

## WELCOME

### WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

A master plan is a **vision for future implementation**. It provides a conceptual layout to guide future growth and development. Master planning is about making the connection between buildings, social settings, and their surrounding environments.

**A master plan will identify future park features, landscape enhancements, and the aspirational vision as a planning tool.**

### WHY NOW?

The Mountain Bike Facilities Master Plan by Lincoln Parks and Recreation and Lincoln Botanical Garden Master Plan by others are happening now.

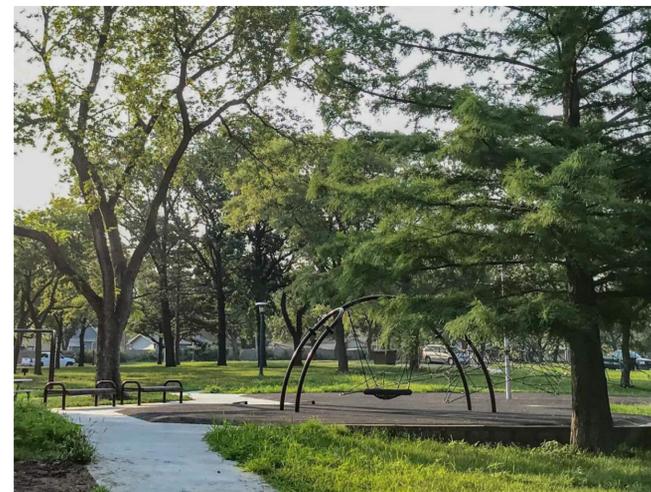
This is the perfect time to understand and develop the community's long-term vision for Van Dorn Park too.



- Mountain Bike Facilities Master Plan
  - September 2022 to April 2023
  - Led by Lincoln Parks and Recreation
  - Search "Mountain Bike" at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/>



- Lincoln Botanical Master Plan:
  - January 9, 2023 to April 2023
  - Led by Lincoln Botanical Garden
  - <https://lincolnbotanicalgarden.org/>



### WHAT ARE GOALS OF THIS MASTER PLAN?

- ✓ **Understand** aspirations of the bordering neighborhoods (South Salt Creek, Indian Village, and Irvingdale).
- ✓ **Coordinate** neighborhood aspirations with the needs and desires of the mountain bike community and Lincoln Botanical Garden.
- ✓ Develop a master plan to guide the **long-term vision** for the park.

### WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

In general, master plans are a long-term vision that can be implemented over 20 years or more.

### IS THERE FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

Right now, funds are not available for implementing the proposed features of the master plan. However, having a master plan in place would allow the City to make funding available in the future as part of the Capital Improvements Program.

## CONCURRENT MASTER PLANNING EFFORTS

Led by Lincoln Parks and Recreation

Led by Lincoln Botanical Garden

### TIMELINE

#### VAN DORN PARK MASTER PLAN

#### MOUNTAIN BIKE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

#### LINCOLN BOTANICAL GARDEN MASTER PLAN

**2022**

September

**2023**

January

**TODAY**

February

March

April

May

June & Beyond

Neighborhood / THOR Engagement #1

Draft Master Plan Development

Neighborhood / THOR Engagement #2

Final Master Plan Development

PRAB Endorsement

Working Group Input and Analysis

Draft Master Plan Development

Draft Master Plan Release & Public Comment

Final Master Plan Development

PRAB Endorsement

Vision Development

Draft Master Plan Development

Final Master Plan Development & Feasibility Study

## VAN DORN PARK TIMELINE



**September 26, 1943** - William Tolber Van Dorn was born in La Porte, Indiana.

William T. Van Dorn moved to Lincoln. When outskirts of Lincoln reached the property, the adjacent road was named Van Dorn Street.

William T. Van Dorn's son, Herbert, traveled from Chicago to Lincoln to convey his family's opposition to turn the park into an auto campground.

**February 14, 1925** - C. W. Hoke sold Fairmont Lot 7 to Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company (CBQ). The same day, the railroad then sold the lot to the city for \$4,100.

**February 21, 1925** - Edward G. Maggi donated Fairmont Lot 8 was sold to the city for \$5,000.

10th Street was extended south, removing part of the park on the east side and cutting off its northeast corner. Lincoln Evening Journal reminded the city leaders about Van Dorn's one condition of the deed: that they erect a suitable memorial for him.

**December 11, 1961** - George Holmes donated \$100,000 to purchase land southwest of the park. The acquisition included the closure of 9th Street and adjoining portions of Dakota, Pawnee, and Otoe Streets.



Parking lots and the drive into the park that connects to them were constructed.

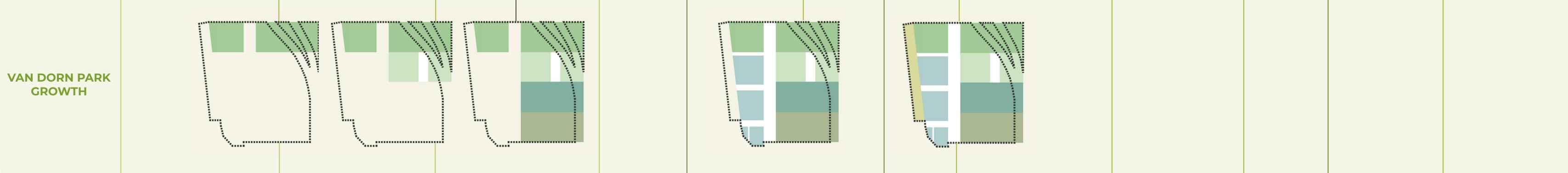


Lincoln Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved a proposal for a botanical garden and conservatory in Van Dorn Park.



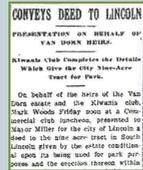
City updated the playground for Van Dorn Park, which included a climbing net, saucer swing, and traditional swing that was installed next to the rental shelter. Private individuals and the Indian Village Neighborhood Association provided funding to support the renovation.

**November 5, 2022** - Volunteers planted 17 trees and numerous shrubs in Van Dorn Park, the first time new trees have been introduced in 20 years.



William T. Van Dorn purchased 10 acres south of the city and established a nursery and cherry orchard.

**July 14, 1919** - After William T. Van Dorn's death in 1918, his family donated 9 of 10 acres to the city, which became known as Van Dorn Park.



**November 24, 1922** - John J. McLaughlin sold blocks 1 and 2 of the Cooley's Subdivision to the city for \$7,500.

The park was 20 acres and well used. In 1932, a Lincoln Star article noted 1,000 picnickers on a September day.

9th Street originally extended straight through the park was re-routed to run parallel to 10th Street. This left the island of trees between the two streets.

The vacation of the 9th street ROW from Van Dorn to Dakota street allowed the park to be connected from east and west sides.

**March 4, 1968** - CBQ rail was vacated in 1941. The city acquired over 2 acres as the final park expansion for \$100 plus recording fees.

Left turn lanes were added to northbound 10th Street, resulting in the removal of 33 trees from the park.

Van Dorn Park was moved up in the city's 10-year parks plan, paving the way for park enhancements.

Lincoln Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved a two-mile mountain bike trail as a temporary use until the development of the proposed botanical garden was built. In August, volunteers created the one-track trail.

**August 8, 2021** - Keeping their promise to erect a memorial for William T Van Dorn, the city honored him with a plaque at the 100th Anniversary Celebration, which commemorated the donation of his land to the city.



## SITE CONDITIONS

### EXISTING PLAN:



1" = 160'  
0' 80' 160' 320'  
SCALE IN FEET

### EXISTING VEGETATION:



#### TREE COVER:



Locust (143 | 28%)



Hackberry (95 | 19%)



Oak (91 | 18%)



Pine (68 | 13%)

#### POLLINATOR MIX: (8 primary grasses/hedges and 20+ perennials)



Canada Wild Rye



Upright Coneflower



Purple Prairie  
Clover



Azure Aster

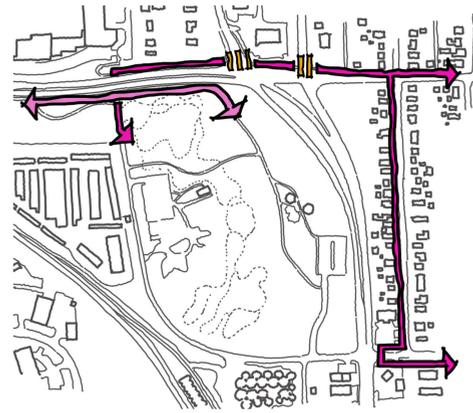
## SITE ANALYSIS

### EXISTING USES:



The site is currently divided into three major use areas: the park, the mountain bike course, and the materials storage yard.

### PEDESTRIAN ACCESS:



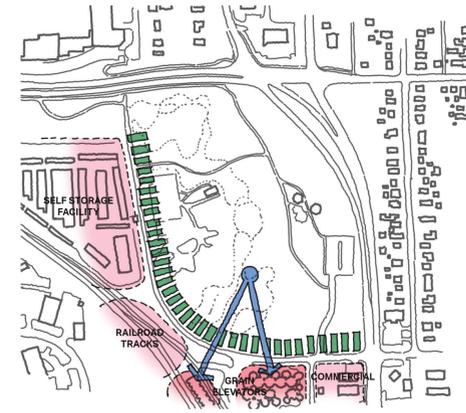
Currently there are no at-grade pedestrian crossings at Van Dorn Street or Nebraska Parkway. The only direct access to the park is the tunnel beneath Van Dorn Street. Significant drainage toward the tunnel often creates wet and muddy conditions.

### VEHICULAR ACCESS:



Currently the site has only one vehicular access point abutting Nebraska Parkway. The site is surrounded by divided streets and shares the southeast access with strip commercial use. The "13" and "56" bus lines have stops within two to three blocks of the park.

### ADJACENT VIEWS:



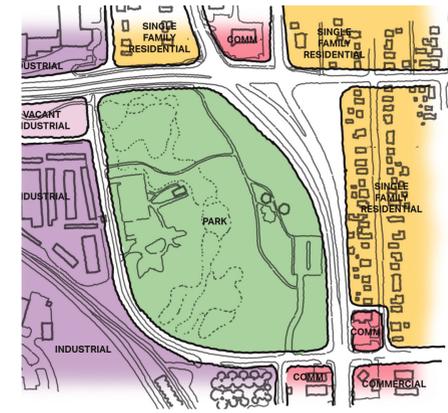
Several land uses next to Van Dorn Park are not compatible with park use, some of which break the horizon line and can be seen from the park. Screening and framing views should be considered in this plan.

### NOISE:



Site noise is prominent due to heavily trafficked streets, an active railroad corridor, and several industrial uses. In the absence of trains, the level of noise is greatly diminished on the western and southwest corner of the park.

### LAND USE:



The site occupies a transitional area between commercial, residential, warehouse, and industrial uses. The western and southern uses provide limited activation and eyes on the park.

### DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD?

## YOUR INSIGHTS

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO VAN DORN PARK? Dot all that apply.

Renting the Shelter

Bird Watching

Accessing the Bison Trail

Mountain Biking

Other (please explain)

Playing or Swinging

Walking or Strolling

Running

Picnicking

I Don't Visit the Park (please explain)

## YOUR INSIGHTS

### DO YOU RENT THE SHELTER?

Yes - Once

Yes - Often

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

No - Not Yet

### IF YES, WHY?

### IF NO, WHY?

## YOUR INSIGHTS

HOW DO YOU GET TO VAN DORN PARK? Dot all that apply.

Personal Vehicle

Bus

Walking

Bike

Other (please explain)

<input type="checkbox"/>				
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

WHERE DO YOU ACCESS VAN DORN PARK? Dot all that apply.

Bison Trail

Pedestrian Tunnel

By Crossing Van Dorn Street

By Crossing Nebraska Parkway

Intersection of High Street &  
Nebraska Parkway

<input type="checkbox"/>				
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

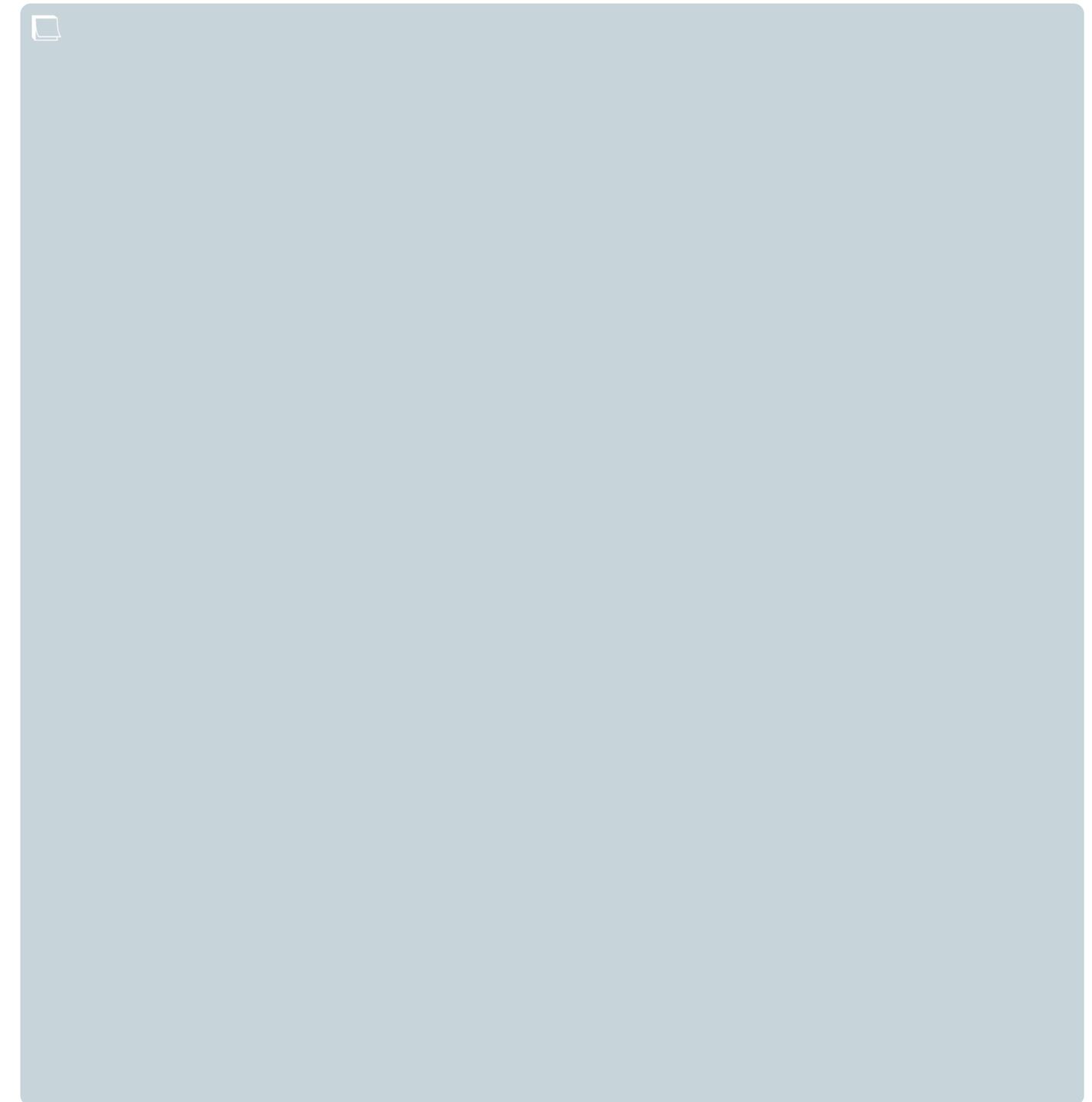
## YOUR INSIGHTS

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT VAN DORN PARK?



A large, empty rectangular area with a light green gradient background, intended for users to provide their insights on what is special about Van Dorn Park. A small white icon of a document is visible in the top-left corner.

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT VAN DORN PARK?



A large, empty rectangular area with a light blue gradient background, intended for users to provide their insights on what they would change about Van Dorn Park. A small white icon of a document is visible in the top-left corner.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING INSIGHTS

### EXISTING MOUNTAIN BIKE FACILITIES IN VAN DORN PARK

In June 2020, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) approved Van Dorn Park for a two-mile mountain bike trail as a temporary use until the development of the proposed Lincoln Botanical Garden was built.

In August, volunteers organized by THOR (Trails Have Our Respect) created the single-track trail.

Lincoln Parks and Recreation embarked upon a master planning effort to look at the future of mountain bike facilities in the community in September of 2022. A working committee of mountain bike enthusiasts has been assembled to help the City determine what facilities are most needed and how they can be distributed around the community in order to provide equitable opportunities to all who are interested.

### MASTER PLAN GOALS

- Discuss **range of Mountain Bike Facilities in Lincoln** and determine a Level of Service.
- **Recommend priority locations for facilities** to serve the community equitably.
- Discuss different **frameworks for design and management** of Mountain Bike Facilities.
- Discuss **timing for projects** and different **funding strategies**.

### PLAN UPDATE

#### MASTER PLAN WORKING COMMITTEE

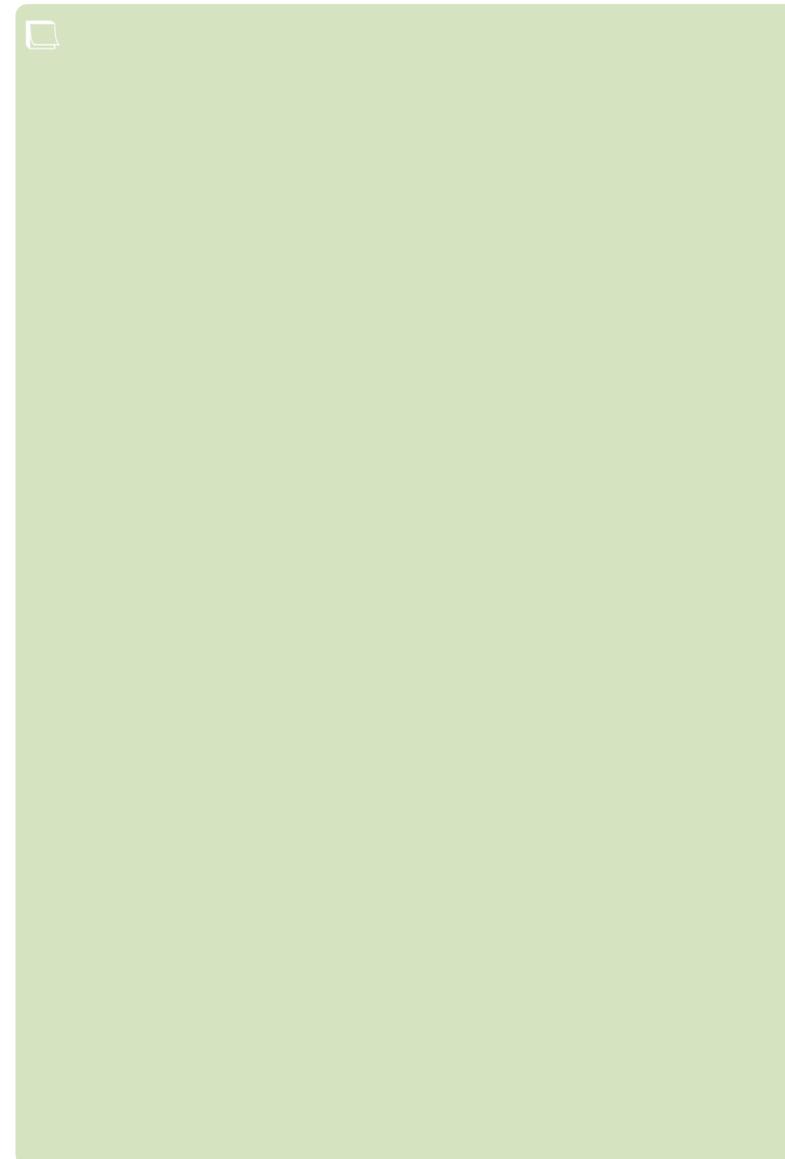
- Spent the last several months reviewing potential locations for future development of MTB facilities.
- **Narrowed the list to 19 park properties the can be viewed on an interactive map.**
- Each area is marked with elevation lines and features color-coded slope information.
- Viewers may add their observations at each location.

#### VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

- Accepting online comments until January 23rd

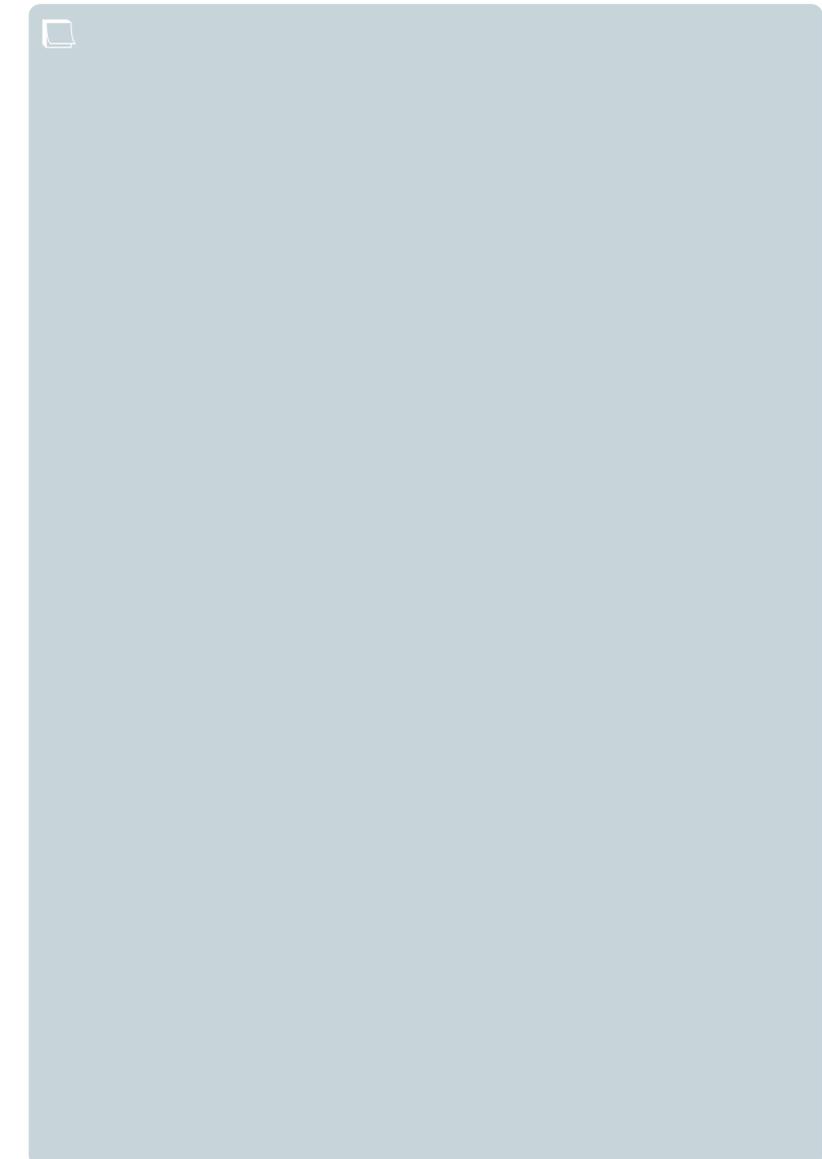
### HEART

What **excites** you about mountain biking in the park?



### HEARTBURN

What **concerns** you about mountain biking in the park?



## BOTANICAL GARDEN INSIGHTS

### WHAT IS A BOTANICAL GARDEN?

A botanical garden is a multi-generational destination to **celebrate community, culture, and art** in the setting of curated botanical collections.

It is a place where people can **gather, learn, and experience the brilliance of flowers and other plants** no matter what time of year.



### VISION FOR LINCOLN

**Provide a venue to celebrate and cultivate appreciation for horticultural arts.** The Lincoln Botanical Garden will expand the public vision and mission of Van Dorn Park while enhancing the current tree, trail, and recreational resources.

**Create a world-class addition to the existing public gardens in Lincoln** that will enhance the use, community engagement, and preserve the natural features of the historical park.

**Provide safe and accessible park connectivity and access** to the surrounding neighborhoods and beyond.

### IMPLEMENTATION

In 2015, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) approved Van Dorn Park as the future location for the Lincoln Botanical Garden.

In order to implement the facility, the Lincoln Botanical Garden committee is required to show they can build and operate the facility. A master plan is the next step.

### PROPOSED LINCOLN FACILITIES

#### VISITOR'S CENTER AND CONSERVATORY

- Year-long indoor gardens, plant collections, and programming
- Community gathering space
- Garden demonstration and classroom space
- Cafe in a future phase

#### EXTERIOR GARDEN AMENITIES

- Children's gardens and interpretive play features
- Native, pollinator, and curated gardens
- Art Installations
- Tree-top canopy boardwalk

### WHY VAN DORN PARK?

Location: Van Dorn Park is well positioned to neighborhoods, arterial corridors, downtown, and within proximity of bus routes, trails, and Highway 77.

Trail Access: Located at the trail head of Bison Trail and in close proximity to the Jamaica North, Salt Creek Levee, and Helen Boosalis trails.

Entry to Haines Branch Prairie Corridor: Van Dorn Park will serve as the entry to the Haines Prairie Corridor on the Bison Trail. Both projects have shared missions of environmental stewardship, landscape preservation, and restoration. Co-location is an opportunity to highlight their missions and environmental stewardship.

Tree Canopy: The park's mature tree canopy provides mature specimens to be celebrated and preserved. The trees create opportunities to curate gardens within and around the existing tree resources.

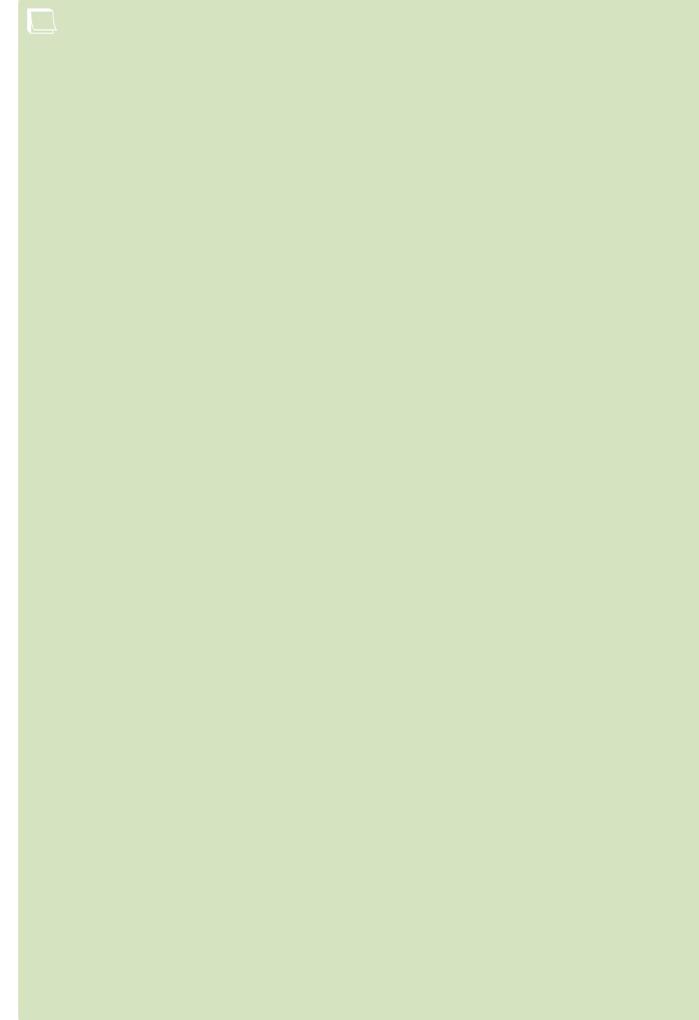
Topography: Like Sunken Gardens, the topography of the site provides an incredible canvas. Western facing slopes provide optimal growing conditions.

Adjacencies: The rail line and industrial uses are compatible with back-of-house features required for a garden facility.

Opportunities: The garden's generation of users coupled with the new bypass provides opportunities to implement safe crossings, signals, or other improvements to make the park more accessible to the adjacent neighborhoods and beyond.

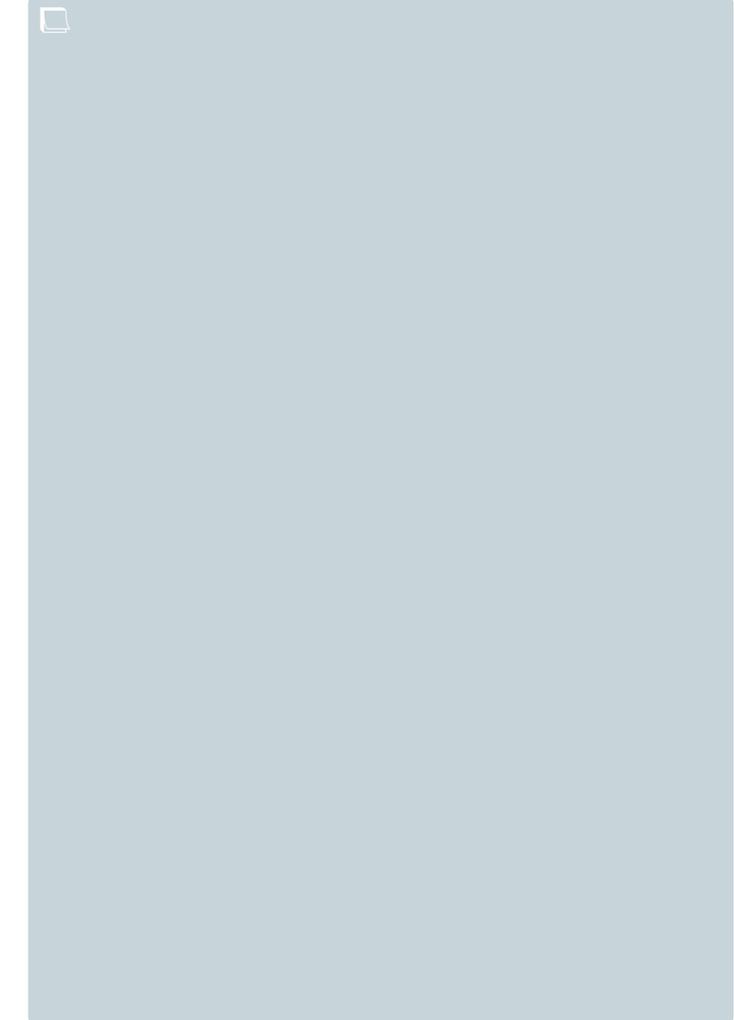
### HEART

What **excites** you about the future botanical garden in the park?



### HEARTBURN

What **concerns** you about the future botanical garden in the park?



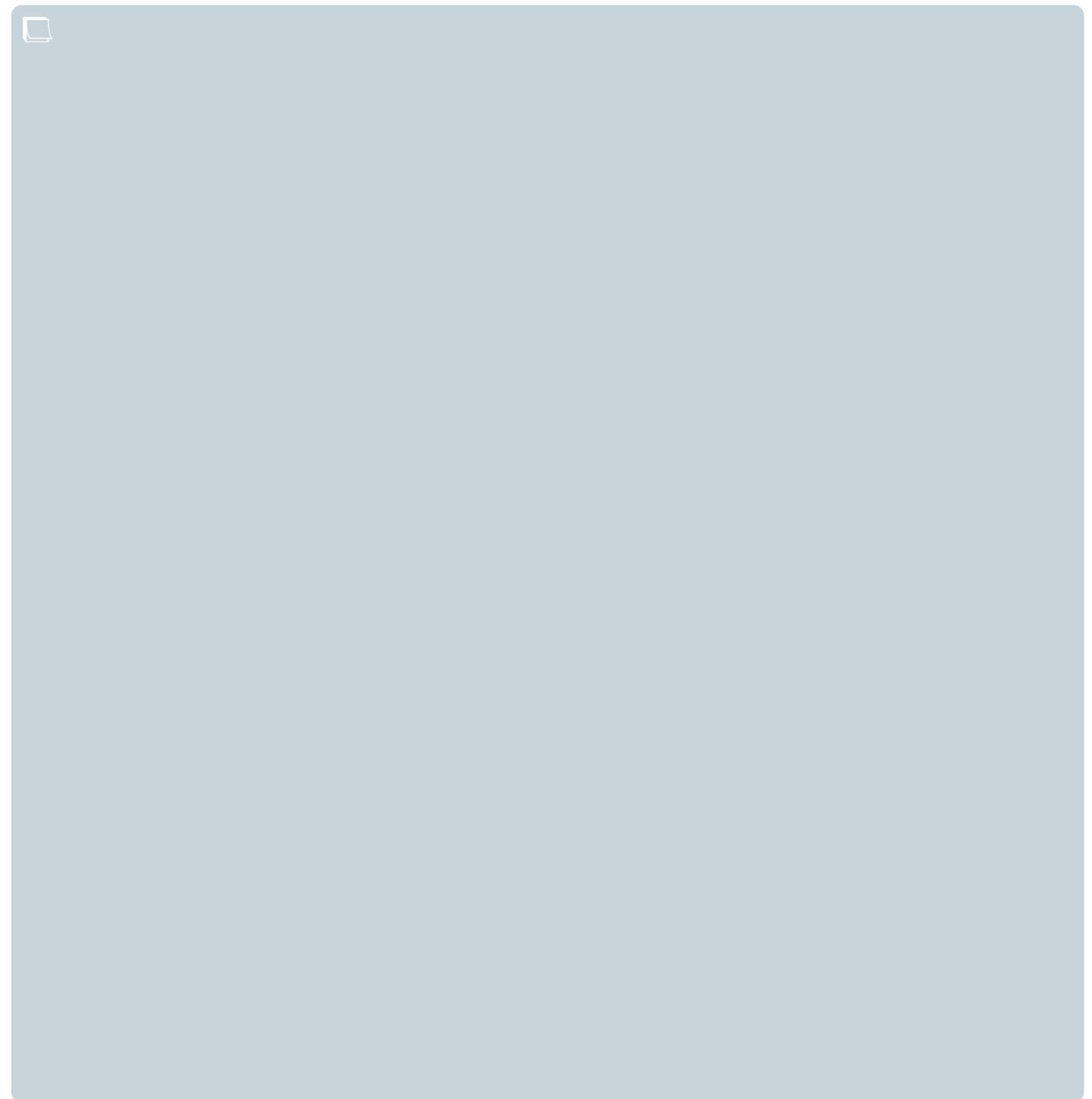
## YOUR INSIGHTS

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE OR AMENITY?

Dot all that apply.



### WHY?



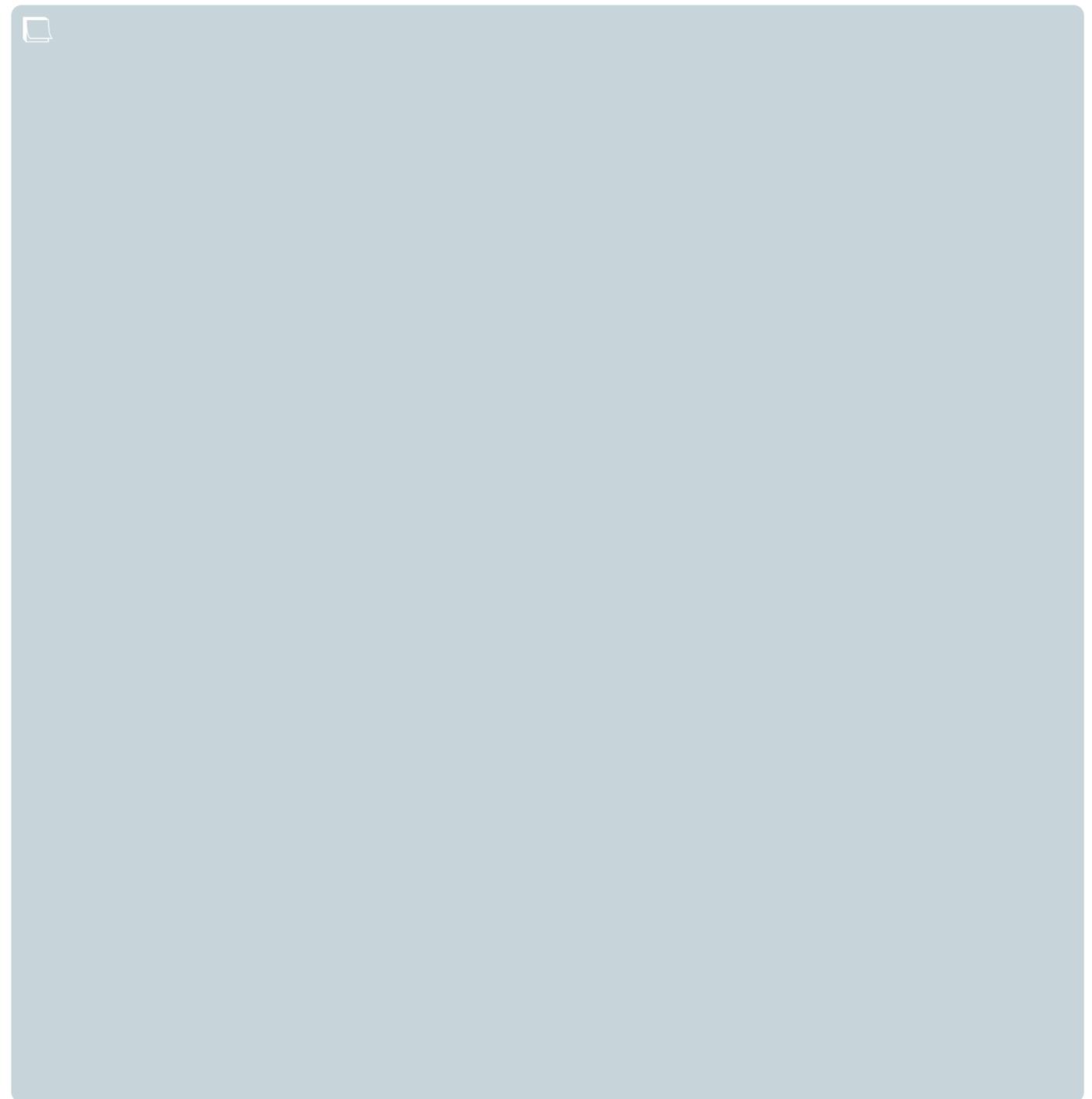
## YOUR INSIGHTS

### WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE PLACE OR AMENITY?

Dot all that apply.

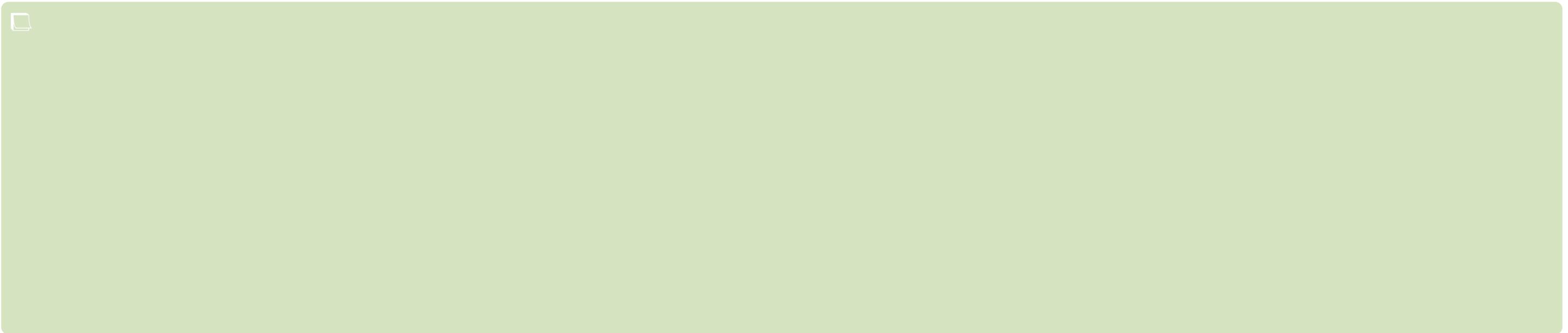


### WHY?

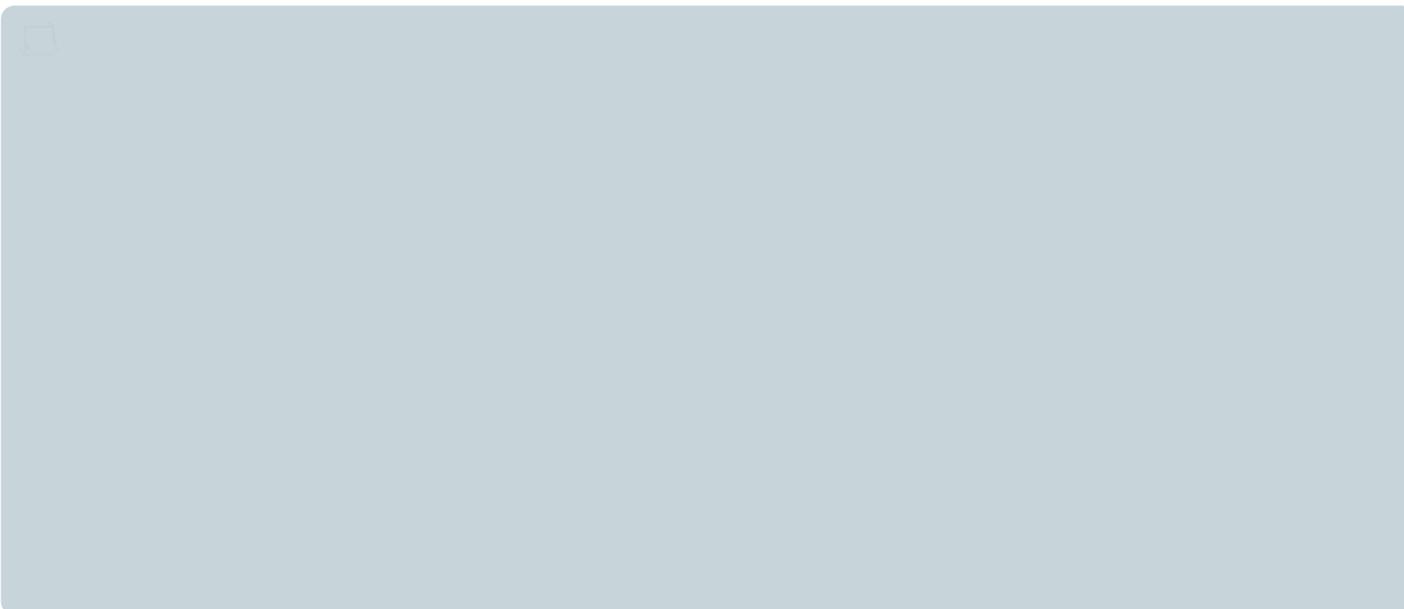


## YOUR INSIGHTS

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THE PARK?



WHAT DO YOU NEED MORE OF IN THE PARK?



WHAT DO YOU NEED LESS OF IN THE PARK?



## YOUR INSIGHTS

We appreciate your **interest, insights, and feedback** to develop a vision for Van Dorn Park.

### VAN DORN PARK MASTER PLAN - ENGAGEMENT SESSION #2

We hope you will attend Engagement Session #2 in **MARCH** to provide feedback on a proposed master plan.

