# Northam Park Study Survey <br> Do you have any comments or suggestions that you wish to share? <br> Answered - 166 <br> Skipped-296 



Overall, very happy to see a well-thought-out, expertly-designed concept plan based on community input. In general, prefer layouts that enhance views from Northam Road periphery (e.g. football field is a nicer thing to look at year-round than a baseball backstop), shorten the service access road, and improve attractiveness and usefulness of space in the interior while worrying less about borders not so visible to residents (thus favoring eastern justification of tennis courts). One important detail worth mentioning: the space between the regular-play tennis courts and the lesson courts needs to be about doubled to accommodate the separation netting and sufficient unobstructed sideline space for players to retrieve wide-angled balls (assuming lessons and clinics will continue to be conducted on courts 11 and 12).
I love all the improvements!
The renovation of Northam Park is unfortunate. The tennis facilities, used by relatively few and very few Upper Arlington residents, gets an inordinate share of attention. But you're not looking for those comments now I guess.
It seems ill advised to proceed with final plans at this time. The drawings are difficult to understand. It appears to be taking away from the community at large rather than adding to it. UA is so desperate for community space that some of this seems inappropriate. The tennis courts/club have long been a sense of contention, especially with the unreasonably low cost to non-residents vs ability of residents to use. The open air shelter structure would be more appropriate as a giant stage or Gazebo. This would be attractive and has the potential for a revenue source. Still no ice skating for winter? Please? Also, renaming park to Litchford or Pleasant Litchford park could be done as the new improvements are done if not before.

We need a viewing area inside or above the courts. Bleachers inside facing both directions would be great. That area, between the courts needs to stay 39 ' or so as it is now not shrink to 20 ' as I was told. Bleachers 8 10 ' long with $4-5$ rows would be plenty with still enough space for tables/chairs. Viewing thru a fence no good. Viewing important as many GCTA matches are played there. Thanks for considering and adding bleachers to any plan hopefully. In the 70s and 80s we used to have a set with several tournaments a year.
Charlotte, member since 68.
I can't tell from the plans if all of the patio spaces around the proposed new buildings next to the tennis courts are all accessible to all of the people or if some are only available if you have a tennis membership.
Every question needed to have a response for NONE OF THE ABOVE. Stop wasting money. Stop pouring concrete in the park. Leave it alone.
Please leave the park for the park beauty and not develop it any further.
Please define an area for dog park play
None
The decision on staying with grass/dirt baseball/softball fields or going to turf should include a maintenance plan. For more than 10 years there has been no post practice/game maintenance plan for the batters boxes and pitching mounds. If none of the associations who use the fields can commit to a serious maintenance plan, we're likely forced into installing turf fields.
ALSO - your team should $100 \%$ find a way to include at least one batting cage. A real batting cage (thin rectangle) will improve time management around practices for softball and baseball - lacrosse can use as well. I'm happy to discuss by phone.
No additional comments
Love your ideas
Tennis seems to play too large of a presence in all 3 options
Free or less expensive tennis anywhere in this area would be great. All the other parks have open courts.
What's with the lack of dog parks?
We would be in favor of decreasing the number of tennis courts for added green space.
We used to run around Northam Park for cross country practice when I was in high school. Perhaps it would be nice to have a more formalized or structured cross-country running path around the park.

Please consider saving more of the mature trees. The positive out weighs the negative with regards to keeping them. People move from affluent areas to Arlington for the trees. Even though the city replants, the benefits will not be enjoyed for 20-30 years.
Please provide shaded spectator viewing/socializing areas for the tennis courts.
l'm so glad the tennis courts are going to be renovated and preserved. They help make our city unique, and they are an investment worth protecting for what they give to some residents.
Baseball fields from home base thru second base should be facing NE. Less is more - I like the patio idea but not necessary to enlarge area at south end. Keep as much green space as you can. Open air shelters bring litter and upkeep and restrict the view of the fireworks- not necessary.
I am strongly in favor of much better court surfacing to bring the courts up to specs of most of the other hard tru facilities in the area - make this a one of a kind public facility - no other community in central Ohio comes close and it should remain that way with this new design
why are there so many football fields? Are they necessary?
I am opposed to the emphasis on planned use for the entire park. The plans do not easily permit just going over and walking, tossing a frisbee or playing a pick up game. I suggest consideration of additional trees and consideration of fewer amenities; simple is better. The site is becoming cluttered with the building and monuments.
The design layout in the choices for the first question were not placed in any location context, making response somewhat meaningless. As well, the field layouts were too small to read the notes presented in the graphics. As for the question about the open-air athletic structure, the preference was yes or no. That's confusing since it is unclear as to whether it's yes/no for the existance of such a structure or if there is an unstated alternative. You need to get professional help with these surveys.
I don't think what the citizens of Upper Arlington North of Lane input has any validity. The City Council and Department of Development have thrown their souls to developers to gentrify our beautiful neighborhoods so that it prohibits families the opportunity to buy homes they can afford as an entry way to be be part of what was once a diverse economical entry.
The choices are laughably similar.
Very good work
I would like to see the UA library expanded to create space for more resources.
I hope the walking paths include benches, water fountains, dog waste stations, and more trash cans. Picnic tables please!
No
Please make sure there are pedestrian and bike paths in the park. more people want to walk or bike The new sidewalk installation along Northam Rd should have used curvilinear instead of straight segmented formwork.
I would like to see a reduced number of tennis courts. They are rarely all being used.
Thank you for this work!
There should only be 6-8 tennis courts
I appreciate the recent upgrade to the walkway on the south edge of the park. The current walkways in the park are very nice.
Not responsive to the library neighbors meeting
Don't like all the added fenced in square footage of tennis complex
Don't like fake grass infields, if that is what turf grass is
Don't like that choices have already been made
Don't like expanded buildings by tennis courts
Don't like adding walkway to current walkway near St. Agatha, just fence off the road and it will be fine, stop people from driving in there unless they have city business getting in there.
The tennis courts are a much used treasure of UA. It would be nice to have the facility updated ASAP- nicer bathrooms and an updated check in area.
could you possibly make the tennis courts fee free? all of the other tennis courts are. I dont see why this one has a fee.
In this survey, you only allow choices on variations of the total overhaul of the area. Why not give us the option of leaving the facilities, spaces as they currently exist?
Parking is a problem on Farmers Market Days. Consider moving farmers market somewhere else.
Need wider pedestrian path between tennis courts and UA schools lacrosse field.
Obviously it isn't part of this survey; but I would love to see some additional basketball courts, perhaps covered or inside
Leave tennis courts as they are. They are some of the best clay courts in the state!!! If you want to change the restrooms fine. Leave everything else the same!!!!
I favor preservation of or expansion of natural spaces (grass/fields, gardens, trees) for our parks, green spaces \& public areas over sports complexes \& services. Please don't build a permanent football field at northam park. Please preserve walking/bike trails through/around the park!
Nice ideas, but don't restrict your thinking. The fireworks circle is not reality as the fence cuts all the way through the middle of the park, goes all around the school along Ridgeview, and cuts through half of St. Agatha's land. Would be nice to get all four ball diamonds along the top or north side, so they are within the fireworks fence, leaving more green space for people and blankets. The ball diamonds are deserts during fireworks, as well as during the arts festival. To the north allows the arts festival to not have to snake through the park too. Do not restrict your thinking by the current path from north to south through middle of park. Move and rework it. Also, consider sight lines for fireworks when considering new trees, their mature height and placement. Make all sidewalks at least 6 feet wide, including replacing the walk along Ridgeview which is dangerous to walk on in the snow as it has such a sharp angle. Please work to consider all ball diamonds to the north using the entire property. Option A \& C should not be allowed.
Drainage is a real problem for the tennis courts and should be addressed. They might work better along the North edge of the park.
Why can't we have a balance of sport fields. There are no soccer fields on the diagram. Why do we need four football fields?
Whenever possible, please preserve as much green space as you can. I know that tennis is popular in UA, but it is not an activity that is accessible or affordable to all families. UA is striving to be an inclusive community. However, it sends a very negative message to visitors and residents when so much of the park is taken up by an elite, expensive sport that requires reservations. Please provide open green space or other facilities, such as open basketball courts, that can be used by all residents
This survey was very difficult to understand what exactly we were looking at - no context to North or South, or road layout. In general, I would like the city to spend the money that we approved several years ago when we approved the increase in income tax rate to $2.5 \%$. We have let the loud minority dictate city actions when the majority spoke during the vote.
When you raise the tennis courts 6 " to renovate you will have to be very careful that proper drainage can handle the extra runoff. If you install 4 " underdrains every 15 to 20 feet in the athletic fields you won't need any surface drains.

## Thank you for considering the best use of this park!

Looking forward to the tennis courts!!
Twould love to see a modification of building C. Move the covered patio area on the eastern side to between the locker rooms and facility support, like in option A. This would leave the storage units right next to the service road for easy use. The tennis facilities would all remain together though. I like the western covered patio where it is. I am wondering about the John Petro entrance that was proposed/celebrated not too long ago. Is that still going where the proposed southern entrance is? Lastly, I dislike the athletic fields in option B because when two softball/baseball games are playing simultaneously, having to routinely search for and fend away foul balls from a game you are not watching is annoying and frustrating. The diamonds' locations ensures this. Plus the crowds can be more spread out in the other options, which in times like this, with a pandemic, is beneficial.

Include aeds for tennis courts and several for the park
This all looks wonderful! Good job!
don't make it all about the tennis courts when those are the least used facilities. Protect resources for the rest of us who use the park. Thanks for your efforts
Too much money and effort is being spent on tennis courts only used by a small but very vocal percentage of the community. Making things worse, these people try and treat the courts like some sort of private country club for their own use. If it is that important to them to have top quality tennis surfaces, let them pay for a membership at a tennis club. We shouldn't be subsidizing this on the public dime.
I believe at least half of the courts should be open for public use. I walk around the park at various times throughout the day and they are never close to full. A simple observational study would reveal that the paid club does not require 12 courts.
Don't short change the park used by 1,000's at the expense of the tennis courts used by a couple hundred.

I like $99 \%$ of what you have done. The $1 \%$ I do not agree with is the statement that the trees in the tennis courts are "problematic". Court 3 is the favorite court in the morning and court 4 is the favorite in the afternoon do to the shade the tree provide. All spectators also appreciate the tree to block direct sunlight in the hot summer days......In lieu of the trees, a canvas canopy to give some shade would be a good addition. The mature trees are extremely valuable; I am glad to see you are striving to guard them and not chop them down.
drainage is the main issue
Please ensure as many mature trees as possible are saved.
our city schools; with all the costs involved to settle into new school buildings, AND make our school buildings as safe as possible for all involved should there be in-person attendance this year, we need to focus our dollars and efforts on educational issues for the coming school year. In addition, we have a needed school levy which has had to be postponed, and have had to freeze our school budgets and staff hiring for the coming year.
thank you for your thoughtful design and community engagement.
this survey is terrible. The question asking about which Athletic fields do you prefer, A \& C or B, is literally impossible to tell what the fields will even be used for. Who can vote on this when you have no idea what it says. Also asking about the tennis courts justification is ridiculous, there is not difference in the pictures and most people would not understand at all what you are asking, I play tennis 5 times a week and it does not look like an intelligent survey question to me! How is a regular person that does not play tennis supposed to figure this out. All the graphics on this survey are absolutely terrible!
Both of these plans look really great. I do wish the city would use the surveys to share information instead of asking only yes/no questions. Will both plans cost the same?
Why does the tennis complex need locker rooms and an office? My father lives in a Del Webb community and there is no "check in" or office needed.
Could there be more spots available for family shelter areas for Birthday / reunion get- together? Looks like you decided Northam Park is a sports Center instead of family/community use.
\#4 \& 5-do I prefer it - compared to what? Compare to how it is, or compared to nothing?
Keep at it and keep working! I know you can make this process more comprehensive and open to review. Change name to Litchford Park
These designs are very interesting. It's hard to make a decision without the associated costs for each of these designs. It seem like a bit of a vacuum with out looking at the cost tradeoffs
Please be SURE the sewers in the area are equipped to handle the excess water! We have had so many water issues this year that we hadn't had for 18 years.
no
I would like to see a fenced in dog park somewhere in UA. It would not have to be large and it could be on a price of land that is not that desirable.

I think the large plazas shown in Concept $B$ are nice but too tight to the baseball backstops. There just doesn't seem to be enough room. I was not able to join the zoom meeting and it wasn't clear from the materials if the new restrooms would be for public use and not limited to just tennis. Park needs public restrooms for passive walkers to high activity events....baseball, football etc. I'm not concerned with tennis close to pool...already co- exists.

Also, a few general statements. Overall who is overseeing contractor work and docs? New path on south , northsm is awesome...alignment leaves much to be desired', crazy kinks because contractor didn't form a radius or jumped around trees in one area and ignored in others....the backfill of earth there and in turf field is ridiculous. We need to hold contractor to a quality standard and city needs to followup on QAQC. The infill grass is a joke-weeds, lol. I believe in competitive buds but should be balanced with maintenance and good design.

I know the 'park' has multiple ownerships, school, city, library and St. Agatha.
Just disappointed in looking at overall maintenance..last beef is all the liriope beds and bio swsles on library and school entries and parking lot...spent lots of $\$ \$ \$$ on good design and now weed beds or torn out.

If we can't maintain, we need to simplify the design and materials.
Add a community center
Please don't continue to have a 12 foot fence around the entire tennis court compound. A lower fence with breaks would allow it to feel more a part of the park. It feels like a prison compound. The service road to the blockhouse is completely unnecessary. It is for lazy coaches and tennis court employees. I live across the street, I have coaches all sports for many years, I have witnessed stupid drivers in huge SUVs driving walkers off the road. Ask why the service road is needed. A wide access path like from the Tremont parking lot to the blockhouse could be used the couple (at most) times of the year a road would be handy. It is never necessary. I would like to have a conversation with the person who says it is necessary.
I like Plan C the best but I would suggest that they make the building a flat roof with stairs up to a viewing platform the full length of the building. As long as it is above the 12' fence, that would give us terrific viewing angle for at least courts $4-8$, which is better than what we have now. I don't think it would add that much additional cost either. It would be similar to Elysium's viewing area. It if had a roof covering, that would be even better! I hope the facility support building is designed to be a kitchen/food service area.
Please leave as many trees as possible because the shade is so nice for people attending sporting events.
First of all I appreciate the engagement.
The images in question \#2 are terrible, the text is impossible to read.
I have no idea on the tennis options, I would assume that the rising/setting sun plays into it and if true maybe split them 50/50?

I find it difficult to "prefer" something when there isn't another option - seems to be the case with the open air athletic shelter and the plaza?

Seems to me that there is likely to be a lot happening at Tremont and I wonder if a single athletic shelter will meet the needs of the groups using the park. Perhaps an additional shelter could be incorporated into the service complex?

I'm just now (after spending time on the survey) thinking that all of this may be more clear if I had watched the video - if so the resident should be told to do so before starting the survey. Otherwise, more time should be spent in creating the survey.

Get a better reservation system for baseball. UA youth teams travel teams that are not JBA (the get all Thompson) or Bear Cub (they get everything else) cannot get field time despite being a team of full time residents. We play in the same league as JBA (Central Ohio Youth Baseball League) yet can't get practice time.
I'm concerned about the maintenance of the new walkway which was built and the extensive landscaping that is not being maintained. I have weeded it myself when walking by. If we can't manage the weeds in that small area what will happen with any other area that is new? Just a thought.
Would like a community center.
The space occupied by each use should match the participation numbers. The tennis investment appears to be heavily weighted to a small number of users.
Way too much money and defernce given to tennis
Most important piece is to get the infrastructure (stormwater) right so all the facilities are usable quickly after a rain event

All tennis court construction expenses should be paid for by tennis court membership fees. Otherwise, all tennis courts at Northam Park should be free to use by all city residents.
Make sure restrooms are available 24/7 12 months of the year and available to the general public.
Do we need that many tennis courts?
The drawings need to be larger and show adjacent streets.
None.
There is no option to indicate if you do not like any of the plans oftered. There is way too much concrete. We already have a Bear Plaza that no one uses. Now you are adding two additional plazas. Why are the tennis courts surrounded by concrete and why so much concrete in the middle of the park? It seems to me you will bulldoze most of the park to implement this design. How many trees, will remain? This is a concern, especially considering how poorly the new plantings you have planted in other areas of the park have done. This will no longer be Northam Park. This will be Northam Sports Plex. It is not a place to go to enjoy nature. Plus, you will add obnoxious lighting just like you did to the pool and Bear Plaza and the statutes by the library so there will be no quiet place at night if you like to take a walk outside. It will look like a Walmart parking lot at night it will be so lit up. I do not know who you guys get to come up with these plans, but they know nothing about park design. I do not even think they understand the importance of trees and grass to a park. News Flash: People do not go to a park to be around concrete.
Good job! Much appreciated that current uses of the park are now taking priority. Thank you.
This was confusing. They did not give enough context. I guess the first one is replacing the current concessions. Are the tennis courts in the same place? All of this is south of the current tennis courts, right? Tennis courts take up 3 times the area of a swimming pool used by far more people. I'd prefer fewer tennis courts.
Minimal money should be spent on tennis there. Do not believe that it serves a large enough group of UA residents.
How can the City leverage the new Tremont School facilities? Partner with schools given huge expenditure there?
Need grass volleyball courts! Better yet, artificial turf volleyball courts. No sand courts. Thanks!
Why is it necessary to spend so much money on an area that is already nice? You have already raised our taxes so much for the schools, and now you want more. This is not the time. And this is not your money. Curious about spectator seating......
Please do not remove the tree walkway. (east end) the parks charm is the shade and the openness. Adding structure after structure only removes the true concept of a park.
another restroon facility, open during park hours
Images in this survey were very small, especially the images with multiple fields. Also, unsure the difference between the tennis court diagrams

I'm opposed to any more fencing, such as has gone up around the new turf field. I'm opposed to any youth sports field plans that hinder access to any part of the field by others. Gain space by reducing the number if courts. 12! Really? I've never seen them all full. Improve walking paths. Add paths that access the North side. Don't cut any of larger healthy trees.
As an avid tennis player it seems to me that the restrooms should be close to the courts so players don't have to leave the tennis grounds or cross over other courts to use the restroom, Thanks you
Great ideas! Our community deserves an updated central park.
All of the choices have positive aspects, but what really concerns me is why is UA contemplating spending more money on Northam Park at a time when one of our most valuable resources namely the UA Library is in real financial trouble. Once a library starts to go downhill it is almost impossible to catch up. I realize public health concerns are part of the problem, but the financial aspect will cause severe limits on service long after health conditions permit reopening services. Our library system is used by citizens of all ages and all abilities and it is a resource we cannot allow to decline. If there are no new tennis facilities or playing fields for a year or two there will be little if no lasting harm. I do not believe we can say the same if we allow our library system to lie fallow for the same period of time.
Appreciate the opportunity to participate
None right now
The grass for the sports fields is terrible. It needs an irrigation system and it needs to be fertilized and use of weed killer. Until the city does those things, it doesn't matter what other "improvements" are made; the fields will still be substandard compared to other communities.
Please continue to include more focus on girls outdoor field sports such as field hockey and lacrosse and continue to make additional public fields for practicing and playing available.
Do we still need that many tennis courts?
I think over half of the tennis membership are not UA residents!
While certain buildings/facilities are needed, preserving the open/park feel is important.
No
Not sure we need tennis there!
All three concepts deal well with the tennis courts; while i normally want to keep as many trees as possible, the trees in the middle of the tennis courts need to go; there should be no trees in that area. thoughtful approaches all around. I believe any one of the concepts would work.
I want to make sure there is still open green space that can be used in the park on the Northam side -- that it's not all athletic fields that will restrict other uses.
There is no option on this survey to express the opinion that we don't like any of the designs. We are in a pandemic!! Revenue is way down and we are spending millions and millions on building schools (that the kids aren't allowed to attend). We should be considering options A, B and C on how we trim the budget(s) of the city, parks and rec and the schools not trying to find ways to spend more on plazas.
I am supportive of much of these designs and uses. However, these constant incremental projects in what appears to be a coordinated effort to ultimately end up with an athletic/community center one way or another is a disingenuous message to the U.A. community. The community was asked to vote on an athletic/community center. The answer was no (btw, I voted yes) and the city needs to respect that decision or move forward in the light of day (as in sunshine law) with its end goal.
No
Improved watering irrigation of the clay tennis courts is essential: current watering is extremely non-uniform and courts become too dry.
Less is better.
Please put an emphasis on turf maintenance. We allow the grass area to become a clover patch because we do not properly treat the grass. Many bee stings occur every sports season and lack of grass/irrigation causes the ground to be very hard for our young athletes which poses concussion risk.

Please ensure that we add operation funding to properly fertilize and treat the sod so that we keep it from becoming a mess of weeds with no grass.

Maximize use and flexibility of space for continued community engagement \& involvement. It needs to still be able to host Arts Festival \& 4th Fireworks, etc. because of its centralized location within our community. Would find a way to add Pickleball to the facility. PBall is the fastest growing sport in America and is enjoyed by young and old. You can fit two Pickleball courts on one Tennis court. Check out Pickleball at Olentangy Highlands....Upper Arlington could become a premier PBall location in Central Ohio with a little bit of innovation. I understand that the thrust of this proposal is to refine what is already in place, but addition of PBall would add tremendous interest in the space.
In addition to park upgrades, increased landscaping and bench seating throughout the park would be amazing! Also, additional bike racks at different areas of the park, so if there's an event at one end, you can lock your bike closer to the event.
please follow through and make these much-needed updates to Northam Park. don't allow the vocal minority which would prefer the city not spend a dime improve anything in our city to overpower the rest of us who support these and other improvements throughout the city
Please plant LOTS more trees, there's plenty of room for athletic fields and more trees for shade, beautification, etc.
We need a community center.
How many tennis players were on the committee? You are spending a lot of money an area on the tennis courts which very few UA residents even use. A few years ago, there were only about 250 UA residents that used those courts. HOw do you justify the tax dollars? You have locker rooms for tennis and only three little restrooms for the hundreds of people that might be playing or attending sporting events, or just walking through the park. Do we really need twelve courts? If tax dollars are used to refurbish and upgrade those facilities, why aren't they free for everyone to use, like other courts in the city? Common space for events and gathering is important...
n/a
Is there any opportunity for a scoreboard or bleachers? Closed dugouts?
Great, easy to follow presentations of the options by Ms. Freeland. Glad to hear feedback from residents was taken into account during all the planning steps.
Please save as many trees and as much green space as you possibly can.
I walk my dog, Opie, around or through Northam Park twice a day. Pogo played there during off-leash time for over a decade. I knew it was time to let her go when she did not want to go to the park anymore. We have a memorial bench for her there.
Thank you for providing this on-line survey,
The woman who gave the presentation was great!!
Less is more. Keep structures to the minimum required to
serve the park functions. Remember the emphasis should be on the PARK.
The focus should be on family friendly and ease of use.
Eliminate the Northam Park tennis courts, or stop using UA tax dollars to subsidize the use of them by nonresidents.
North/south paved walkway along St. Agatha border
I would like to see improved landscaping and tree replacement along the outer edge. I would enjoy to see adult swings similar to what is along scioto downtown Columbus.
I do not think UA needs to dedicate as much space \& resources on the tennis program that impacts a limited amount of users, some of whom are not UA residents

It would be really nice to have something more in Northam Park for those of us who are not sports focused. A rose garden like park of roses, a landscaped walk like the west side of Schiller park, a community garden area, etc. the reading garden is under utilized and could be redesigned to be a better draw for the community

Additional drinking fountains and restrooms would be useful. Especially by the playground.

Reduce the number of tennis courts by half. I walk by them alot and it never looks like they are all being used except for the high points of the day. So much better use of space than private tennis courts.
Make the tennis courts available for all to use
Suggest further demarcation between Northam Park and Saint Agatha property, e.g. landscape line, path, signage
I like Option B because it provides a good amount of fields with several seating / plaza areas that can be for anyone to use.
I do not think this is the right time to be spending large amounts of public funds on a project like this. Is this really our priority right now with everything going on? I think all large non-essential projects should be out on hold until the Covid crisis is over.
Couldn't tennis courts have two patios in a 4-4-4 design with the office in the center?
Is there an option for the expanded south plaza and a small reservable shelter?
Would like a walking path from Ridgeview Road to Northam Road within park instead of Andover or Tremont Road.
Thank you for keeping all 12 tennis courts in each concept.
All patio concepts will be extremely affected by sunset.

