

## Northfield Public Library Site and Vision Plan

### Summary Document - Pop Up #01 – Summer Concert Series, Mark Joseph

Event Date: 10 July 2024

#### Attendees

Northfield Library supporting Engagement Activity: Natalie, Annika,

TEN x TEN: Erica, Xan

Audience: Approximately 100 people

#### Event/Project Promotion

[Library press release](#)

Northfield Radio Station Interview

#### Event Overview and Format

Library staff and the design team engaged approximately 100 people (half children under the age of 12) at the Mark Joseph concert at the Library's Summer Concert Series. The event was held at Way Park from 6-7pm, on the west side of the River from the library. The bookmobile was onsite for checking out books and children were invited to storytime at 5:30 before the concert began.

#### Event Goals

1. To introduce the project to the community.
2. To understand how the community sees the library.
3. To engage the community on dreams for, preferences for, and barriers to using library (big dreams and functional needs).
4. To connect with an audience beyond typical library feedback groups

#### Event Format

The engagement revolved around four foamcore boards each with a slightly different interactive activity. Two were on easels and two were flat on the two tables with library tablecloths. All participants were asked to engage with each board, but some preferred to respond to one or two boards only (Boards 2 and 3, flat on the table, were the most popular). Participants were given a freeze pop as a thanks for being engaged. Some participated twice because they wanted a second freeze pop.

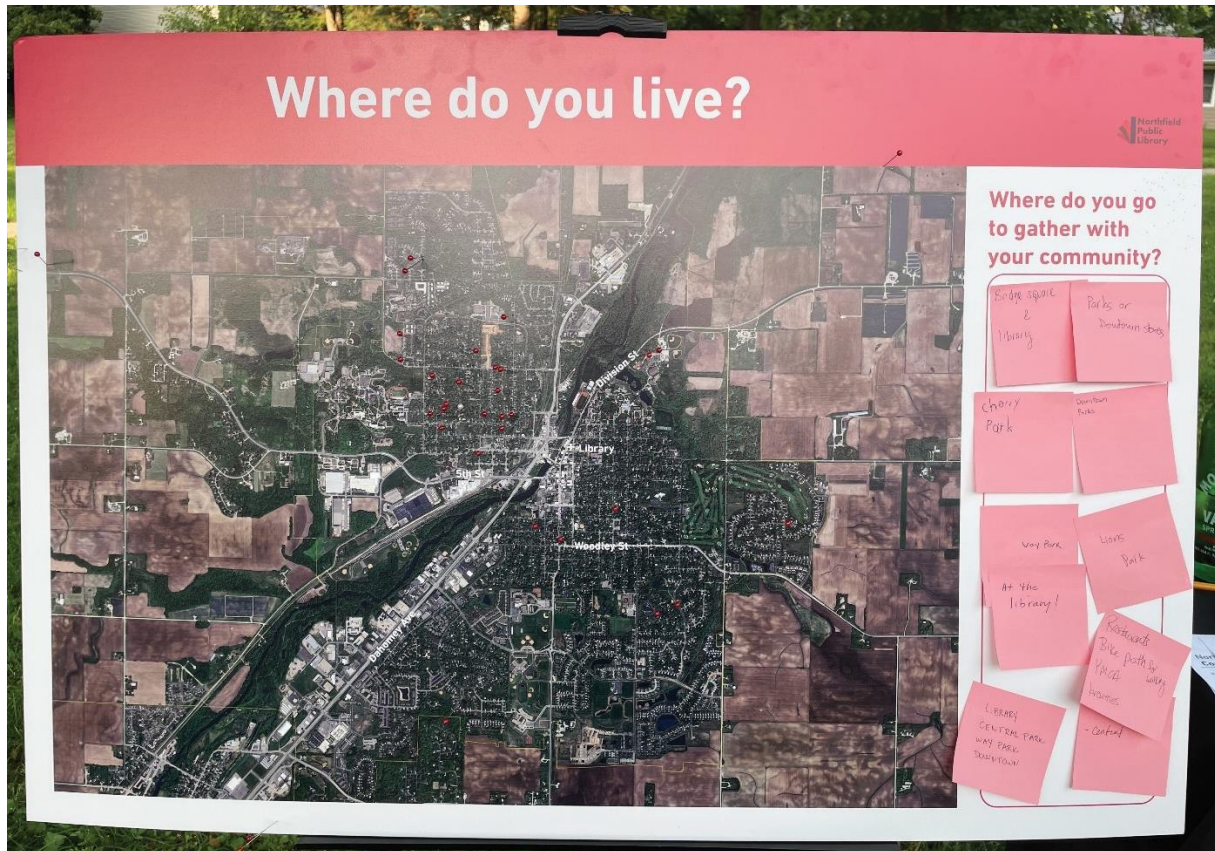
#### Highlights from Event

- Audience: The majority of participants live on the west side of Northfield. Many of the participants were youths or families with young children.
- Due to the large showing of children 12 and under there was a notable preference for spaces, programs, and amenities that looked like play or were colorful. This includes Learning/Program Space, Youth Oriented Amenities or Activities, and comments on participant's favorite and most challenging parts of the existing library landscape.
- Participants also focused on the Environment, specifically stormwater, shade trees, and natural light.
- On the spaces board (Board 2), participants voted for Event Space, on the amenities board (Board 3), participants were interested in play.



## Activity Board 1: Where Do You Live?

Participants used sewing pins to mark where they live on a map of Northfield. They were invited to respond with a Post-it Note to the question: Where do you go to gather with your community? Foamcore board was set on an easel.



1. Prompt 1: Where do you live?
  - a. 34 people responded.
  - b. 6 live outside the bounds of the map,
  - c. 20 live on the west side of Northfield (visually nearby to Way Park)
  - d. 8 live on the east side, some near the library.
  
2. Prompt 2: Where do you go to gather with your community?
  - a. Most responses included a park or the library
    - i. Bridge square @ library
    - ii. Parks or Downtown stores
    - iii. Cherry Park
    - iv. Downtown Parks
    - v. Way Park
    - vi. Lions Park
    - vii. Restaurants, Bike path for walking, YMCA, Breweries
    - viii. At the library!
    - ix. Library, central park, way park, downtown
    - x. along the river, central

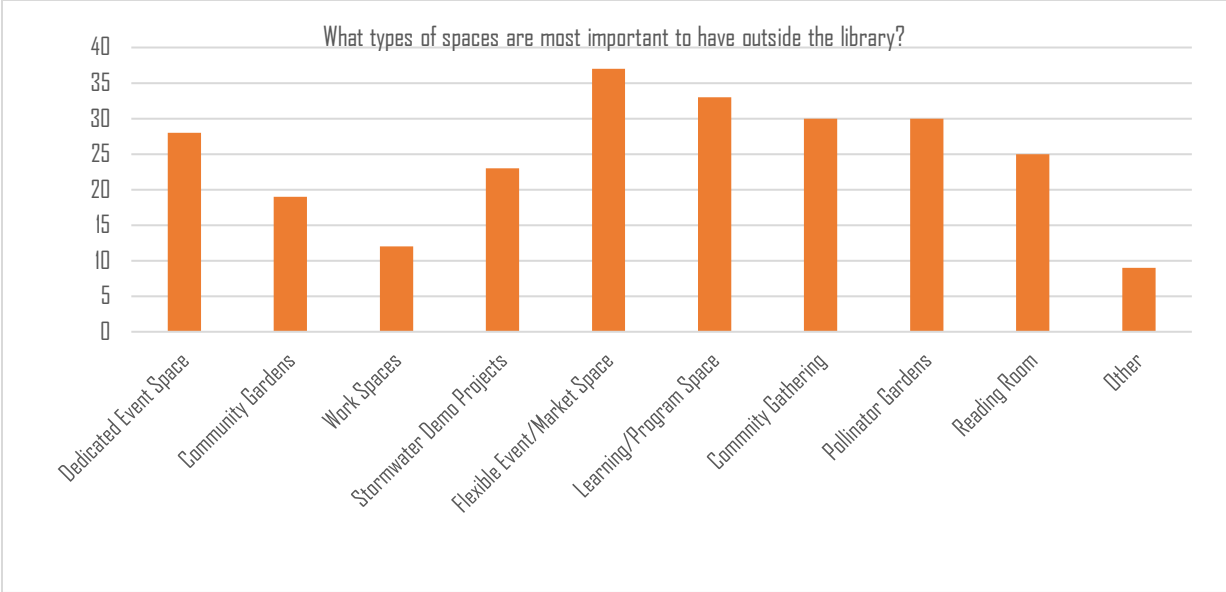
## Activity Board 2: What Types Of Spaces Are Most Important To Have Outside The Library?

Participants were directed to think about what kinds of landscapes they'd like to see at the library. The board contained 9 images of different types of outdoor spaces and space for "other" ideas. Participants were given 3 orange dots to help prioritize types of spaces they think are important for the library. They could also add or vote for "other" by writing a place on a Post-it note. Foamcore board was placed flat on a table for accessibility.

- 246 responses were recorded, if all participants placed 3 dots (or Post-its) there were 82 total participants.
- Of the 246 votes, 5 were Post-it note comments, one of which received 4 additional votes.



1. Prompt: What types of spaces are most important to have outside the library?
  - a. Participants were most interested in event space.
    - i. Flexible Event/Market Space, Dedicated Event Space, and Community Gathering receiving some of the highest vote counts (37, 28, and 30 respectively).
  - b. Learning/Program Space (with images of children playing in an outdoor classroom) received the secondmost number of votes (33).
  - c. Pollinator Gardens and Stormwater Demonstration Projects also received . In the comments, one youth added «Play Grounds» and 4 others voted for it as well.



Other

- Tactile, Interactive Play Space
- Play Ground **x 4**
- Mini Paths/Nature/Japanese or Meditation Gardens
- Concerts at both parks downtown
- Benches that look like books

**Board 3: What Amenities Or Activities Would You Like To See In These Spaces?**

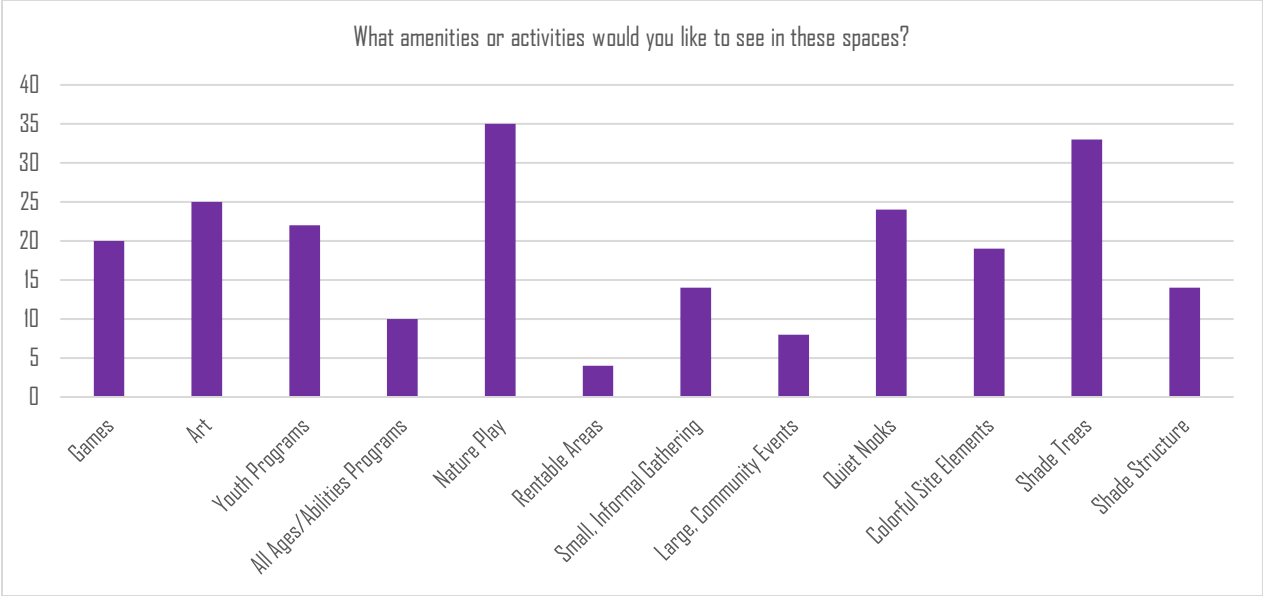
For this activity participants voted again, but this time for the kinds of activities they'd like to do or types of amenities they'd like to see in the library landscape. The board contained 8 images of different types of activities and 4 images of amenities to consider. Participants were given 3 marbles or BANANAGRAMS tiles to prioritize their selections for amenities or activities. Foamcore was placed flat on a table for and marbles were placed in glass jars sitting on each image.

- 228 responses were recorded, if all participants placed 3 marbles there were 76 total participants.
- Activities included Games, Youth Programs, Nature Play, Rentable Areas, Small Informal Gathering, Large Community Events, Quiet Nooks, All Ages/ Abilities Programs
- Site Amenities included Art, Colorful Site Elements, Shade Trees, Shade Structure

**1. Prompt: What amenities or activities would you like to see in these spaces?**

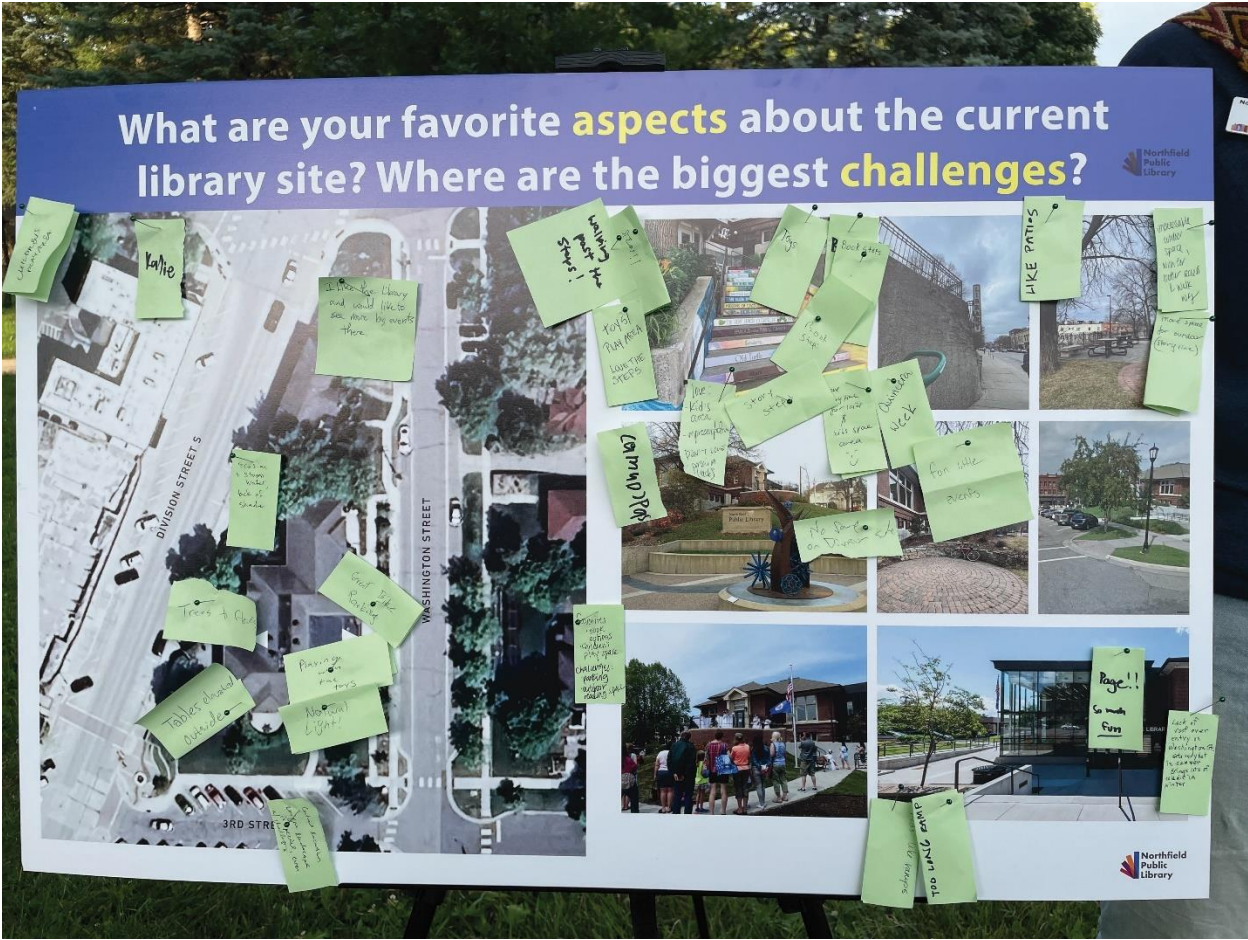
- a. Activities oriented towards children were the most popular
  - i. Nature Play receiving the most votes (35) and Games (20) and Youth Programs (22) both high vote getters.
- b. Participants showed interested in Shade Trees (33) and Shade Structures (14) receiving a combined 47 votes,
- c. Art (25) and Colorful Site Elements (19) were also somewhat popular.
- d. Participants but showed interested in Quiet Nooks (24) and in Small Informal Gatherings (14)
- e. The bottom 3 votes went to Rentable Areas (4), Large, Community Events (8) and All Ages/Abilities Programs (10) was not very popular. Some participants did say they felt like they should be voting for the All Age/Ability program.





**Activity Board 4: What Are Your Favorite Aspects About The Current Library Site? What Are The Biggest Challenges?**

The board displayed a map of the existing library site and 8 images of elements of the existing library site that staff had identified as either special or a challenge on the March 2024 site walk. Participants filled out post its with their favorite spaces or elements and areas of challenge and pinned them to the board with sewing pins, at the approximate location of the space or appropriate image. Foamcore board was set on an easel. In order to draw conclusions from these responses, they were categorized into Accessibility, Amenities, Environment, Events, Storytime Steps, Youth, and Other after the event.



1. Prompt: What are your favorite aspects about the current library site? What are the biggest challenges?
  - a. 33 people responded, with the top three most commented on categories:
    - ii. 9 comments regarding Youth in particular
    - iii. 6 people expressed their love for the Storytime Steps, as something to enjoy at the library and when walking past.
    - iv. The Environment was mentioned by 5 commenters (including erosion, trees and flowers, and natural light).



<b>What are your favorite aspects about the current library site? Where are the biggest challenges?</b>	
inaccessible outdoor space, wish for better access and walking	Accessibility
Great Bike Parking	Accessibility
too long ramp	Accessibility
don't love: parking (lack)	Accessibility
Tables Elevated Outside	Amenities
challenges: parking, outdoor reading space	Amenities
like patios	Amenities
more space for outdoor (storytime)	Amenities
lack of roof over entry on Washington Street gets very hot in summer. Brings lots of cold air in in winter.	Environment
Erosion and storm water, lack of shade.	Environment
trees and flowers	Environment
Natural Light!	Environment
central location, unique landscape is special, even if challenging	Environment
I like the library and would like to see more big events there.	Events
fun little events	Events
quinceanera a week	Events
Walking Past the Steps	Storytime Steps
Steps!!	Storytime Steps
book steps	Storytime Steps
book steps	Storytime Steps
book steps	Storytime Steps
story steps	Storytime Steps
Children's Play Area	Youth
Playing with the Toys	Youth
toys/play area, love the steps	Youth
favorites: book options, children's playspace	Youth
love: kid's area, representation	Youth
toys	Youth
love storytime for kids and kids area	Youth
kids like ramp	Youth
page!! So much fun	Youth
Kalie	Other
no shade on division street	Other