

Medley Park Stormwater Feasibility Study COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT



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Overview

Soliciting public input through an online survey and social media was a major component of the Medley Park Stormwater Feasibility Study.

To promote the survey and open house, the City published three website news stories. All information included links to the online survey.

Virtual Open House

The City published a virtual open house on YouTube Nov 18, 2020 for residents to learn more about the project. As of Jan 4, 2021, the video has 70 views.

Online Survey

The survey was active Nov 18–Dec 18, 2020, was limited to one response per IP address, and had 34 responses.

Social Media Outreach

The City posted information and reminders about the the survey seven times on Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor between Nov 18, 2020 and Dec 17, 2020.

See Appendix A for reach and engagement details for each post.

Virtual Open House #2

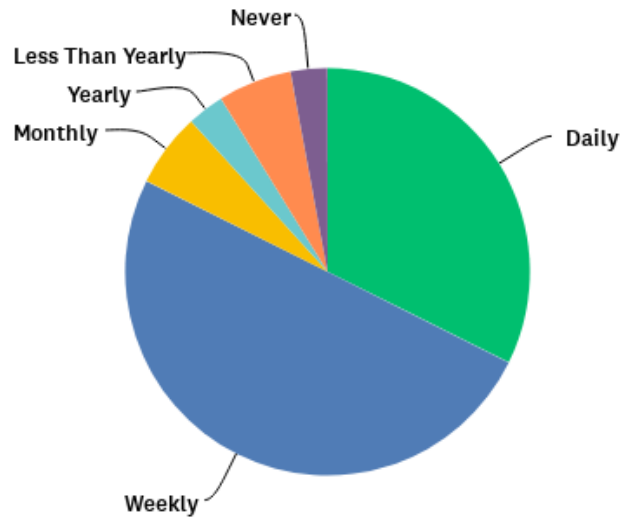
On April 16, 2021, the City published a second virtual open house to share more refined concept plans for the project. Feedback was gathered until May 7, 2021 via an online form.

See Appendix B to view all gathered feedback.

Survey

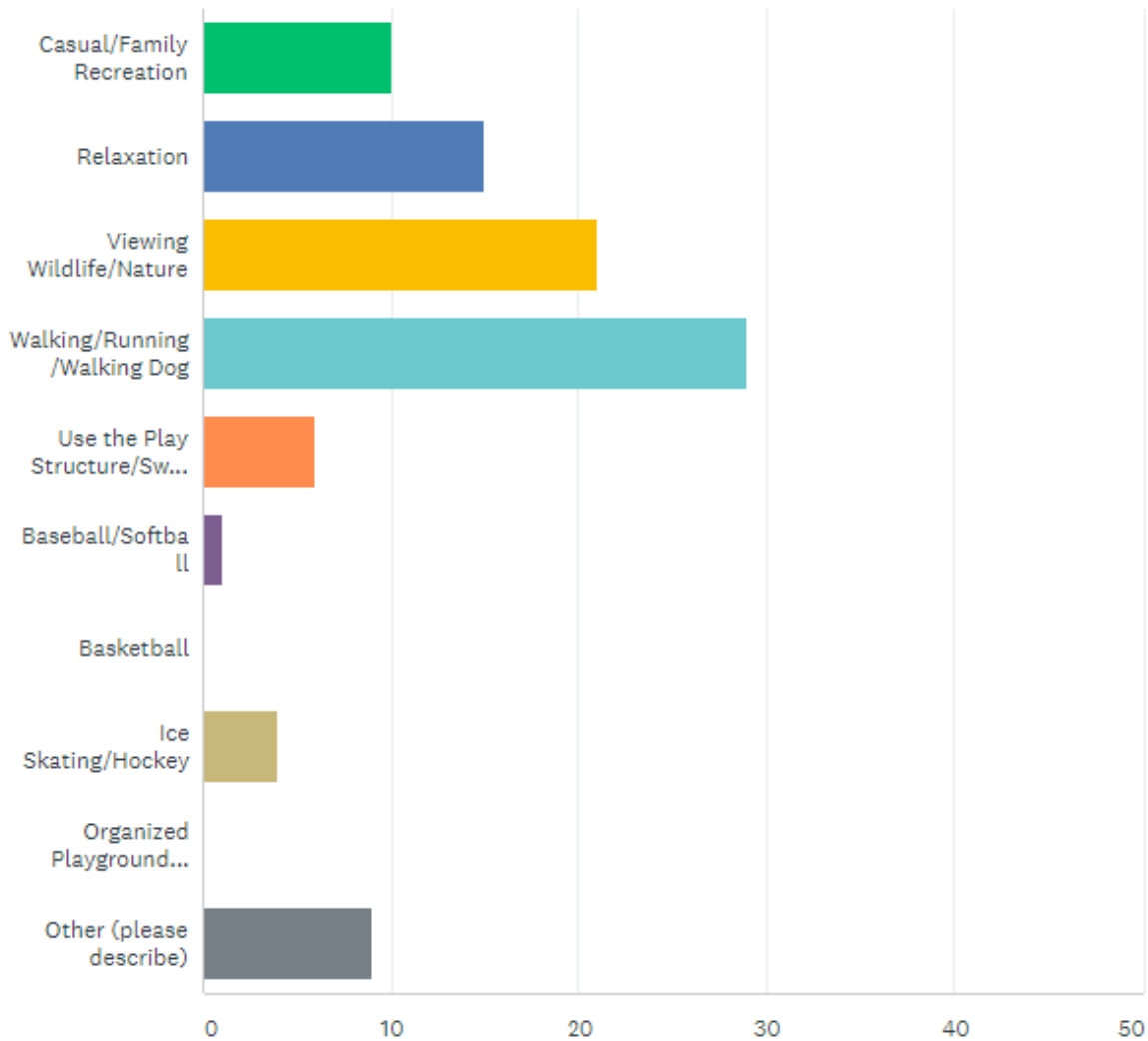
1. On average, how often do you visit Medley Park?

Of the 34 respondents, 17 (50 percent) visit Medley Park weekly and 11 (32 percent) visit the park daily. The remaining five respondents visit the park either monthly, yearly, less than yearly, or never.



2. What kinds of activities do you do in the park? (select all that apply)

The most popular answers to this question were *Walking/Running/Walking Dog* (29), *Viewing Wildlife/Nature* (21), and *Relaxation* (15). The least popular answers to this question were *Basketball* (0), *Organized Playground Activities* (0), and *Baseball/Softball* (1).



"Other" Responses

tennis

Riding the bike through the park on the bikepaths/walking paths.

Tennis! 🤖

Tennis

tennis

Walking no dog

Practice disc golf

Play tennis

I've never been there.

3. What do you value/appreciate about Medley Park? (Please limit responses to one sentence.)

This question was open ended and gathered no statistical data. See responses below.

Responses
nature and tennis
Close to our home
I live in the condos just north of the park so appreciate the close proximity to park trails plus the green experience/pond.
It's a pleasant place to walk my dog and watch wildlife.
A place for scenery, softball, tennis, etc.
It is close to home and offers a variety of things for people.
Open space
the proximity to my home in Kings Valley
Playground and proximity to us and our daily routines.
Proximity to my home
I appreciate that there is a mix of nature and recreation
I value the open space behind our home because of the view and recreational opportunities it presents.
The green space.
The open/green space, watching neighborhood kids enjoy the park, and walking paths connecting to the Bell preserve.
proximity, people watching, view, serenity
The open space in the neighborhood
Proximity to our house.
Seeing birds, flowers and having walking paths
So privileged to have a place to walk and enjoy the scenery
Pickle ball and trail.
walking paths that connect to others in the area
Being able to walk in park
It's a wonderful green space with water near my home.
Natural areas
The dog park area.
Open field
An open space close to my home.
It is a place to congregate and visit with neighbors
Open are - good for dog walking
Open space, trees, grass, pond, walking paths

I like the trails and the native planting. I walk to the pond every day and I like seeing the blue birds and wood ducks. I support expanding these features for additional use.
The trails and the pond
N/A
I value the trails and foot bridges around and through the park.

4. What specific features of the park do you like? (Please limit responses to one sentence.)

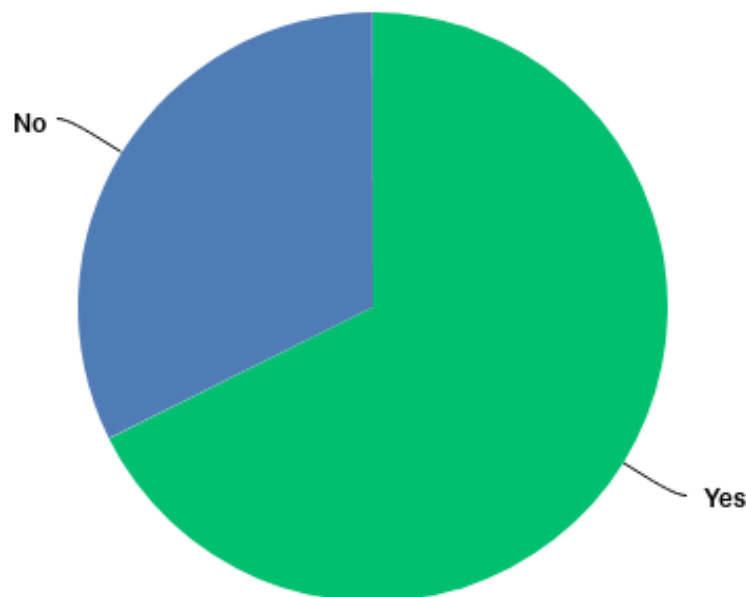
This question was open ended and gathered no statistical data. See responses below.

Responses
the tennis courts
Uncrowded and generally safe
It is generally quiet & peaceful plus I enjoy the wildflower border in the summer.
Location, greenspace, lack of crowds.
Since we do not go there that much, not much to say.
I like the size large of the park.
Native landscape
the paved walking paths and the diversity of activities
We currently use the playground the most.
Green space and biodiversity
Trail connectivity makes it a great place to visit
I like the open space to play frisbee with my friends and because it's quietude offers a sanctuary behind my home.
The walking trails including the fact that they are connected to the James Ford Bell Nature Area.
The walking paths and park equipment -- we used more of the amenities when our own kids were younger.
access to General Mills reserve, tennis courts, grass field
The paved walking paths
Walking trails.
Native plantings, bird houses, walking paths
The Walking Trails
Trail pond bridge
walking paths that connect to other trails in the area
Being able to go there when I can
I like how many different activities take place at the park.
Wildlife around ponds, open space and peaceful
The playground equipment and dog park.

trails connecting to other trails to General Mills Nature Area
I like to walk near and observe the pond, looking at the wild plants and animals that are not part of the mowed grassy area.
Walking paths, nature area, open space, tennis courts
Tennis court & open areas
Walking paths, pond
I support the expansion of native planting. I would appreciate if the park manage buckthorn and other invasive species as part of the process.
The trails and the pond and bathrooms
N/A
I like the trails nearby and inside the park, as well as the bridge.

5. Before watching the virtual open house video, did you know that Medley Park and the surrounding area experienced flooding and drainage issues?

Of the 34 respondents who answered this question, 23 (68 percent) knew Medley Park and the surrounding area experienced flooding and drainage issues and 11 (32 percent) did not.



6. What are some issues or problems that you see in the park? (Please limit responses to about two sentences.)

This question was open ended and gathered no statistical data. See responses below.

Responses
What are some issues or problems that you see in the park?(Please limit responses to about two sentences.)
Open-Ended Response
If a community garden is to located where the current tennis courts are, what will the new location of the tennis courts be?
None really
It is a small park with nothing to do except walk through it and on to the nature preserve unless you are with a child in the play area or use the tennis court or the skating rink. Because there are a lot of seniors who pass through, it would be good to have a couple more benches toward the east side, especially if plantings are added.
Flooding, invasive plants, trash in wooded areas.
Do not know.
Water often covering g the path on the west end of park.
Open space flooding
no specific issues
Lighting.
Parts of grassy areas get so water-logged they are unusable - especially rink area during non winter months
Would like to fix the flooding issues with natural methods.
The trail through the park is prone to flooding. Also, there are times after dark when people are openly using drugs and hooking up in their cars parked in the lot on the southeast side of the park.
Standing water or soggy ground in the western portion of the park. Flooding along the trail.
No major concerns.
keeping walk free of winter ice, spring wetland and scummy pond
Flooded paths
Persistent wet ground in the hockey rink and ice skating area.
water on paths as it tries to drain into the pond, wet grassy areas that become mud when the city tries to mow the grass
I take the city's word for it that there are drainage issues.
Flooding of Kings Valley Townhomes. New tennis/ pickle ball courts will get more use than the east ball field.
standing water in many areas after rains.
I don't go often enough to see problems
Unsure.
Low lying area not used well, tends to be swampy
Wet ground most of the year. Dog park constantly flooded. Dog park walls not high enough and in poor condition. Tennis courts need repairs. Poor lighting creating poor security for park goers.
I don't see any issues other than flooding.

While I did not know about the flooding issues, there is a large, flat area near the 'center' of the park that is often soggy with water when I walk across it. It seems odd since it is not near the pond but out in the area where the grass gets mowed.
Wet areas that are unusable. Creek overflows into the street and doesn't move water to the pond.
n/a
Flooding
I support better utilizing the ball field, no one is ever there. We do there to launch baking soda and vinegar rockets. Turning that space into a more enhanced natural space that you could walk through would be great.
Mud draining on the trails after a rain
N/A
None.

7. How can Medley Park be improved as part of this flood mitigation/water quality project? (Please limit responses to about two sentences.)

This question was open ended and gathered no statistical data. See responses below.

Responses
How can Medley Park be improved as part of this flood mitigation/water quality project?(Please limit responses to about two sentences.)
Open-Ended Response
Include tennis courts!
I wish the off-leash dog park had been approved.
A water garden would be appropriate and help to draw pollinators and other wildlife.
I like the ideas of habitat restoration and expanding the pond. It would be nice to see more wildlife using the pond.
Do not know.
Paths that will go around the entire park, native vegetation, pollinator friendly,
Convert most of the current grass mowed open space into native perennials
no specific ideas other than as mentioned below
Improve walking paths and children play options.
As a member of the MN Landscape Arboretum, I like your idea of planting rain gardens to absorb the soggy and to filter water runoff
Would love to see some native plant restoration. Especially with pollinators in mind.
The pond should be expanded to accommodate additional runoff and the trail through the park should be relocated further north and east away from the pond to avoid flooding.
The creation of a nature area that would emulate the experience of the James Ford Bell Nature Reserve would be welcomed. Plus helping Medicine Lake recover would be a positive.
We'd like to see the walking paths around and through the park be maintained, including a permanent walking path along the north side of the park, as well as more wildflowers/native plants to draw birds, butterflies, etc.
eliminate spring standing water and clean scum from pond
Better drainage so park can be used consistently

Expansion of the pond will increase mosquito breeding area. Adding protected bat houses might reduce the mosquitos in and around the park.
not sure
I appreciate the rain gardens and other natural plantings.
Install new tennis/ pickle ball courts that are on more stable soils. No dog park.
use the land as water collection areas or add additional ponds.
Just do the best you can to stabilize the water
Unsure.
Create a pond and native flower/plant area
Better drainage for the fields north and west of the warming house. Much better drainage for the dog park.
I like the idea of increasing the pond size or adding more ponds. I also like the natural vegetation and using vegetation as water filtration.
I look forward to improving the condition of the water and the land so more wild, native plants can be seen and more wild life likely to visit. Pathway into and through the wildness would be nice (they don't need to be paved paths. (I like to take photos of plants, insects and animals.)
Create a perennial garden with walking paths and benches for all people to enjoy and spend time together. NOT a vegetable garden that only a few people can use.
n/a
Manage the land toward what it is trending towards: some sort of flood/wetland, pond. Clearly the water wants to go that direction. Let's help it do what it's trying to do.
Expanding the native species planting. It would also be great if the trail made a little loop around native planting and potentially other bodies of water. I think the focus of improvement should be on making more useable, enjoyable space. I would prefer a couple features that you could walk around instead, even if they were dry something, instead of just expanding the existing pond. It would be nice to expand that part of the park into more of a nature area.
make a trail go around the pond
Plant natural grasses. Reduce use of concrete, if there's any.
More trails, more wildlife areas and trees.

8. Do you have any specific questions or concerns about the study or the potential flood mitigation/water quality project? (Please limit responses to three sentences.)

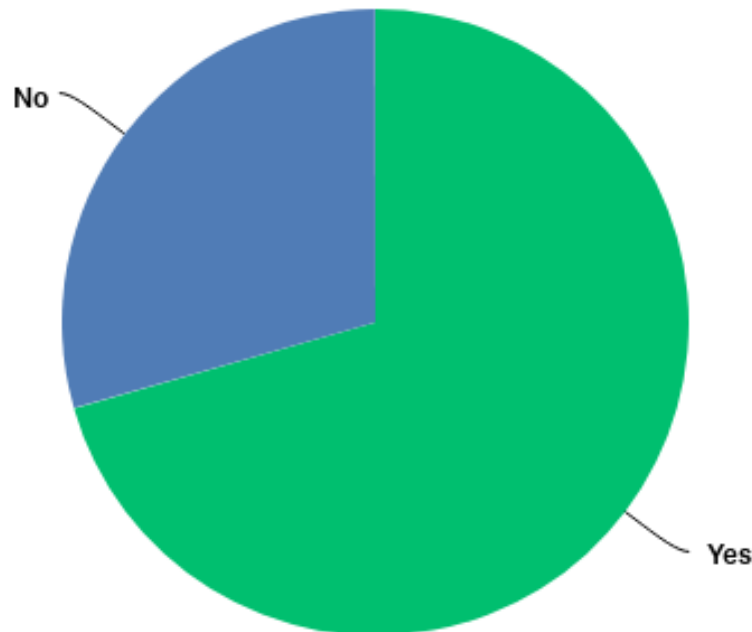
This question was open ended and gathered no statistical data. See responses below.

Responses
No
Will the project increase water flow and water levels along the walking trail to the JFB NW pond located at the corner of Duluth and Flag Ave?
I am not in favor of a dog park for all the reasons already stated in other surveys.
No
How would it benefit someone who doesn't use it very much or not at all?

We live across from the pond on Duluth Street. Will improving the water quality be part of the project since it drains to the ponds at Medley?
No
yes, why are the Kings Valley ponds and creek not included in the study since they are directly connected to the Medley Park pond?
Will it impact the General Mills nature preserve and the basset creek section in the area?
What strategies will you use to engage the public to reduce/eliminate use of lawn fertilizers and chemicals?
None. Excited to see interest in natural methods to help with pollution control!
There are trees near the pond that become submerged during flooding, some of which have tipped over in past years. Will trees nearby the pond be removed and relocated to protect them against flooding?
Yes - witness the water collection site at the intersection of Mendelssohn Avenue N and Olympia Street. An eyesore. Includes a cyclone fence. Not something we would want to see in Medley Park.
No questions or concerns, just looking forward to seeing how this turns out.
do not want more prairie plants. They are unsightly and have reduced attractive grass area.
Not at this time, thank you
None
no
No
Have you studied the need for a bigger culvert under Kings Valley Rd?
no
No
No.
Yes, creating ponds to contain water and establish wildlife will benefit all residents
Not at this time.
No specific questions
No specific questions.
I do not like the idea of a community garden that is fenced in and can only be used by a few people. I would prefer a landscaped perennial garden with walking paths and benches. In the winter it could be an area for walking and sitting as well. It would be a great place to meet with friends and neighbors.
n/a
None. Just concerned that the water quality is poor.
As long as I have my walking trail and the bird houses stay, I look forward to any other improvements. I would appreciate active communication when construction begins.
We should improve water quality and reduce water going into medicine lake with this project
We need more water mitigation projects like this everywhere.
No.

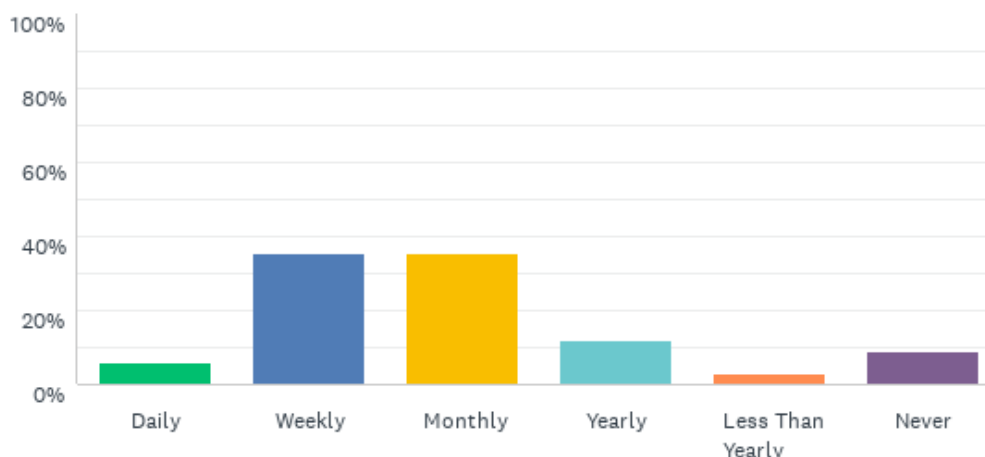
9. Storm water runoff from the Medley Park area flows to Medicine Lake, west of Highway 169. Medicine Lake is impaired due to excess nutrients like phosphorus. This can impact uses like fishing and swimming. Before today, did you know that Medicine Lake has water quality concerns?

Of the 34 respondents, 24 (71 percent) knew Medicine Lake has water quality concerns and 10 (29 percent) did not.



10. On average, how often do you visit Medicine Lake or the park and trails around the lake?

Of the 34 respondents, 12 (35 percent) say they visit Medicine Lake or the park and trails around the lake weekly and 12 (35 percent) say they visit monthly. The remaining 10 respondents say they visit either daily, yearly, less than yearly, or never.

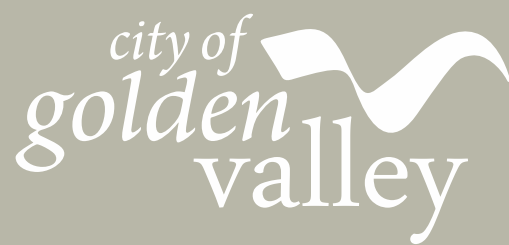


11. Additional Comments (Please limit response to three sentences.)

Responses
Thank you for taking care of the interests of Golden Valley tennis players!
I think that managing pet waste in the floodplain areas would help improve water quality. There is a large amount of waste that owners do not clean up. It ends up being washed into area ponds and eventually Medicine Lake.
There are not going to be assessments involved to us residents if this project is approved, are there?
Would love to give some space back to 'nature' if it's not being utilized for other purposes!
If possible, could you let me know the answer to my question about tree removal and relocation? Thanks ~
Changes made should incorporate walking trails where possible. 28 year resident of Golden Valley. The opportunity to offer feedback was appreciated.
would like to see improved drainage and large attractive grassy area maintained and not replaced by unsightly prairie plants that make area inaccessible for walking.
The culvert under Kings Valley Rd has the run off water of 125 acres going through it. Will the added volume of a larger Medley pond prevent flooding into the homes of KINGS VALLEY.
Kings Valley often floods along Kings Valley Road east and has damaged homes when we have large amounts of precipitation. Hopefully, improvements in the park will reduce water overflow from the ponds and streams and manage runoff better.
Do your best to make it healthy
Please upgrade and/or expand the dog park.
I am glad to see that Golden Valley is participating and working to improve Medicine Lake water quality. Could you add a disc golf basket to the park?
none
Since the Medley Park area is on part of a flood plain, this is a great location for a landscaped perennial garden with walking paths, benches, flowers, bushes, trees, art sculptures, and bird houses. It would become a park for neighbors to congregate and enjoy nature. Utilize the natural flood-plain of Medley Park to it's fullest! Look at Plymouth's Millennium Garden as an example and to glean ideas from. They have flower gardens, trails, walkways, fountains, a labyrinth and open space. What a perfect opportunity for Medley Park to emulate.
I would like to see Golden Valley continue to find ways to improve water quality as well as native species plantings. I would like to see better management of some invasive species, particularly buckthorn. Since we have these natural areas I would hope we would manage them to maximize flora and fauna diversity.

APPENDIX A

Social Media Reach and Engagement



SOCIAL MEDIA REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Medley Park Stormwater Feasibility Study

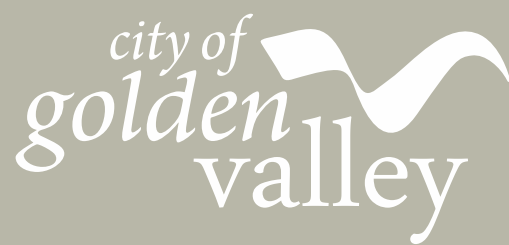
Reach = Number of people who saw the post

Engagement = Number of people who interacted with the post

Nov 18, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	481	7	0	0	0
Twitter	267	4	0	0	0
Nov 24, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	486	2	0	0	0
Twitter	407	17	3	1	0
Dec 1, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	404	4	0	0	0
Twitter	263	9	1	0	0
Dec 4, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	361	7	0	0	0
Twitter	222	1	0	0	0
Dec 9, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	446	2	0	0	0
Twitter	258	11	0	0	0
Dec 14, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	334	5	0	0	0
Twitter	172	0	0	0	0
Dec 17, 2020					
PLATFORM	REACH	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES	SHARES/RETWEETS	COMMENTS
Facebook	361	9	0	0	0
Twitter	162	0	0	0	0

APPENDIX B

Virtual Open House #2 Feedback



“Other” Responses

I fully support this project. I find concept #3 to be the most attractive in terms of flood protection benefit and phosphorus reduction into Medicine Lake.

David Herrick

I am a Kings Valley home owner. I think it is important for us to try and remove dissolved phosphorus from our flood waters where possible, so I believe plan 1 or 2 would be the best move forward. Otherwise, I fear that ponds themselves will have large algae blooms.

Hello. I live in the Kings Valley Townhomes and am all for the Concept 3 watershed project. Thank you. Bruce Walonick

I think the option that provides the best remedy is important. I liked Option 2 but also am excited about the addition of new plantings offered with all the plans. I think this will be a positive improvement to Medley Park.

In the video it was stated that concept one had no added cost. Would concept two and three have added costs? To whom? How much per unit?

My concern is what I have seen around Winnetka and Medicine Lake Road. There are walking paths which is a benefit. The minus is there also unsightly fencing. Would that also be the case for this project?

What is the specific partnership between Golden Valley and BCWMC? Golden Valley is losing a ball field. What is it getting in exchange?

The BCWMC website says it will be funded by an ad valorem tax on BCWMC properties. It is unclear whether Golden Valley gets either one-time or ongoing payments for giving up its park. It is unclear whether Golden Valley has continuing maintenance and other expenses.

My fear is that Golden Valley gives up a ball field and, in exchange, gets an ongoing maintenance expense. My other fear is that Golden Valley receives some type of payment for giving up a ball field, but that money goes to the Golden Valley general fund, rather than park improvements.

The "possible" future benches, trails, or interpretive signage does not seem like a fair trade.

leave as is