1301 Powhatan Park

History and Character

1301 Powhatan Park is in the Northeast Old Town neighborhood.

The park is 0.15 acres and features large shade trees and open turf for active play. There are two bus stops adjacent to the park, one along Powhatan Street and one along Bashford Lane. There is a Bikeshare station across Powhatan Street from the park. The surrounding neighborhood includes residential homes, and a small commercial area along Powhatan Street. A restaurant is directly across the street.

Existing Conditions Map

Note: Any new park or facility is referred to by the site's address until a name has been reviewed and approved through the City naming process.

1301 Powhatan Park

Which of the following existing park elements would you like to preserve, enhance, or transform?		
Element	**Open Lawn**	
Number of responses	15	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
Preserve it	2	13
Enhance it	4	27
Transform it	9	60

What is currently NOT in the park that you would like to see there?

1. Any place to sit or socialize
2. Playground equipment
3. There's nothing in the park so anything useful would be an improvement. Some signage saying it's a public park would be helpful as I always thought it was private property and would typically keep my children from playing on private property.
4. A fence so dogs can be off lease, a picnic table
5. Benches, tables, shade structure. Perhaps a fence line to delineate the park from private property
6. Benches
7. There is pretty much nothing there. No benches or anything that would make it much of a destination. I didn't even realize it was considered a "park."
8. There is currently nothing in the park. It would be nice to have flower beds, benches and tables, and perhaps even a low fence to provide a barrier to the road
9. Exercise equipment (pull up bar)
10. There is nothing there but grass. I had no idea this was even a park or city owned.
11. Splash pad or dog run
12. There is nothing there. It's basically a bathroom for dogs.
13. Clear park markings, a fence, additional plantings A community garden could be another good use for this space.
14. Seating, tables, fencing, add'l trash receptacles (including for dog waster), plantings, signage (I bet at least 75% of neighborhood does not know it is a public park)

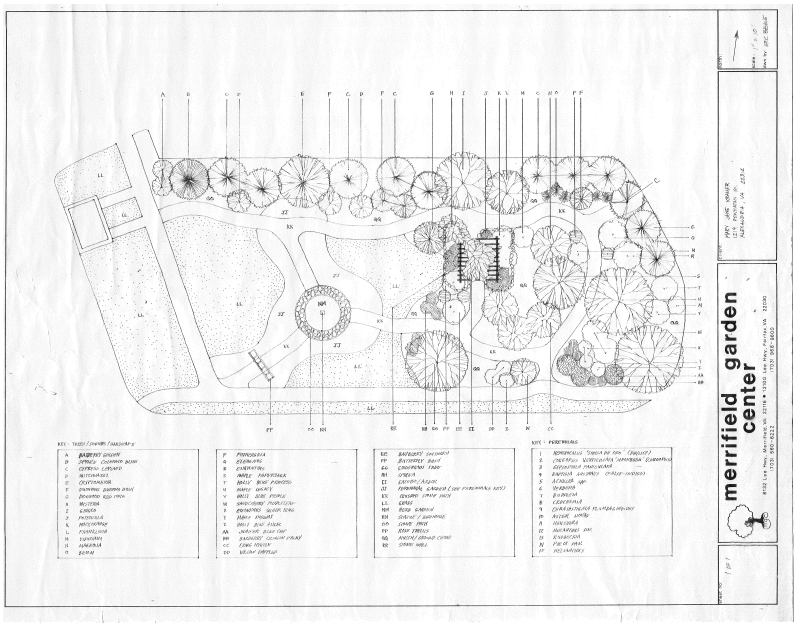
Community Feedback

In Fall 2018, RPCA staff collected community feedback to understand how the park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what was heard through an online survey and community workshop. Over 400 people responded to the survey in total, 21 of which were specific to 1301 Powhatan Park. RPCA staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

In 10 years, I would like this Park to…

(Top three rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

1. *Be a place to create social connections with neighbors*
2. *Be a safe place for children to explore*
3. *Be a place to relax*



In 1994, the Northeast Civic Association looked into improving 1301 Powhatan Park. Landscape drawings were developed pulling heavily from the area's history. This information will be used during the design phase of the park. The image to the left, is the 1994 landscape drawing for the park.

1301 Powhatan Park

Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like?

Recommendation Number of responses	Park welcome sign 28	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	17	61
I like it	8	29
I don't like it	3	11

Recommendation Number of responses	Pedestrian & bike crossing 28	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	19	68
I like it	3	11
I don't like it	6	21

Recommendation Number of responses	Sidewalks 28	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	18	64
I like it	5	18
I don't like it	5	18

Recommendation Number of responses	Public art 28	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	14	50
I like it	10	36
I don't like it	4	14

Recommendation Number of responses	Seating area 28	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	20	71
I like it	6	21
I don't like it	2	7

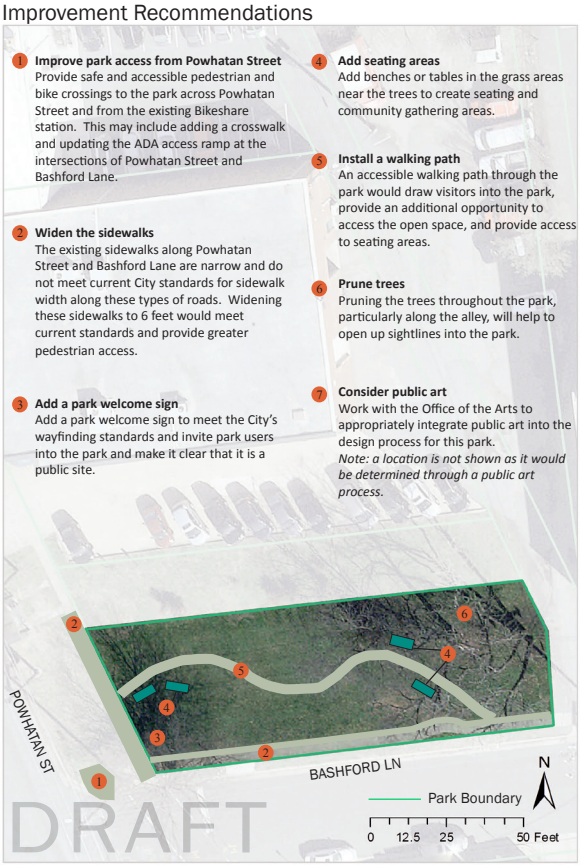
Recommendation Number of responses	Walking path 27	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	13	48
I like it	7	26
I don't like it	7	26

Recommendation Number of responses	Trees 26	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	21	81
I like it	5	19
I don't like it	0	0

In the summer of 2019 RPCA staff collected community feedback on the draft recommendations for improving this pocket park. The following information summarizes what was heard through online surveys and community feedback (see appendix for full results). The city received 716 total responses, 28 of which were specific to 1301 Powhatan Park.

Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. A major change from the draft 1301 Powhatan Park Plan is the placement of the path. The draft plan proposed putting the path through the park, based on community feedback the path has been moved to line the park and preserve the existing open space.

Improvement Recommendations



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Improvement Recommendations

1. **Improve park access from Powhatan Street**
Provide safe and accessible pedestrian and bike crossings allowing better access to the park and existing Bikeshare station. This may include adding a crosswalk and updating the ADA access ramp at the intersections of Powhatan Street and Bashford Lane.

2. **Widen sidewalks**
The existing sidewalks along Powhatan Street and Bashford Lane are narrow and do not meet current city standards for sidewalk width along this type of road. Widen these sidewalks to six feet to meet current standards and provide greater pedestrian access.

3. **Add a park welcome sign**
Add a park welcome sign to meet the city's wayfinding standards. This will invite park users into the park and make it clear that it is a public site.

4. **Add seating areas**
Add benches or tables in the grass areas near the trees to create seating and community gathering areas.

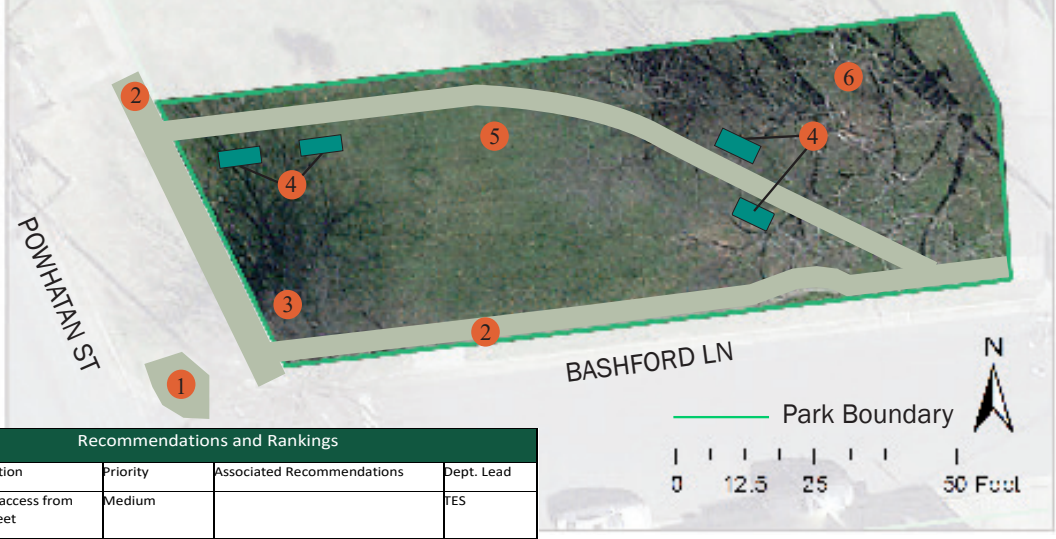
5. **Install a walking path**
An accessible walking path through the park draws visitors into the park, provides an additional opportunity to access the open space, and provides access to seating areas.

6. **Prune trees**
Prune the trees throughout the site, particularly along the alley, to help open up sightlines into the park.

7. **Consider public art**
Work with the Office of the Arts to appropriately integrate public art into the design process for this park.

Note: a location is not shown as it would be determined through a public art process.

8. **Name park**
Name the park as guided by the City's Naming Policy to give the park more of an identity.



Recommendations and Rankings				
#	Recommendation	Priority	Associated Recommendations	Dept. Lead
1	Improve park access from Powhatan Street	Medium		TES
2	Widen the sidewalks	Low		TES
3	Add a park welcome sign	High		RPCA
4	Install a walking path	Medium	Recommendations #4 and #7 should be done together	RPCA
5	Add seating areas	Medium		RPCA
6	Prune trees	High		RPCA
7	Consider public art	Medium	Recommendations #4 and #7 should be done together	RPCA

DRAFT - WILL BE UPDATED IN FEBRUARY 2020