

Jordan's Point Park is an opportune site to serve the local and regional community, as well as offer activities and spaces for a variety of age groups and interests to convene. Jordan's Point Park is unique because of its location along the Maury River and its location between 2 trail systems, The Wood's Creek Trail and the Chessie Trail. It is also the local and regional destination for athletics, being one of the only parks offering a recreational field in the area. The park is used daily by local residents for walking dogs, picnicking, and accessing the river. It is cherished because of its nature-based feel, which the community hopes to preserve.

Based on community surveys and stakeholder input, a set of programs emerged as higher priorities for enhancing the park.

## RIVER CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS

The Maury River is the main focal point and identity of Jordan's Point Park. The river creates a unique location and setting for the park that distinguishes it among other local parks. The river draws many destination visitors and local residents to enjoy kayaking, paddling and swimming. Some are drawn to the park to view its rich ecosystem of river fauna and flora and others simply enjoy the view.

Overall, survey and stakeholder respondents reported that enhancing connections and access to the river is their highest priority. Below is a list of ideas and suggestions for improvement.

- Open river views by reducing wild growth
- Add a shoreline "beach" or deck
- Improve kayak/boat access
- Add a path for descending to the river
- Conflicted thoughts on boat or tube rentals. While this could be a fun destination activity within the park, some believe it would ruin its charm and tranquility. Many tubing rivers become very crowded and a kiosk structure would add clutter to the site.
- Add picnic opportunities along the river at opportune viewsheds

## TRAILS

Jordan's Point Park is located at the crossroads of two important trail systems: The Wood's Creek Trail and Chessie Trail. Historically, a footbridge allowed access to the Chessie Trail at Jordan's Point, is no longer deemed a viable option. Chessie Trail access is difficult and somewhat unsafe requiring access across a busy highway bridge. Respondents indicated that a high priority for the park is to enhance these trail connections and access points. Below is a list of suggestions for improvement to the trail within Jordan's Point Park and the connections.

- Reduce bike/ped and vehicular conflicts by finding a safer solution for trail connection
- Add more connection points to the trail
- Maintain the trail by reducing invasive brush
- Improve the trail surface for running
- Add trash receptacles along the trail

### ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

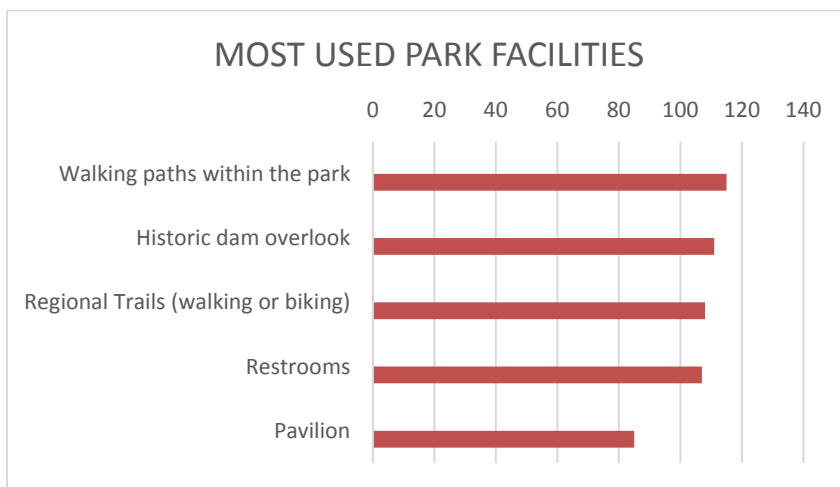
Jordan's Point Park's athletic field is widely used throughout the area. For respondents, the athletic field emerged as one of the most important priorities. The park hosts many soccer games and tournaments. For the home team, the field is a place of pride and a reflection of their community. The field is in good to average condition, but enhancements are necessary.

- Improve existing parking lot
- Improve restroom facilities
- Maintain athletic field and provide general field repair
- Better manage parking conflicts during athletic events
- Construct sidewalks to fields and a paved walking loop
- Potentially add low-impact lighting

## SURVEY AND STAKEHOLDER RESULTS

### MOST USED PARK FACILITIES

Other than the river and access, which were ranked first priority among park users, we asked survey respondents to rank the other facilities they most often use at the park. The top five responses are shown in the table below. Trails and walking paths ranked very high among survey respondents for walking dogs or using the trails for walking, jogging or biking. The trail connection is currently confusing. "There are signs to indicate that the Chessie Trail starts at Jordan's Point, but it's hard to understand that you need to walk along the highway to get to the Chessie Trail." Picnic areas were not specifically listed as an option, but were indicated as a high priority (including hardstand, pavilion, grill, etc.). Additionally, athletic fields were noted in the comment sections as one of the most used facilities at the park.



Stakeholders were asked to identify their perceived strengths and weaknesses of the park. Aside from river views and access the responses included:

#### Strengths

- The park's history as a mill and the remaining mill remnants
- Its location along the river and between the two trail systems
- The athletic field
- River wildlife
- The park's beauty and tranquility

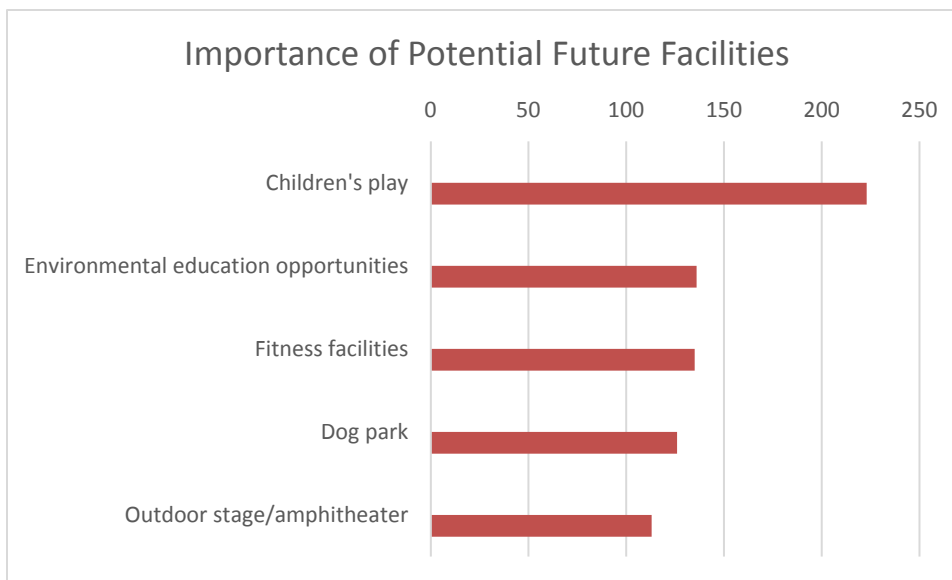
#### Weaknesses

- Difficult access to the river
- Limited parking, but adding more could ruin the park
- Limited areas for sitting and viewing the river

- Conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles, especially near the boat access area
- Degrading historical features
- Trash
- Confusing access into the park
- Unsafe and confusing pedestrian access to the park and trails

## FUTURE FACILITIES OR ENHANCEMENTS

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential future facilities. The following 5 facilities ranked highest among that list. Survey responses and comments strongly indicated a priority for a new children's playground. However, some pointed out that other local parks already have traditional playgrounds and voiced concerns about maintaining a nature-based identity. A nature play area may be the best suited playground type for this site, where carefully selected materials could best blend with the context. Other ideas for future facilities included a volleyball court, improved boat launch, a new pedestrian bridge across the Maury River, adding water back into the Mill Race, a splash water park, and adding more picnic areas. Several comments stressed the need to preserve the park's natural feel and to not overdevelop it.



Stakeholders were also asked what improvements could be made to enhance the park. Their responses supported those reported in the community survey. Stakeholder responses included:

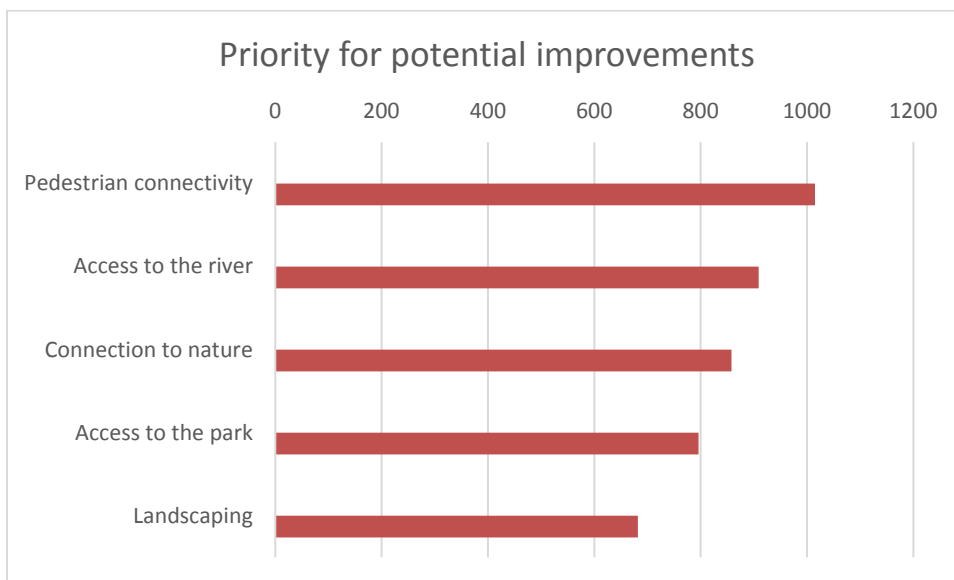
- Adding more trails with improved surfaces for running and walking
- Re-establishing a connection with the Chessie Trail
- Adding more picnic areas, including a bigger pavilion
- Improving boat access, such as a concrete ramp and improved parking facilities

- Providing better pedestrian access to the river, such as steps to a “beach” area where the dam was removed
- Adding benches and sitting areas near the river
- Cleaning up trash and providing more trash receptacles
- Implementing better wayfinding signage
- Adding multi-generational play areas
- Enhancing an Interpretive history experience and preserving historically significant features

### PRIORITY FOR POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents were asked to rank their priority for potential improvements at Jordan’s Point. The highest priority listed was Pedestrian Connectivity. As discussed earlier, the Chessie Trail access needs improvement. The second highest priority for improvement was access to the river. Access to the river encompasses everything from visual access to a shoreline beach to pedestrian access and boat access. The river is the main draw to this park and its access is important to visitors. Finally, the third highest priority for improvement was to better connect with nature. The park is a good habitat for birds and aquatic animals and a variety of plants. Preserving this aspect is important to visitors. Suggestions to improve connections with nature include:

- Removing invasive plants and adding more native species
- Adding larger tree canopy
- Replacing mowed areas with native meadow
- Promoting a culture of living sustainably



## SUMMARY

Jordan's Point Park is a cherished place for residents and visitors in Lexington. It is unique because of its location on the Maury River and should be enhanced to celebrate and better use the river. Any changes should be sensitive to the environment, blend with the existing character, and use native materials/plant species. The park is also important because of its athletic field. It is the main field in the area and should be enhanced to be a beautiful space the city can be proud of, especially when hosting athletic events. A dog park is something many park users would like to see included in future park plans, but there are some potential concerns pertaining to dog waste in and around the river. A play area is also something many would like to see added to the park, however, it should be designed to be context sensitive. Finally, Jordan's Point is a park that sits between 2 trail systems. It should be a connection point with enhanced pedestrian access and less vehicular conflicts.

Areas of focus include:

- River access, visual and physical
- Pedestrian access, better connections to trails and to the park
- Wayfinding signage
- Preservation of nature, tranquility, native plants, animals, and history
- Upgrades to athletic field and related facilities
- Picnic spaces, bigger pavilion and additional picnic areas along the river
- Introduction of a play space, integrated with nature
- A way to integrate parking, without removing green space. (potential nearby overflow location for athletic events?)
- Consideration of adding dog park or dog run in or near the park