

# REIMAGINING ORCHARD PARK

## Community Outreach + Engagement Summary



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# OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

We utilized a place based, user-centered design approach in conducting this outreach. So far we've engaged over ~100 children and adults who reside, work in and/or serve in the Mont Pleasant community.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

We presented at 3 public meetings:

- *Mont Pleasant Neighborhood Association*
  - February 13 | 6:30 -8 p.m.
  - Mont Pleasant Public Library
  - ~8-10 Attendees
- *Mont Pleasant Merchants Association*
  - February 24 | 6:30 -8 p.m.
  - Exit Lounge
  - ~8-10 Attendees
- *Open House*
  - February 27 | 5-7 p.m.
  - Mont Pleasant Public Library
  - ~40-50 attendees

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Throughout the month of February, we directly engaged a diverse mix of resident/institutional stakeholders including, but not limited to:

- *City of Schenectady*
- *Schenectady Police Department*
- *Mont Pleasant Library Patrons*
- *Schenectady Community Ministries*
- *Planned Parenthood Youth Peer Educators (4)*
- *Schenectady High JROTC (5)*
- *Crane St business owners (~16)*
- *Park perimeter property owners/tenants (~15)*

# PUBLIC MEETING

Johan + Mary Moore  
presenting to the  
Mont Pleasant  
Neighborhood  
Association:

February 13 | 6:30 -8 p.m.

Mont Pleasant Public  
Library

~8-10 Attendees





# PUBLIC MEETING

Mary Moore  
presenting to the  
Mont Pleasant  
Merchants  
Association:

February 24 | 6:30 -8 p.m.

Exit Lounge

~8-10 Attendees





# OUT REACH

In addition to our ongoing discussions with local residents institutions + leaders, we collaborated with Schdy High School Planned Parenthood Peer Educators to engage over 16 Crane St. businesses + interview local library patrons.





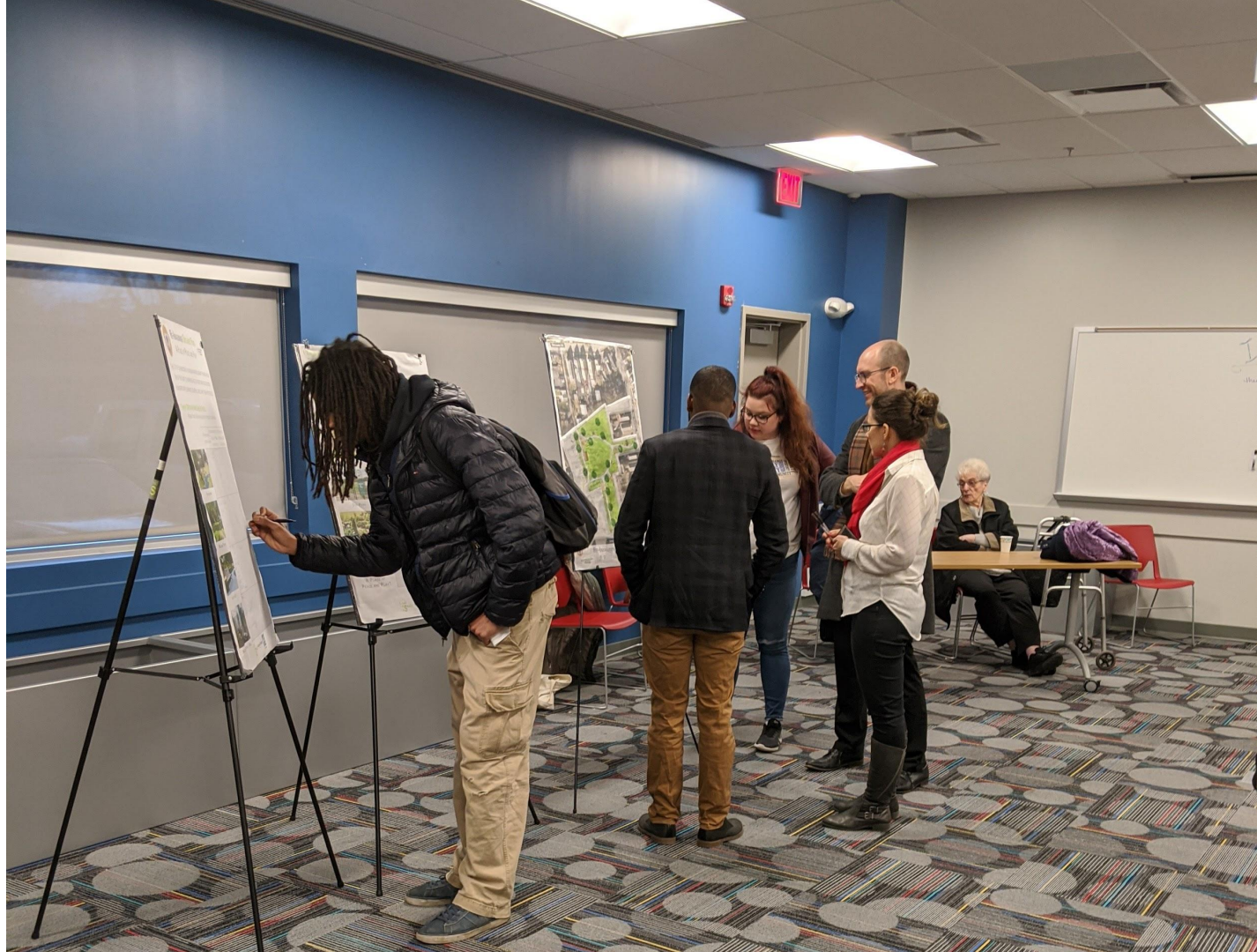
# OPEN HOUSE

We also invited the community at large to an open, informal discussion about possible park improvements.

February 27 | 5-7 p.m.

Mont Pleasant Public  
Library

~40-50 attendees



# FINDINGS & THEMES

We asked participants to tell us why would they go to Orchard Park.

I would go to Orchard park if...

there is one of The Emily Wiltay Foundation's "Our Community Library" book houses.

A quiet place to study

HE

If it felt when  
there where no drug dealer

Basketball court  
SUNNY AREA TO SLEEP

Basketball court x3 Basket Ball morning run  
Basketball frisby } can jam

if it felt like I was  
in a peaceful place.

Trees +  
Flowers



To be in a  
place where  
there's no  
drugs

If I felt like I  
would go to the park to make  
me feel better and have fun

Foot + ball



if it made me  
feel like I  
left the concrete jungle  
& stumbled into a green one

# FINDINGS & THEMES

"I would go to Orchard park if..."

## USER GROUPS

We recognized 3 emerging user groups:

- ***Pedestrians + Pet Owners***
  - :) Walking paths connecting the neighborhood to Crane St (instead of holes in the fence), Separate, enclosed areas for pets to run free, pet clean-up stations
- ***Families + Institutions***
  - :) improved access points for vehicles, parking, well lit places to sit + grill
- ***Kids + Residents***
  - :) Swings, slides, basketball, sense of safety, natural play elements (rocks and logs), play areas along paths and not just in one area

## STAKEHOLDER QUOTES

*"It would be nice if we can have a nice big road"*

--Schenectady Police Officer

*"Basketball, basketball, basketball!"*

--Kids, Mont Pleasant

*"I always wanted to but there's dog poop + possums"*

--Pedestrian, Mont Pleasant

*"Places to sit for my grandma... my grandma loves grilling"*

--Family, Mont Pleasant

*"We need a dog park... it's what they use it for now... I can't believe Mont Pleasant does not have one"*

-- Pet Owners, Mont Pleasant

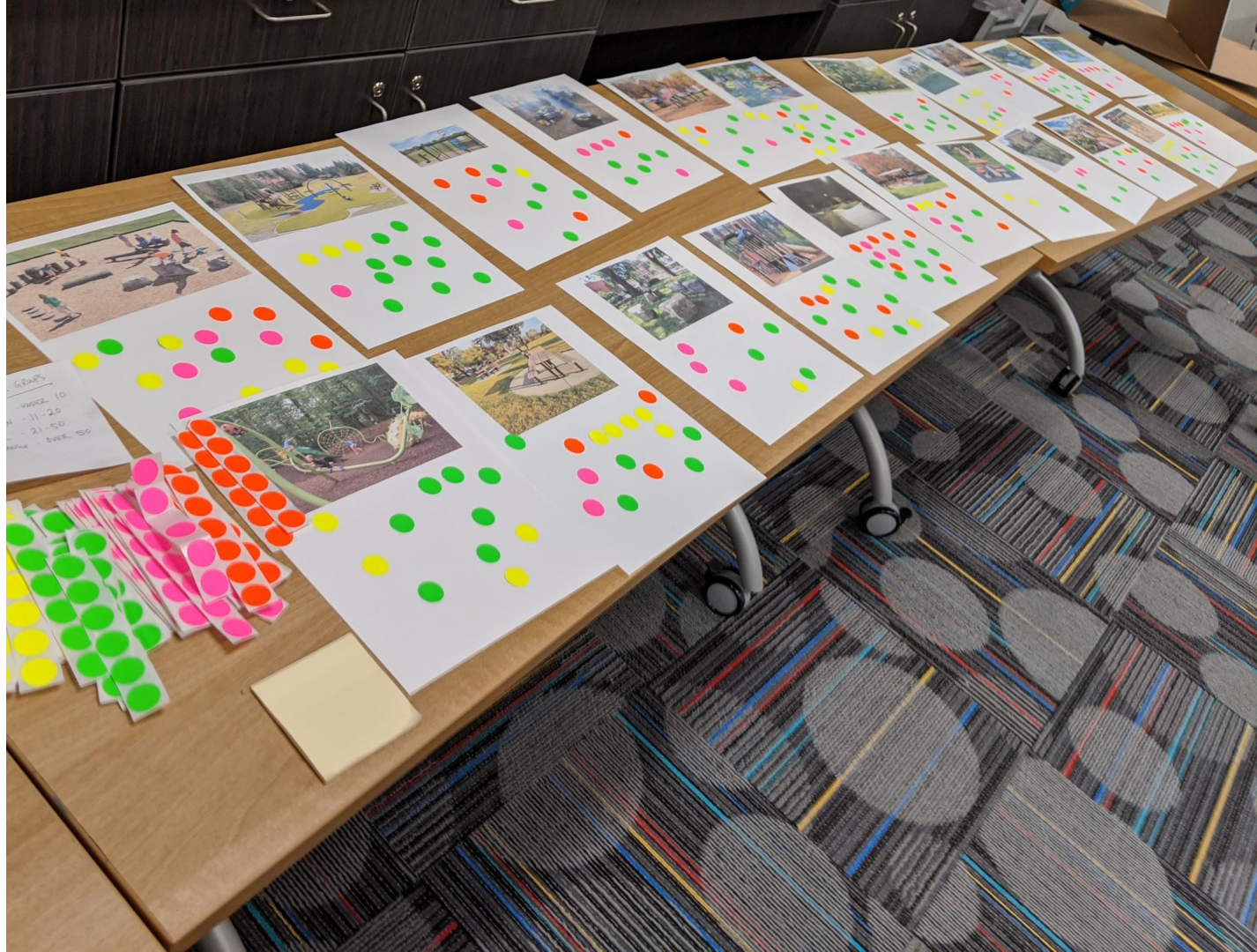


# ENGAGE MENT

We utilized an age based engagement activity to deepen our understanding of user preferences.

Participants were grouped into 4 age categories:

- *Under 10*
- 11-20
- 21-50
- Over 50



# INSIGHTS

We utilized an age based engagement activity to deepen our understanding of user preferences.

Insights were grouped into 4 age categories:

## UNDER 10

This age group found the following features important:

- *Tables*
- *Swings*
- *Natural landscapes to climb + slide on*

## 11 - 20

This age group found the following features important:

- *Playgrounds*
- *Dog parks*
- *Walkways*
- *Social + active spaces*

## 21-50

This age group found the following features important:

- *Nature based spaces*
- *Open spaces*
- *Informational signage*
- *Picnic settings*

## OVER 50

This age group found the following features important:

- *Walk ways*
- *Dog parks*
- *Train based play spaces (Engine Hill)*
- *Places to sit*
- *Picnic settings*

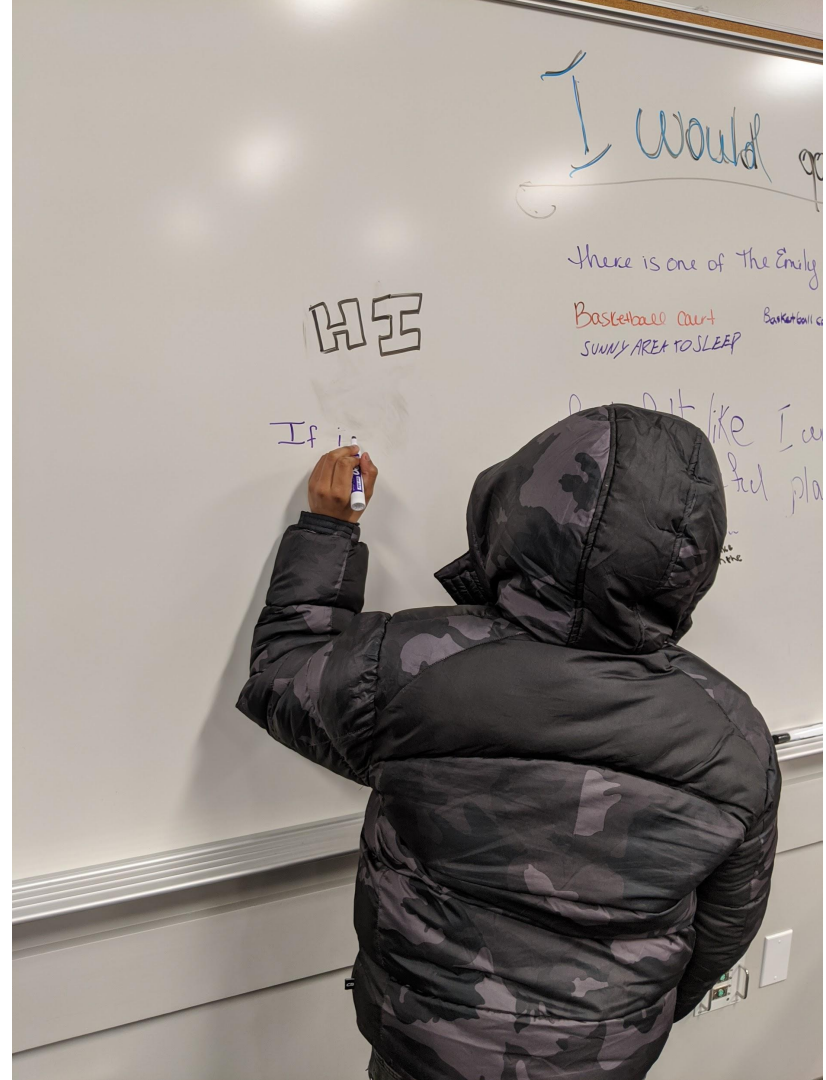


# QUESTIONS + OPPORTUNITIES

Based on our listening and engagement, we uncovered wide variety of user preferences and questions.

A few questions that came out of this outreach were:

- *Could the park name be changed?*
- *Could we use an adjacent parcel for parking?*
- *Could the alley, that is currently the main point of access, be closed off once the other entries are created?  
[or altered for safety, visibility + responsible access]*





# Mutual Design

## CREATING SHARED FUTURES

**If you'd like to get in touch, feel free to reach out:**

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