

MYAKKA RIVER PARK

MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING #1 RESULTS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA
27 SEPTEMBER 2019



PUBLIC MEETING #1 SUMMARY

The first public meeting for the design of Myakka River Park was held on September 17th, 2019 at the Tringali Community Center. The goal of the public meeting was to inform the residents of the project process and gather input on what the community wanted to see for the park. Representatives from the project team presented the extent of the project, the project timeline, and then focused on gathering input from residents on the needs and concerns of park development.

Over 130 people attended the meeting from all over Charlotte County. The majority of meeting attendees lived within the reference map boundaries and approximately 90% were residents of the Gulf Cove Neighborhood. Approximately 15% of meeting attendees also worked within the nearby area. Currently residents said the park was inaccessible. Instead, residents used nearby centers such as: private parks, the Myakka State Forest, Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, Stump Pass Beach State Park, and Tippecanoe Environmental Park.

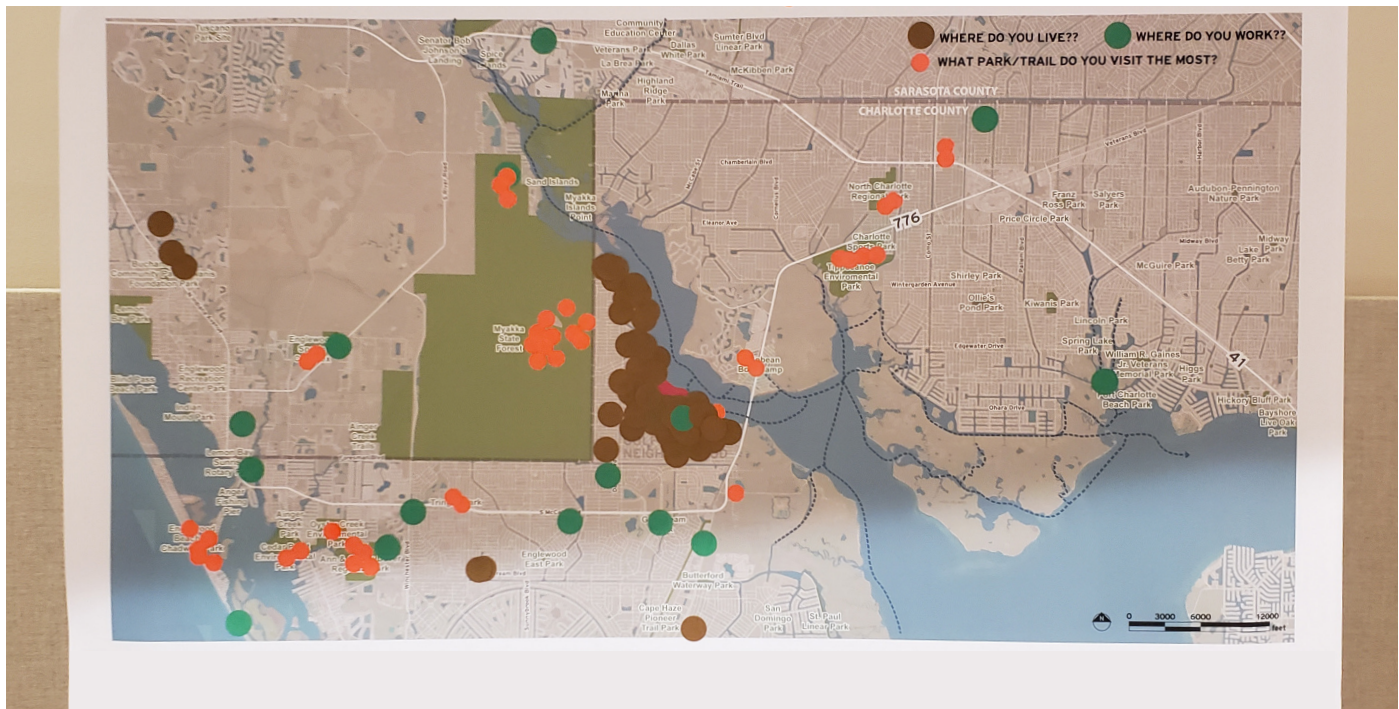


FIGURE 1 | MEETING ATTENDEES LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY MAP

PUBLIC MEETING #1 TOP CONCERNS

The meeting provided opportunity for residents to write down comments and concerns. The project team and county representatives were available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

The top concerns for park development were accessibility to the site from narrow roads, safety and security of park activities, and concerns over parking and recreation elements.

Narrow roads/Accessibility:

Meeting attendees were concerned about access to the park and the limited roadway infrastructure adjacent to the park. The master plan will need to identify potential roadway improvements and provide adequate access to the site in appropriate locations.



FIGURE 2 | OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS NOTES

Safety/Security

The park is currently utilized in ways not deemed appropriate for the park. It was found that there are locations showing use by regular trespassers and litter on site. The master plan will need to identify and utilize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) methods to minimize criminal opportunities. Appropriate signage, access, fencing, and screening will need to be established in the final master plan.

Parking/Activity

Meeting attendees expressed concerns over the limited access to the park and about public crowding the site. The master plan will need to identify appropriate access points and provide adequate parking. The meeting attendees also wanted to make sure the environmental quality would be maintained on the park site. Attendees wanted to limit large recreation gatherings, noisy activities, and actions that would endanger the natural quality of the park.



PUBLIC MEETING #1 TOP DESIRES

Top desires for the site expressed during the public meeting were to maintain the views and environmental quality of the park, provide access to the riverfront, and create connections to nature.

Maintain Views/Environmental Quality

Meeting attendees wanted to make sure the integrity of the park would remain intact. Natural views and the tranquil environment of the park were of the highest importance. The master plan will need to maintain the natural character of the park adjacent to the neighborhood. Creating access to the natural systems, preserving environmental character, and providing overlooks/viewsheds will need to be the main considerations for park improvements.

Access to Riverfront

Providing an access to the riverfront was a reoccurring theme. The park is currently utilized as a dredging site for canals. These industrial activities limit the parks accessibility and create a problem for recreational use. The master plan will need to minimize the impacts of the industrial use and follow the Charlotte County Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommendations and desires of the county.

Nature Park Amenities

The primary desire of meeting attendees for the park was to allow for connection to nature. Passive recreation amenities such as nature trails, picnic tables, and overlooks were the most common themes. Residents expressed the desire to maintain a natural and peaceful atmosphere and make it easier to navigate.

FIGURE 3 | VOTING BOARD



FIGURE 4 | MEETING PRESENTATION

PUBLIC MEETING #1 PROGRAM VOTING SUMMARY

The public meeting identified nine major program categories that residents could vote on for their most desired and most unwanted elements for the park. There was also a blank board that allowed visitors to write in additional ideas or desires for the park development. Out of the approximate 130 attendees, about 60 people voted on park element categories. The categories that residents could vote on were nature trails, multi-purpose trails, off-road trails, signage, picnic areas, pavilions/seating areas, kayak launch, games, and a fishing pier. The community identified that trails, picnic areas, and accessibility to water were of the highest importance to the community. Over 90% of voters were

in favor of nature trails and a kayak launch. Other top categories voted for during the meeting were fishing piers, small pavilions, picnic areas, seating/overlooks, and multi-purpose trails. The community also noted that overlooks, a ropes course, a playground, dog area, and bike facilities would be welcome additions for the park.

Most unwanted category was outdoor games/disk golf. There was also concern about off-road bike trails. There were 34 votes in favor and 17 votes against off road trails. The primary concern with off road trails were noise, activity, and over crowding of the site.

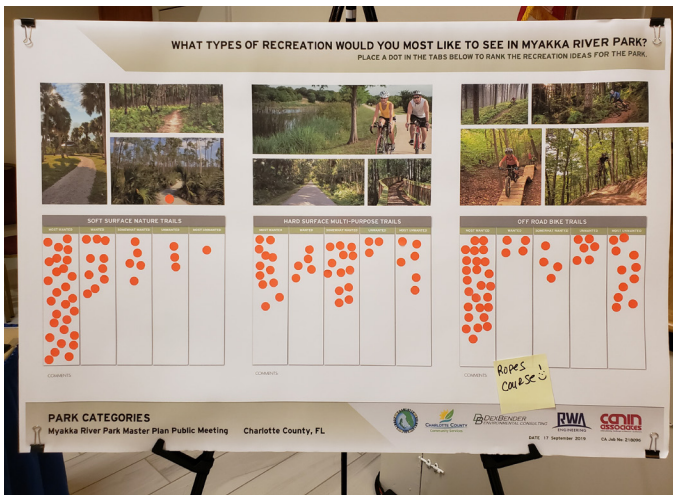


FIGURE 5 | TRAIL BOARD

TRAILS

Trails and connections to nature were the highest priority for meeting attendees. The majority of meeting attendees voted favorably for soft surface nature trails.

- ▶ 92% in favor of nature trails
- ▶ 77% in favor of multi-purpose trails
- ▶ 67% in favor of off road trails

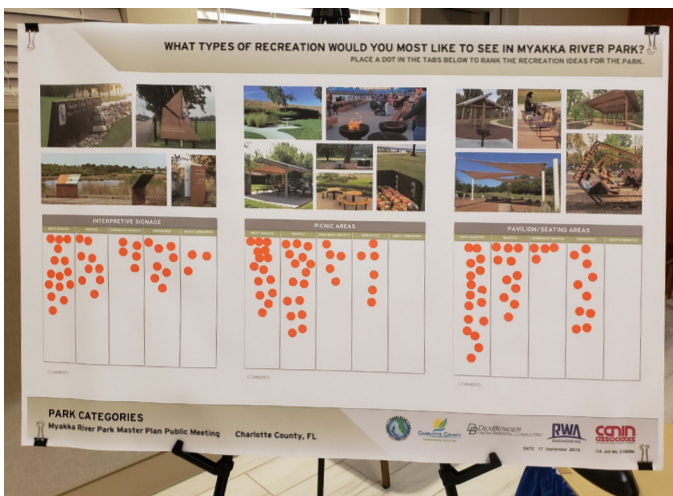


FIGURE 6 | GATHERING BOARD

GATHERING/WAYFINDING RESULTS

Seating areas, picnic spots, and overlook zones were wanted alongside with trail development for the park. The theme for each category was for smaller amenities that would provide shade and a quiet environment. It was also expressed that signage was needed to help circulation and manage safety and access.

- ▶ 73% in favor of signage
- ▶ 86% in favor of picnic tables
- ▶ 76% in favor of small pavilions/seating areas

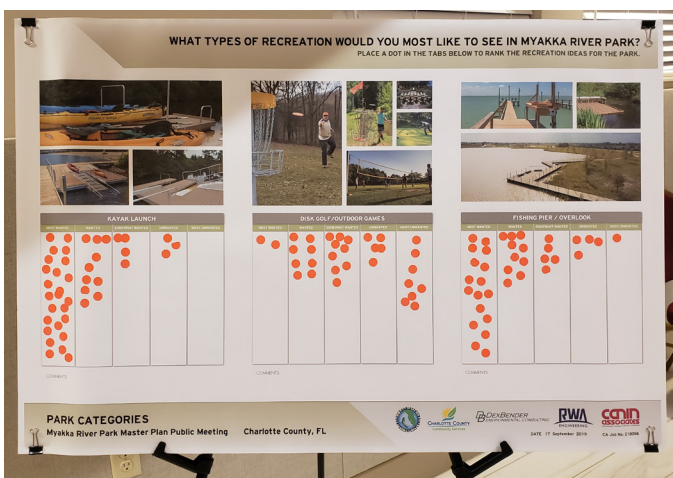
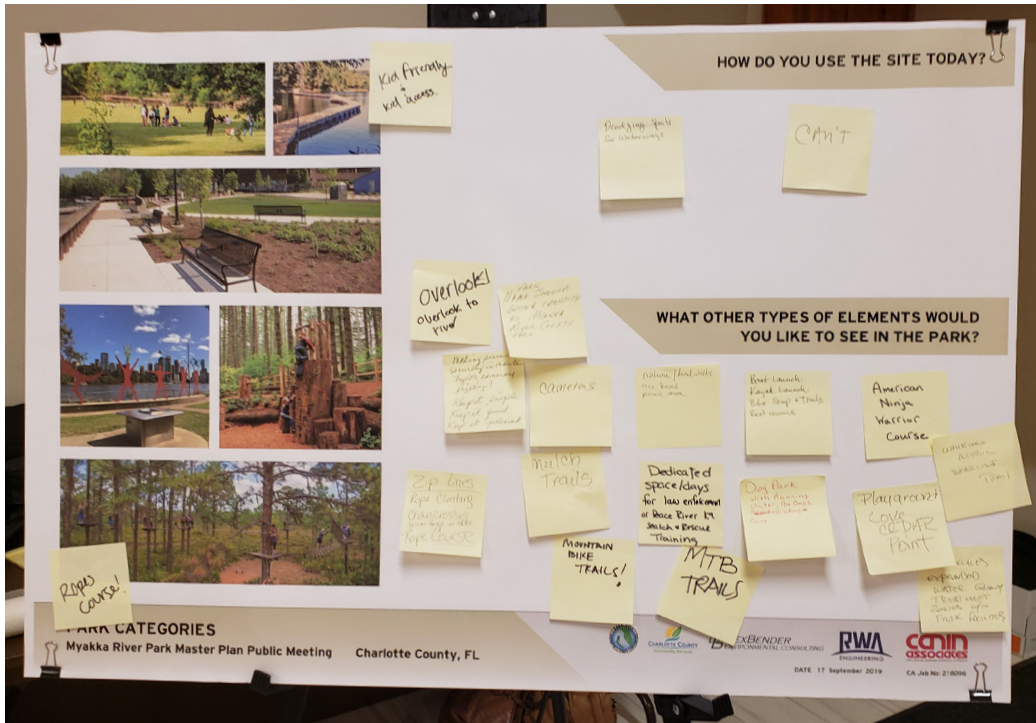


FIGURE 7 | RIVER RECREATION BOARD

WATER/RECREATION RESULTS

Access to water was identified as a high priority. Both kayak launches and fishing piers were expressed as needed elements for the park. Recreation amenities/games was the least desired program category.

- ▶ 93% in favor of kayak launch
- ▶ 59% in favor of games
- ▶ 86% in favor of fishing pier/overlook



PUBLIC MEETING #1 NEXT STEPS

The Public meeting had an amazing turnout from the community and provided very valuable feedback. The primary elements receiving favorable votes will be combined with the site analysis plan to create draft recommendations for the site. The primary concerns and desires will then be evaluated to make sure park development works for the county and community it will serve.

After tabulating the results, a draft master plan will be created and presented to the community to ensure that the park reflects the community desires.



FIGURE 8 | PUBLIC MEETING RESULTS

