

**Newport Forward Comprehensive Plan Update**  
**Festival Park Comments**  
Meeting #3 Handout (4/30/20)

Newport Steering Committee Comments on Festival Park – 4.2.2020 Committee Meeting and 4.20.2020 committee email responses

1. What is/should be Festival Park's role in the larger Newport Park Network? How should the activities and recreational offerings in Festival Park differ from or compliment other gathering/recreational areas in the City?
2. How can we better connect Festival Park with other areas of the City?
3. The entire riverfront needs to be planned / designed as a cohesive whole, with Festival park as a centerpiece. How might the bigger vision affect the design of Festival Park?

**04.02.2020 Steering Committee Meeting #2**

- Original design for event space with better access to the waterway – is that still needed?
- More greenspace, would like it softer, less hardscape. Proposed design is largely concrete, prettier, but very similar to what is there now. Shade is badly needed.
- Would like space to be more flexible, able to hold different kinds of events and still function daily as a recreational greenspace. Also easier maintenance.
- Use existing and create more festival space elsewhere
  - Use existing infrastructure, places like shopping center. Monmouth Street other spaces for events
  - Relieve traffic congestion
- Parks should be primarily for recreation, secondarily for festival space
- Park should be one space, different levels make is less attractive, less often visited or useful on a regular/daily basis
- How does Ovation impact the relevance of Festival Park? How does Festival Park fit into the broader view of the riverfront.
- Lack of restrooms (here and in general) is an issue (also lack of funding for restroom maintenance)
- Concern for flooding, significant cost associated
- Do not need to make the space smaller – events there are tight, many attendees wish some were still held at the shopping center



#### 04.14.2020 Steering Committee Member Response Summary

##### Festival Park

- Current plan seems dated (in design and its offerings).
- This location should be the epicenter of Newport's Public Park System, with amenities that draw park users/families daily (e.g., Cincinnati's Smale, Louisville's Waterfront Park)
- Too much concrete! Reduce concrete and increase permeable surfaces, vegetation (functional/level lawn and landscaping), shade!
  - More vegetation will require a Maintenance Plan to keep the riverfront clean and attractive.
- Should be designed for year-round use (more than it would be used for festivals)
- Compliment programming of other riverfront parks (i.e., Taylor Park), avoid duplication of offerings.
- Integrate with Riverfront Commons (in function and design)
- Need clarification of relationship to Skywheel
- Park first, festivals secondary. Any festival vendor should pay a fee that funds the park maintenance/improvements.
- Should encourage smaller/intimate gatherings (post COVID environment).
- Amenities – food, drink, stage for local music/ DJ with a small dance area, interactive art, murals, restrooms, walking paths, places to sit/look at the river, places to greet/mingle with a small groups, benches, swings, landscaping (trees, flower beds, level lawn for picnicking), a small playground (e.g.—Louisville's Riverfront, Smale Park in Cincinnati), docks for boats (e.g., Georgetown Waterfront in DC), pier/overlook, public non-motorized boat kayaks, canoes) launch (on Ohio or Licking)
- Consider moving festivals to Monmouth St. or Shopping Center to take advantage of existing infrastructure

##### Central Park

- Consider Peace Bell site with COVID-19 memorial
- Consider Builder's Surplus building and lot between 6th and 7th, and York & Columbia