclaimed park precedent design themes were; community involvement, activating the space, improved design, and trusted policing.

By combining these critical elements, a space that fosters diversity of its users can be created that will foster casual interactions to increase awareness and acceptance of those who may look different than yourself.

Limitations & Future Research

The intent of this research was to focus on how a space can increase inter-race interactions to help improve race relations. The reality is, many factors play a role in community issues and not all of those factors were able to be considered within the research. If more research and data could have been collected on socioeconomic factors (health status, income, education, occupation, etc.), the design could have had more layers developed to mitigate those problems as well.

Another limiting factor was Swope Park's involvement. The Lake of the Woods, as stated previously, is located within Swope Park. It would have been beneficial to have engaged in more communication with park officials to develop a design that considered their specific needs. If round table talks could have been conducted, more opinions and different view points would have been considered. Due to time constraints and scheduling, this was not possible. However, data collection focused on the potential main users of the space, which is the most important option to design for.

Lastly, many proposed site changes would have the greatest effect if incorporated parkwide. Lighting, circulation, and connectivity between amenities will only have a limited impact if not applied throughout the whole park. A new park master plan would increase the potential successes of a newly designed space around the Lake of the Woods.

The project's research could be continued farther by investigating other socioeconomic factors that play a role in communities. The issues addressed in this research are only a small piece of the puzzle in breaking down racial barriers. There are many overlapping layers that influence where the United States is today in achieving true racial equality. Park and other public space redesign could be the starting point in bringing people to celebrate each other's similarities and differences. Future research can build off the idea of creating inclusive communities.

Conclusion

The study concluded with a redesign of Lake of the Woods, which is a deteriorating space. Improvements of the space included design that encouraged community, education, and provided free amenities with overall improved design. Spaces were designed to support aspects of feeling safe and comfortable, having pieces that are familiar and unknown, programmed space, educational areas, passive and active space, and celebrates culture.

This design can help break down racial barriers within the community by creating an environment that supports use of many types of people and encourages casual interactions between them. This can be achieved by a design that incorporated the components listed above. In the redesign of Lake of the Woods the following implemented elements are a few that support the case for fostering interactions: immersive nature walk, natural playground, free equipment rental, outdoor classrooms, quality ground maintenance, warm inviting materiality, involved and present management, cafe, boardwalk, and basic comforts. Casual interactions within the composed spaces help to breakdown racial stereotypes and allow people to see similarities between each other.

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Appendix A – Online Survey Questions

Fostering Diversity In Public Parks: A Study On Diversity In Swope Park

Thank you for entering into this survey. This survey is being conducted by Emily Jagels, a graduate student and Alpa Nawre, an Assistant Professor at Kansas State University. The following six questions should take you approximately 5 minutes and will ask you about basic demographic information, your park usage, and questions about racial diversity. The questions are being asked to help create connections between park users and uses for Fostering Diversity in Public Parks: A Study On Diversity In Swope Park. If any question makes you feel uncomfortable or you simply wish to not answer, please move on to the next question or exit the survey all together. There are no wrong answers. Your answers will be kept completely anonymous. Your responses can help benefit your communities by leading future design of park spaces to be more inclusive of all people. This survey is being conducted by Emily Jagels, a graduate student and Alpa Nawre, an Assistant Professor at Kansas State University. Questions or further comments can be directed to Emily Jagels at ejagels@ksu.edu. Thank you again for your time and participation.

Q1 What gender do you identify yourself as ?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)
- Choose Not to Specify (4)

Q2 What is your ethnicity?

- American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- Asian or Pacific Islander (2)
- Black or African American (3)
- Hispanic or Latino (4)
- White or Caucasian (5)
- Biracial or Multiracial (6)
- Other (7)
- Choose Not to Specify (8)

Q3 There are a number of reasons to partake in outdoor activities. How important are the following reasons to you?

	Extremely important (1)	Very important (2)	Moderately important (3)	Slightly important (4)	Not at all important (5)
To relax (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To keep fit and healthy (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To experience challenge and excitement (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To have fun (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To meet new people (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To be with family and friends (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To do something your children or grandchildren enjoy (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To maintain ethnic identity and traditions (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To learn something new (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Extremely important (1)	Very important (2)	Moderately important (3)	Slightly important (4)	Not at all important (5)
To expose your family or friends to something new (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To escape the daily routine (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To get away from crowded situations (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To be in the outdoors (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To feel harmony with nature (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To achieve spiritual fulfillment (15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To feel safe and secure (16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To reduce tension or stress (17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4 Please record your interactions relating to racial diversity.

	Always (1)	Very Often (2)	Often (3)	Rarely (4)	Never (5)
How often do you see people of different racial backgrounds in your communities? (1)	<input type="radio"/>				
How often do you have casual interactions with people of different races? (2)	<input type="radio"/>				
How often do you have meaningful interaction with people of different races? (3)	<input type="radio"/>				

Q5 How often do you visit Swope Park?

- Every Day (1)
- 2-5 Times a Week (2)
- Once a Week (3)
- 1-3 Times a Month (4)
- Less Than Once a Month (5)
- Never (6)

Q6 Please record any stories, events, reasons or experiences that shaped your use (or non-use) of Swope Park in Kansas City, Missouri.

Appendix B – Observational Survey

After participants agree to answer a few questions I will state the following...

“I am a graduate student at Kansas State University. I am here today to gather information on the park concerning it uses and its users. This research will help me develop a better understanding of what draws different people to the park space.”

Questions for Short Interview

Date - _____ Time - _____ Weather - _____ Corresponding Observation ID - _____
Location - _____

1. What time did you arrive today?
_____ () A.M. () P.M.

2. Where did you enter the park today?

3. Who did you come to the park with today?
() Alone () Friends
() Dogs () School
() Family () Other _____

4. How did you get to the park today?
() Bicycle () Jog
() Bus () Walk
() Car () Other _____

5. What is your proximity to the park?
() Less than 1 mile () 10- 20 miles
() 1- 5 miles () more than 20 miles
() 5-10 miles

6. What did you do in the park today.

Recreational Games
() Baseball () Softball
() Basketball () Fishing
() Soccer () Other

Exercising
() Running or Jogging () Dog Walking
() Walking () Other _____
() Biking

Leisurely Activities
() Reading () Photography
() Painting () Sketching
() Relaxing () Sitting
() People Watching () Socializing
() Other _____

Park Amenities and Attractions
() Swope Park Soccer Village and Sporting KC Training Facility
() Battle of Westport Museum & Visitor Center
() Playground Visit () Lake Visit
() Heart of American Golf Academy () Lakeside Nature Center
() Kansas City Community Gardens () Southeast Community Center
() Starlight Theatre () Swope Memorial Golf Course
() Swope Park Disc Golf Course () Swope Park Off Leash Area
() Swope Park Pool () Playground Visit
() Kansas City Zoo () Other _____

7. What areas of the park did you visit today?

(Mark on site map)

8. Did you ever feel unsure of your location in the park today?
() Yes () No

9. How often do you use the park?
() Everyday () 1-3 times a month
() 2-5 days a week () Less than once a month
() Once a week () This is the first time

10. Are there any areas in the park you avoid?
If yes which areas and why?

11. On a scale of 1- 10, how well is the park maintained.
(1 being not maintained at all and 10 being very well maintained)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

12. Do you feel some areas are maintained better than others?
What areas? _____

13. In one sentence, please describe what you appreciate or enjoy most about the park?

15. In one sentence, please describe what you dislike about the park?

Date -
Location -

Time -

Weather -

1. Sex () Female () Male () Other

2. Apparent Race Ethnicity
() White or Caucasian
() Hispanic or Latino
() Black or African American
() Native American or American Indian
() Asian / Pacific Islander
() Do not know or Multiracial

3. Did person appear to bring anything with them to the park?
() Dog () Camera
() Bike () Sporting ball
() Drawing/ Art Utensils () Other _____

4. Was the person in a group ?
() Yes () No # _____

5. Other observations that indicated what the person was doing in the park.

6. Record anything that that hindered the observational survey.

Appendix D- IRB Clearance

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

University Research Compliance Office

TO: Alpa Nawre
LARCP
Seaton Hall

Proposal Number: 8550

FROM: Rick Scheidt, Chair
Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects

DATE: 11/24/2016

RE: Proposal Entitled, "Fostering Diversity in Public Parks: A Study On Diversity in Swope Park"

The Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects / Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Kansas State University has reviewed the proposal identified above and has determined that it is EXEMPT from further IRB review. This exemption applies only to the proposal - as written - and currently on file with the IRB. Any change potentially affecting human subjects must be approved by the IRB prior to implementation and may disqualify the proposal from exemption.

Based upon information provided to the IRB, this activity is exempt under the criteria set forth in the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, **45 CFR §46.101, paragraph b, category: #2, subsection: ii.**

Certain research is exempt from the requirements of HHS/OHRP regulations. A determination that research is exempt does not imply that investigators have no ethical responsibilities to subjects in such research; it means only that the regulatory requirements related to IRB review, informed consent, and assurance of compliance do not apply to the research.

Any unanticipated problems involving risk to subjects or to others must be reported immediately to the Chair of the Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects, the University Research Compliance Office, and if the subjects are KSU students, to the Director of the Student Health Center.