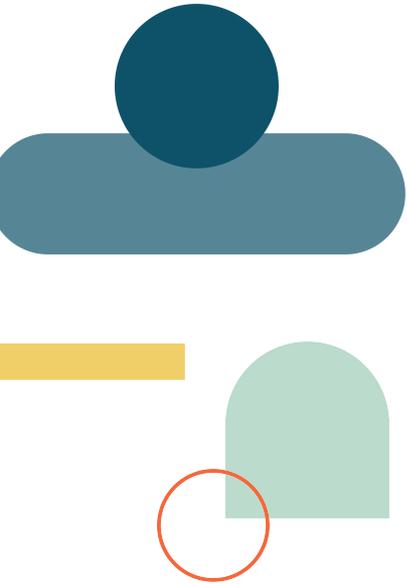


Tusten Multigenerational Park Pavilion Committee Meeting Summary

Prepared by Jill Fruchter, August 16, 2023

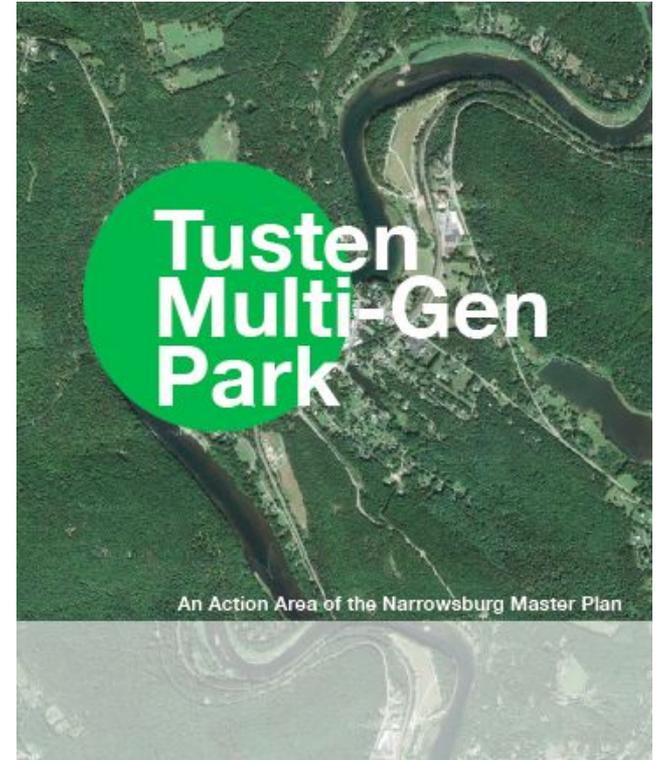


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Background & purpose

- The addition of a Pavilion was first presented in the Master Plan adopted in 2014 which outlined the development of the existing recreational area in the Flats into a Multi-Generational Park, blending active and passive recreational activities for all ages. (*Excerpted from Tusten Multi-Gen Park Master Plan*)
- In January 2023, a \$20k partial matching grant was received from Sullivan 180 to build an open-air Pavilion and playground mound. The grant stipulates that the project be completed by October 2023. Committee established in July 2023 to oversee the project.
- At the Town Board meeting on Tuesday, August 8th, details about the Pavilion project and design concept were shared and many community concern and objections shared during public comment (*See Summary of Public Comment*). The Committee decided to convene a “follow-up” meeting on Monday, August 14th and selected a sample of people representing key interest groups to participate.
- The meeting had two objectives: 1) Provide opportunity to interact with Committee members directly, 2) Generate suggested changes to existing design. Jill Fruchter was asked to facilitate the meeting based on her professional experience conducting user-centered design workshops.

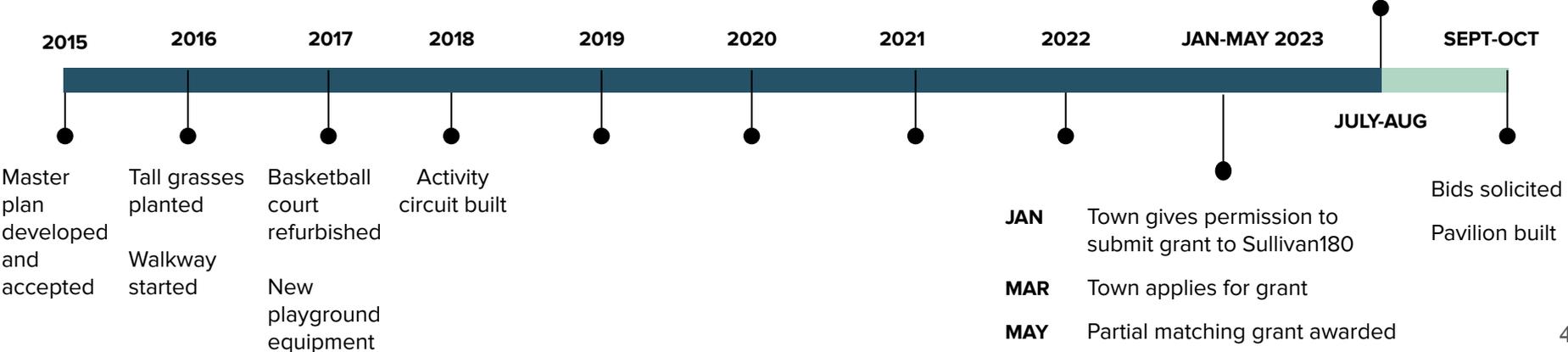


Master plan building timeline

*Pre-2023 dates are approximate

- July** Pavilion committee established
- 8/8** Town Board Mtg
- 8/14** Workshop
- 8/16** Workshop summary to Committee
- 8/22** New designs delivered to Committee
- 8/23** Board vote

Multi-gen park plan created and execution begins



Summary of public comment at Town Board Mtg (8/8/23)

FIT/IMPACT TO RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

Pavilion programming does not fit residential zoning and will compromise quality of life.

- “Event” and large scale programming feeling inconsistent with residential zoning (e.g. noise levels, night lighting, traffic/congestion, garbage, etc.)
- Concern that there is no one responsible for event operations (i.e., scheduling, maintenance, etc.)
- Impact to wildlife
- Based on original concept, impact of aesthetic on residential property values

COST AND RELIABILITY OF UPKEEP

Concern re: ability to pay for ongoing upkeep, maintenance

- No track record of success: Lack of trust in Town to clean and maintain additional park components based on current conditions (overgrown activity station walkway, unclaimed items left in park)
- Where will the ongoing funding come from to maintain?

NEED TO EVALUATE & UPDATE PARK PLAN, FIRST

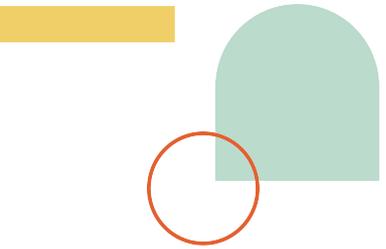
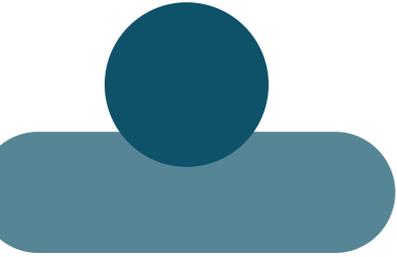
It's been 8 years. Desire to reconsider total plan before moving forward w/Pavilion.

- Lack of awareness and transparency cited
- Current plans do not match original
- Unused and unfinished additions to park need to be examined (unused activity station, incomplete walkway).

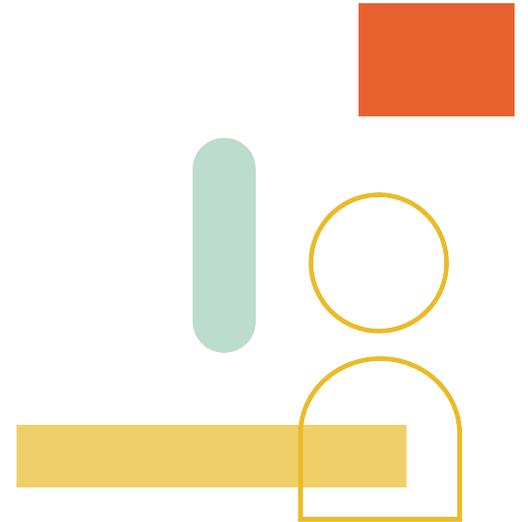
PAVILION DESIGN & FACILITIES

Strong opposition to kitchen, bathroom, size and design.

- Design does not match original Plan (no kitchen , bathroom in original plan)
 - Kitchen is unnecessary and will attract wildlife.
 - Bathroom could attract unwanted activities.
- Too big (“Taj Mahal,” “as big as a barn”)
- Too “heavy, looking” “looks like a metro station”

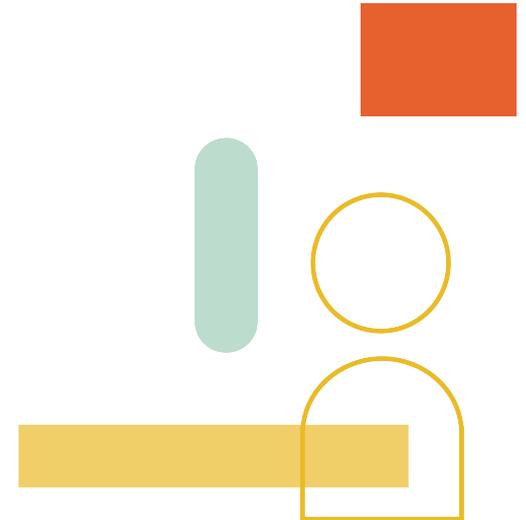


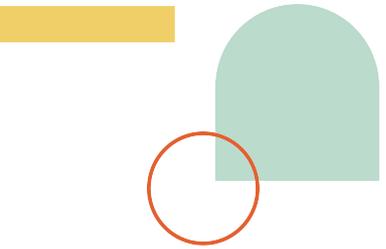
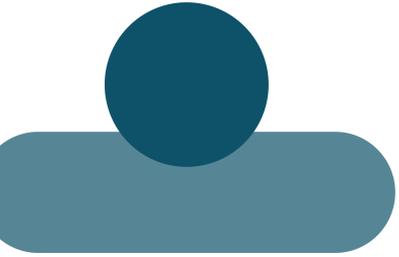
Executive summary (Design brief)



Executive summary & design brief

- **Most participants represented at the Monday meeting are in favor of park improvements** in service to the opportunity to enhance the passive and active recreational needs of the community as described in the Master Plan drafted in 2015.
- **While there is general acceptance of a Pavilion in concept, areas of contention focus on size, scope of public programming that may impact the quality of life of surrounding residents, and lack of confidence that the structure will be maintained based on track record to date** (See *current photos*). There are also questions about how the remaining elements of the park will literally fit together as a whole, before specific design requirements and preferences can be suggested with confidence.
 - **[DESIGN/LOOK & FEEL]** In terms of design preferences, there was the most consensus around the “look and feel” of the Pavilion to go with a more rural vernacular, with the opportunity to be a bit more creative and unique. (See *slide 13*).
 - **[SIZE]** With the exception of the Tusten Youth Commission who advocates for a larger footprint to accommodate 50+ individuals, most advocated for a smaller footprint at 20’ x 24’ (big enough to fit 6 picnic tables). (See *slide 14*).
 - **[LOCATION]** In terms of location, most considered a North/South position along 4th Avenue acceptable, but again, expert advice and a more holistic design with other planned developments is desired to confirm non-expert preferences.





Workshop activity outputs



Workshop agenda

See [facilitation guide](#) for further detail.

Workshop set-up:

- Mix of small group activities and large group discussion to provide directional input into design preferences.
 - Gather use cases from interest groups
 - Upvote “look and feel” design preferences based on selection of divergent visual concepts put to a vote
- To surface consensus and conflicting interests, voting and visual mapping was used to visualize and interpret results.

Participants invited to represent diverse interest groups:

- Seniors
- Tusten Residents & Businesses
- Youth
- Residents of the Flats

See Appendix for full attendance list

Q&A with committee members (20 min) - Key topics

NOTE: Only invited participants were asked to contribute. This caused feelings of exclusion among observers and should ideally be addressed with further discussion opportunities.

Questions clustered around these key themes:

- Zoning compliance
- Source of funding; Ongoing financial and insurance needs
- Size and included facilities
- Negative residential impact mediation - traffic, size of groups using park

Q: *What is zoning of Playground? A:* GR and Town not subject to zoning laws.

Q: *What will maintenance plan be? A:* Town Supervisor is considering hiring staff

Q: *Has FEMA and flood zone insurance needs been figured in to total cost and timing?*

Q: *What is the financial estimate for “whole show,” including construction, maintenance, materials, etc. A:* Will not know until bids come in.

Q: *Would outside use like soccer camp be possible? A:* It would be encouraged.

Q: *Have all other locations been researched for larger program use? A:* Not applicable. There is no other Town land.

Q: *Has community objections to no bath, no kitchen, and smaller size been decided, based on public comment at Town Board mtg? A:* No.

Q: *Has a traffic survey been completed to provide recommendations? A:* No surveys have been requested.

Q: *Where will the matching \$20k come from? A:* ARPA funds

Q: *How will rentals be handled? A:* It will be similar to renting out Community Hall.

Q: *Why were skylights included if priority is shade? A:* That was the [Committee’s] choice.

4 key usage scenarios should be used to influence capacity and design requirements

Use cases varied from single adults to groups of 50. Serious consideration needs to be taken to clearly define the primary user of the park and pavilion. A clear need to balance large group programming with more fluid, intimate everyday use will be required.

Health & wellness classes & scheduled events	Sports teams use	Informal everyday socializing and events for residents and visitors	Dedicated space for Tusten Youth programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Movement classes for adults● Movement classes for youth● Walking groups● Knitting clubs● Creative arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Socializing and instruction for travel team use● Socializing and instruction for Little League games● Socializing and instruction for sports camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rest stop while using park or walking dogs● Picnics and birthday parties● Place to watch and supervise grandchildren● For adults and families to meet and make new friends● For teens to socialize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Weekly afterschool programming for registered Tusten Youth families (40-50+ kids at a time)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Holiday events- Arts & crafts- Large playdates- All TYC programs

Design (“look & feel”) - How many votes did each get?

6



CURRENT CONCEPT

21



WOODSY - COUNTY PARK

7



UTILITARIAN” - MINIMALIST

2



A DIFFERENT SHAPE

3



DESIGN FORWARD

0



OPEN AIR - SHADE IS PRIORITY

Design (“look & feel”) - Why this one?



The following key attributes drove selection of this variant. Use these attributes to inspire and influence design choices (vs. direct replication).

- **Fits vernacular of rural hamlet** - “blends in,” “contextual”
- **Simple aesthetic**, “not overdone”
- Feels like it **will provide “cool”** and shelter
- Described as **“inviting”**

The opportunity to be **more unique and original** was also called out and provides permission to be more creative

- It **“could be more unique”**

Size & location

SIZE

- The original dimensions proposed (30' x 50') was considered TOO BIG by most. The exception was the Tusten Youth commission which wanted an even bigger footprint to accommodate ongoing growth.
- A general consensus surfaced around various references such as “smaller than Minisink,” what could comfortably fit 6 picnic tables with room for circulation, or 20' x 24' was suggested. (See next slide for diagram)

LOCATION

- As in the original sketch plan (see right), a North/South orientation adjacent to 4th Avenue seemed acceptable to most, citing sight lines to both playground and ballfield, shade optimization, and safety provided by existing lighting.

GENERAL CAVEAT

- The need for additional landscape design and public space expertise was requested by several community members who recognize they are not qualified to specify size and location as part of an overall plan, including all park elements being planned for.

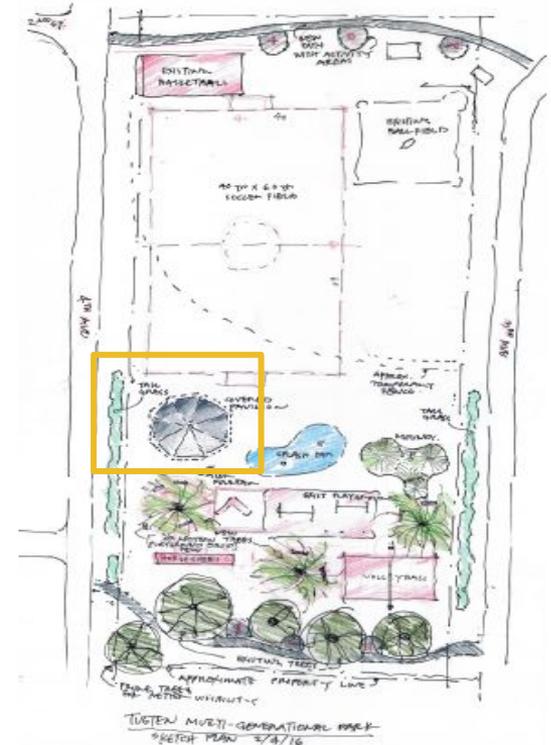
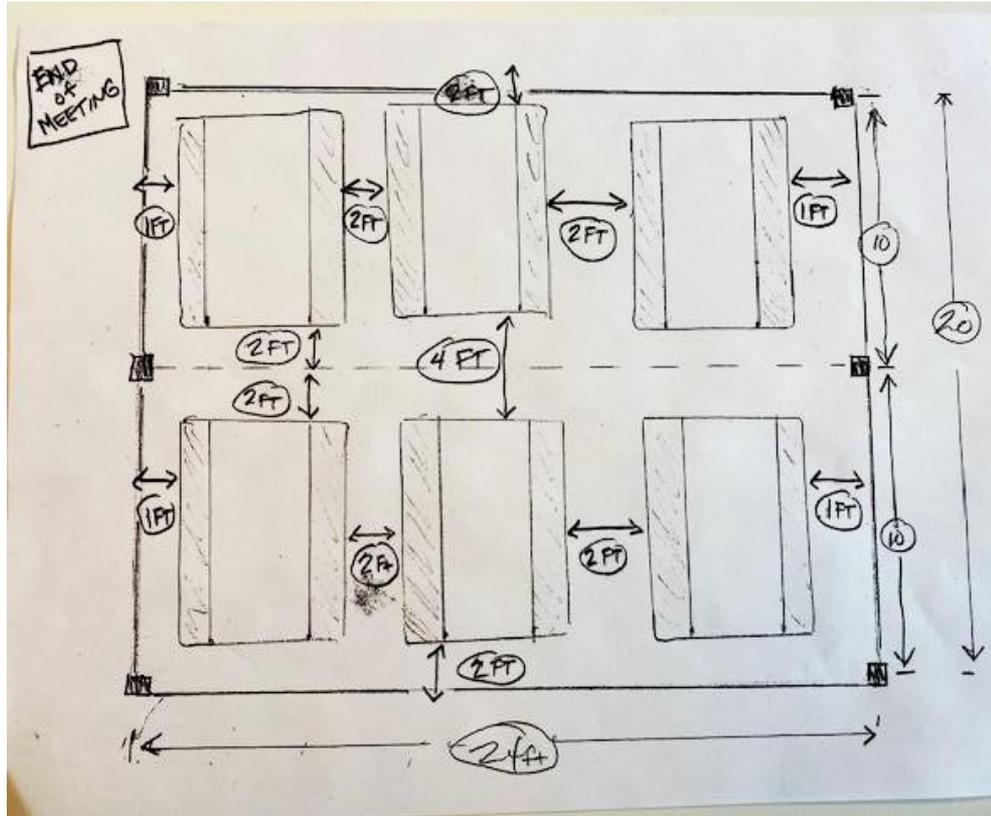
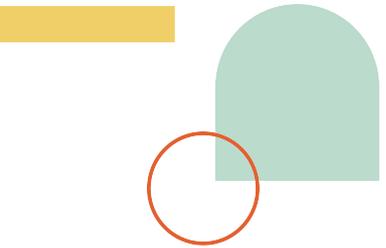
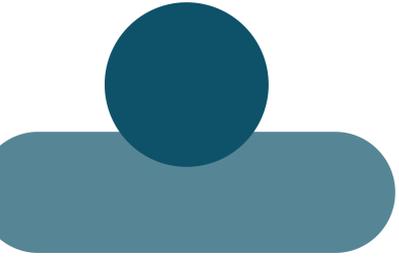
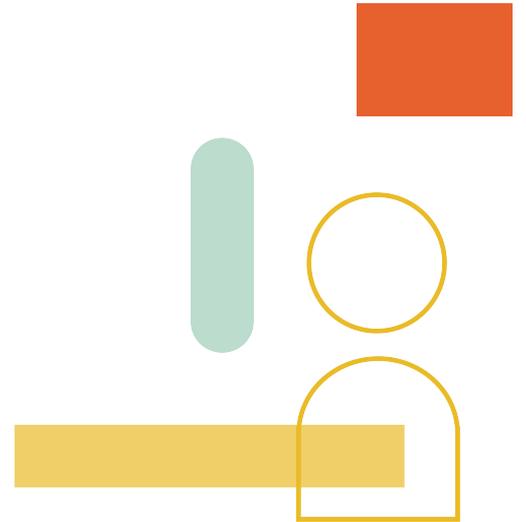


Diagram for size (recommended by resident)





Appendix



Meeting attendance

INVITED ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS & INTEREST GROUP

Iris Helfeld	Seniors
Pattie Capobianco	Seniors
Cass Collins	Seniors
Peter DeAngelis	Residents & Businesses
Alex Broz	Residents & Businesses
Susan Mendoza	Residents & Businesses
Anthony Lombardo	Resident of The Flats
Eugene Wolff	Resident of The Flats
Val Gregoretti	Resident of The Flats
Kelly Agar	Youth
Ashley VanBenschoten	Youth
Craig Snedeker	Youth

OBSERVERS

Doreen & Ed Kraus

Mike Farrell

Marie Redding

Joseph Fiordimondo

Jim & Sue Powell

Linda Bulger

Pedro Boregaard

Star Hesse

Jeanine Hector

Eileen Joyce

PAVILION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Greta Knutzen Tusten Social

Ben Johnson Town Supervisor

Harvey Weissman Flats resident

Jane Luchsinger Master Plan owner,
Town Board Member

Crystal Weston Tusten Youth Commission
(by phone)