

## Project Information

### Project Location



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Pioneer Park presents a special opportunity for the community of Frisco. Its location—just steps from downtown and adjacent to a new workforce housing neighborhood—makes it a potential connector and shared space for long-time locals, new residents, and visitors.

This existing site is a neighborhood park located at the intersection of 6th Avenue and Galena Street. Currently, the park includes two public tennis courts and picnic tables. The park does not contain other amenities such as restrooms, playground features, signage, or formal circulation. Through funding assistance, the Town is working with landscape architecture and engineering firm SCJ Alliance on a design to improve Pioneer Park and to address the growing needs of our community. The Town has collected feedback through a survey, workshop, interactive board, and more.

### Background on Pioneer Park Redesign

In 2019, the Town adopted the Neighborhood Parks Master Plan to guide future investment in parks, open space, and recreational facilities. The plan identified a need to revitalize Pioneer Park and proposed a conceptual vision for improvements.

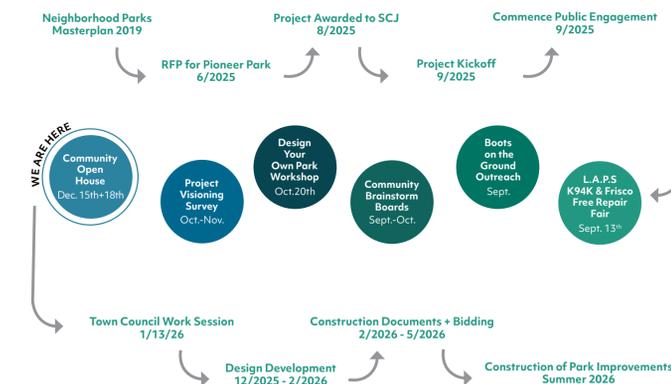
Community feedback gathered as part of the 2019 Neighborhood Parks Master Plan process identified the following existing concerns and desired improvements for Pioneer Park:

- Lack of public visibility and signage
- Unclear status of tennis courts (public vs. private perception)
- General lack of maintenance and defined purpose
- Retention of tennis courts and expansion of tennis-related amenities
- Enhancement of natural areas while maintaining a sense of solitude
- Addition of restrooms and improved stormwater/drainage infrastructure
- Improved parking and pedestrian access
- Signage and wayfinding
- Defined winter uses and snow storage strategy
- Preservation of mature trees and natural character

The Neighborhood Parks Master Plan included a conceptual plan for Pioneer Park. However, this concept could not account for the workforce housing now being built at Galena Street. The needs of Pioneer Park are also anticipated to be different today than they were in 2019, and has since been supplemented by additional feedback from the community, including interest in other amenities.



### Community Engagement Process & Timeline



### Frequently Asked Questions

- Question:** What is the project budget and funding source?  
**Answer:** The Town received a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for infrastructure associated with building workforce housing on Galena Street. Construction improvements at Pioneer Park are part of the grant for the Galena Street workforce housing. The Town has \$1.5M for construction of park improvements as part of this grant.
- Question:** What is the size of the site?  
**Answer:** The park's parcel area is 0.97 AC but the Town right of way extends through the alley (existing parking area) which adds approximately 0.33 AC to the area that can be used for park programming.
- Question:** What is the project timeline?  
**Answer:** The project began in September 2025 with public engagement and currently is in the conceptual design phase. The Town plans to recommend a preferred conceptual design in mid-January at which time SCJ will begin developing construction documents. A contractor will be selected in the spring with construction planned for the spring/summer of 2026.
- Question:** What happens to the snow that is currently stored there in the winter?  
**Answer:** The preferred plan will accommodate on-site snow storage but in the future the Town will likely not use the site for storing snow removed from other locations.
- Question:** There is existing wildlife habitat and wetlands on site. What are the setbacks to protect the existing wetland?  
**Answer:** The plans identify a 10' buffer from wetland areas. Exceptions are allowed for projects which are intended for the benefit of the community and installed by the Town. The Town intends to make minimal improvements in the wetland areas to maintain the wetland quality and habitat.

## Site Analysis

### Site Context



### Wetland + Flood Zone



## General Comments

### Observations + Analysis



### Circulation + Amenities



## Community Outreach Key Takeaways

### LAPS K94K and Frisco Free Repair Fair: September 13th

SCJ Alliance and the Town of Frisco distributed flyers to people attending the LAPS 4K9K and Frisco Free Repair Fair in order to raise awareness for the project and future engagement opportunities. The design team displayed 2 comment boards, gathered contact information, and discussed the project with interested individuals.

#### A summary of the feedback received at the event includes:

- Dog programming was a high priority among people attending the LAPS K94K (dog event)
- Some people recognized that the site is not an appropriate place for a dog park once they saw the aerial of the site
- Awareness of the park as a public space is lacking
- People were generally interested in Nature Play elements and a playground
- Sense of discovery and nature play were better received than a traditional playground structure
- There was interest in a community garden or a desire to have program elements that encourage community working together.
- Available parking in that area is a concern
- Having a bathroom was important to people
- There was minimal interest expressed to have a basketball court there
- There was minimal interest expressed to have tennis courts
- There was some interest for an ice rink

### Brainstorm Board: September 27th - November 12th

A brainstorm board was installed on the fence of the existing tennis courts in order to provide visitors the opportunity to comment on park improvements. Questions were updated each Tuesday to encourage continuous engagement and inspire new ways of thinking about the park.

#### Feedback included:

- Comments to preserve the natural beauty and vegetation of the park
- A desire for bathrooms
- Requests for walking paths and sculptures
- Ideas to make tennis better (ball machine, partner bulletin board, tennis vending, practice wall, taller fences)
- Request for a dirt pump track
- Comments both for and against installing a pickleball court
- Concerns about pickleball being loud
- Suggestions to pave the parking area
- Miscellaneous ideas for additional programming (community bonfire, bicycle pump track, community garden plots, basketball court, putt-putt course, ice rink, water slide, tether-ball, a splash pad, small 'putt-putt' disc golf course, and a low water native plant educational garden)
- Comments that the park is already a quiet, welcoming space the way it is.
- Desires for improved covered seating areas (picnic tables and benches).
- Concerns about installing a new playground given the close proximity to Walter Byron Park and existing playgrounds
- Comments about the preserving the sense of quiet sanctuary
- Request for a landscape that blends in with its natural setting (benches, natural playground, paths)
- Opinions both for and against including a water feature
- Requests for the space to be enclosed and used for dogs off-leash
- Concern about the park being used as overflow Town parking and a call to forbid overnight parking
- A comment about using proper drainage to reduce flooding
- A suggestion to make it an urban park with a food truck court
- Concerns that community feedback from those living closest to the park may influence the level of improvements ultimately achieved
- Calls to let the natural habitat remain as is due to wildlife in the area
- Concerns over available funding

### Boots on The Ground: October 3rd

SCJ Alliance distributed flyers to local businesses on Main Street and at homes near the park to raise awareness for upcoming engagement events, the input survey, and the park planning process. The goal was to reach nearby residents and employees while also equipping shop owners with materials they could hand out or display in their windows.



### Design Your Own Park Elementary Classes: October 20th

A design your own park session was held at the Frisco Elementary school for 3 STEM classes. SCJ engaged the students by introducing the park project and explaining the various design constraints that would guide their ideas. These constraints included recognizing the presence of wetlands, understanding the overall size of the park, considering costs and long-term maintenance, and accounting for Frisco's unique climate and weather. Following this introduction, SCJ guided students through an exploration of possible park elements using a vision board. Students participated in a "dot voting" activity, selecting images that best represented their design preferences.

#### Key Take-Aways and Priorities from the Dot Voting Exercise:

- There was strong support for adding permanent restrooms and a drinking fountain
- Students agreed on preserving the wetlands and emphasize using natural features
- Ideas such as pump tracks, athletic fields, and dog parks were initially discussed but students concluded that these amenities would be better suited elsewhere, given the space constraints and sensitivity of the wetlands.
- Students envisioned a park that celebrated natural wonder and had a whimsical, magical atmosphere
- Kids expressed desire for something different and unique from nearby parks
- There were mixed opinions on the existing tennis courts but most of the kids favored removing the courts as currently configured to allow for multi-use or alternative use
- Kids who understood the origin of the park wanted to have some component of the park acknowledge the drilling of the first water well at the site.

### Design Your Own Park Meeting: October 20th

A Design Your Own Park open house event was held at the Town of Frisco Council Chambers in order to hear ideas from the public and work with them to visualize program elements within the confines of the existing park. Attendees were directed to a series of stations to solicit feedback and were also encouraged to ask questions or provide input to Town and SCJ staff.

#### Comment Cards Summary

- Keep and improve the tennis courts
- Keep the park natural with less formalized elements
- Comments for both traditional active park elements and non traditional elements for 7-12 year olds
- Requests for elements for older age groups because nearby Walter Byron Park already has play elements for children
- Investigate alternative activities (passive + active) for non-tennis playing people such as fitness stations and games (cornhole, bocce, ladder-ball, etc.)

#### Design Your Own Park Summary

- Keep tennis courts as they are
- Maintain natural beauty and peaceful setting of the park by preserving natural screening / trees
- Include a small play area among the trees
- Provide walking trails for improved circulation to areas not currently accessed
- Enhance the natural beauty of the site with native plant material
- Considerations to install a barrier between court areas
- Minimize court noise to neighbors
- Possibilities to utilize the clearing on the southwest corner of the park
- Improve circulation access to the site
- Formalize parking near the tennis courts
- Inspiration to utilize the tree canopy for unique play, like zip-lines
- Desires to include pickleball striping on the tennis courts

#### Dot Voting Summary

- General preference for site amenities such as water and restrooms, less people were interested in interpretive signage
- Attendees generally agreed that preservation and restoration of natural site elements is desirable
- Community gardens and winter use were not as popular as the preference to have alternative games areas and public art elements
- Improving the court space for tennis and other sports was largely preferred and a dedicated basketball court space was well received among attendees
- A hammock garden and group picnic area were popular gathering elements
- Amphitheater space and a pavilion were less popular but still desirable
- Nature play areas were generally less popular among attendees but may be due to the fact that attendees were primarily adults

### Stakeholder Meetings

SCJ conducted stakeholder interviews with representatives from the Frisco Historic Park & Museum, the Frisco Arts & Cultural Council, Town Council, and the surrounding neighborhood. Stakeholders emphasized preserving the park's natural character and habitat, while also acknowledging that the site currently contains Frisco's only public tennis court. Opinions varied on whether to retain the tennis courts, or modify/relocate them allowing the park to accommodate a broader range of users.

#### Summary

- Sensitivity to adjacent residential neighborhoods regarding noise and parking was a consistent concern
- Historically, the site functioned as a community water source and informal gathering place, fostering both connection and shared identity. There was strong consensus around celebrating Frisco's character and culture through park improvements, with opportunities for storytelling and interpretive elements tied to the site's natural features and cultural history.
- Common themes included honoring the park's natural beauty and habitat, creating a distinctive space that primarily serves Frisco locals, and authentically expressing the community's unique culture.

## Community Survey Summary

### Community Survey: October 17th - November 16th

The Town of Frisco's Pioneer Park Community Survey received 398 total responses, including 330 complete and 68 partial, reflecting strong interest from residents across the community. The following sections summarize key findings from the survey, providing insight into how residents currently experience Pioneer Park, the types of improvements they value most, and their vision for how this neighborhood park can continue to serve the community in the future.

#### Key Takeaways

- Most respondents are familiar with Pioneer Park, with more than four out of five having visited it before.
- A large majority of respondents live within one mile of the park, indicating that most survey participants are nearby residents.
- Residents strongly prefer an active recreation character for the park, with quieter nature elements as an important secondary priority.
- People believe Pioneer Park is or could be great due to features like tennis or other courts, shade and vegetation, picnic areas, and peaceful natural spaces.
- The main barriers to park use are amenities that do not match residents' preferred activities and concerns about the condition of existing facilities.
- Respondents want the park to better serve adults and intergenerational users, with moderate interest in amenities for seniors and fewer requests for youth-focused spaces.
- Improved tennis facilities, permanent restrooms, and multi-use court spaces are the top desired improvements among survey participants.
- Most respondents want to keep the tennis courts, with many preferring to improve both courts, and others are open to converting one for different uses.

Figure 1. Have you visited Pioneer Park before?

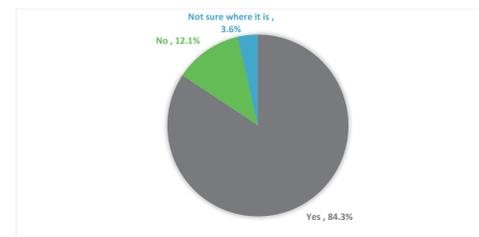


Figure 2. How close do you live to Pioneer Park?

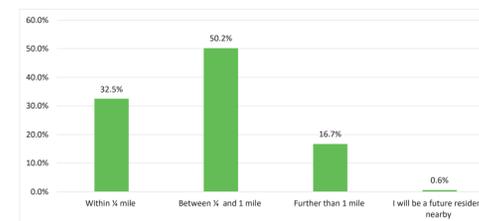


Figure 3. What best describes the overall character you'd like for Pioneer Park? (choose up to 2)

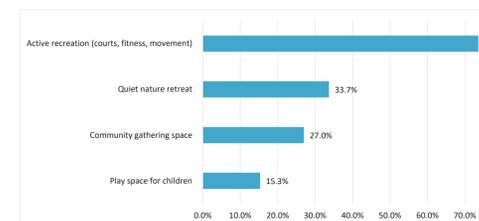


Figure 4. What makes Pioneer Park (or could make it) a great place to visit? (choose up to 3)

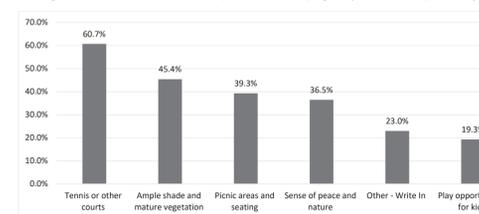


Figure 4: There were 63 write-in responses for this question, where many residents highlighted recreation amenities such as dog parks, tennis or pickleball courts, and basketball or multi-use sports areas as key features that would make Pioneer Park a great place to visit. Others recommended enhancements like community gardens, natural play areas, fitness spaces, restrooms, and year-round activity options. Several respondents also expressed interest in keeping the park as is, reducing new development, or reconsidering its purpose given its proximity to Walter Byron Park.

Figure 5. What keeps you from using Pioneer Park more often?

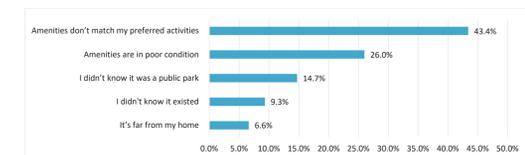


Figure 6. For what age groups would you like to see more or different facilities in the improved park? (Choose 2)

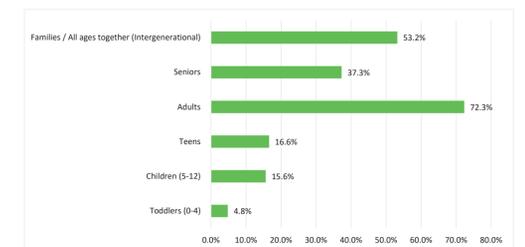


Figure 7. What types of improvements would you most like to see? (choose up to 3)

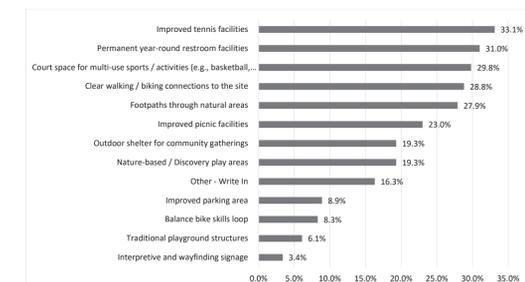
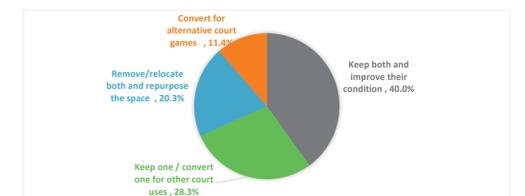


Figure 8. The park currently has two tennis courts. What would you prefer happen with the existing tennis courts?



In response to Question 9, "Do you have any additional thoughts or ideas to help make Pioneer Park welcoming and a resource for the community?", many write-in responses highlighted the value of Pioneer Park as a peaceful neighborhood green space, with strong appreciation for its mature trees, natural setting, and existing tennis courts. Several residents expressed interest in maintaining the park's quiet character while introducing thoughtful enhancements such as clearer signage, improved pathways, modest seating, picnic areas, and well-maintained courts to help the space feel more inviting and accessible for visitors of all ages.

Other respondents offered ideas for expanding community use, including options like multi-use courts, pickleball or basketball space, a dog park, fitness equipment, or year-round features such as turf areas or winter activities. Additional suggestions included community gardens, nature play elements, small gathering or performance spaces, accessible design features, and improved amenities such as restrooms, bike racks, and reservation systems. A few residents also shared broader visions for how Pioneer Park might complement nearby parks, support local housing, or meet evolving community needs, illustrating a wide range of thoughtful perspectives on how the space could best serve Frisco.