

OVERTON PARK

notes

fall 2021

Overton Park moves forward

As we celebrate 50 years since the progress of Interstate 40 through Overton Park was halted by a Supreme Court victory, Overton Park Conservancy is looking toward the next 50 years. Our comprehensive park planning process has been underway for a few years now, with much of our time devoted to conversations with you and your neighbors about what's great about the park, what needs to be improved, and the ways the park could become an even more valuable asset to the community.

Our conversations revealed that park users were interested in more programming (including a potential welcome center) and more ways to extend a stay at the park (including active recreation areas, walking loops, availability of refreshments, and seating areas). Those discussions also revealed a deep attachment to virtually every element of the park, from the peaceful natural experience of the Old Forest, to the recreational gathering space of the Greensward, to the cultural institutions. This meant that we needed to focus on improving elements of these existing spaces and concentrate new programming and amenities in the 13-acre space being vacated by the City of Memphis at the park's southeast corner.

With that in mind, we began looking at the park in five zones, making specific plans for each that



Volunteers from Life Church prepare to spread fresh safety surfacing at the dog park.

enhance the park's offerings as a whole. With so much changing in the park right now, we thought we'd update you on what's happening in each of these zones.

Zone 1 includes the attractions on the park's east side, from the Bike Gate plaza south to the corner of Poplar and East Parkway where the City's 13-acre maintenance facility is currently located. Last fall, we conducted a

public survey focused specifically on improvements to the existing amenities in Zone 1 and on potential additions within the southeast corner. More than 1,000 people responded that their top three goals for Zone 1 were preserving the natural quality of the existing landscape, providing areas of active recreation, and including programming that is welcoming to all Memphians. You can view some of the survey results on pages 16-19 of this newsletter.

Our team at Design Workshop has spent this year developing preliminary concepts based on this feedback, along with cost and revenue estimates. Beginning in early 2022, we'll share these concepts, asking you to react to each element of the designs to determine whether you feel it's a fit for Overton Park. This process will include a chance to interact directly with the design team. Make sure you're signed up for our e-newsletter at overtonpark.org/email to learn when these forums will take place.

continued on page 2



Crews spread grass seed on the ninth fairway of the golf course.

Zone 2 contains the park's nine-hole golf course, which has been thoroughly reimagined by the team at King Collins Golf Course Design. With over \$2 million in community support, the 2,250-yard, par-34 course makes the most of its unique setting, with the trees of the Old Forest framing native grasses, challenging swales, and passages through the beautiful stone bridges that cross Lick Creek.

The course will be rechristened Overton Park 9 when it reopens in 2022. Construction on the course has been completed, and a renovation of the Abe Goodman clubhouse will begin soon. Once the course reopens, it will continue to serve Memphians teaching their kids the game of golf or looking for a fun, short course that doesn't take a full day to play. Having a King Collins course in the heart of Memphis will also attract golf enthusiasts from across the region.

Zone 3 comprises the Old Forest State Natural Area, where 2021 has brought a continued focus on removal of invasive plant species. Led by Bill Bullock, our volunteer crew has stayed on top of re-sprouting Chinese privet, worked to keep wisteria from spreading past the north end of the forest, and begun manually removing some English ivy.

Eric Bridges, our Director of Operations, continues his research into why the forest's signature tree species are having trouble regenerating. He and his interns have wrapped up data collection on a study comparing how plants germinate beneath our native pawpaw trees vs. cherry laurel trees, which are native to the southeast but not to our area. The research aims to uncover whether cherry laurel is releasing chemicals that impede the growth of other plants, which would guide whether we prioritize removing it.

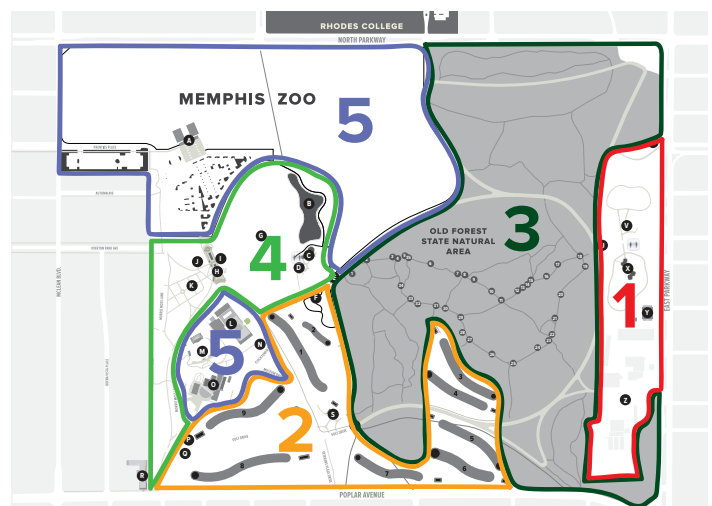
Moving into 2022, Eric and his team will focus on investigating whether the problem with regeneration

begins at the seed germination phase. Over 96 plots, they'll monitor the germination of sugar maple, tulip poplar, and Northern red oak seeds to see how many sprout and whether they survive over the next year. If the seeds germinate successfully, they'll move on to testing whether the problem lies in the early growth phase by planting and monitoring seedling trees.

Zone 4 contains the areas on the west end of the park managed by Overton Park Conservancy, from the formal gardens and Veterans Plaza to the Greensward, Rainbow Lake (and its playground and pavilion), and Overton Bark. We anticipate that changes in this area of the park will focus less on new amenities and more on improving the existing features.

As Rainbow Lake Playground approaches a decade since our 2013 renovation, we've begun looking at features that need updating. For example, the metal spiral slide (which was not ADA-accessible and got very hot in the summers!) will be replaced by a wheelchair-accessible stage for imaginative play. The Big Green Mound will get a more durable surface, new climbing ropes, and an accessible route to the top. Rainbow Lake Pavilion also needs a serious rethinking, potentially including ideas like separating the restrooms from the picnic tables and gathering area, as they are at East Parkway Pavilion.

Rainbow Lake is a beloved park feature that presents continuous challenges due to its depth and construction. Every summer, we do battle with the algae blooms that pop up due to the high water temperature created by the lake's 2.5-foot depth, its concrete lining, and the Memphis heat. In the next phase of our planning process, we hope to explore naturalizing at least part of the lake area, adding native plants and encouraging a healthy ecosystem while still providing excellent views of the water.



A map illustrating the zones in which we're thinking about park improvements.

In a sense, we've been planning for one piece of Zone 4 longer than any other park feature – the Greensward. After years of negotiation, compromise, and fundraising, the project to expand the Zoo's parking lots began in 2019 with the reconfiguring of the Prentiss Place lot. At the end of that year, the City announced a pause to the project's next phase, which would expand the Zoo's main lot roughly 2.4 acres into the Greensward and separate the two so that overflow parking would end permanently. The pause was intended to explore the cost of building a parking deck atop the Prentiss lot, which would add the spaces mandated by a City Council resolution without sacrificing green space.

With the onset of the pandemic, that pause lasted longer than anyone expected. This year City officials returned to obtaining cost estimates for the deck, finding that the price tag would exceed \$5 million. The Conservancy and the Zoo had each committed \$1.5 million to the project in 2017, with about \$800,000 of this having been spent already on the designs for the new parking lots and on Prentiss lot construction.

An effort to raise the remaining funds needed to build a deck is being spearheaded by City Councilman Jeff Warren. The Zoo and the Conservancy are partnering to explore grants and other new major funding sources that would not displace critical funding for each organization's mission and programs. If the funds cannot be located, the City would return to the compromise solution agreed to in 2018. You can stay up to date on this project by visiting overtonpark.org/category/greensward.

Zone 5 involves the spaces managed by the park's cultural organizations – the Memphis Zoo, Levitt Shell, and the Brooks Museum of Art. The Zoo and the Shell

have returned to their much-appreciated programming after re-opening from the pandemic shutdown. The Brooks Museum recently unveiled the design of a new facility to be located downtown, with views of the Mississippi River. Until the relocation happens, the Brooks Museum is very much an active and celebrated attraction for park visitors.

Soon, there will be a new arts organization in the park, as the National Ornamental Metal Museum plans to move its main operations and community programming into a renovated Rust Hall. We couldn't be more thrilled to have such a world-class partner carry on the legacy of Rust Hall as a space for creativity and innovation. The Metal Museum's exhibition and educational programming has doubled over the past decade, making it the perfect time to bring their work into the heart of the city. The building will include classrooms, educational studios, and event spaces, providing the Metal Museum with an opportunity to continue growing the community's appreciation and experience of metalwork.



Center for Transforming Communities held a youth summit in Overton Park this fall, where Conservancy staff learned how students would bring greater equity to parks.

staff & board

Voting Board Members

Michele Adelman
 Kerri Campbell
 Andy Cates
 David French
 Dr. David Hill, Chair
 Laura Hine
 Troy Hitchcock
 Mike Humes
 Dr. Carol Johnson Dean
 Gale Jones Carson
 Cardell Orrin
 Juanita Ortiz
 Markova Reed Anderson

Yancy Villa-Calvo
 Dr. Russell Wigginton
 Mary Wilder
 Juliet Wischmeyer

Ex Officio Board Members

Jim Dean
 Mark Resnick
 Nick Walker
 Natalie Wilson

Member Emeritus

Gary Shorb

Staff

Tina Sullivan
Executive Director

 Eric Bridges
Director of Operations & Capital Improvements

 Fields Falcone
Programs Manager

 Melissa McMasters
Director of Communications

 Kaci Murley
Deputy Executive Director

Andrew Weda
Operations Manager

James Smith
Park Ranger

2021 Interns

Ashlee Caruana
 Sinead Eksteen
 Abigail Teamer
 Nellina Wooten

Remembering George Cates

When George Cates passed away in June of this year, he left behind a community of friends who mourn his loss deeply, even as we celebrate the incredible gifts he gave us in his decades of serving others.

Nowhere is that legacy more apparent than in Overton Park. Disheartened by the disrepair of the park in the early 2000s, George set about rallying public support for a nonprofit conservancy to care for a space that had meant so much to generations of Memphians. His mission statement: “To see the park restored to its former glory or greatness and become a jewel in the city’s crown, as it once was.” Knowing that it was not a slam-dunk that the City Council would approve turning over management of its signature park to a newly formed group, he nevertheless described increasing



Conservancy Executive Director Tina Sullivan serenades George on his 80th birthday.

investment in the park as an idea as easy to love as “motherhood and apple pie.”

George’s approach was two-pronged: sell the City on the idea that a better-funded park would be an asset to Memphis, and go directly to community members to learn what they wanted from their park. He accomplished the first by pledging that a new conservancy would work hand-in-hand with the City, giving the director of the Parks Department a seat on the board of directors.

To engage the community, George and his team launched a Speak Up survey asking what was working well about the park, along with what problems needed to be addressed. Over the summer of 2011, more than 1,600 respondents expressed their appreciation of the Old Forest, the Greensward, and the park’s cultural attractions, and requested better maintenance, real restrooms, a fenced dog park, updated playgrounds, and protection of the Old

Overton Park Conservancy gratefully acknowledges all who made gifts in memory of George Cates (as of November 8, 2021).

Kathy & Ben Adams
Glynn Alexander
J. Walter Allen
Louise & Ray Allen
Marilyn & Pepper Allen
Anonymous
Linda & Ward Archer
Don Austin
Vicki & Rob Baird
Alicia & Don Baker
Sally & Dan Barron
James Barton
Susannah & Kevin Barton
Mr. & Mrs. L. Kirkpatrick Bobo
Peggy Bodine
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Boeving
Martha & Jim Boyd
Huddy & J. Bayard Boyle, Jr.
Linda & Craig Brashear
Mr. & Mrs. Thornton Brooksbank
Brownell Travel
Joan & C.W. Butler
Laura & Jim Bynum

John Canale, III
Kathy & Albert Carruthers
David Casey
Allison & Andy Cates
Elizabeth Cates
Alan Catmur
Page & Rick Ciordia
Honorable Steve Cohen
Katie & Keith Cole
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
Anne & Stansill Covington
Deborah & Bob Craddock
Margaret & Bill Craddock
Elaine Crews
Meg & Scott Crosby
Crosstown Arts
Alice & Matt Crow
Susanne Darnell
Gay Daughdrill Boyd
Robin & Ralph Davison
Carol DeForest & Barron Boyd
Angie & Will Deupree

Sue & John Dewald
Mr. & Mrs. Parks Dixon
Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP
Dwight Drinkard
Robert Ducklo III
Jason Dunn
Elizabeth & Winston Eggleston
L. Louise & Mike Ellis
Sherry & Jeff Emerson
Shawna Engel, Seamus Loftus, and Maxine Engel
Jean Fisher
Stefanie, Madeleine, and Thomas Fisher
Margaret & Hall Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. Trow Gillespie
Lucia Gilliland
Tom Gleeson
Grady Gower
Thomas Grimes
Shirley & Tom Gurley
Llewellyn & Josh Hall
Henry Halle III

Larry Hardy
Ann & Mason Hawkins
Suzanne Henley & James Cole
Kathy & Randy Holt
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Horn
Drs. Meyer & Keren Horn
Abby Huber
Larry Hughes Bryan
Carissa Hussong & David Lusk
Garnett & Tom Hutton
Susan & Frank Inman, Jr.
Monique & Charles Jalenak
Natalie & Jimmy Jalenak
Mimsy Jones
Katherine & Bill Kaelin
Ann Knox
Janis Knox Boyd
Amanda & Rachel Kohr
Aurelia Kyles
Lambda Alpha Memphis Chapter
Nancy & Mike Lawhead
Camille & Eb LeMaster
Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. LeMaster III

Forest. These requests ultimately became the basis for the Conservancy's initial slate of capital projects.

In December of 2011, City Council unanimously approved a ten-year agreement that turned management, capital improvements, and day-to-day park operations over to the new conservancy.

Charlie Newman, a longtime friend and the attorney who brought *Citizens to Preserve Overton Park v. Volpe* to the Supreme Court, says, "George was one of the most remarkable people I've ever known. He combined great brilliance with extraordinary common sense, understanding of people, generosity, and humility. He had deep insight into the needs of our community and contributed to it not only financially but in time, wisdom, and hard work. He and his family have done more for it anonymously than most will ever know, refusing ever to accept credit."

That sums up George in a nutshell: able to unite diverse constituencies in common cause through his intelligence, good humor, and genuine care for the people and places that make our city special. Today's vibrant, beloved Overton Park is a living testament to his dedication to making Memphis a better place.

A few years ago, we asked George to share one of his earliest park memories for our Overton Park

Stories project. We're sharing his recollection here, in his own words.

When Bena and I moved to Memphis in 1961, transferred from Perry, Florida and knowing two people here, my employer Buckeye Cellulose put us up at the Parkview, in those days an apartment hotel.

On one of our very first evenings there, I thought it a good idea to crank up my bagpipes (I'm a terrible player, but enthusiastic – worst of all worlds for any instrument, especially the four-in-one bagpipe). I was huffing along peacefully (?) on #8 fairway when suddenly I was blinded by a bright light. Had I died and gone to heaven? Au contraire – 'twas the Memphis constabulary, telling me to shut down the racket, 'twas against the noise ordinance, going to jail, never see Bena and the light of day again, etc.

Then with a laugh, he told me it would be a waste of time to arrest me – because the Police chief was named McDonald and was a (real) piper!

He still told me to shut it down. Not the last time I got that dictate.

- George Cates

LEO Events
Sandra Leonard
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Llewellyn
Mary & Bob Loeb
Maggie & Milton Lovell
LRK Inc.
Antzee & Pat Magruder and family
Betty & John Malmo
Sammy Ann Marshall
Price & Shawn Massey
Jeni & Steve McBride
Janie & Charlie McCrary
Harriet & John McFadden
Mr. & Mrs. Stillman McFadden
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McGehee, Jr.
Margaret & Alec McLean
Melissa McMasters
Memphis Zoological Society
Laura & John Morris
Mary & Paul Morris
Brandon & Joe Morrison
Chapman & Chip Morrow

Mueller Industries, Inc.
Courtney & John Murrah
Dot Neale & Doug Ferris
Vicki & Kurt Nelson
Novel Memphis
JoAnna & Dick Osterman
Pavo Salon
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Payne
Paula Payne
Susan Penn & Ron McDonald
P. Parker Phillips
Trish & John Pontius
Loren & Lee Powell
Mary Powers & Tom Bailey
Meredith Pritchatt
C. Barham Ray
Antonia & Sam Rembert, III
Lucy & Carter Rise
Dawn & Lee Roberts
Tracy & Scott Rogan
Carolyn & Robert M. Rogers
Judy & King Rogers
Diane Rudner

Debby & Steve Schadt
Peggy & Bill Scheu
Sarah Schilling
Lisette & Mike Schnieders
Melanie & Douglas Schrank
Peggy Seessel
Katie & Shawn Sentilles
Charles S. Sheppard
Glenda & Gary Shorb
Beth Simpson
Linda & Ron Sklar
Jane & Charles Slatery
Teresa Sloyan
Beth & William Smith, Jr.
Ernestine Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick W. Smith
Julie & Ham Smythe IV
Mary & Frank Stanley
Peggy & Hugh Stephens
Anne & John Stokes
Tina & Pete Sullivan
Terre & Henry Sullivant
Melody & Bruce Taylor

TNT Investors Club
Leslie & Ted Townsend
Claudia Tullos-Leonard & Anthony Leonard
LeClare & Robert Turner
T. Gaillard Uhlhorn
Elizabeth Valentine Bennett
Carrie & David Vaughan
Viceroy Investments
Ann & Jim Warner and family
Angela Weems
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wenner
Melanie & Frank White
Mr. & Mrs. C. Thomas Whitman
Marilyn & Bailey Wiener
Peggy & Jim Williamson
Stacy Wright & Jim Thompson
Susan & Kent Wunderlich
Dr. Jan Young

tina's message

This year, Overton Park Conservancy has been celebrating the ways that park supporters banded together fifty years ago to protect the park from the expansion of the interstate system. The story is national in scope, and is still taught in law schools around the country. What is often left out of the narrative is discussion of what happened to the communities beyond the park's borders during the years that this battle was waged – how some neighborhoods (that were traditionally wealthy and majority white) were knit back together through large-scale investment and development, and how some neighborhoods (that were traditionally lower-income and majority Black) have yet to fully recover. This story is not unique to Memphis. It was

replicated across the country, and city planners continue to grapple with the challenge of how to mitigate the impacts of decisions like these so that neighborhoods can be made whole.

With the help of local writer Dawn Vinson (whose first story for us appears on the next page), we have set out to capture the stories of the individuals, families, and communities that were upended as bulldozers marched toward Overton Park. Ultimately, our goal is to strengthen the connection of those communities to Overton Park, and to ensure that we're hearing from everyone as we plan for the future. Overton Park should serve as an anchor and a hub, lifting up and connecting neighborhoods in every direction.

Throughout the comprehensive planning process we've been undergoing, our design team has been informed by the continuing active engagement of park supporters, and we're working to give voice to those who traditionally have not been asked to participate in planning for the future of public spaces. We've partnered with Center for Transforming Communities to engage young Memphians from neighborhoods across the city, so that we can understand what they need, and to build into the plan opportunities to provide safe and welcoming places for gathering, exercising, relaxing, and recharging the spirit.

By listening to the stories of our neighbors, and weaving them into our planning process, we are strengthening the fabric of the park community. This ensures that the park will continue to thrive, and to be supported by Memphians as a gem worth saving.

We will close out this year of celebration next April with an event that honors the past and present champions of Overton Park (rescheduled from this October due to the pandemic). But our story-telling will continue through our Overton Park Stories program. We hope you will read and share the stories of your fellow Memphians, and add yours to the collection.

Tina Sullivan

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SAVING OVERTON PARK

NEW DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022
 OVERTON PARK FORMAL GARDENS
 TICKETING INFORMATION COMING SOON

OVERTONPARK.ORG

BENEFITTING
OVERTON PARK CONSERVANCY

PRESENTED BY
 Jim Keras SUBARU
 COVINGTON PIKE & HACKS CROSS
 ECHO SYSTEMS Landscape Services
 ADAMS KEEGAN PAYROLL • BENEFITS • ADVISORY
 duncan williams

Community Interrupted

by Dawn Vinson

The fiftieth anniversary of *Citizens to Preserve Overton Park v. John A. Volpe* is worth commemorating for all of us who value and recognize the importance of green spaces, not only in Memphis but in urban areas everywhere. With one ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed on March 2, 1971, that “protection of parkland was to be given paramount importance” and that building highways through parks was prohibited except in the most unusual circumstances and only if no other feasible alternatives were available. Although it took an additional 10 years for the Interstate 40 route through Overton Park to be officially canceled by federal authorities, *CPOP v. Volpe* is the reason why we can still enjoy the scenic beauty of the park today.

Yet, the preservation of Overton Park was only part of a story that had been unfolding since 1955. By the time of the Court’s decision, I-40 construction contracts had already been awarded and, more significantly, the state of Tennessee had already acquired the property for what was to be the interstate right-of-way – 150 acres along 3.7 miles with Overton Park in the middle. Demolition had begun in the 1960s, and over 2,200 people had already been displaced from their homes.

Once it was clear that the park route for I-40 would not be completed, local officials began to turn their attention to the question of what to do with the now-vacant, weed-filled land in the interstate ROW corridor. Plans for the area west of Overton Park quickly veered to residential redevelopment. The area east of the park, which the Binghampton neighborhood primarily comprised, seemed unable to escape a transportation-focused fate. Only one option was really considered for this side of the park: a raised boulevard connecting the east end of I-40 to East Parkway.

Binghampton residents expressed concerns about the connector plan early on. Representatives from the Old Binghampton [sic] Neighborhood Association were anxious about not only the proposed boulevard’s impact on property values but also its impact on neighborhood unity. The connector would, ironically, literally separate one part of Binghampton from the rest of the neighborhood. Although this would not be the first time that the district had been bisected – the



railroads had done that in the early 1900s, and racial segregation had reinforced the divide – the new connector would be an additional barrier to community cohesion. Instead, many residents expressed a desire to see more residential development – and, specifically, more families – in the area. They saw the revitalization efforts happening in Cooper-Young and wanted something similar for their own neighborhood, but they cynically noted that

redevelopment of the west side of the park, with its larger and more affluent population, would plainly have a more significant positive impact on the city’s coffers.

Former property owners on both sides of the park were eventually given first dibs to buy back their properties and rebuild on them. Yet, even this option highlighted disparities between the two areas. Almost all of the former I-40 Corridor property owners quoted in the media at the time felt that they had been coerced into accepting sub-value prices for their properties. When the interstate project was canceled, several former owners organized in an attempt to get their property back under fairer terms. Most of the former owners spotlighted in the newspapers, however, had lived on the west side of Overton Park; few mentions were made of former owners from the east side.

In 1989, the president of the Binghampton/Lester Community Organization hinted at a possible reason for this: that many of the people who had been forced to leave the neighborhood had received such paltry prices for their properties that they could only afford substandard housing from that point on. He added that, although he himself wanted to see some of the vacant ROW land redeveloped as housing, he recognized that “the majority [was] going to rule.”

And so it did. Sam Cooper Boulevard was completed in 2003, and today Binghampton residents are still doing the hard work of rebuilding their community. Even as we commemorate *CPOP v. Volpe*, we must also acknowledge that post-ruling ripple effects are not always a cause for celebration.

Dawn Vinson is working with us on the Overton Park Stories project. If you know anyone with a story to share, particularly someone whose family was affected by the I-40 project, contact us at info@overtonpark.org.

Angela Jones shares her Overton Park story

by Abigail Teamer

Our summer communications intern, Abigail Teamer, spoke with Angela Jones, a park visitor and the organizer of this summer's Sparkling Seniors event, which promoted the benefits of walking and the beauty of Overton Park.

Angela Jones and her husband of 39 years, John Jones, may seem like typical, dedicated parkgoers. Every morning, they wake up around 5:00 AM to walk, starting and ending on the East Parkway side of Overton Park. However, Mrs. Jones' life was dramatically different and less active a little over a year ago.

In the middle of 2020, Mrs. Jones' doctor informed her that she was morbidly obese and in the pre-diabetes range. This not only meant that she was at risk of getting diabetes, but that she also had a higher chance of dying from a heart attack or stroke. Coming from a family with several diabetics and even a diabetic amputee, Mrs. Jones was devastated by this diagnosis. She mentions that many of her family members have to take insulin shots and she did not want that to be her story. "That is NOT what I retired for," Mrs. Jones declared.

As expected, her physician advised her to begin dieting and exercising to reverse her situation. However, there was one issue: Mrs. Jones ardently disliked dieting and exercising in any form. So she knew to save her life, she would need to adopt a new lifestyle. Luckily, she had the encouragement, experience, and love of her husband. John Jones has always been active in some capacity during his life and has wanted his wife to join him from the beginning. He recommended that Angela start walking to better her health and she hesitantly agreed. "My husband wanted a walking partner for 38 years and finally got one after 39," she said. At first, they tried going to a park downtown, but it closed due to COVID-19. Then, Mrs. Jones said the Holy Spirit led her to walk at Overton Park in June 2020.

When Mrs. Jones began, she could barely walk a tenth of a mile without getting out of breath. However, her husband stayed positive and encouraged her to keep walking through the pain. Thus, Mrs. Jones continued to walk each day. She went from walking a tenth of a mile, to half of a mile, to a whole mile, and then up to six miles. At first, she couldn't keep up with her husband; now, she has to tell her husband to keep up with her. Her family was so surprised at her new routine that they called her daily to see if she was



Angela and John Jones on a morning walk through Overton Park.

still continuing. As Mrs. Jones walked religiously, she couldn't help but see the progress she was making.

Mrs. Jones went from a size 3x to a large and moved from the morbidly obese range to the overweight range. Most importantly, her medical reports (A1C, cholesterol, etc.) improved so much that she was no longer in the diabetic range less than a year after her diagnosis. Her physician was filled with so much surprise and happiness that she hugged Mrs. Jones, who became one of the most beloved patients at the doctor's office.

Mrs. Jones admits that she could never have made the progress that she did without her husband's faithful help. She says, "I appreciate him for really motivating me." And Mrs. Jones says she still isn't done yet. She has one more major goal of getting to a healthy weight by the summer of 2022. To reach that mark, she is going to continue to diet and exercise with her loving husband at Overton Park. "We're the A.J. Team!" she happily exclaims.

Dr. Russell Wigginton on our distinctive park

by Abigail Teamer

Overton Park Conservancy is proud to welcome Dr. Russell Wigginton to our board of directors this year, along with fellow new members Laura Hine, Troy Hitchcock, and Dr. Carol Johnson Dean. Our communications intern Abigail Teamer sat down with the new President of the National Civil Rights Museum to hear what Overton Park means to him.

When did you first begin visiting Overton Park?

RW: I remember first visiting Overton Park as a freshman at Rhodes College in 1984. This was before a fence was around the campus, so it was very easy to walk back and forth to Overton.

What's your most vivid memory of the park?

RW: As an early college student, it's actually the golf course because I had not played much golf prior to college. I'm not even sure if I had any [golf] clubs. But I remember going to the golf course with some friends. It's a great place, regardless if you are a kid or a senior citizen. It was always a comfortable environment in which to learn how to play.

Do you associate the park with any special people or times in your life?

RW: Well, yes. I did have a relationship with George Cates before he passed. His passion and commitment towards the park was contagious and represented what can happen when you prioritize the community over yourself. He obviously was a person of significant means and resources to do many things, and he chose to channel his resources in a way to better the community. And he did not need a lot of attention about it. Most people have no idea that without him the park would have been in jeopardy many times.

What should future generations know about the park?

RW: I think it's important that they know that the reason the park even still exists is because of people, back in the 70s, who were relentless about its preservation. It's just a reminder of the power of people that when they come together on an issue, they can influence



what happens in their community. I also think it's important that people appreciate and recognize that new and modern is not always better. There are valuable parts of our society that the maintenance and continuation of them supersedes new, fresh, and modern.

What's your favorite part of the park?

RW: It kind of depends on my mood. When I want to be in a space of introspection or if I have things on my mind that I want to ponder, it's nice to be in the Old Forest, just to walk around in a peaceful setting. While you occasionally run across people [in the Old Forest], you can enjoy the surroundings in an intimate way. When I want to be more social, I like the open area where people gather around the playground and the pond,

and people are doing all kinds of things. Because I find the Greensward is one of those spaces that is built in a way that is equitable to all people and it feels approachable and accessible to anybody. If you go over there on a Saturday afternoon in the fall or even the summer when it's not too hot, you get exposed to all of Memphis. On our good days, it's the part that makes Memphis special and gives a sense of Memphis culture. If you are a visitor to Memphis and say, "What's Memphis like?", go to that park on a Saturday morning at 11:00 and you can probably find your answer.

What does the park mean to you?

RW: One is that it's a constant sign and symbol of what can happen when people come to an agreement on priorities for their community. It's such a special feature if you were to view it from a national landscape. It's one of the things that makes Memphis distinctive, and sometimes when you are in a community, you don't appreciate your distinctiveness. That could be either because you haven't been exposed to other places and don't realize that not many places have a park of this magnitude in the middle of the city, or you have not been exposed to all the aspects of the park that people can use. When you think about the combination of things that are available in the park, it's a really dynamic space that very few cities in our country can claim.

Conservancy pilots park ranger program

Do you frequent the park on the weekends? Perhaps you've seen a new friendly face in the park – his name is James Smith and he is our first Overton Park Ranger!

We listened to feedback given by park users during our planning conversations and examined our own needs for a regular voice in the park, especially on the weekends, since our current staff needs to be available primarily during weekday business hours.

Thanks to funding from our partners at Reimagining the Civic Commons and especially the tireless help of Innovate Memphis's Program Manager, Susan Dalton, we launched a ranger pilot program in August. Civic Commons is a nationally funded initiative investing in shared public spaces and assets to build stronger communities. In Memphis, that effort first manifested through work in downtown's River Garden, Fourth Bluff Park, and Cossitt Library. Overton Park Conservancy was invited to participate in its second round, and we identified the ranger pilot program as a priority area to invest and measure for impact.

A trusted contractor, Denico Gray, helped us identify and train candidates, with an eventual outcome of a customized ranger manual for Overton Park. With Denico and Susan's help, we crafted a position specialized for the park, focusing on education and interaction about park rules, amenities, and programs. For example, visitors might see a family enjoying a picnic in one of our pavilions, and James can inform them about our rentals program. If a guest has their dog off-leash, the ranger offers information about the importance of and reason for the city leash law, reinforcing our park signage.

Susan helped us develop methods for James to collect data via a journal app to describe the day's events, log issues such as needed repairs, and note interactions with visitors. These data help us see what locations and times of day we need to focus his time in the park. Coupled with data from our bike, pedestrian, and car counters, they paint a dimensional and detailed picture of park use.

James's friendly demeanor and outgoing personality have played a huge part in positive response to the program. Having a presence in the park has helped us respond to issues in real time, ensuring that the park is beautiful, welcoming, and safe for our park users.

We asked James a few questions about his experience so far:

What's the best thing about being the first Overton Park Ranger? "Well, it's *always* good to be *first*," he laughs. "But seriously, it's getting to work in a natural forest with East Parkway on one side and Poplar on the other, and in between is this amazing natural habitat."

What from your previous work background has helped you most with this job? "My background is in security, and it gives me the confidence to approach people already knowing I can defuse the situation if they need educating on park rules."

What would you add to your job duties? "I would love to be more informational for guests when they ask me about the natural history of the forest – I have had people ask me about the trees, vines, berries, and birds, so it seems like something the public wants."

With James's assessments and this public feedback, we hope to bring the program back in 2022 with an interpretive/educational component. We are so grateful to James for helping us bring this position to life!



James Smith, our Fall 2021 ranger



Our observations and James's reporting revealed the need for new safety fencing along the edge of East Parkway. A section was installed in October with the help of volunteers from International Paper. Because there is no curb along this busy street, adding these barriers keeps children and families safer.

Overton Park Conservancy gratefully acknowledges all who made donations and in-kind (noted with italics) gifts from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. If we have inadvertently omitted the name of one of our supporters, we sincerely apologize.

\$100,000 & up

City of Memphis
Hyde Family Foundation

\$10,000 - \$99,999

AutoZone
The Belz Foundation
Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC
Amy Goldman Fowler & Cary Fowler
Hollywood Feed
International Paper Foundation
Lyn & Bill Reed

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Michele & Steve Adelman
Corinne & Robert Adrian
Debby & Cary Allen
Drs. Louise & Ray Allen
Julie & Bryce Ashby
Mrs. Rebecca W. Ballou
Eric Barnes
BDO USA
Pam & Sam Blair
Betty & David Blaylock
Bluff City Sports
Wight Boggs
Linda & Craig Brashear
Allison & Bo Braswell
The Canale Foundation
Allison & Andy Cates
Bena & George Cates
Drs. Beth Ann Choby & Kent Alan Lee
Drs. Aimée Christian & Benton Wheeler
Congressman Steve Cohen
Katie & Keith Cole
Meg & Scott Crosby
Lisa Daniel
Angie & Will Deupree
DirectFX
Mr. & Mrs. Parks Dixon
Eclectic Eye
Randy Engel
Evergreen Historic District Association
Roger Fakes
Pat Faudree
First Horizon Foundation
Melanie & David French
Allison & Tom Garrott
Dot & Luther Gause
Dr. & Mrs. M. Boyd Gillespie
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Gillespie
Joy & Frank Gilliam
Lucia Gilliland
Kate & Robert Gooch
Emily & Houston Graves
Eleanor & Bubba Halliday
Claudia & Bill Haltom

Dr. David Hamilton
Jane Hayden
Mia & Paul Henley
Lou Henslee & Roy Bell
Carolyn & Scott Heppel
Katie & Dr. David Hill
Hohenberg Foundation
Marcella & John Houseal
James Humphreys
Margaret & Kenny Jabbour
Peggy James Jones
Dr. Jeanne & Frank Jemison, Jr.
Betty & George Johnson
Robbie Johnson Weinberg & Dr. Michael Weinberg
Gale Jones Carson
The Kathryn Brown Butler Foundation
Cheryl Kent
Frances & Jake Lawhead
Hope Willard Lundt
Dianne & Myron Mall
Betty & John Malmo
Carol Marshall & Mike Palazola
Mrs. Alice E. McCabe
Margaret & Alec McLean
Medtronic, Inc.
Memphis Runners Track Club
Bill Metz
Dot Neale & Doug Ferris
Overton Square LLC
Park Friends, Inc.
Susan & Robert Quinn
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Markova Reed Anderson & Chris Anderson
REI Co-Op
Carol & Bob Richards
Lauren & Eddie Robinson
Diane Rudner
Patra & Ken Rule
Michele & Scott Sammons
Mary Scheuner
Shelby Electric Co.
Glenda & Gary Shorb
Lisa & John Bayard Snowden
John Spence
Sternberg Foundation
Tina & Pete Sullivan
Lauren & Justin Taylor
Becky Trimble
Beverly & Dr. Terry Trojan
Henry & Lynne Turley
Kimmie & Glenn Vaulx, Jr.
Anni & Bill Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Chip Wallace
Jewell Ward & Jim Brooks
KC & Dr. Jeff Warren
Melanie & Dr. Frank White
Carole Whitehead
Kathy & Steve Williams

Becky & Spence Wilson
Juliet Wischmeyer
Mindy Wurzburg & Blair Parker

\$240 - \$999

Mr. & Mrs. Hunter Adams
Agency Services Inc.
Linda & Ward Archer
Hadley & Scott Arnold
Paige Arnold
Annette & Lee Askew, III
Linda Atwood & Dr. Ellis Neufeld
Claire & Don Austin
Melissa Azzi
Lydia & Rehim Babaoglu
Paula & Cliff Barnes
Susannah & Kevin Barton
Thaler & Tom Beasley
Belleair Woods Association
Emily & Steve Bishop
Mary & Allen Blair
Christi & Patrick Blake
Dr. Patrick Blankinship
Jenay & Alex Boggs
Pam & Andy Branham
Susan & Roger Bransford
Cindy & Kevin Brewer
Travis Brooks
David Brown & Steven Hoover
Ruth Brucker
Lynn & Jon Buhler
Anita Bunn
Ginny & Berkeley Burbank
Alice & Dr. George Burruss
Sette & Clark Butcher
Pat & Sturla Canale
Elena & Eric Caron
Dr. Malle Carrasco-Harris & Jeremy Harris
Caroline & Greg Carrico
Ebet Carrière Peebles
Rachel Cheek & Matthew Jakes
Stephanie & Chip Chockley
Gina & James Christian
Kay Clancy & Steve Brown
Ann Clements & Bobby Carter
Karen & Kent Cochran
Suzanna & Mike Cody
Ashley & Mac Coffield
Ann Coleman
Jan & Ron Coleman
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
Nora & Dan Conaway
Paula & Edward Cooley
Susan Courson-Smith & H.B. Smith
Samantha & Agustin Crespo
Dr. Crista Crisler
Alice & Matthew Crow
Carol DeForest & Barron Boyd

Pam Detrie & Jenny Bartlett-Prescott
Melissa Dison & Fernando Martins Pereira
Wanda & Donald Donati
Carole Doorley
Debra & Reid Dulberger
Dr. Kristen & Doug Duncan
Ms. Shelley Durfee & William Chandler
Joanna & Robert Fehse
Lisa & Jeb Fields
Jennie & John Fields
Deb & Bob Foehring
Megan & Steele Ford
Desi Franklin & Alex Kenner
Margaret & Hugh Fraser
Anne Frassinelli & Bill Ferguson
Canby Frazier & Scott Irwin
Yu Fukuda & Patrick Siglin
Mr. & Mrs. Gary O. Giles
Mr. & Mrs. W. Jerry Gillis
Emily & Ben Graham
Romney Grandi & Robert Bader
Greenview Fund
Jennifer & Paul Hagerman
Ashley & Dan Harper
Terri Harris
Linda Hendershot & Bill Rehberg
Meredith Hennessy & Louis Stifter
James Holland
The Honeybird Foundation
Isaac Howley
Pung-Pung Huang & Frank Byrd
Margaret & Charles Hubbert
Kent Hughes
Carissa Hussong & David Lusk
Judy Hyde & Kendall Rhodes
Drs. B. Kay Jackson & Thomas Shelton
Diane Jalfon & Daniel Weickenand
Candy & Rick Jefferies
Drs. Lisa & David Jennings
Susan Jennings
Dr. Irene Jones
Todd Keathley
Allison & Steven King
Jennifer & Mike Landrum
Brenda & Jim Lanier
Annette & Gene Lawrence
Carol Lee & Joe Royer
Moriah & Sam Lee
Marjean Liggett & Kristi Estes
Mark Lindstrom
Lorraine & Gerald Lovel
Caroline MacQueen
J.T. Malasari
Susan & B. Lee Mallory
Ilene Markell & Ben Lewis
Edith Marshall

Laura & Montgomery Martin
 Amanda Mauck-Skinner &
 Jeremie Skinner
 Cornelia & W.C. McDaniel
 Mary Lou & Bob McGee
 Debbie, Chris, & Owen McHaney
 Melissa McMasters
 Simone & Logan Meeks
 Memphis Zoo
 Corrie & Newton Metcalf, Jr.
 Chapman & Chip Morrow
 Nancy Mullins
 Kaci Murley & Ian Nunley
 Ann Murphy
 Michelle Naef & Michael Ham
 Jamie & DJ Naylor
 Mercy & Rick Neal
 Linda Nichols & Robert Burns
 Barbara & Bill Nixon
 Cardell Orrin
 Ashley Paige-Powers & Sam
 Powers
 Jenni & Andrew Pappas
 Kim & Blair Perry
 John Pickens
 Mary Leslie & Lee Ramsey
 Drs. Mary Relling & William Evans
 Ashley & John Remmers
 Rhodes Sustainability Coalition
 Anna Rich & Terry Gallagher
 Leigh & Todd Richardson
 Karen & Murray Riss
 Drs. Baker Gross & Hunter
 Rittenberry
 Anna & Kevin Ritz
 Amanda Robbins
 Latanyua & James Robinson
 Colin Rork
 Drs. Judith Ruiz & Roberto
 Lachica
 Martha & Joe Saab
 Kim Simpson & Chris Tinkle
 Jennifer Sink & Buck Wellford
 Louise & John Slater
 Linda & Frank Smith
 Sally & Mark Smith
 Ham Smythe III
 Anna Bess Sorin & Nate Nowak
 Andre Spies
 Megan & Justin Starling
 Sara & Jordan Stephens
 Erica Stoltz & Sujana Rajbhandary
 Gretchen & Brian Stroud
 Elizabeth & John Sumner
 Richard Tanner
 Elizabeth Thomas & Chris Carlson
 Sally & John Thomason
 Nancy & Jeffrey Thompson
 Tanja L. Thompson
 Janet Todd & Fleetis Hannah
 Emily Trenholm & Les Edwards
 Peggy Turley
 Brier Smith Turner
 Claire & Yousef Valine
 Suzanne & James Varner

Yancy Villa-Calvo & Mauricio
 Calvo
 Paige & Scott Walkup
 Marianne & Ron Walter
 Bruce Watson
 Drs. Ginger & Jim Whelan
 Dr. Linda O. Wible
 Mary Wilder & Chuck Fox
 Missy & Bill Williams
 Natalie Wilson
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Lewis
 Martha & Dr. Frank Witherspoon
 Thomas Woodley

\$100 - \$239

Mike Acree
 Katherine & Ben Adams
 Larry Alexander
 Suzanne & Walter Allen
 Betty Alsup
 Susan & Bill Andrews
 Elizabeth & Tom Arceneaux
 Meredith Armstrong
 Jess Arndorfer & Amy Vavere
 Bette Arndt
 Michael Arndt
 Sydney & Andy Ashby
 Jeannie & Philip Ashford
 Sally & William Askew
 Msrs. Chip Bailey & Charles Hill
 Dr. & Mrs. James E. Bailey, Jr.
 Rose & Geoff Bakewell
 Kaitlyn & Cody Barnhill
 Jane Barton
 Kathleen & Dr. Schorr Behnke
 Carol & Terry Bishop
 Anna & Angus Blair
 Elaine Blanchard & Anna Neal
 Martha & Jim Boyd
 Jenny & John Branstor
 Burton Bridges
 Sara & Eric Bridges
 Melissa & Gary Bridgman
 Carrie & Tony Brooks
 Pat Brown
 Joyce Broyles & Larry Bomar
 Teresa & Bill Bullock
 Tracie Burke & Maureen O'Brien
 Katherine & Stephen Bush
 Corinna & Dr. Luis Campos
 John D. Canale, III
 Margaret & Craig Cardwell
 Pat & Warren Carmichael
 Joseph Carson
 Karen Casey
 Ann & Ted Cashion
 Elizabeth Cawein & Justin
 Entzminger
 Stephanie & Frank Chalonga
 Rebecca & Jim Chappell
 Nancy & Lee Chase III
 Kate Chilton
 Karen & Michael Clark
 Margaret Clifton
 Lanny Coker

Bard Cole
 Brandy Coletta
 Carol Coletta & John Montgomery
 Dr. Anne & Oscar Connell
 Madeline & David Cotton
 Mr. & Mrs. William Craddock, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Crosby
 Vicki & Hal Daughdrill
 Victoria Dawson
 Margaret & Steve Dean
 Samantha & Christopher Dean
 Vaughan Dewar
 Diversified Trust
 Karen & Daniel Dixon
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Donahoe
 Ben Duke
 Dr. John Dulaney
 Melissa Dunn & James Brooks
 Steve Edmundson
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Edwards
 Elizabeth & Winston Eggleston
 Pat & Jim Elcan
 Mary & Robert Ellis
 Patti & Lew Ellis
 Drs. Laura & John Engbretson
 Shawna Engel
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Fair
 Fields Falcone
 Kathy Fay & Richard Meek
 George Felts
 Elizabeth & Rick Ferguson
 Charlotte Fisher
 Mr. & Mrs. Miles S. Fortas
 Alice Franklin
 Maria Fuhrmann & Keith
 Humphreys
 Alex Galloway
 Margaret & Hall Gardner
 John Gemmill
 Drs. Christa George & Chris Wood
 Gerber Taylor
 Laura & Josh Gettys
 Julia & Bill Gibbons
 Mr. & Mrs. P. Trowbridge
 Gillespie, Jr.
 Tom Gleeson
 Leslie & Stephen Goodwin
 Nancy Gordon
 Sally Graflund
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel N. Graham
 Michelle & Jody Griggs
 Cyndy Grivich Tucker
 Guaranty Bank
 Holly Guthrie & Mary Linder
 Kelsey Hamilton & Kenn Gibbs
 Linda & Mark Hamilton
 Mary Phil & Hayne Hamilton
 Michael L. Hancock
 Jane & Eddie Hankins
 Mr. & Mrs. Kiran Hanumaiah
 Linda Harris & Philip Potter
 Stephanie Harrover
 Albert Harvey
 Marsha & Ja Hayes
 Alyce & Stephen Haynes

Cara & Rick Hechinger
 Jane & Tom Heineke
 Ann & Dr. Hank Herrod
 Gloria Hodges
 Angela Dawn Hopkins
 Randy Horras
 Eva & Bobby Hussey, Jr.
 Dr. William M. Jackson III
 Natalie & Jimmy Jalenak
 Erica & Dr. Tim Jancelewicz
 Erin & Kim Jenkins
 Debbie & Bobby Johnson
 Jeannie & Rev. Don Johnson
 Kim & Joel Johnson
 Krista & David Jones
 Meg Jones & Bill Powell
 Dr. Kimberly Kasper
 Carol & Gene Katz
 Barbara & Roy Keathley
 Penny & Jim Keras
 Tricia & Chuck Kerwin
 Mary Louise & James Kilroy
 Sally & Richard Kimball
 Leanne Kleinmann
 Amanda & Rachel Kohr
 Kristin & Jon Korneliussen
 Barbara Kritchevsky
 Kay & Hayden Lait
 Brooks Lamb
 Suzanne & Bill Landers
 Sanne & Kenny Latta
 Nancy & Mike Lawhead
 Amanda & Wesley Lawrence
 Joel Lawrence
 Virginia & Fred Lazenby
 Sarah Lebovitz & Richard
 Huddleston
 Allison & Peter Lemm
 Robert Lenzini
 LEO Events
 Lauren & Syd Lerner
 Felicity & Peter Letsou
 Jimmy Lewis
 James Lindstrom
 Cindy Loewenberg
 Diane & Tom Long
 Ms. Liz Love
 Luisa & Dennis Lynch
 Marion Malone
 Julie Marks & Michael Nelson
 Beverly Marrero
 Brian Martinelli
 Jean & Steve Maskas
 Carroll & Dan Mayfield
 Thomas McAdams
 Jean & Lloyd McCain
 Stacy & Chris McCall
 Jennifer & Tom McConnell
 Rayna & Jennifer McDermott
 Harriet & John McFadden
 Rose McGee
 Dr. & Mrs. & J. Lucius McGehee
 Mr. & Mrs. Lewis K. McKee, Jr.
 Virginia & Hite McLean
 Margot McNeeley & Gary Backaus

Bethany & Zac McRae
 McVean Trading & Investments
 Diane Meess & John Pekar
 Memphis College of Art
 Memphis Museum of Tribal &
 Visionary Art
 Louise Mercurio
 Judy Mixon
 Cindy & Scott Moore
 Mr. & Mrs. Allen Morgan, Jr.
 Amy & Brad Moritz
 Jan & Scott Morrell
 Mary & Paul Morris
 Nancy Morrow
 Jackie & Chris Morton
 Amy & Dan Moses
 Mr. & Mrs. David Murley
 Ansley Murphy & Toby Sells
 Laura & William Murphy
 Bruce Newman
 Leah & Jackie Nichols
 Julia & Rush O'Keefe
 Anne & Michael Olivo
 Juanita Ortiz & Nelson Gutierrez
 Napoleon Overton
 Kent Overturf
 Gwen & Penn Owen
 Cece & Andy Palazola
 Denise & Autry Parker
 Dianne Parker & Donna Parker
 James Patton
 Eva Payne & Evan Kingsley
 Carla & John Peacher-Ryan
 Susan Penn & Dr. Ron McDonald
 Joseph R. Pfeiffer
 Michele & Glenn Phillips
 Pallas Pidgeon Zanone
 Cristina & Cap Pinkham
 Pinnacle Perpetual Services
 JP Plumlee
 Trish & John Pontius
 Rosemary & Mike Potter
 Mary Powers & Tom Bailey
 Barbara & Paul Presley
 Sharon Prewitt
 Dorothy & Robert Pugh
 Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Quinlen, III
 Elaine Radin
 Julie & Jim Raines
 Sara Ratner & Harry Freeman
 Marty & Steve Redding
 Ulrike Reiss
 Ellie & Ollie Rencher
 Carol & Dr. Greer Richardson
 Stacye & Gary Richardson
 Ritter Farm Management
 Anna & Dr. Gwin Robbins
 Lorie & Barry Roberson
 Ashley & Michael Robilio
 Angela Rodgers
 Judy & King Rogers
 Bernard Rolfes
 Stu Rosen
 Christina Ross & David Hanson
 John Ross

Mandy & Rick Rough
 Debbie & Mark Rutkowski
 Susan Sanford
 Leigh Savage & Donna Blackard
 Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Sawyer
 Paul Sax
 David Scarbrough
 Carl Schneider
 Leslie Shankman-Cohn & Bob
 Schreiber
 Seeding Success
 Mallory & Michael Seeker
 Katie & Shawn Sentilles
 Kerry Sernel
 Rita Sewell
 Elizabeth Shaffer
 Sharon & Joshua Shipley
 Tessa Silvestri Higgins
 Teresa Sloyan
 Bethany Smith & Joe Larkins
 Patti & Ritchie Smith
 David Sparks
 Misty & Dr. James Stamper
 Jill & Ken Steinberg
 Ann Stewart
 Anne & John Stokes
 Strategic Research, LLC
 Sue & Ken Strong
 Michaelia & James Sturdivant
 Anne & Dave Suitor
 Ann & Richard Sullivan
 Dr. Joseph Sullivan
 Marci & Jay Sweeney
 Barbara & Gary Sysak
 Barbara J. Taller
 Clara Talley & Stephen Humbert
 Patricia & Phillip Taylor
 Sharon Taylor
 Rebecca Terrell & Eric Gottlieb
 Dr. Linda Tharp
 Lissa Thompson
 Drs. Sharon & Edwin Thorpe
 Jennifer & Brice Timmons
 Caleb Tinkle
 Dr. David Tipton
 Christine & R. Carroll Todd
 Mary Todd & Gene Green
 Maury & Steve Tower
 Barbara & Hayward Townsend
 Nicole & George Treadwell
 William Trimble
 Louise & Calvin Turley
 Muffy & Michael Turley
 Betty & Bill Turner
 Jennie Verner
 Dr. & Mrs. John Vookles
 Norma & David Walker
 Chris Warner
 Marilane & Dr. Otis Warr, III
 William Watts
 Angela Weems
 Catherine & Joseph Weingarten
 Dr. Beverly West
 Marsha Walton & Chris Wetzel
 Melissa Whitby

Mr. & Mrs. C. Thomas Whitman
 Sue & Dr. Jerry Whitt
 Elizabeth Wilcox
 Dr. Palmer Wilson
 Matt Winemiller
 Jessica & Matthew Wiseman
 Libby and Jim Witherington
 Kristina Woo & Honorable Mark
 Ward
 Kevin Woods
 Emily Woodside & Dr. Bill Falvey
 Mary & Jock Wright
 Deede & Robert Wyatt
 Amanda Yarbrow & Brandon Dill
 Sharon Younger

Up to \$99

Regan Adolph
 Gordon Alexander
 Jim Alexander & David Johnson
 Sally & Vince Alfonso
 Stephanie Allbritten & George
 Bryant
 Dawn Andreatta
 Ben Andrews
 Jen Andrews & Marc Robinson
 Jeremy Andrews
 Margie Armour
 Megan Arrowood-Waldrup &
 Stephen Waldrup
 Dr. Wendy Atkins-Sayre
 Roshun Austin
 Dr. Syed Azmi
 Chris Bailey & Steve Thompson
 Taurus Bailey
 Jennie Bainbridge
 Andrea Baird
 Carol Baker
 Sally Baker
 Anne Ballam
 Stephanie & Richard Banks
 Camilla & Jerry Barber
 Valerie Barfield
 Tara Barnes
 Caroline Barnett
 Elizabeth C. Barnett
 Susan & Robert Barnett
 Sarah & David Barton
 Gene Barzizza
 Miranda Bavier
 Kim & Willy Bearden
 Stephanie & Dan Beasley
 Richard Beckwith
 Karen Bell
 Cameron Bellm
 Betsy & Saul Belz
 Jennifer Belz
 Marissa Benedict
 Maya Benson
 Rheunte Benson
 Richard Benz
 Valerie Berlin-Edwards & Tom
 Edwards
 Rudy Bernil
 Patti & Michael Berry

Betsy Black
 Melissa Blankenship
 Mrs. Richard H. Bodine, Jr.
 Patricia Bogan
 Scott Bojko
 Toni Boland
 Marion & Jack Borg
 George Boyington
 Becky Brady
 Patricia Brainard
 Drs. Jolieke & John Brooke
 Andria K. Brown
 Cary & Keith Brown
 Rita & William Bruce
 Claire Brulatour
 Peter Budd
 Callie Bugg & Andrew Wofford
 Bianca & Graham Burks
 Lindsey Butler
 Sandi Butler Hughes
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce E. Campbell, Jr.
 Dr. Doug Campbell
 Jennifer & Patrick Campbell
 Becky Carlisle
 Linda & Raymond Case
 Q. Casey & Dr. W. Linebaugh
 Steve Catechi
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Chancellor
 Pam & Tom Charlier
 Christian Brothers University
 Honors Program
 Michael Chupeco
 Isabelle Ciaramitaro
 Ann Clark Harris
 Julie & Tee Cloar
 Eli & Eric Cloud
 Thad Cockrill
 Kimberly & Stuart Cohen
 Lorinda & Jonas Cohoon
 Emarie Coleman
 Jonathan Coleman
 Mike Condon
 Nicholas Cornwell
 Christy Correa
 Jane Cox
 Samantha Cox & George Brewton
 Kathe & Larry Crane
 Stephen Crawley
 Sarah Cronk
 Taylor Cupples
 Joanna Curtis & Chris Herrington
 Carol Danehower
 Annelise Danielson
 Tatine Darker & Bruce
 VanWyngarden
 Norma Davis Owen
 Cathy & Andre Dean
 Delta Asset Management
 Jessica Demster & Tucker White
 Amanda & Blake Dial
 Janet Dillard
 Renee & Collins Dillard
 Beverly Dixon
 Beverly & Henry Doggrell
 Angela Doherty

Ashley & Robert Donati
 Daniel Dow
 Susan Dowling Keatley
 Kathy & Jerry Dumlao
 Michelle & Bill Dunavant
 Susan Dynerman
 Jason Eagle
 Kelly Eddleman
 Leann Edwards
 Madeleine & Thomas Edwards
 Elisabeth Eickhoff
 Vivian & Roger Ekstrom
 Tara & Scott Elliott
 Cullen Estes
 Jay Etkin
 Marsha & Tom Ewart
 Jana Files & Lee Phelan
 Charlotte Fineberg-Buchner &
 Clark Buchner, III
 Jean Fisher
 Craig Fitzhugh
 Michael Flanagan
 Molly & Russell Fleming
 Dan Flick
 Krissy & Ryan Flickinger
 Ellen & Mark Follis
 Mott & Mary Call Ford
 Patti Ford
 Monty Foster
 Yvonne Fournier
 Michelle Fowke
 Jessica & Timothy Fuller
 Heather Gammel
 Emma Gant
 Elizabeth E. Gates
 James Gentry
 Nikole Gettings & Bill Stegall
 Cynthia Gholson
 Gail Glankler
 Spencer Glaser
 Marilyn & Louis Glazer
 Kristie & Tim Goldsmith
 Laura Goodman-Bryan
 Chrystal Goudsouzian
 Julia & Michael Graber
 Angela Grant & Randy Cox
 Jerri & Patrick Green
 Meg Green
 Stacey Greenberg
 Sue & Sandy Greenberg
 Nancy Greenwalt
 Carol & Charles Griffin
 Megan & Brett Grinder
 Eva Guggenheim
 Kate Hackett
 Madeleine Haddock
 Carol & Joseph Hagan
 Llewellyn & Josh Hall
 Judith Hammond
 Tucker Hanemann
 Annette Hawkins
 Alan Hayes
 Cheryl Hays
 Edith & Bob Heller

Julia Hencel
 Rick E. Henderson
 Suzanne Henley & James Cole
 Jessica Hernandez
 Carol Hesch
 Heather & Edward Hettinger
 Janice M. Holder
 Dr. Alane & Stephen Holliday
 David Holt
 Anne Hooper
 Helen Hope
 Valerie & Dean Hornbeak
 Ellen & Jon Hornyak
 Adriona Horton
 Carrie Hough
 Estelle & Stephen Howitt
 Annie & Jeff Hulett
 Dorothy Huston
 Kristina & Drew Hyde
 Susan & Mickey Ison
 Eleanor & Dr. Jonathan Jacobs
 Reagan & Sean Jacobs
 Monique & Charles Jalenak
 Peggy & L.R. Jalenak, Jr.
 Paul Jennings
 Billie Jeanne & Stan Johnson
 Kathy & Don Johnson
 Elizabeth Johnston
 Juliet Jones
 Lyn & John Joyner
 Mary & Aaron Kanowitz
 Gail Karr & Tony Stafford
 Steve Katz & Bob Schwarz
 Jo Kee
 Michelle & Shawn Kelly
 Emily Adams Keplinger
 Taylor Kinas
 Libby & Andy King
 Elizabeth & Jack Kinney
 Victoria Kintner-Duffy & William
 Duffy
 Jessica Kitchens
 Jennifer & David Kmet
 Rollin Kocsis
 Katharine & Robert Kores
 Sandy Kozik
 Cindy Kramer
 Barbara & Barry Kuhn
 Emilio Lachica
 Amanda & Michael LaMountain
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Land
 Susanne & Bruce Landau
 Dan Larsen
 Jana & Brad Larson
 Diane & Eugene Laurenzi
 Tracy & Tad Lauritzen Wright
 Karen Lebovitz & Steve Cantor
 Theresa Legato & Dennis Hall
 Bailey Leopard
 Emma Less
 Michele Less
 Novella Lewis
 Fabien Llambi
 Kim & Bob Lloyd

Mary & Bob Loeb
 Laura & Tom Logue
 Kathy & Richard Lou
 Margot Lueck-Zastoupil & Lynn
 Zastoupil
 Andrea Lum
 Shirley Lupfer
 Kelsey Lyons
 Glenda Mace
 Susan Mackenzie & Virginia
 Stallworth
 Cynthia & Jim Maddox
 Perre Magness
 Shannon Maris & Drake Danley
 Tommy Marsh
 Susan & Drew Mascolino
 Alison & Jim Masilak
 Marilyn & Steve Masler
 Renee & Scott Massey
 Mary Jane & Matt May
 Colleen McCartney
 James McClanahan
 Robbie & Scott McDermott
 Donna McDonald
 Courtney & John McDonnell
 Kathleen McElroy & Sam White
 Megan McGarrh
 Addie McGowan & Matt Inbusch
 Corinne McLaughlin
 Ira & Daniel McMasters
 Anna McQuiston
 Marilyn & Benjamin Meeks
 Memphis Symphony Orchestra
 Pamela Merrill
 Joe Meuser
 Linda Milbradt
 Rhonda Miles
 Dr. David Mirvis
 Lisa & David Montgomery
 Prof. Charles B. Moore
 Gayle Moore
 Layne Moritz & David Patrick
 Laura & John Morris
 Mary & Dr. Scott Morris
 Megan Morris
 Kim A. Moss
 Kelly Mullis
 Amy & Steve Mulroy
 Courtney & John Murrah
 Dr. Katie Murrah
 Drs. Gail Murray & Joe Hawes
 Mr. & Mrs. George Nassar, Jr.
 Patty & Steven Naumann
 Ken Nelson
 Susan & David Nelson
 Rev. Rosalyn Nichols
 Nike, Inc.
 Dorothy Northern & Dr. Steve
 Ross
 Randy Norwood
 Maureen & Chris O'Connor
 Tracy & Paul O'Connor
 Jim Oliver
 Louise & David Olszewski

Saadia & Dr. Imad Omer
 Linda Opiel
 Caroline & Wilson Orr
 Peggy Owen
 Sterling Owens
 Rachel Ozols
 Meredith Pace
 Marina Pacini & David McCarthy
 Wesley Morgan Paraham
 Deanie Parker
 Karen Parker
 Lori & Jud Parker
 Janet Partridge & Tom Lawrence
 Peri Jane Pate & John Baker
 Sheila & Louis Patrick
 Margaret & Majid Paydar
 Terron Perk
 Carolyn & Taylor Perry
 Sarah Petschonek & Eric Mathews
 Leslie Petty
 Lisa Phillips
 Lyle Phillips
 Patty Pierce
 William Podesta
 Molly Polatty
 Joel Porter
 Genevieve Posey
 Cynthia & Malcolm Pratt
 Ann & Zach Pretzer
 Jerred Price
 Meredith Pritchett
 Barbara Pyles & Gary McKay
 Bano Qaladize
 Steven Brett Ragsdale
 Kristen Rambo & Silas Armstrong
 Veena Rangaswami
 Ellen Rardin
 Mary & Arthur Ray
 Erik Reese
 Neysa Rhoads
 Rice Caperton Rice PLLC
 Mindy Rice
 Ardys & Carl Richards
 Julie & David Richardson
 Melody & Bud Richey
 Nikii & Jon Richey
 Sandy & Dr. Webster Riggs
 Rev. Phoebe Roaf
 John Rochford
 Kerrie Rogers & Ken Ward
 Steven Ross
 Elizabeth Rouse
 Kerry & Nathan Roy
 Janet & Paul Rubin
 Christine Ruby
 Don Ryland
 Mr. Shahin A. Samiei
 Lelia & Russell Savory
 Dr. Aubrey Schacter
 Debby & Steve Schadt
 Susan & Chuck Schadt
 Dale Schaefer
 Julie Schafer

Brooke Schedneck & William Starner
 Marcia & David Scher
 J. Scherping
 Linley Schmidt
 Sandra Schroeder
 Olaf Schulz
 Bobbie & Jerry Schwartz
 Stephen Schwartz
 Keitha Scott
 Richard Scudder & Dan DeShon
 Peggy Seessel
 Sally & Robbie Segal
 Beanie Self & Irvin Salky
 Holly & Geddes Self
 Marie Sell
 Kathy Sellars
 Amit Sen
 Colby Seymour
 Marian & Frank Shaffer
 Jennifer & Ermyias Shiberou
 Emily Shortridge & Vishant Shah
 Josh Shumaker
 Natalie & Robert Shy
 Greer Simonton
 Barrie & Michael Simpson

Linn Sitrler
 Linda & Ron Sklar
 Caroline & Mike Smith
 Karen J. Smith
 Gracey & Clay Smythe
 Southern Vault Company
 Joe Spake
 Taryn & Jim Spake
 James Sparks & Wes Williamson
 Jeremy Speakes
 Betty & Mickey Spence
 Tricia Spence & Shawn Herrington
 Dr. & Mrs. Anderson Spickard
 Diana Stein Kabakoff
 Kelli Anne & Peter Stewart
 Nancy & John Stinchfield
 Allison Stokes
 Mary & Jarren Stratton
 Dr. Gail Streete
 Mary Streete
 Quinn Strother
 Miriam & Richard Stroud
 Sara Studdard
 Terre & Henry Sullivant
 Eric Swartz
 Emily & Chris Taylor

Sue & Marc Taylor
 The Mail Center
 Hailey Thomas
 Rubye Lynn & Bo Thomas
 Dwayne Thompson
 Melissa Thornton
 Diana & John Threadgill
 Marti Tippens Murphy & Dan Murphy
 Amanda Tong
 JT Travis
 Nancy & Dennis Trenthem
 Wendy & Richard Trenthem
 Violet Trosper & Rich Redfearn
 Alicja Trout
 Sherry & Rob Tucker
 Cindy Tupid
 Jeane Umbreit
 Jane Van Deren & Lucian Pera
 Annette & Kenny Voyles
 Carrie & Kyle Wagenschutz
 David Walker
 Penni & Don Walker
 Lee Wallace
 Ardelle & Rev. Scott Walters
 Cindy Ware

Lanny Warren
 Bethany & Stephen Watts
 Susan & Dr. David Weber
 Tamara & Kim Wegenke
 Karen & Alex Wellford
 Carisa Wenstrom
 June West
 Toni Whitaker & Dan Hall
 Nancy Wiers & Laura Harris
 Barbara Willden
 Gay & Mike Williams
 Keshia & James Williams
 Regan Williams
 Ruthie Williams & Buddy Fey
 Brooke Williamson
 Walter Wills
 Olivia Wilmot
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Wilson
 Rebecca Wilson
 Gretchen & Houston Winbigler
 Deana & Gary Windham
 Chet Winstead
 Marci & Ken Woodmansee
 Ann Marie Wranovix
 Susan & Kent Wunderlich
 Linda Yates

Overton Park 9 Supporters

Overton Park Conservancy thanks all who have supported the renovation of the Overton Park golf course (as of November 8, 2021).

Earthmover (\$500,000 & up)

City of Memphis/Memphis Parks
 Rhodes Family Foundation

Overton Eagle (\$100,000 - \$499,999)

Anonymous
 The Day Foundation
 Ashley & Peyton Manning
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert McEniry

Driver (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Nancy & Ed Barnett
 Allison & Bo Braswell
 Bena & George Cates
 John H. Dobbs, Jr.
 First Horizon Foundation
 Brandon & Joe Morrison
 Nike, Inc.
 Mr. & Mrs. C. Thomas Whitman

Heritage (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Anonymous
 Marian & Michael Bruns
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Dickinson, Jr.
 Wendy & Avron B. Fogelman

Robin & Billy Orgel
 Jane & Charles Slatery
 Marsha & Bill Thompson
 Dr. Robert Waller
 Spence Wilson, Jr.

Legacy (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Mr. & Mrs. Parks Dixon
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Fogelman II
 Melissa & Tom Grimes
 Hohenberg Foundation
 Drew Holcomb
 The Kathryn Brown Butler Foundation
 Lisa & Mark Putman
 Kimberly & Loren Roberts
 Janet & Art Seessel
 Glenda & Gary Shorb
 The Turley Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Kent Wunderlich

21st Century (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Elizabeth & John Aaron
 Anonymous
 Avison Young
 Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Bailey
 Susan & Rice Byars

Independent Bank
 Anne & Jonathan Ishee
 Libby & Jim Witherington

Abe Goodman Society (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Meghan & Benjamin Barksdale
 Reginald Barnes
 David K. Casey
 Chip Dudley
 Bryan Edmundson
 Ingram Entertainment Inc.
 Stephanie & Joe Jarratt
 Carita & Alston Palmer
 Trish & John Pontius
 Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Porch
 Roy Robbins
 Judy & King Rogers
 Barbara & Tom Sullivan
 Dr. Linda O. Wible
 Mr. & Mrs. Lou Wittenberg

OP9 Friends (Up to \$999)

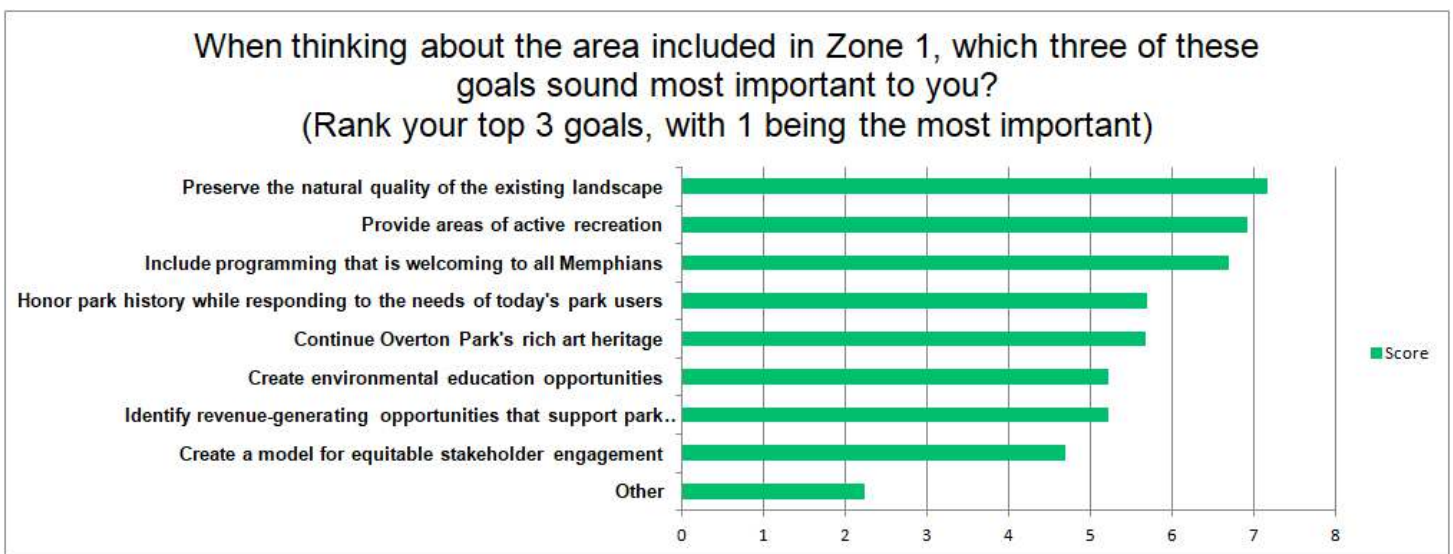
Suzanne & J. Walter Allen
 Taylor Babich
 Gerri & Gene Bailey
 Justin Barden

Nickhill Bhakta
 Susan & Roger Bransford
 William Carruthers
 Stephanie & Frank Chalona
 Robert Chapman
 Harvey Cook
 Mr. Willard Parks Dixon III
 Dwight Drinkard
 Sherry & Jeff Emerson
 Shawna Engel
 Margaret & Hall Gardner
 Drs. Christa George & Chris Wood
 Anne & Frank Gianotti
 Leslie & Stephen Goodwin
 John D. Jones
 Mr. JR Kamra
 Alice and Gene Landeros
 Jonathan Mosteller
 Marina Pacini & David McCarthy
 Mary Powers & Tom Bailey
 Sara Ratner & Harry Freeman
 Ernestine Berry Smith
 Trey Sowell
 Mary & Terry Stonebrook
 Evan Winburne

Zone 1 Survey Results

Last year, we asked you to help us envision a future for what we're calling Zone 1 of Overton Park: the attractions on the East Parkway side. Along with the playground and picnic area and the Bike Gate plaza, we're developing plans for a 13-acre parcel on the park's southeast corner that has housed City of Memphis facilities for decades. More than 1,000 people gave us a wealth of ideas and opinions, and we're sharing some of those results with you now. For a deeper look, visit our website at overtonpark.org/zone1.

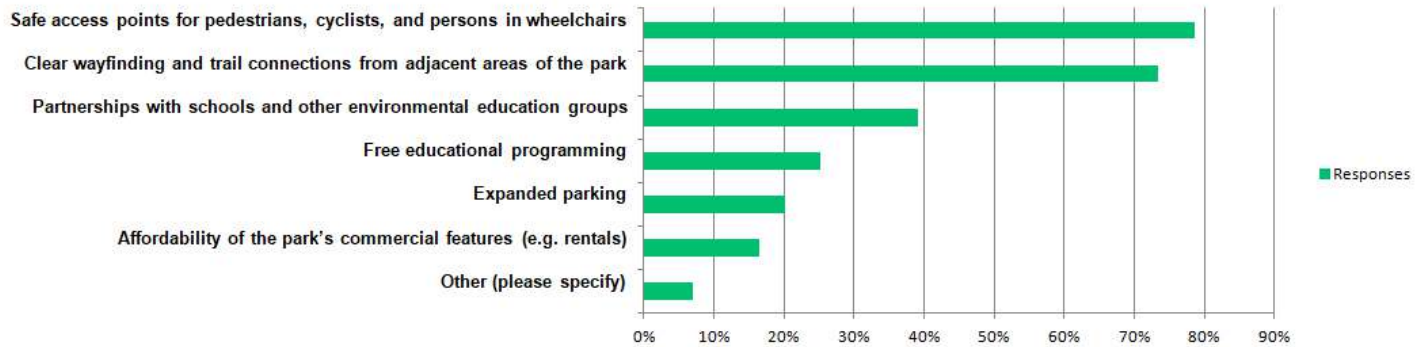
Our design and business planning teams are currently working to develop concepts that incorporate this feedback into some exciting options. They are navigating the desire not to over-commercialize with the reality that the park (and the renovation of this space) requires a source of revenue that it does not currently have. Balancing these two values means looking around the country for success stories while carefully assessing what the Memphis community needs. Your thoughtful feedback has been so valuable in that assessment, and we're excited to share some design concepts with you in the new year.



A sampling of other answers to the above question:

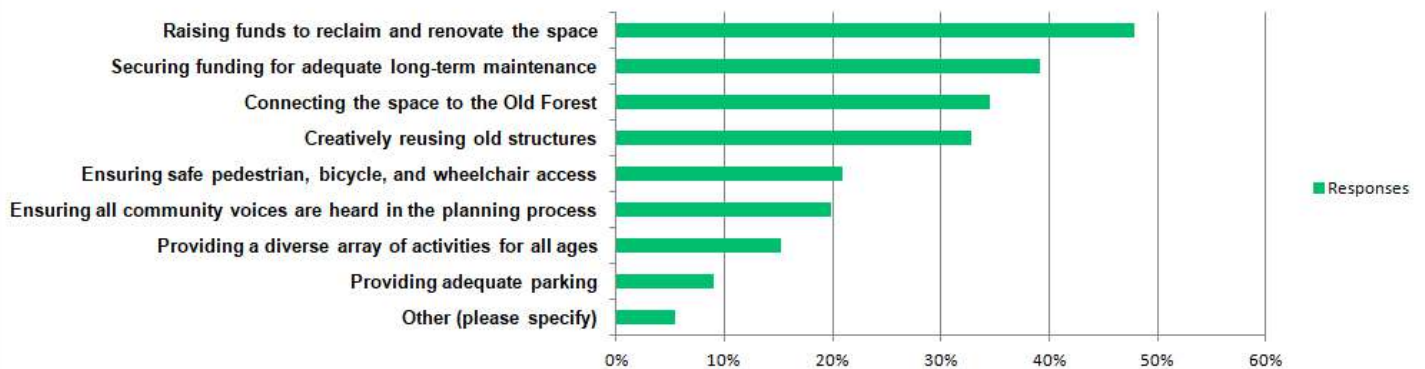
- "Recreational areas e.g. volleyball courts, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, etc. for bringing your own equipment. Nice restrooms. Unique playground. Maybe use greenhouse to grow and sell plants and flowers. Gift shop/ restaurant/snack bar would be nice."
- "I think it's important that people learn that this isn't simply a park. At best, it's a snapshot of the ecosystem that existed before the city itself did and still grows in and around the city in ways we don't always notice."
- "Something new that the park doesn't have – outdoor exercise equipment, meditation/brainstorming spaces, rotating art installations, interactive art, etc."
- "Overton Park should use this site to focus on a new mission that ordains realigning the entire city with nature. Memphis needs a leader to bring the vision of an ecologically sustainable city to fruition. Specifically, the park should focus development of this site on teaching and promoting the idea of ecosystem services, which is a scientific field detailing how urban forests can promote healthier people, improve safety, lower infrastructure costs and add environmentally friendly jobs to our economy."
- "More family reunion outdoor rental space opportunities, connect 13 acres with rest of park visually."
- "Would love to keep the greenhouses for potential pop up events, farmers markets or horticulture based opportunities."
- "The entire East and Southeast side needs a pedestrian entrance including a walk way around it. Accessibility for pedestrians is huge."
- "Keep things quiet and peaceful."
- "Keep it busy. As many community engagement programs as possible. The more use it gets, the better its future is."

What are the most effective ways Overton Park Conservancy can remove barriers to accessing the amenities in Zone 1? (Check up to 3)



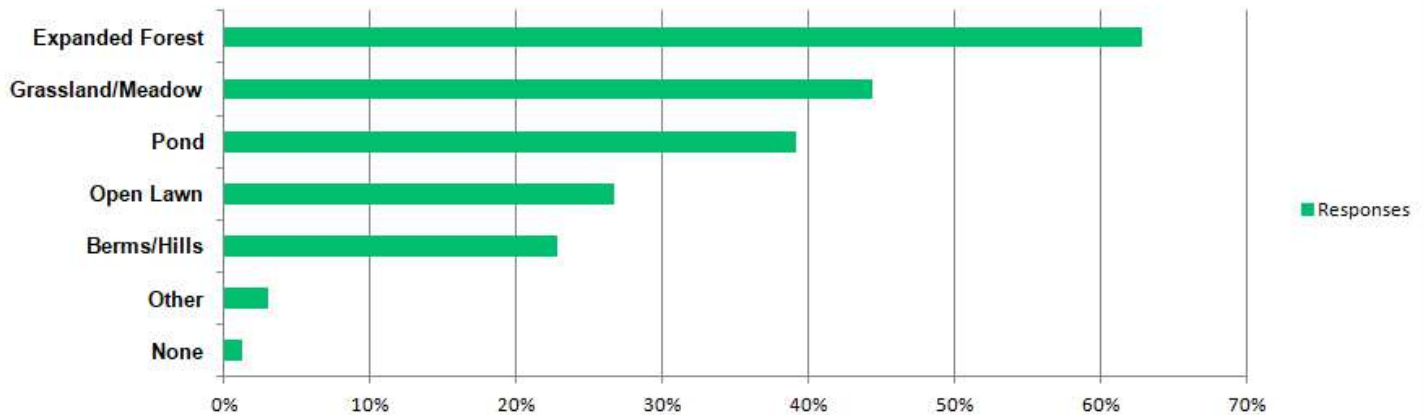
- “Educational signs and rules for people to be clean and respect others and nature.”
- “Work with city planning of areas around the park to aggressively include reserving linear green spaces that tie into the perimeter of the park from neighborhoods and commercial developments.”
- “Free cultural events throughout the year.”
- “Convenient and attractive event space building (old WPA building) with ample parking, shared by general park users.”
- “Basic sidewalks connecting it to surrounding neighborhoods. This is so basic but y’all don’t have enough or any in some areas.”
- “Expanded and clear bus route options. I believe bus routes exist to the park, but they are not emphasized as a hub.”
- “Develop attractions that will entice those that visited the park for other reasons to venture to zone 1.”
- “I love how well-used this area is by Memphians. It seems like every weekend, there’s a large family gathering or party there. While I have never rented park facilities, it would be important to me to know that affordability is designed in to maintain the space’s attraction to a diverse group of Memphians.”

What do you think are the biggest challenges in converting the 13 acres at the southeast corner into parkland? (Check up to 2)



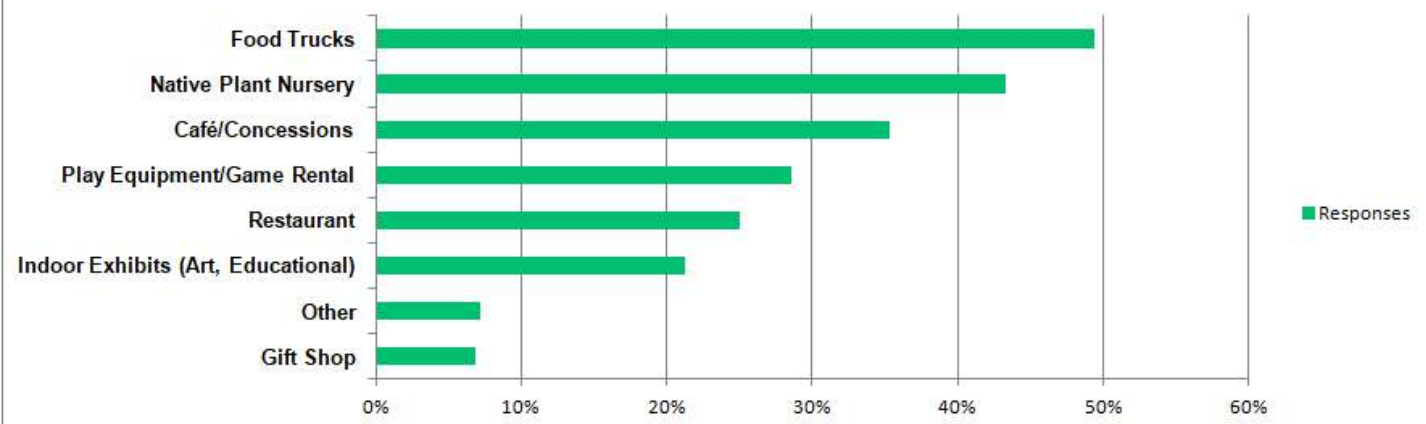
- “Raising money to reclaim the space to its natural habitat.”
- “Cleaning up leakage from the fueling station and spilled chemicals.”
- “Poplar Ave and East Parkway are very busy and loud.”
- “Not overdoing it. The Greensward is home to so many activities, games, picnics, strolling, enjoying the outdoors. A lawn in that southeast corner would be nice.”
- “Providing adequate parking is a concern but it needs to not take away from the natural areas and other more important goals. How to provide parking that does not take away from other needs?”
- “Setting up this ‘dead’ corner into the flow of activity in the park.”
- “The best parks I go to in other cities are maintained and I know it costs money. That’s the #1 issue.”

Which Natural Feature(s) would you like to see introduced to Zone 1? (Select up to 2)



- “Anything water—creeks, waterfalls, streams.”
- “Old growth forest is already well represented within the park. A well-managed grassland or meadow would be an appropriate addition. Look to partners like the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative at Austin Peay, the mission of which is to focus on conservation and restoration of native grasslands in our area. Pollinators are a popular focus in conservation currently.”
- “Add the approved 2nd Greensward from the 1988 Master Plan.”
- “Expanding forest is important but I hope there is a balance. We need forest but open green lawns are nice, too.”
- “Berms and or plants that serve as a barrier between the park space and the high traffic and noisy streets, East Pkwy and Poplar, would make the space more enjoyable.”
- “‘Edge’ habitat – pollinator-friendly plants where ‘filler’ plantings might typically go in.”
- “Boulders for kids to climb/jump. Creek or stream for them to play in (other than the drainage ditches).”

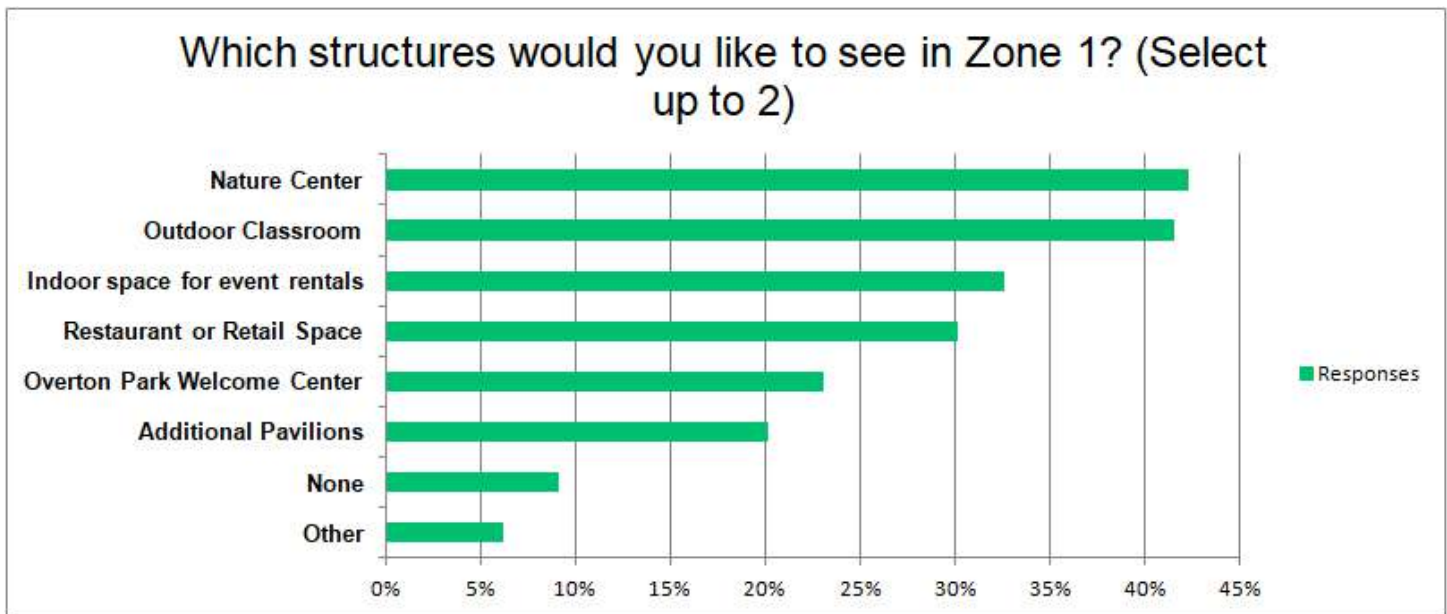
Which Commercial Activities would you like to see in Zone 1? (Select up to 2)



Among those who left additional comments to this question, the most popular response was “none,” which didn’t surprise us—we know that there is a strong desire among park supporters to focus on the natural aspects of the park. We also know that it will take considerable funds to convert a 13-acre vehicle maintenance facility into a place people will want to visit, and that our current business model (which relies on private donations for 85% of the costs of operating the park) is not sustainable in the long term. That’s why we’re exploring

thoughtful ways to generate revenue. That means seeing what amenities you might be interested in anyway (from recreational equipment rental, to space for weddings and birthday parties, to art installations that are sponsored by companies or individuals) and determining whether they will help create a revenue stream that supports the park. We have to be creative about the park's future in order to prevent a return to the recent past, when public dollars simply didn't stretch far enough to give the park the care our community deserves.

We're looking for memorable and unique features that enhance the Overton Park experience, and it's been so valuable to hear what you might envision that to be.



- "In what condition is the WPA-era building? Focus on an adaptive reuse of that first as educational/visitor space. Preserve the existing greenhouses for education and park operations."
- "Maintaining the greenhouses to create a community or teaching garden would be amazing!"
- "Simple indoor rental space, indoor greenhouse community gardens."
- "I would like to see a domed botanical center like Des Moines, Iowa has. It provides year round programs, you can go there in all kinds of weather and spend time wandering through a beautiful tropical environment, and it is also rented out for weddings in the domed area plus it has areas for meetings."
- "I'm not real keen on structures, but if there HAS to be one, it should likely be something that feeds money to the Conservancy to help run the park. Restaurant, food vendor, coffee shop."
- "I wish Memphis had a big public pavilion where people who just go to sit outside and people watch at sunset like other big cities. Perhaps it would have a big series of fountains or reflection ponds (maybe something like the Temple of Debod). I like Overton Park but to me, it has no natural center point for gathering."
- "I really hope a restaurant isn't built in Zone 1. A restaurant fits better on the west side at Brooks or the old college of art."
- "I think a Nature Center could include an indoor classroom (for use all year round) as well as an outdoor classroom space."
- "This doesn't feel like the right space for a welcome center (at the edge of the park)."
- "I envision a food truck court surrounding a café focused on international and local Memphis specialties (e.g., Greek, Mexican, and Memphis BBQ on any given day) to invite cultural inclusiveness every day to the park. Almost like a small festival every day."

Ways to support the park

Throughout this newsletter, you've seen ways in which the park positively impacts people's lives simply by being a place they can count on to welcome them every day of the year. According to our visitor counting devices, park visitorship is up 10% so far this year over 2020, with 90,000 visitors to Rainbow Lake Playground this summer alone! The need for continued investment in the park's upkeep and future planning is stronger than ever, and that's where you come in.

There are many ways you can support Overton Park Conservancy, whether it's by returning the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or choosing one of the giving options below. We are grateful for every gift and every giver, and we're honored that you trust us to care for the park.

Join a Giving Society - For dedicated supporters of the park, we offer two giving societies: Roots, whose members commit \$240 or more per year, and Canopy, whose members commit \$1,000 or more per year. Members of both groups are invited to our fall member event, Flashlights in the Forest, where we explore the woods after dark. Canopy members also receive invitations to Wildflowers & Wine, a tour of the



T-shirts featuring Yvonne Bobo's "Rhapsody" bird gate are on sale at our online store.

incredible spring blooms in the Old Forest. Visit overtonpark.org/ways-to-give for more info.

Sponsor a Day - Canopy members, along with business donors, also have the option to sponsor a day in the park, with a banner that displays a message of their choice. It's a great way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or just show support. Learn more at overtonpark.org/ways-to-give.

Make a Gift of Stock - Prefer to give stock rather than cash? Call us at 901-214-5450 and we'll give you the information to make a transfer.

Plan an Estate Gift - Are you interested in leaving a meaningful

legacy for future generations? Consider naming Overton Park Conservancy in your estate planning. You can ensure a vibrant Overton Park for years to come through many planned giving options, including wills, charitable gift annuities, trusts, life insurance, or retirement plans. Interested in learning more? Give us a call at 901-214-5450.

Shop Our Online Store - Sport your support by snagging tees, hats, water bottles, and the world's softest hoodie, all benefiting Overton Park Conservancy. Visit overtonpark.org/shop to see what's on offer!

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR!

You'll know that you're supporting great public space day in and day out (and you can skip the renewal notices!).

Choose from three easy payment options at overtonpark.org/give.

