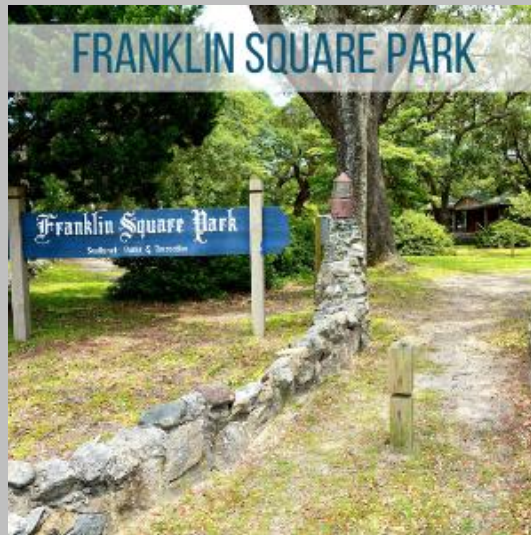


# ***“FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT”***

***FOR THE***

***CITY OF SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA***



## ***THE HOME OF SALUBRIOUS BREEZES***

***“BREEZES FAVORABLE TO OR PROMOTING HEALTH OR WELL-BEING”***

CITY OF SOUTHPORT BOARD OF ALDERMEN

CITY OF SOUTHPORT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

CITY OF SOUTHPORT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

DR. JAMES H. HERSTINE, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, UNC Wilmington, Consultant



CITY OF SOUTHPORT

***Parks & Recreation Department***

Formally adopted by the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on November 8, 2024

Formally adopted by the City of Southport Board of Aldermen on November 12, 2024

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the citizens, elected officials, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, City staff, and all members of the Southport community who participated in this [Franklin Square Park Operational Report](#) and **Site Master Plan** process. Your dedication and commitment to your community are a testament to the high quality of life that is present in the City of Southport. Special thanks are due to the following:

### *City of Southport Board of Aldermen*

Rich Alt—Mayor  
Rebecca Kelley—Mayor Pro Ward 2  
Robert Carroll—Alderman Ward 1  
Lowe Davis—Alderman Ward 2  
Frank Lai—Alderman Ward 2  
Karen Mosteller—Alderman Ward 1  
Mark Spencer—Alderman Ward 1

### *City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board*

Scott Jones—Chairman  
Renee Spencer—Secretary  
Eddie Davis—Member  
Roberta Doshier—Member  
Stephanie Jackson—Member  
Emma Thomas—Member  
Warren Whitley—Member

### *City of Southport City Administration*

Stuart Turille—City Manager  
Bonnie Therrien—City Manager  
Dorothy Dutton—City Clerk  
Heather Hemphill—Director of Parks and Recreation  
Maureen “Cookie” Moore—Recreation Program Specialist  
Mike McGhee—Maintenance Supervisor  
Jarod Parker—Grounds Maintenance

### *Interested and Engaged Citizens of the Community*

Special thanks to all the citizens who participated in the Public Meetings, the Focus Group Session, and to those who responded to the Needs Assessment Survey. Your dedication, commitment, and feedback energized and guided the [Franklin Square Park Operational Report](#) and Site Master Plan process.



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# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Overview and Highlights of the Operational Report and Site Master Plan</b>	
<b>Process for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a></b>	<b>5 – 28</b>
▪ History of <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> —Franklin Square “The Oak Grove” Plaque	7
▪ History of <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> —Franklin Square “The Grove” Plaque	8
▪ Public Input Process	9
▪ Pertinent Public Input Summary from the Public Meetings (2)	10
▪ Pertinent Public Input Summary from the Focus Group Session	11
▪ Pertinent Public Input Summary from the Needs Assessment Survey	12 – 13
▪ Pertinent Input Summary from the Tree Risk Assessment Report	14 – 15
▪ Highlights of Operational Report and Site Master Plan Recommendations	16 – 28
▪ Option #1	16 – 19
▪ Option #2	20 – 23
▪ Option #3	24 – 27
▪ Festivals, Events, Markets, Activities, and Community and Individual Gatherings	28
▪ Non-Profit “Friends of <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> ” Foundation	29 – 31
<b>Chapter One: Current Inventory of Amenities and Assessment of Conditions at <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a></b>	<b>32 – 51</b>
▪ Current Inventory of Amenities at <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	33 – 40
▪ Assessment of Conditions at <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	41 – 51
<b>Chapter Two: Prior Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Assessments and Recommendations for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a></b>	<b>52 – 56</b>
▪ City of Southport 2015 – 2020 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Assessment for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	52 – 53
▪ City of Southport 2023 – 2028 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Assessment for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	53
▪ City of Southport 2015 – 2020 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Recommendations for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	55
▪ City of Southport 2023 – 2028 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Recommendations for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	56
<b>Chapter Three: Public Input and Consultant Assessment of <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a></b>	<b>57 – 82</b>
▪ Community and Citizen Input on <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> Needs and Priorities—Public Forum Meetings (2)	58 – 66
▪ Community and Citizen Input on <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> Needs and Priorities—Focus Group Session—June 6, 2024, from 1 – 3 pm	67 – 70
▪ Community and Citizen Input on <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> Needs and Priorities—City of Southport <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> Needs Assessment Survey	71 – 80
▪ Summary of Public Input Comments	81
▪ Consultant Inspection, Analysis, and Evaluation of <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	82
<b>Chapter Four: Proposals, Recommendations, and Implementation</b>	<b>83 – 135</b>
▪ Recommended Additions, Improvements, Modifications, Enhancements, and Implementation Schedule for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	
▪ Personnel	85
▪ Tree Assessment Report	86
▪ Maintenance and Care Plan for <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a>	87
▪ Option #1	
▪ Option #1 Recommendations	88 – 95
▪ Option #1 Suggested Implementation Schedule	96 – 100
▪ Option #1 Cost Estimates	101 – 102
▪ Option #1 Potential Funding Sources	103
▪ Option #2	
▪ Option #2 Recommendations	104 – 110
▪ Option #2 Suggested Implementation Schedule	111 – 114
▪ Option #2 Cost Estimates	115 – 116
▪ Option #2 Potential Funding Sources	117
▪ Option #3	
▪ Option #3 Recommendations	118 – 124
▪ Option #3 Suggested Implementation Schedule	125 – 128
▪ Option #3 Cost Estimates	129 – 130
▪ Option #3 Potential Funding Sources	131
▪ Festivals, Events, Markets, Activities, and Community and Individual Gatherings	132
▪ Non-Profit “Friends of <a href="#">Franklin Square Park</a> ” Foundation	133 – 135

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## Appendices

<b>Appendix A</b> —Public Meeting Input Session Format—July 17, 2024	136 – 2
<b>Appendix B</b> —Public Meeting Input Session Format—July 27, 2024	136– 137
<b>Appendix C</b> —Focus Group Session Discussion Guide for June 6, 2024	138 – 139
<b>Appendix D</b> —City of Southport Franklin Square Park Needs Assessment Survey	140 – 141
<b>Appendix E</b> —Other Responses Regarding “Residence Status” (Q1)	142 – 144
<b>Appendix F</b> —Other Responses to “Household Description” (Q6)	145 – 148
<b>Appendix G</b> —Why Respondents “Rarely,” “Sometimes” or “Have not Visited/Used” Franklin Square Park (Q9)	149
<b>Appendix H</b> —Why Respondents “Visit/Use” Franklin Square Park (Q10)	150 – 165
<b>Appendix I</b> —Other Reasons Why Respondents “Visit/Use” Franklin Square Park (Q10)	166
<b>Appendix J</b> —Responses to “Approval of Features/Amenities” found at Franklin Square Park (Q11)	167 – 169
<b>Appendix K</b> —Other Responses to “Approval of Features/Amenities” found at Franklin Square Park (Q11)	170
<b>Appendix L</b> —Responses to “Major Maintenance and Management Issues” facing Franklin Square Park (Q12)	171 – 173
<b>Appendix M</b> —Other Responses to “Major Maintenance and Management Issues” facing Franklin Square Park (Q12)	174
<b>Appendix N</b> —Responses to “Vision for” Franklin Square Park (Q13)	175 – 179
<b>Appendix O</b> —Other Responses to “Vision for” Franklin Square Park (Q13)	180
<b>Appendix P</b> —Responses to “Most Important Amenities” at Franklin Square Park (Q14)	181 – 184
<b>Appendix Q</b> —Other Responses to “Most Important Amenities” at Franklin Square Park (Q14)	185
<b>Appendix R</b> —Responses to Any “Additional Improvements/Enhancements” at Franklin Square Park (Q15)	186
<b>Appendix S</b> —Attendance Sheet for Public Meeting on July 17, 2024	188 – 227
<b>Appendix T</b> —Attendance Sheet for Public Meeting on July 27, 2024	228
<b>Appendix U</b> —Recommended Organization Chart	229
	230



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**YOUTUBE CHANNEL SOUTHPORT IS KNOWN FOR ITS**

**“LAID-BACK VIBE AND OLD-TIMEY SEASIDE CHARM”**

## **FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

## **OPERATIONAL REPORT**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### **OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OPERATIONAL REPORT AND SITE MASTER PLAN PROCESS FOR FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

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**Franklin Square Park** is one of seventeen public parks and recreation facilities, areas, and parks operated by the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department. **Franklin Square Park** is approximately 3 acres in size and its main entrance is located at the corner of N Howe Street and E West Street. **Franklin Square Park** would generally be classified as a “*Passive Park*,” with its main basic amenities including a Stage/Bandstand, an old well with a gazebo, benches, a ballast stone wall, natural footpaths, live oak trees, azalea bushes, camelia bushes, and other types of natural vegetation. There are no active recreation amenities such as a playground, swings, athletic fields and courts, or indoor recreation structures. It is also a beautiful venue for events such as festivals, concerts, community and individual gatherings, walking, sitting, reading, meditating, reflecting, etc.

Unfortunately, **Franklin Square Park** has started to show signs of its age, and its trees, flowering plants, shrubbery, and natural vegetation are in need of maintenance and in some cases replacement. It is the purpose of this report to assess and analyze the present condition and uses of **Franklin Square Park** and then make recommendations to improve and enhance the current condition and uses and guide the future operation,

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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management, and maintenance of [Franklin Square Park](#) via a [Franklin Square Park Operational Report](#) and a [Site Master Plan](#).

At the heart of this **Operational Report** is an evaluation and assessment of the question most recently addressed in an Editorial in The State Port Pilot published on Wednesday, September 6, 2023—“*Should [Franklin Square Park](#) be a showplace of southern beauty, or should it be a showground and continue to host more and more events and expositions?*” This question to some extent oversimplifies the dilemma facing the City of Southport administration in general and the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department in specific. Possibly, the real question that should be asked and answered is “**Can [Franklin Square Park](#) be a showplace of southern beauty and a showground of recreation and community programs, services, events, and activities to include scaled-down festivals, markets, and other types of controlled community and individual gatherings?**”

It is definitely in everyone’s best interest that the City of Southport Mayor and Board of Alderman, the City of Southport Municipal Administration, the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the City of Southport Beautification Committee, the City of Southport Historic Preservation Commission, the Downtown Southport, Inc. (DSI), the City of Southport Forestry Committee, the Friends of Franklin, and all Southport citizens and organizations work together to save and preserve the history, health, beauty, appeal, and functionality of [Franklin Square Park](#).

A current assessment of [Franklin Square Park](#) indicates that the primary reason for the problems associated with the [Park](#) is a **general lack of maintenance** over the last several years. Many of the live oak trees had become diseased and stressed, the natural pedestrian footpaths had disappeared, and most of the [Park](#) was and is in need of enhancements, improvements, and attention—maintenance and repairs. It must also not be forgotten or overlooked that live oak trees, azaleas, and camelias like all trees and shrubbery have a natural life expectancy and will eventually die and have to be replaced. The key is to provide regular maintenance of the trees and shrubbery to sustain them as long as possible.

The goal of this **Operational Report** and [Franklin Square Park Site Master Plan](#) is to develop a plan and process for returning [Franklin Square Park](#) to and maintaining [Franklin Square Park](#) at its best possible condition while ensuring the safe, practical, and viable use of the [Park](#) for future programs, services, events, activities, markets, and other types of controlled community and individual gatherings.

## **FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### **History of [Franklin Square Park](#)—Franklin Square “The Oak Grove” Plaque**

*Franklin Park—“The Grove” was set aside for the people in January 1793, a few weeks after Smithville (later renamed Southport) was granted a charter, the new town’s commissioners set aside one large square to be used only by civic, religious, or fraternal organizations. The northwest corner remained an open area, known originally as “The Oak Grove,” and later Franklin Square Park.*

### **Masons, Methodists, Baptists and Basketball**

*Today, the southwest corner is occupied by Southport Baptist Church, built in 1988 and its predecessor (now a chapel) built in 1871. The bell of the old church remains on the church lawn. On the southeast corner is Trinity United Methodist Church, built in 1889. A predecessor sanctuary, built around 1814, was purchased by the congregation of Mr. Carmel A.M.E. church, and moved to the corner of St. George and Lord Streets.*

*Between the Baptist and Methodist churches, facing Nash Street is the Masonic Building constructed in the 1850s. It was previously used as a school and during both World Wars as a recreational facility for servicemen. Wings were added to the building to accommodate a gymnasium and even a bowling alley. To the west is a building that formerly served as the city fire station, and at one time, city hall was located there.*

*On the east side facing Atlantic Avenue, are a senior citizens center and a gymnasium. An outdoor basketball court with a wooden floor and bleachers sat behind these buildings at one time.*

### **Arts and Azaleas**

*In the center of the square stands the Franklin Square Art Gallery, constructed as a school in 1904. Used as a meeting place for a fraternal group, it was also used as a place for worship services by local Catholics. The Associated Artists of Southport currently use the building as a gallery and educational facility.*

*Between the gallery and the gymnasium stands a tight cluster of four oaks, known as the Four Sisters, a favorite of children at play since at least the early 1900s. In the Depression of the 1930s the Works Progress Administration (WPA) added azaleas and other amenities, and the Oak Grove formally became a park. At that time, a portion of Dry Street became the present walkway through the park.*



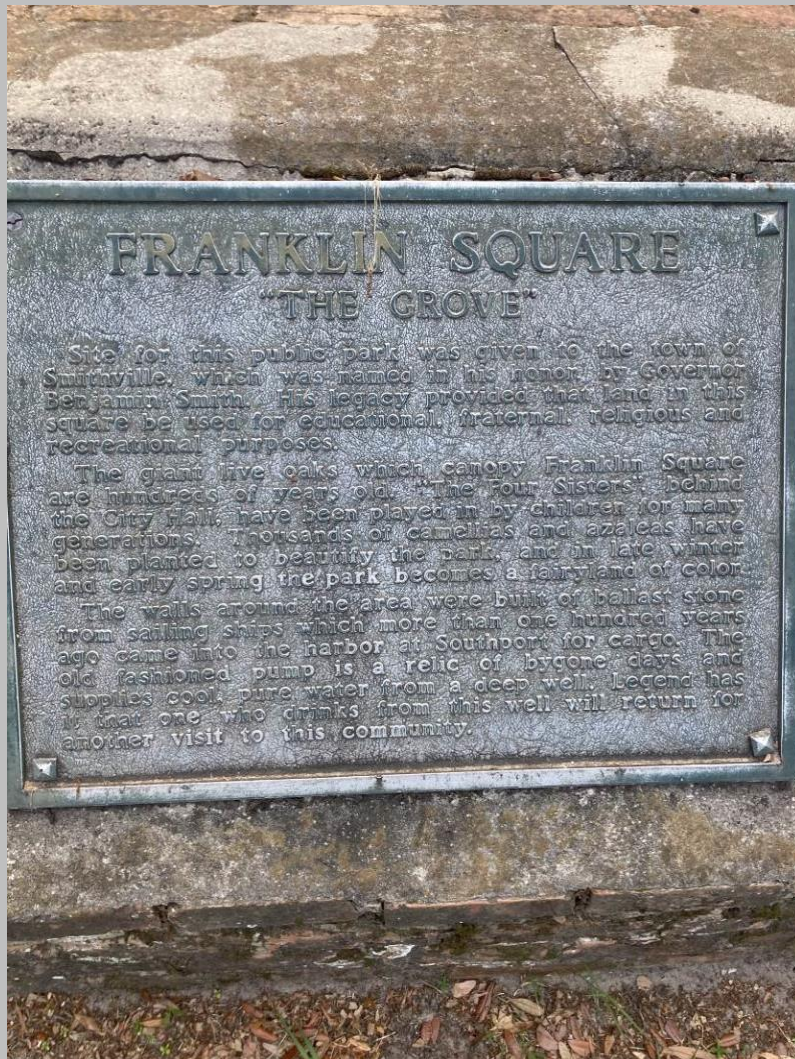
## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### History of [Franklin Square Park](#)—Franklin Square “The Grove” Plaque

Site for this public park was given to the town of Smithville, which was named in his honor by Governor Benjamin Smith. His legacy provided that land in this square be used for educational, fraternal, religious and recreational purposes.

The giant live oaks which canopy Franklin Square are hundreds of years old. “The Four Sisters” behind the City Hall, have been played in by children for many generations. Thousands of camellias and azaleas have been planted to beautify the park, and in late winter and early spring the park becomes a fairyland of color.

The walls around the area were built of ballast stone from sailing ships which more than one hundred years ago came into the harbor at Southport for cargo. The old fashioned pump is a relic of bygone days and supplies cool, pure water from a deep well. Legend has it that one who drinks from this well will return for another visit to this community.



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## **PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

A significant amount of time and effort were expended to identify and assess the expressed desires, wishes, needs, and interests of the citizens of the City of Southport regarding **Franklin Square Park**. To this end, the citizens of the City of Southport participated directly, tangibly, and actively in the process in the following manner:

- Two (2) **Public Meetings** were facilitated—July 17, 2024, and July 27, 2024. The July 17, 2024, public meeting was held at the Southport Community Building starting at 5 pm and approximately twenty-six (26) individuals participated. The July 27, 2024, public meeting was held at **Franklin Square Park** starting at 4 pm and approximately forty-one (41) individuals participated (**Appendix A and Appendix B**).



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- Eight (8) key **Franklin Square Park** stakeholders were identified and participated in a **Focus Group Discussion Session** on June 6, 2024—Ms. Cheryl Daniel, Ms. Emily Humphreys, Ms. Stephanie Jackson, Ms. Stephanie Jenkins, Mr. Scott Len, Ms. Peggy Popelars, Ms. Jeanne Potter, and Ms. Emma Thomas (**Appendix C**)



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- A **Franklin Square Park Needs Assessment Survey** was administered through the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department (**Appendix D**)



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- The **Franklin Square Park Tree Risk Assessment Report** was prepared by John Colavecchio and provided by Everett Jones



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### **PERTINENT PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY FROM THE PUBLIC MEETINGS (2)**

- + For **Franklin Square Park** to succeed, it must be well maintained
- + Lack of maintenance is the reason **Franklin Square Park** is in the poor shape it is in today
- + If the **Park** is properly maintained, everything included in the Draft Site Master Plan can be successfully accomplished
- + The Paths and Walkways within **Franklin Square Park** need to be better defined and constructed of permeable pavement or pervious pavers so they will be handicapped accessible
- + Like the idea of mulching the Bare Dirt Spots
- + Do not like the idea of mulching the Bare Dirt Spots
- + Grass needs to be grown in the areas that are now Bare Dirt Spots
- + Some of the events, activities, festivals, markets, and community gatherings that have been held in **Franklin Square Park** in the past need to be moved to other venues and there needs to be requirements and restrictions on those events, activities, festivals, markets, and community events that are held in **Franklin Square Park**
- + Only plants and trees native to the City of Southport area should be planted in **Franklin Square Park** such as Live Oaks, Flowering Dogwoods, Southern Wax Myrtles, Azaleas, and Camellias
- + The Stage/Bandstand needs to be totally replaced and moved to a different location within **Franklin Square Park**
- + Excellent idea to install a fence barrier around the “Four Sisters”
- + Like the idea of moving the Stage/Bandstand to the south end of the **Park**
- + Do not like the idea of moving the Stage/Bandstand to the south end of the **Park**
- + Like the idea of installing permeable walkways/pathways
- + Like the idea of defining the **Park** with formal entranceways
- + Like the idea of blocking the informal entranceways with shrubbery screening
- + Do not like the idea of moving the post and rope fence along E West Street
- + Like the idea of planting a natural landscape barrier/screen along the Westside of the **Park** sidewalk from E West Street to E Nash Street
- + Do not like the idea of planting a natural landscape barrier/screen along the Westside of the **Park** sidewalk from E West Street to E Nash Street
- + The Parks and Recreation Department having maintenance staff and performing actual maintenance of the **Park** are the most important components of any plan for **Franklin Square Park**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## **PERTINENT PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY FROM THE FOCUS GROUP SESSION**

- ✚ Hire dedicated grounds maintenance staff for the Parks and Recreation Department



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- ✚ Create a functional and regular maintenance plan for the **Park**



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- ✚ Repair and renovate the Stage/Bandstand



- ✚ Improve and upgrade the Pedestrian Pathway system within the **Park** which is basically non-existent at this point in time

- ✚ Eliminate the numerous bare spots and dirt spots throughout the **Park**



- ✚ Develop a realistic, workable, and functional Operational Plan and Site Master Plan for **Franklin Square Park** that protects **Franklin Square Park** while at the same time allowing community use of the **Park** for festivals, events, markets, activities, and other community and individual gatherings

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## ***PERTINENT PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY FROM THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY***

One thousand one hundred and fifty-four (1,154) individuals responded to the City of Southport **Franklin Square Park Needs Assessment Survey** and 588 individuals or 51% of the respondents **“Pay City of Southport Property Taxes.”** Five hundred and twenty-nine (529) or approximately 46% of those responding identified themselves as a **“Full-Time/Permanent Resident; own my own home; and pay City of Southport property taxes.”** Twenty-eight (28) or approximately 2% of those responding identified themselves as a **“Full-Time/Permanent Resident; rent/lease my place of residence.”** Fifty-nine (59) or approximately 5% of those responding identified themselves as a **“Part-Time Resident; own my home; and pay City of Southport property taxes.”** Four (4) or approximately 1% of those responding identified themselves as a **“Part-Time Resident; rent/lease my place of residence.”** Two hundred and eighty-seven (287) or approximately 25% of the 483 of those responding identified themselves as **“Live in the 28461-zip code, but NOT within the city limits or Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Southport.”** Ninety-two (92) or approximately 8% of those responding identified themselves as a **“Tourist/Visitor; live within 1-hour drive of Southport.”** Forty-five (45) or approximately 4% of those responding identified themselves as a **“Tourist/Visitor; live outside a 1-hour drive of Southport.”** And one hundred and ten (110) or approximately 10% of those responding identified themselves as **“Other.”** (Appendix E)



- ✚ The survey asked, “Why do/would you or any members of your household visit/use Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ONLY UP TO FIVE),” the top responses in priority order are **Enjoy the Shade Trees (57%), Attend Concerts (53%), Enjoy Nature/Outdoors (49%), Enjoy the Azaleas/Flowers (47%), Attend Social Events (46%), and Attend Cultural Events (43%). (Q10) (Appendix H)**
- ✚ The survey asked, “Which of the following features/amenities presently found at Franklin Square Park do you approve of? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY),” the top responses in priority order are **Shade Trees/Oak Trees (94%), Azalea Bushes (91%), Benches (91%), Trash Receptacles (79%), Pathways (76%), and Gazebo and Stage/Bandstand (74%). (Q11) (Appendix J)**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- ✚ The survey asked, “What do you believe are the three (3) major maintenance and management issues facing Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ONLY THREE),” the top responses in priority order are **Need to Restore/Protect Nature (53%), Park Not Well Maintained (36%), Trees are in Poor Condition (34%), Need More Markets/Vendor Opportunities (22%), Azaleas are in Poor Condition (21%), and Too Many Markets/Vendor Opportunities (20%).** (Q12) (Appendix L)
- ✚ The survey asked, “Which of the following best describes your vision for Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY),” the top responses in priority order are **Destination Park for Residents (67%), Venue for Special Events/Concerts (54%), Cultural/Historic Park (52%), Venue for Special Events/Festivals (49%), Destination Park for Visitors (47%), Venue for Special Events such as Community Gatherings (46%), and Arts Park or Arts in the Park (46%)** (Q13) (Appendix N)
- ✚ The survey asked, “In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important amenities that should be found at Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ONLY FIVE),” the top responses in priority order are **Shade Trees/Oak Trees, (84%), Azaleas/Flowering Shrubbery (74%), Benches (73%), Foot Paths (46%), and Bandstand (45%)** (Q14) (Appendix P)
- ✚ The survey asked, “Please state any additional improvements/enhancements at Franklin Square Park that would improve/enhance your overall parks and recreation experience.” the top responses in priority order are **1) An Approach to Operation and Management which includes Proper and Regular Maintenance, Improved Landscaping, and Scaled Back Use and Provision of Festivals/Events/Activities within Franklin Square Park—213 responses, 2) Basic Improvements and Enhancements to the Existing Amenities and Proper and Regular Maintenance of Franklin Square Park—175 responses, 3) An Approach to Operation and Management which includes Proper and Regular Maintenance, Improved Landscaping, but Removal of all Festivals/Events/Activities from Franklin Square Park to Other Venues in the City of Southport—102 responses, 4) The Protection and Maintenance of the Trees in Franklin Square Park—73 responses, and 5) The Provision of Safe, Functional, and Defined Permeable Material Foot Paths with Franklin Square Park—51 responses** (Q15) (Appendix R)



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## **PERTINENT INPUT SUMMARY FROM THE TREE RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT**

- ✚ The City of Southport agreed to complete a **Level 3 Advanced Assessment** on twenty-two (22) live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) located in the **Franklin Square Park** in Southport, North Carolina between January 2 – 5, 2024
- ✚ Three (3) options were presented to mitigate the risk associated with the 22 live oak trees

### ➤ **Option One:**

- Recommended to remove live oaks #3, #24, and #25 entirely to remove the risk of root, root collar, trunk, crown, and branch failure. Grind the resulting stumps and back-fill the holes
- Recommended that the remaining nineteen (19) trees be pruned to remove dead branches 2 inches and larger in diameter, reduce the spread and weight of their crowns, and thinned so that winds easily move through the canopies, reducing the likelihood of branch, stem, or root failure
- Recommended to install cables in live oaks #35, # 43, #44, #45, and #46 to provide support to co-dominant stems
- Recommended to install lightning protection systems in live oaks #5, #8, #16, #22, #35, #43, #44, #45, and #46 to reduce the likelihood of these trees being damaged by lightning strikes
- Recommended the nineteen (19) live oaks not proposed for removal implement a soil management program based on soil testing to correct nutrient deficiencies and/or toxicities that may be detrimental to plant health

### ➤ **Option Two:**

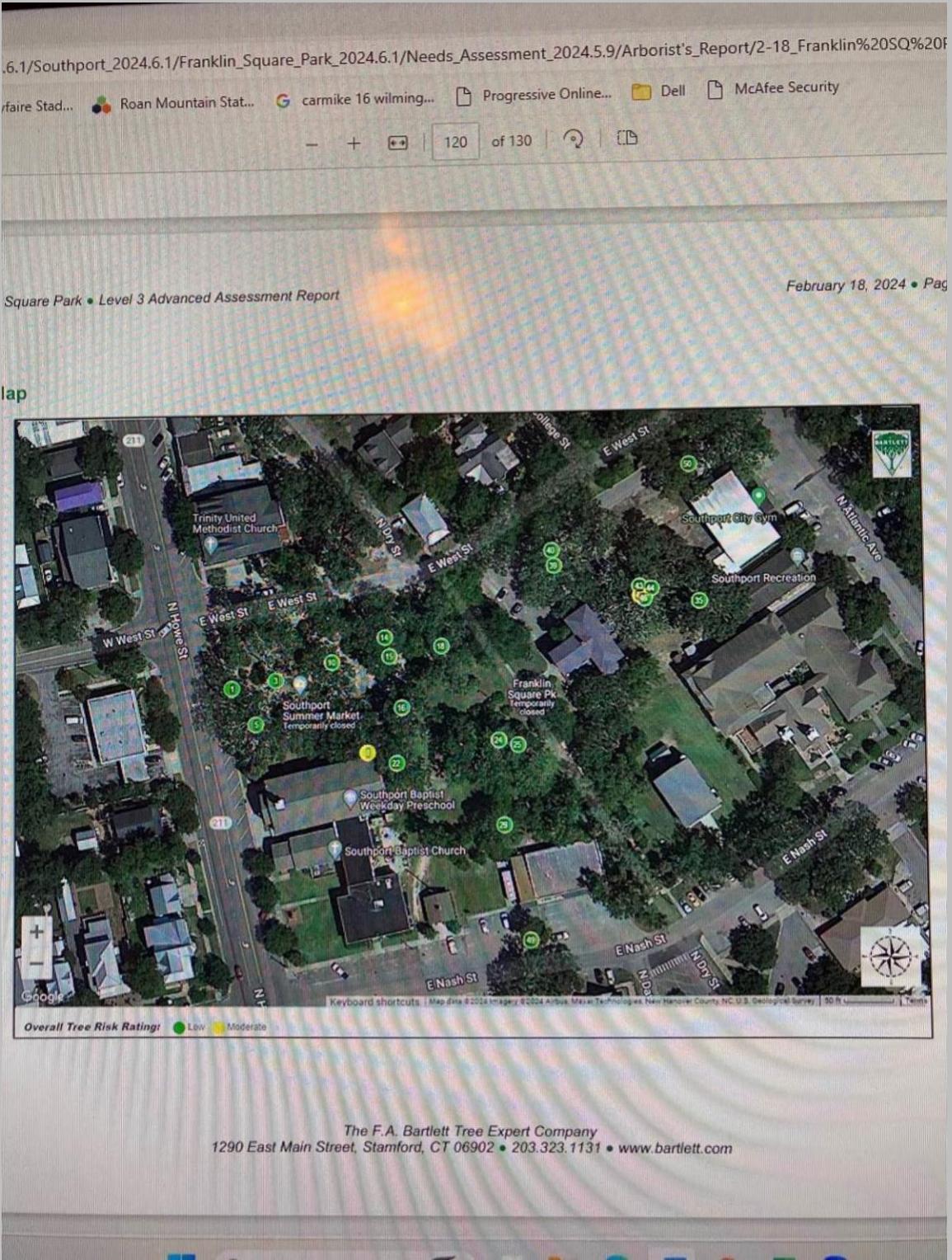
- If the City elects not to remove trees, the risk of trunk failure will remain **low** for live oaks #3, #24, and #25. Pruning to reduce the relative size of the crown on each tree may result in an estimated residual risk of low for branch/crown failure. These trees should have root collar excavations performed if they are to remain on site

### ➤ **Option Three:**

- If the City elects not to remove the trees, or prune to remove dead branches and reduce the relative size of the crowns, the risk of trunk failure will remain **moderate** for live oaks #8 and #45 and

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

low for stem failure for the other 20 live oaks. Each tree’s risk may increase in the future as a result of not performing mitigation



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT



## **HIGHLIGHTS OF OPERATIONAL REPORT**

### **AND SITE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ✚ Create a Building and Grounds Maintenance Division within the Parks and Recreation Department (Appendix U)
- ✚ Complete and Follow the Recommendations Contained in the Tree Assessment Report by The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company
- ✚ Develop a Departmental Parks and Facilities overall Maintenance Plan for [Franklin Square Park](#)
- ✚ Improvements and Renovations to [Franklin Square Park](#)

### **OPTION #1—NOT IN A PRIORITY ORDER**

1. Demolish the existing Stage/Bandstand and Reconstruct a new Stage/Bandstand on the E Nash Street side of the [Park](#) behind the Fire Department Building



2. Pave the Area of the [Park](#) immediately in front of the newly constructed Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks
3. Move the Anchor from its current location South of E West Street to the area where the Stage/Bandstand use to be located and add a Buoy, a Stone Plaque to the area telling the [Franklin Square Park](#) story, and a statue of a Sea Captain



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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4. Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting throughout the **Park**
5. Formalize six (6) of the Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** that are not part of the sidewalk system
6. Close one (1) of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** to pedestrian traffic—the opening at the East end of the **Park** off the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot near the historical marker



7. Formalize three (3) of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** to pedestrian traffic—the two (2) off E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence and at the end of the stone ballast, and one (1) at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street



8. Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street
9. Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the **Park**, particularly at the main entrances to the **Park**
10. Design a **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway and Walkway System
11. Plant St. Augustine Sod in bare areas within the **Park** that can and will Support Grass
12. Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible
13. Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
14. Add an Irrigation System and Sod to the Northwest corner of the **Park**
15. Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged
16. Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- 17. Install a Post and Rope Fence around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue**



- 18. Install a Parking Area constructed out of permeable pavement or pervious pavers along E West Street between the Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium**
- 19. Remove if possible the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the [Park](#) along E West Street—cover if not possible**
- 20. Remove if possible the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the [Park](#)—cover if not possible**
- 21. Remove if possible the exposed pipe in the center of the [Park](#)—cover if not possible**
- 22. Remove if possible the wire cable near the Baptist Church—conceal and screen if not possible**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- 23. Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building
- 24. Install a Shrubbery Screen around the three (3) Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#) and the one (3) near the main Howe Street entrance to the [Park](#)



- 25. Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks
- 26. Pave the dirt area along E West Street that is used for parking and mark it for “Handicapped Parking Only”

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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27. Plant at least six (6) native Live Oak Trees and continue to plant new Live Oak Trees as deemed necessary



28. Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias  
29. Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines  
30. Install Wi-Fi capability in the [Park](#)

### **OPTION #2—NOT IN A PRIORITY ORDER**

1. Inspect the existing Stage/Bandstand for damage and make the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance its appearance and functionality or totally replace it and leave it in its present location
2. Pave the area of the [Park](#) immediately in front of the Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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3. Move the Anchor from its current location South of E West Street to the area in the South of the [Park](#) behind the Fire Department Building and the Public Restroom Facility and add a Buoy, a Stone Plaque to the area telling the [Franklin Square Park](#) story, and a statue of a Sea Captain



4. Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting throughout the [Park](#)
5. Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the [Park](#) that are not part of the sidewalk system
6. Close one (1) of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances into the [Park](#) to pedestrian traffic—the opening at the East end of the [Park](#) off the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot near the historical marker



7. Formalize three (3) of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances into the [Park](#) to pedestrian traffic—the two (2) off E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence and at the end of the stone ballast, and one (1) at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### 8. Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street



- 9. Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the [Park](#), particularly at the main entrances to the [Park](#)
- 10. Design the [Park](#) Interior Pedestrian Pathway and Walkway System
- 11. Plant St. Augustine Sod in bare areas within the [Park](#) that can and will Support Grass
- 12. Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible
- 13. Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
- 14. Add an Irrigation System and Sod to the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)
- 15. Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged
- 16. Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”



- 17. Install a Post and Rope Fence around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- 18. Install a Parking Area constructed out of permeable pavement or pervious pavers along E West Street between the Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium
- 19. Remove if possible the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the **Park** along E West Street—cover if not possible



- 20. Remove if possible the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the **Park**—cover if not possible
- 21. Remove if possible the exposed pipe in the center of the **Park**—cover if not possible
- 22. Remove if possible the wire cable near the Baptist Church—conceal and screen if not possible



- 23. Install a Shrubby Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- 24. Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#)
- 25. Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks
- 26. Pave the dirt area along E West Street that is used for parking and mark it for “Handicapped Parking Only”



- 27. Plant at least six (6) native Live Oak Trees



- 28. Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias
- 29. Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines
- 30. Install Wi-Fi capability in the [Park](#)

**OPTION #3—NOT IN A PRIORITY ORDER (RECOMMENDED OPTION)**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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1. Inspect the existing Stage/Bandstand for damage and make the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance its appearance and functionality or totally replace it and leave it in its present location



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2. Pave the area of the **Park** immediately in front of the Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks



3. Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting throughout the **Park**
4. Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** that are not part of the sidewalk system
5. Close one (1) of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** to pedestrian traffic—the opening at the East end of the **Park** off the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot near the historical marker



6. Formalize three (3) of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** to pedestrian traffic—the two (2) off E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence and at the end of the stone ballast,

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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and one (1) at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street



**7. Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street**



8. Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the [Park](#), particularly at the main entrances to the [Park](#)
9. Design the [Park](#) Interior Pedestrian Pathway and Walkway System
10. Plant St. Augustine Sod in bare areas within the [Park](#) that can and will Support Grass
11. Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible
12. Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
13. Add an Irrigation System and Sod to the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)
14. Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged
15. Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”



16. Install a Post and Rope Fence around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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17. Install a Parking Area constructed out of permeable pavement or pervious pavers along E West Street between the Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium
18. Remove if possible the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the **Park** along E West Street—cover if not possible



19. Remove if possible the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the **Park**—cover if not possible
20. Remove if possible the exposed pipe in the center of the **Park**—cover if not possible
21. Remove if possible the wire cable near the Baptist Church—conceal and screen if not possible



22. Install a Shrubby Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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23. Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#)

24. Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks



25. Pave the dirt area along E West Street that is used for parking and mark it for “Handicapped Parking Only”



26. Plant at least six (6) native Live Oak Trees



27. Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias

28. Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines

29. Install Wi-Fi capability in the [Park](#)

🚦 Festivals, Events, Markets, Activities, and Community and Individual Gatherings—Regardless, which of the three (3) options is selected, recommend

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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no more than approximately 40 events per year within [Franklin Square Park](#) and no vendor events other than the [Farmers' Market](#) AND

1. Permanently move the location of the [Farmers' Market](#) from the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#) to the Hard Surface Basketball Half-Court Area Adjacent to the City Gymnasium, and allow no more than 100 Vendors



2. Permanently move the location of the [Nature Festival Events](#) from the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#) to [Taylor Field](#)
3. Permanently move all [Winterfest Vendor Events](#), [Spring Festival Vendor Events](#), and [Solstice Festival Events](#) out of [Franklin Square Park](#) to [Taylor Field](#), [Garrison Lawn](#), [Bay Street](#), or other locations acceptable to the organizers and permissible by the City of Southport Mayor, Board of Alderman and City Administration
4. Allow the annual [Easter Egg Hunt](#) to continue in the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#)
5. Allow the [Concert Series](#) to continue in the east section of [Franklin Square Park](#) once the new and improved Stage/Bandstand is constructed and the permeable/pervious pavers have been installed in the area in front of the Gazebo/State/Bandstand
6. Allow [Wedding Events](#) in the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#)
7. Allow the [Preschool Graduation Ceremonies](#) in the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#)
8. Allow the [Christmas Eve Services](#) in the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#)
9. Allow [Small Rental Events](#) which involve no Vendors in the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#)
10. Allow [Winter Festival Events](#) with no Vendors in the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#)
11. Allow the [Plein Air Festival Art Sell](#) in [Franklin Square Park](#) on the Hard Surface Basketball Half-Court Area Adjacent to the City Gymnasium, and allow no more than 100 Vendors

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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✚ Non-Profit “Friends of **Franklin Square Park**” Foundation—Regardless, which of the three (3) options is selected, the City of Southport Administration should work with the City of Southport Citizens to create a Non-Profit “Friends of **Franklin Square Park**” Foundation, and the functions of this Foundation would be to:

- ❖ Support all aspects of the maintenance, improvement, and enhancement of **Franklin Square Park** by:
  - Solicitating funds for the general maintenance and care of **Franklin Square Park**
  - Soliciting funds for the improvement and enhancement of **Franklin Square Park** such as:
    - The renovation of the existing Stage/Bandstand
    - The demolition of the existing Stage/Bandstand
    - The acquisition, construction, and installation of a new and improved Stage/Bandstand
    - The Paving of the area immediately in front of the Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers or bricks
    - The removal of the existing Night Security Light and the installation of appropriate Night Security Lighting
    - The Formalization of the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** not part of the existing sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper
    - The closing of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into the **Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery Parking Lot
    - The Formalization of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into **Franklin Square Park** from E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence, from E West Street at the end of the Stone Ballast Wall along E West Street, and at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The Repainting of the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street
- The installation of new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the [Park](#), particularly at the main entrances to the [Park](#)
- The Design of the [Park](#) Interior Pedestrian Pathway system and the Construction of the Interior Pedestrian Pathway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and the Connection to the eleven (11) Designated [Park](#) Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances
- The Planting of St. Augustine Sod in Bare Areas within the Park that can and will Support Grass
- The Mulching of the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and the Sodding of the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and the maintenance of the Grass Areas where possible
- The Mulching of all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
- The Addition of an Irrigation System and Sod to the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)
- The Repair of the Ballast Stone Wall
- The Installation of a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”
- The Installation of a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue
- The Construction of a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium
- The Removal if possible or covering with a Landscape Feature if not possible, of the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the [Park](#) along E West Street

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The Removal if possible or covering with a Landscape Feature if not possible, of the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the [Park](#)



- The Removal if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, of the exposed pipe in the center of the [Park](#)
- The Removal if possible or Plant Shrubbery if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)



- The Installation of a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it
- The Installation of a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#)
- The Removal of the small Batch of Red Bricks
- The Installation of Permeable Pavement between E West Street and the existing Rope and Post Fence and the designation of the area for “Handicapped Parking Only”
- The Planting of at least six (6) native Oak Trees to replace the Oak Trees which have already been removed from [Franklin Square Park](#)
- The Planting of native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias in appropriate locations throughout [Franklin Square Park](#)
- The Pressure Washing of the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and the Repainting of the Lines
- The Installation of Wi-Fi capability in the [Park](#)



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### **CHAPTER ONE:** **CURRENT INVENTORY OF AMENITIES** **AND ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS** **AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

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This chapter provides an inventory of existing leisure and recreational experiences, opportunities, and amenities at **Franklin Square Park**. **Franklin Square Park** contains some impressive live oak trees, azaleas, camellias, other flowering shrubs, greenery, and bushes. Unfortunately, **Franklin Square Park** is also showing distressing signs of poor maintenance and possible overuse. Six (6) of the old Oak Trees within the **Park** had to be recently removed and several other trees significantly trimmed. Most of the former grassy areas in the central section of the **Park** have disappeared and now are nothing more than large bare dirt spots. Several of the entrances into the **Park** are in need of renovations as is the Stage/Bandstand. Overall, there are ten (10) formal and official entrances into the **Park**, four (4) historical markers, the Stage/Bandstand, an old capped well, a bike rack, nine (9) benches, a picnic table, four (4) trash receptacles, two (2) dogi pot litter bag dispensers, a ship's anchor, sections of a ballast stone wall, a paved sidewalk, six (6) lamp posts along the sidewalk, several informal entrances, several tripping hazards, and several unsightly power boxes.

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## Current Inventory of Amenities at [Franklin Square Park](#)

### Franklin Square Park—3 Acres

- ◆ Location—Corner of N Howe Street and E West Street
- ◆ Present Amenities—the present amenities at [Franklin Square Park](#) proper include one (1) Undesignated Parking Area, ten (10) Formal and Official Pedestrian Entrances, four (4) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances, three (3) Historical Markers, a Park Regulations Sign, six (6) Lampposts, four (4) Lanterns, a Stage/Bandstand, an Old Well with a Gazebo, a Bike Rack, nine (9) Benches, a Picnic Table surrounding a Tree, four (4) Trash Receptacles, two (2) Dogi Pot Litter Bag Dispensers, a Ship's Anchor, sections of a Ballast Stone Wall, the “Four Sisters”, an East to West running Sidewalk, an Outdoor Half-Court Basketball Court, and an Undeveloped Open Space Area between the Outdoor Half-Court Basketball Court and E West Street

- UNDESIGNATED PARKING AREA (1)



- FORMAL AND OFFICIAL PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCES (10)



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **INFORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCES (4)**



- **HISTORICAL MARKERS (3)**



- **PARK REGULATIONS SIGNAGE (1)**



- **LAMP POSTS AND LANTERNS**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **STAGE/BANDSTAND**



- **OLD WELL WITH GAZEBO**



- **BIKE RACK**



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **BENCHES (9)**



- **PICNIC TABLE SURROUNDING TREE**



- **TRASH RECEPTACLES (4)**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- DOGI POT LITTER BAG DISPENSERS (2)



- SHIP'S ANCHOR



- BALLAST STONE WALL



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **NIGHT SECURITY LIGHTING**



- **PATCH OF BRICKS**



- **EAST TO WEST RUNNING SIDEWALK**



- **PUBLIC RESTROOM FACILITY OFF E NASH STREET**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **UNSIGHTLY/POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS OBSTACLES (9)**



- **THE FOUR SISTERS**



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- OUTDOOR BASKETBALL HALF-COURT



- OPEN SPACE AREA BETWEEN THE OUTDOOR BASKETBALL HALF-COURT/CITY GYMNASIUM AND E WEST STREET TO ATLANTIC AVENUE



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## Assessment of Conditions at [Franklin Square Park](#)

### Franklin Square Park

- ◆ **PRESENT CONDITIONS**—the present condition of the [Park](#) is not good. The [Park](#) has not been well maintained in recent years and is showing significant signs of wear and tear to include but not limited to a weathered Stage/Bandstand, bare dirt spots in numerous areas of the park, exposed tree and shrubbery roots, a damaged ballast stone wall, and exposed ground pipes and other obstacles.
- **UNDESIGNATED PARKING AREA**—The Undesignated and Unofficial Parking Area is a narrow dirt strip along the east side of E West Street which is only separated from the [Park](#) by a Post and Rope Fence. The area is used a lot by the elderly, disabled golf cart drivers. The area should be paved and marked for Handicapped Parking Only.



- **FORMAL AND OFFICIAL PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCES INTO [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#)**—The six (6) formal entrances into the [Park](#) that are dirt or grass entrances are in need of beautification and improvement.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **INFORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCES INTO FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**—There are four (4) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrians Entrances into **Franklin Square Park** which in their current condition provide dangerous or inappropriate informal and unofficial pedestrian access into the **Park** and should be closed or improved. Three (3) could provide safe and appropriate pedestrian access to the **Park** and should be enhanced and improved as such.

*Potentially Dangerous and/or Inappropriate Unofficial Existing Pedestrian Access*



*Potentially Safe and/or Appropriate Unofficial Existing Pedestrian Accesses*



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **CONDITION OF STAGE/BANDSTAND**—The existing Stage/Bandstand is in need of improvements and renovations. Although the wooden structure fits well with the rustic and natural appearance of [Franklin Square Park](#), the wooden structure is showing its age and use. Some of the wood is beginning to rot and there is graffiti on some of the walls of the structure.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **BARE SPOTS**—There are numerous large areas within **Franklin Square Park** that do not receive much sunlight and experience a great deal of human trampling which has created large and unsightly bare dirt spots within most of the central sections of the **Park**. These bare dirt spots are difficult for the elderly and handicapped to navigate and turn into mud spots during periods of precipitation. The lack of sunlight and the significant amount of foot traffic within **Franklin Square Park** make the cultivation of grass difficult but possible in specific areas of the **Park**.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **EXPOSED TREES AND SHRUBBERY**—Almost all of the Trees and Shrubbery within **Franklin Square Park** are without any form of protective fence or barrier surrounding them which leaves them, particularly the large live oak trees, susceptible to root and trunk damage. This is especially true on the East side of the **Park** in the area of the “Four Sisters.”



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **DAMAGED BALLAST STONE WALL**—The low-profile Ballast Stone Wall which runs the perimeter of the north and west sides of Franklin Square Park has received minor damage in some locations. The Wall's main purpose is historical in nature as it does not add or distract from the Park's appearance. Although the damage to the Wall is minor, it should be repaired and in some locations the Wall actually extended if possible around the Park perimeter.



- **NIGHT SECURITY LIGHTING**—The existing Night Security Lighting consists of one (1) Light situated in the Southeast section of the Park. The Night Security Lighting is unattractive, ineffective, and shines harshly into the Park.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **UNSIGHTLY/POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS OBSTACLES**—There are several unsightly and potentially dangerous obstacles within Franklin Square Park.

1. There is an exposed pipe protruding from the ground on the north side of the Park which is leaking water and is a tripping hazard and not in character with the natural ambience of the Park.



2. There is an exposed pipe or irrigation head protruding from the ground in the center of the Park which is a tripping hazard and not in character with the natural ambience of the Park.



3. There is an exposed pipe protruding from the ground on the south side of the Park behind the Town Fire Department Building which is a tripping hazard and not in character with the natural ambience of the Park.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

4. There is a thin cable leading from a powerline poll on Howe Street near the Baptist Church which is a tripping hazard and not in character with the natural ambience of the [Park](#).



5. There is an unsightly power box and mobile generator next to the Fire Department Building.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

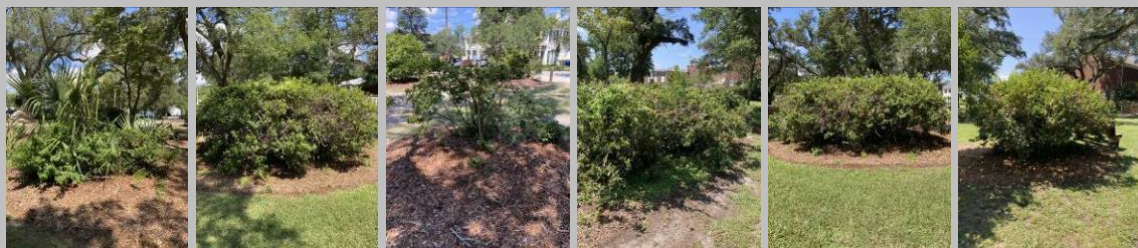
6. There are four (4) other unsightly power boxes and poles in the more central portion and NE corner of the [Park](#).



- **UNDESIGNATED PARKING AREA**—There is a section of [Franklin Square Park](#) on the North side of the [Park](#) next to E West Street that is used for informal, undesignated, and potentially dangerous public parking.



- **SHRUBBERY**—Some of the existing shrubbery in [Franklin Square Park](#) is in poor condition and in need of consistent and accurate professional maintenance including pruning and fertilization.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK**—The pedestrian crosswalk on E West Street is faint and difficult to see.



- **INTERIOR PATHWAY SYSTEM**—The interior pathway system that existed at one time in the [Park](#) is essentially non-existent due to the bare dirt spots and lack of differentiation within the [Park](#).



- **PATCH OF RED BRICKS**—There is a small patch of red bricks in the central part of the Park which appears to serve no purpose.



- **PARK REGULATIONS SIGNAGE**—The Park Regulations Signage is only posted at the Howe Street/West Street entrance into the [Park](#) and the sign is difficult to locate, weathered, and the wording impossible to read.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- **OUTDOOR BASKETBALL HALF-COURT**—The Outdoor Basketball Half-Court is directly behind the City Gymnasium. The slab for the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court is approximately 70' x 70' in size. The slab for the Court is in need of repairs and remarking. In addition, the backboard for the Court is in remarkably close proximity to a Live Oak Tree.



- **OPEN SPACE AREA BETWEEN THE OUTDOOR BASKETBALL HALF-COURT AND E WEST STREET**—There is an open space area between the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and E West Street that is approximately 60' wide and 120' long from the East corner of the City Gymnasium to the Art Gallery parking lot. There is an additional open space area that runs from the north corner of the City Gymnasium to N Atlantic Avenue that is approximately 75' long, 50' wide at the north end and 33' wide at the south end near Atlantic Avenue and contains two (2) old Live Oak Trees. These open space areas are mainly used as vehicle parking spaces while individuals play on the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and participate in other events that take place within [Franklin Square Park](#). As a result, these open space areas are predominately bare dirt areas with a minimal amount of grass which holds water and turns into a muddy mess when it rains. In addition, the Live Oak Trees, including the “Four Sisters” are extremely exposed and vulnerable in this area.





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## **CHAPTER TWO:** **PRIOR PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE** **MASTER PLAN ASSESSMENTS AND** **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#)**

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### **Prior Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Assessments for [Franklin Square Park](#)**

#### **City of Southport 2015 – 2020 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Assessment for [Franklin Square Park](#)**

- **Franklin Square Park** lies within the heart and soul of the Southport downtown central business and tourist areas. It is the location for many special events and functions highlighting and celebrating the City of Southport throughout the year. The Southport Parks and Recreation Department's administrative offices and the city gymnasium are also located within the park's boundary. The park contains many large old oak trees as well as benches, an outdoor basketball half court, a large gazebo and stage area, a bike rack, picnic

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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areas, and the Franklin Square Art Gallery. Suggestions for improving the park include demolition and removal of the department administrative offices, the old city gymnasium and the basketball half court; construction of a new multi-purpose, comprehensive recreation center/administrative offices facility in the area vacated by the demolition and removal; the addition of several picnic shelters with grills; the placement of additional benches throughout the park area; adding a water fountain; adding several bike racks in strategic locations in the park; the construction of a small kiosk in the center of the park to be used to publicize departmental programs, services and activities; the erection of a decorative natural looking archway over the entrance to the park from Howe Street; the construction of a natural landscape buffer to shield the area from Howe Street; and, the placement of brick paver paths throughout the park and a brick paver deck in the open area in front of the large gazebo and stage area.



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### City of Southport 2023 – 2028 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Assessment for Franklin Square Park

- **Franklin Square Park** lies within the heart and soul of the Southport downtown central business and tourist areas. It is the location for many special events and functions highlighting and celebrating the City of Southport throughout the year. The park contains many large old oak trees and several magnificent azalea bushes as well as benches, a large gazebo and stage area, a bike rack, and a picnic area. The Franklin Square Art Gallery is adjacent to the park. Recommendations for improving the park include the addition of several bike racks in strategic locations in the park; the construction of a small kiosk in the center of the park to be used to publicize departmental programs, services, events, camps, and activities; the erection of a decorative natural looking archway over the entrance to the park from Howe Street; the formalization of the entranceways into the park; the renovation of the existing stage and the construction of a public restroom facility; the trimming and proper maintenance of the trees and azaleas; installing pervious pavers throughout the park to cover the dirt areas; the installation of Wi-Fi capability within the park; and the installation of cell phone charging stations in appropriate and strategic locations within the park.



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## Prior Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Recommendations for Franklin Square Park

### City of Southport 2015 – 2020 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Pertinent Recommendations for Franklin Square Park

- 1) Tear down and demolish the existing parks and recreation department administrative offices, the city gymnasium and the outdoor basketball half court
- 2) Construct a Multi-Purpose/Comprehensive Recreation Facility/Center/Fitness Facility/Aquatic Center/Administrative Offices
- 3) Add picnic shelter with grills
- 4) Place additional benches throughout the park
- 5) Add a water fountain and several bike racks
- 6) Construct a small kiosk/bulletin board in the center of the park near the existing stage area
- 7) Erect a decorative natural looking archway over the Howe Street entrance to the park
- 8) Construct a natural landscape buffer/screen to shield the park from Howe Street



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- 9) Lay brick pavers as pathways throughout the park



- 10) Construct a brick paver deck in the open area in front of the stage



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- 11) Create and Hire an additional new full-time position of Parks and Recreation Maintenance Specialist
- 12) Reclassify the existing senior Maintenance position into a Parks and Facilities Maintenance Supervisor

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

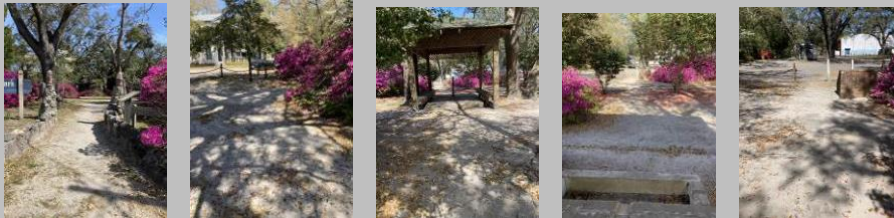
### City of Southport 2023 – 2028 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Recommendations for Franklin Square Park

- 1) Install several additional bike racks at strategic entrance locations throughout the park
- 2) Install a small kiosk in the center of the park to publicize Parks and Recreation Department and other City functions



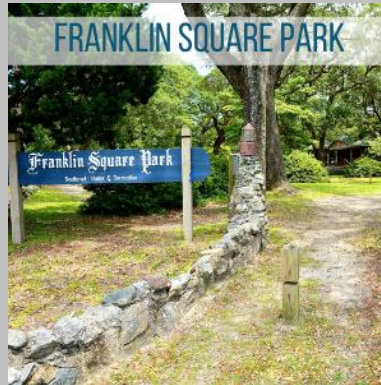
This image was downloaded from the Creative Commons Online picture site

- 3) Erect a decorative natural looking archway over the Howe Street entrance to the park
- 4) Renovate the existing stage and install a public restroom facility
- 5) Trim and properly maintain the trees and azaleas
- 6) Formalize all entrances into the park using brick pavers and install pervious pavers throughout the park to cover the dirt areas



These images were downloaded from the Creative Commons Online picture site

- 7) Install Wi-Fi capability within the park
- 8) Install several cell phone charging stations in appropriate and strategic locations within the park particularly around the gazebos and stage area
- 9) Establishment of a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division within the Parks and Recreation Department
- 10) Hire a Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor
- 11) Hire three (3) Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Crew Leaders
- 12) Hire six (6) Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Specialists



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## **CHAPTER THREE:** **PUBLIC INPUT AND** **CONSULTANT ASSESSMENT** **OF FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

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A **Needs Assessment** is defined as a systematic exploration of the “*way things are*” and the “*way they should be.*” A typical Needs Assessment is a four-step process:

1. Perform a “Gap” Analysis to determine the “Need”—identify the “*current state of affairs*” and the “*desired state of affairs.*” The difference is the “*gap*” or “*need*”
2. Identify priorities and importance
3. Identify causes of problems, threats and/or opportunities
4. Identify solutions and make recommendations

Chapter One of this report (**Current Inventory of Amenities at Franklin Square Park**) and Chapter Two (**Prior Master Plan Assessments and Recommendations for Franklin Square Park**) provide official historical and documented information regarding prior assessments and recommendations for **Franklin Square Park** and gives us a clear and understandable picture of the “*way things were expected to be*” and the “*past state of affairs.*” Chapter Three, this chapter (**Public Input and Current Needs Assessment for Franklin Square Park**) provides the information collected from all present-day sources pertinent and important to an understanding of the current views, opinions, and expectations in relation to the “*way things should be*” and the “*desired future state of affairs*” and identifies “*expectations and priorities.*” Chapter Four (**Assessment of Expectations Versus Reality**) identifies the “*gap*” or “*need*”. Chapter Five (**Franklin Square Park Proposals and Recommendations**) completes the Needs Assessment process by stating the solutions, proposals, and recommendations.

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### **Community and Citizen Input on [Franklin Square Park](#) Needs and Priorities—Public Forum Meetings (2)**

Direct community and citizen input was generated and received at two (2) public forums conducted on July 17, 2024 and July 27, 2024. The July 17, 2024, meeting started at 5 pm and was held at the Southport Community Building with twenty-six (26) individuals in attendance. The July 27, 2024, meeting was held at [Franklin Square Park](#) with forty-one (41) individuals in attendance. The information received at these meetings was utilized to provide an understanding and assessment of the specific expressed parks, recreation and open space needs and priorities of the citizens of the City of Southport regarding [Franklin Square Park](#). This input was then analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final **Franklin Square Park Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**.

Dr. Herstine, Ph.D., the consultant hired by the City of Southport to facilitate and lead the public participation sessions in the [Franklin Square Park](#) assessment process opened the meetings by welcoming the attendees. Dr. Herstine gave the attendees a brief summary of his background and experience and then asked the attendees to follow a few general guidelines. First, remember that we are first and foremost here to generate thoughts and ideas regarding a future **Operational Report and Site Master Plan** for [Franklin Square Park](#), not to voice previous grievances. Second, keep the discussion positive—present ideas regarding what is wanted and needed at [Franklin Square Park](#) rather than complaining about something that did or did not happen.

Dr. Herstine led the first public meeting by asking the following questions:

1. What do you see as the **EXISTING POSITIVE ASPECTS** of [Franklin Square Park](#) that need to be protected and enhanced now and into the future? In other words, what about [Franklin Square Park](#) that exists today should we carry into the future as a part of the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**?
2. What do you see as the **EXISTING NEGATIVE ASPECTS** of [Franklin Square Park](#) that need to be eliminated and discarded now and into the future? In other words, what about [Franklin Square Park](#) that exists today should be ended now and discarded into the future as a part of the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**?
3. What do you see as the **FUTURE ASPECTS** of [Franklin Square Park](#) that do not exist today, but should exist and be added to the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** and carried into the future?
4. What do you see as the **MAJOR OBSTACLES** to establishing a workable, suitable, and manageable **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for [Franklin Square Park](#)?

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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Here is an anonymous summary of the information generated, discussed, and collected at the Public Forum meetings in a non-priority listing:

JULY 17, 2024, MEETING (26 in Attendance—Appendix S):

### RECORDED COMMENTS

#### ❖ EXISTING POSITIVE ASPECTS OF [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#)

- ◆ The Trees in [Franklin Square Park](#) are a definite positive aspect of the Park
- ◆ The [Park](#) is big enough for a lot of uses but also small enough to provide privacy
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) can be used for a lot of varied, different, and unique uses
- ◆ The [Park](#) is especially beautiful in the Spring
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) is centrally located in the City and is easy to access
- ◆ The trees and shrubbery in the [Park](#) are native plantings
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) has a lot of history which needs to be showcased and preserved
- ◆ The [Park](#) has open spaces
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) is a quiet and beautiful place for private reflection
- ◆ There is no other place in the City like [Franklin Square Park](#)
- ◆ The restrooms are easy to access
- ◆ Historically, [Franklin Square Park](#) is supposed to be an open area in the City for all to use
- ◆ The [Park](#) is holistic
- ◆ The old Well Pump is a positive feature of the [Park](#)
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) is adoptable
- ◆ The [Park](#) is the only true greenspace in the downtown area of the City
- ◆ The [Park](#) provides a very shady area with a nice breeze
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) is a beautiful place
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) is available for use by various religious groups



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ EXISTING NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#)

- ◆ The [Park](#) is dusty and dirty to walk through because of the lack of grass and the numerous bare dirt spots
- ◆ There are no designated walkways and paths in the [Park](#) to keep people from walking on the tree roots and the shrubs
- ◆ The [Park](#) is void of most plants
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) has not been properly maintained for a long time now
- ◆ What maintenance has occurred at the [Park](#) has not be proper maintenance—shrubs have been pruned at the incorrect times
- ◆ The Stage/Bandstand needs major repairs and needs to be updated



- ◆ The Stage/Bandstand is not in the best location and needs to be moved
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) is underutilized
- ◆ The Ballast Stone Wall needs repairs



- ◆ The [Park](#) can be very hot if there is no breeze blowing
- ◆ The current night lighting in [Franklin Square Park](#) is harsh and too bright
- ◆ There is no water irrigation system for the grass areas
- ◆ There is a lack of benches in the [Park](#)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ FUTURE ASPECTS OF [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#)

- ◆ The [Park](#) needs more landscaping
- ◆ The Paths and Walkways through the [Park](#) need to be better defined and handicapped accessible
- ◆ The Bare Dirt Spots need to be mulched as do the Shrubs



- ◆ There needs to be more music events in the [Park](#)
- ◆ Some of the events which have traditionally been held in [Franklin Square Park](#) need to be held at other venues around the City
- ◆ No vehicles should be allowed to park anywhere in [Franklin Square Park](#) but especially near the City Gymnasium and the Four Sisters
- ◆ Only native trees and plant materials should be installed at [Franklin Square Park](#)
- ◆ The Stage/Bandstand should be moved onto the old basketball court outside the City Gymnasium and rented out for small events like plays
- ◆ All the “spaces” in the [Park](#) need to be clearly defined
- ◆ The [Park](#) needs to be designed to be low maintenance

### ❖ MAJOR OBSTACLES

- ◆ MONEY
- ◆ Need adequate staff and volunteers to make [Franklin Square Park](#) successful
- ◆ There needs to be a shared vision which presently there does not appear to be—there is no consensus as to what should take place in [Franklin Square Park](#)
- ◆ Attempting to balance conservation with utilization
- ◆ The City seems to have competing plans and ideas
- ◆ Emotions surrounding [Franklin Square Park](#) are high
- ◆ There seems to be an inability to understand who the [Park](#) is being built, operated and maintained for
- ◆ Users of the [Park](#) do not seem to know or care about the history and dynamics of the Park and must be educated to utilize the [Park](#) properly

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ GENERAL COMMENTS REGARDING FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK

- ◆ If **Franklin Square Park** is going to be restored it needs to be restored as a park and not as a Fair Ground
- ◆ The school children from the neighboring church eat lunch in the **Park** and are well behaved and mannered
- ◆ Historically, **Franklin Square Park** is supposed to be an open area in the City for all to use
- ◆ **Franklin Square Park** needs to be used as a **Park** for people
- ◆ There are other available venues in the City that can be used for events that are currently held in **Franklin Square Park**
- ◆ There should be no parking allowed on the **Park side** of E West Street nor in the E West Street median
- ◆ Whatever happens with **Franklin Square Park** it needs to be focused on the long-term operation, management, and maintenance of the **Park**
- ◆ One needs passion to have a successful vision
- ◆ There should not be a Water Feature in the **Park** for safety reasons

Key comments and recommendations from the July 17, 2024, public meeting in a non-priority order:

- + For **Franklin Square Park** to succeed, it must be well maintained
- + The Pathways and Walkways within **Franklin Square Park** need to be better defined and constructed of permeable pavement or pervious pavers so they will be handicapped accessible
- + The Bare Dirt Spots and Shrubs need to be fully mulched
- + Some of the events, activities, festivals, markets, and individual and community gatherings that have been held in **Franklin Square Park** in the past need to be moved to other venues and there needs to be requirements and restrictions on those events, activities, festivals, markets, and community events that are held in **Franklin Square Park**
- + Only plants and trees native to the City of Southport area should be planted in **Franklin Square Park** such as Live Oaks Trees, Flowering Dogwoods, Southern Wax Myrtles, Azaleas, and Camellias



- + The Stage/Bandstand needs to be totally replaced and moved to a different location within **Franklin Square Park**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## JULY 27, 2024, MEETING (41 in Attendance—Appendix T):

Dr. Herstine led the second public meeting by asking the following questions:

- What do you see as the **POSITIVE ASPECTS AND COMPONENTS** of this **Draft Franklin Square Park Site Master Plan** as presented? Which aspects of this **Draft Site Master Plan** do you approve of?
- What do you see as the **NEGATIVE ASPECTS AND COMPONENTS** of this **Draft Franklin Square Park Site Master Plan** as presented? Which aspects of this **Draft Site Master Plan** do you disapprove of?
- What would you like to see **ELIMINATED FROM** this **Draft Franklin Square Park Site Master Plan** as presented?
- What would you like to see **ADDED TO** this **Draft Site Master Plan** as presented?
- Any **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING** this **Draft Site Master Plan** as presented?

### **RECORDED COMMENTS**

#### ❖ POSITIVE ASPECTS AND COMPONENTS OF THIS DRAFT **FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK** SITE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ Like installing a fence barrier around the “Four Sisters”
- ◆ Like moving the existing Stage/Bandstand to a new location along the south end of the **Park**
- ◆ As presented, the overall plan seems to fit in all the necessary pieces
- ◆ Like the practical and appropriate theme of the design
- ◆ Like the nautical theme for the feature including the anchor, a historical plaque, a buoy, and a Sea Captain statue
- ◆ Like the idea of constructing the pathways/walkways in the **Park** out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks



- ◆ Like the idea of defining the formal entranceways into the **Park**
- ◆ Like the idea of constructing formal designated pathways/walkways in the **Park**
- ◆ Like the idea of closing/blocking the informal entranceways into the **Park** with shrubbery



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ NEGATIVE ASPECTS AND COMPONENTS OF THIS DRAFT [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#) SITE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ Do not like the idea of moving the post and rope fence along E West Street effectively removing handicapped accessible parking for [Park](#) events and thereby denying handicapped individuals access to the [Park](#)



- ◆ Do not like the idea of moving the Stage/Bandstand to a new location and replacing it with an area that will include the anchor, a buoy, a historical plaque, and a statue of a Sea Captain because of the fear of losing a recreation area that has grass and shade
- ◆ Do not like the idea of mulching the bare spots and dirt spots as there is no need to do that—grass should be restored to those areas



- ◆ Do not believe the draft Site Master Plan accurately addresses the needs of elderly adults and persons with disabilities
- ◆ Believe the moving of the stage and the installation of a pathway/walkway system will take away active recreational areas for youth and teens
- ◆ Do not like the idea of planting a natural landscape barrier/screen along the Westside of the [Park](#) sidewalk that runs from E West Street to E Nash Street—believe this will block some of the breezes that normally blow through the [Park](#)
- ◆ Do not like the idea of installing a natural landscape barrier/screen that runs the full length of the Southside of the Park to conceal the Fire Department building and E Nash street—believe this will also block some of the breezes that normally blow through the [Park](#)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ ELIMINATED FROM THIS DRAFT [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#) SITE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ The Stage/Bandstand should remain where it is
- ◆ The area that will include the anchor, a buoy, a historical plaque, and a statue of a Sea Captain should not be included
- ◆ The use of mulch to cover the bare spots and dirt spots should be replaced with a plan to have grass growing in those areas
- ◆ Nothing should be planted within the [Park](#) that will limit the ability of natural breezes to blow through the [Park](#)

### ❖ ADDED TO THIS DRAFT [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#) SITE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ Add a permeable pavement or pervious paver parking lot between E West Street and the existing outdoor half basketball court



### ❖ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS DRAFT [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#) SITE MASTER PLAN

- ◆ If the [Park](#) is properly maintained, everything included in the Draft Site Master Plan can be successfully accomplished
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department having maintenance staff and performing actually maintenance of the [Park](#) are the most important components of any plan for [Franklin Square Park](#)



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## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

Key comments and recommendations from the July 27, 2024, public meeting in a non-priority order:

- + The Draft Site Master Plan seems to work, to answer all the questions, and to fit in all the necessary pieces
- + The Draft Site Master Plan does not accurately address the needs of elderly adults and persons with disabilities
- + The Stage/Bandstand should be moved to a new location along the south end of the [Park](#)
- + The Stage/Bandstand should remain exactly where it is presently located
- + Installing a protective fence around the “Four Sisters” is a good idea
- + Constructing formal, dedicated pathways/walkways in the [Park](#) is a positive idea
- + It is a bad idea to move the post and rope fence along E West Street effectively removing handicapped accessible parking for [Park](#) events and thereby denying handicapped individuals access to the [Park](#)
- + It is a bad idea to mulch the bare spots and dirt spots—these areas should be grass
- + Like the idea of planting natural landscape barriers/screens along the edges/borders of the [Park](#) and in other strategic locations within the [Park](#)
- + Do not like the idea of planting natural landscape barriers/screens along the edges/borders of the [Park](#) and in other strategic locations within the [Park](#)
- + Like the nautical theme for a Park Memorial Area



- + Do not like the Park Memorial Area
- + Need to construct a permeable pavement or pervious paver parking lot between E West Street and the existing outdoor half basketball court
- + If the [Park](#) is properly maintained, everything included in the draft Site Master Plan can be successfully accomplished
- + The Parks and Recreation Department having maintenance staff and performing actually maintenance of the [Park](#) are the most important components of any plan for [Franklin Square Park](#)

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## **Community and Citizen Input on [Franklin Square Park](#) Needs and Priorities—Focus Group Session—June 6, 2024 from 1 pm – 3 pm**

An eight (8) member Focus Group met at the Indian Trail Meeting Hall to assist with the preparation of the **Site Master Plan for [Franklin Square Park](#)**. The Focus Group included stakeholders from four (4) City of Southport enterprises: the Friends of Franklin (Ms. Jeanne Potter and Ms. Cheryl Daniel), The City of Southport Forestry Committee (Mr. Scott Len and Ms. Roxie Smith), Downtown Southport Inc (DSI) (Ms. Peggy Popelars and Ms. Emily Humphreys), and the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Ms. Stephanie Jackson and Ms. Emma Thomas).

The Focus Group members met on June 6, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the City of Southport Indian Trail Meeting Hall and were led by Dr. Jim Herstine, Ph.D. The Focus Group members were collectively asked to address the following questions:

- 1) What do you see as the **EXISTING POSITIVE ASPECTS** of [Franklin Square Park](#) that need to be protected and enhanced now and into the future? In other words, what about [Franklin Square Park](#) that exists today should we carry into the future as a part of the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**?



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- 2) What do you see as the **EXISTING NEGATIVE ASPECTS** of [Franklin Square Park](#) that need to be eliminated and discarded now and into the future? In other words, what about [Franklin Square Park](#) that exists today should be ended now and discarded into the future as a part of the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**?



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- 3) What do you see as the **FUTURE ASPECTS** of [Franklin Square Park](#) that do not exist today, but should exist and be added to the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** and carried into the future?



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- 4) What do you see as the major obstacles to establishing a workable, suitable, and manageable **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for [Franklin Square Park](#)? (A copy of the Focus Group Discussion Guide is attached as **Appendix C**)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

The input from the Focus Group session was then analyzed and synthesized to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**.

Here is an anonymous summary of the information generated, discussed and collected at the Focus Group Session in a non-priority listing:

### **RECORDED COMMENTS**

#### ❖ **EXISTING POSITIVE ASPECTS OF FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

- ◆ **Franklins Square Park** is a great gathering place
- ◆ It is a great shady place
- ◆ It is very well visited and utilized
- ◆ **Franklin Square Park** is the Hub of the City
- ◆ The Stage/Bandstand is nice but definitely needs repair and upkeep



- ◆ There are great trees in **Franklin Square Park**



- ◆ The sidewalks make **Franklin Square Park** accessible
- ◆ The **Park** can be accessed from all sides and angles



- ◆ **Franklin Square Park** was given to the City for four (4) reasons and designated for those four (4) reasons (Educational, Fraternal, Religious and Recreational purposes)
- ◆ The **Park** is highly visible in the downtown area
- ◆ The **Franklin Square Park** is beginning to recover and return to its natural state

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ EXISTING NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#)

- ◆ The [Park](#) is filled with unsightly bare spots and dirt spots



- ◆ There is a true lack of well-designed and designated pathways within the [Park](#)
- ◆ The Stage/Bandstand is in need of major repairs and renovation
- ◆ The City seems to have no plan for maintaining and managing [Franklin Square Park](#)
- ◆ The sidewalk is no longer lined with beautiful camellias as it once was



- ◆ The old well has been capped for unknown reasons
- ◆ The ballast stone wall is in disrepair



- ◆ There is a significant gap in the ballast stone wall along the west border of the [Park](#)
- ◆ The pedestrian pathways that use to crisscross the [Park](#) are no longer there
- ◆ [Franklin Square Park](#) has experienced years of neglect without proper management and maintenance

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ FUTURE ASPECTS OF FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK

- ◆ There must be a workable maintenance plan for Franklin Square Park
- ◆ The City Parks and Recreation Department needs dedicated staff members whose sole purpose is to properly manage and maintain Franklin Square Park
- ◆ The Stage/Bandstand must be repaired and renovated
- ◆ Franklin Square Park needs to be restored to its original natural state
- ◆ Franklin Square Park needs to be a Garden Park without vendors
- ◆ Franklin Square Park can support festivals, events, markets, activities, and other community gatherings provided they are of a limited nature, managed appropriately, and the Park is well maintained on a regular and constant basis

### ❖ OBSTACLES TO ESTABLISHING A WORKABLE, SUITABLE, AND MANAGEABLE OPERATIONAL REPORT AND SITE MASTER PLAN FOR FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK

- ◆ The City powers that be do not seem to really care about Franklin Square Park and what happens to it
- ◆ There seems to be two (2) diametrically opposed views regarding how Franklin Square Park should be managed
- ◆ There is no maintenance staff in the Parks and Recreation Department even though the Department needs and has requested its own maintenance personnel

Key comments and top recommendations from the Focus Group Session for Franklin Square Park in a non-priority order are the need to:

- 1) hire dedicated grounds maintenance staff for the Parks and Recreation Department
- 2) create a functional and regular maintenance plan for the Park
- 3) repair and renovate the Stage/Bandstand
- 4) improve and upgrade the Pedestrian Pathway system within the Park
- 5) eliminate the numerous bare spots and dirt spots throughout the Park
- 6) develop a realistic, workable, and functional Operational Plan and Site Master Plan for Franklin Square Park that protects Franklin Square Park while at the same time allowing community use of the Park for festivals, events, markets, activities, and other community gatherings

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### **Community and Citizen Input on [Franklin Square Park](#) Needs and Priorities—City of Southport [Franklin Square Park](#) Needs Assessment Survey**

A survey instrument entitled ***“City of Southport Franklin Square Park Needs Assessment Survey”*** was developed and administered through a combined effort by the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department staff (**Appendix D**). The survey instrument opened with the following: **“The City of Southport Board of Alderman and the Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee want to receive input from citizens about the revitalization of Franklin Square Park, along with the future use of this City facility. Franklin Square Park has been a part of Southport since the 1930’s and is in need of improvements, renovations, and enhancements. Please help us develop a Site Master Plan for Franklin Square Park by answering a few questions for us.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY BY MAY 30, 2024**

**Thank you for your cooperation in helping us sustain and improve Franklin Square Park!**



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The survey instrument was distributed electronically via “Polco” and made available as a hard copy to all residents, tourists, and visitors of the City of Southport. A total of 1,154 individuals responded to the survey instrument. Of these 1,154 individuals, forty-six percent (46%) or 529 individuals stated they were a “Full-Time/Permanent Resident; own my own home; and pay City of Southport property taxes” and five percent (5%) or 59 individuals stated they were a “Part-Time/Permanent Resident; own my own home; and pay City of Southport property taxes. The official 2020 US Census Population for the City of Southport was 3,971 residents. The 588 individuals completing the survey who stated they were a “Full-Time/Permanent Resident or Part-Time/Permanent Resident; own my own home; and pay City of Southport property taxes represents a response rate of approximately 15% compared to the 2020 official US Census figure. This response rate of 15% gives the survey results a highly acceptable degree of statistical accuracy and validity. As a result of this statistical accuracy and validity, the survey results provide a solid confirmation of the community’s desires, wants, and needs for [Franklin Square Park](#).

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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One thousand one hundred and fifty-four (1,154) individuals responded to the “Resident Status” question with 529 or approximately 46% responded “Full-Time/Permanent Resident; own my own home; and pay City of Southport property taxes.” Twenty-Eight (28) Individuals or approximately 2% responded, “Full-Time/Permanent Resident; rent/lease my place of residence.” Fifty-nine (59) individuals or approximately 5% responded, “Part-Time Resident; own my home; and pay City of Southport property taxes.” Four (4) individuals or approximately 0% responded “Part-Time Resident; rent/lease my place of residence.” Two hundred and eighty-seven individuals (287) or approximately 25% responded “Live in the 28461-zip code, but NOT within the city limits or Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Southport.” Ninety-two (92) individuals or approximately 8% responded, “Local Tourist; live within 1-hour drive.” Forty-five (45) individuals or approximately 4% responded, “Tourist; live outside a 2-hour drive.” And one hundred and ten (110) individuals or approximately 10% responded “Other.” “Other” responses are listed in **Appendix E**.

Six hundred and twenty (620) individuals responded to the question “How long have you resided in the City of Southport?”. Sixty-nine (69) individuals or approximately 11% responded, “less than 2 years”; 252 individuals or approximately 41% responded, “at least 2 years but less than 10 years”; 129 individuals or approximately 21% responded, “at least 10 years but less than 20 years; and 170 individuals or approximately 27% responded, “20 years or longer.”

One thousand one hundred and fifty-four (1,154) individuals responded to the question “What is your gender?”. Eight hundred and forty-eight (848) individuals or approximately 73% were Female and 296 individuals or approximately 26% were “Male.”

When asked, “Which of the following best describes your household?,” 1,154 individuals responded. Ninety-four (94) or approximately 8% responded, “Single with no children/grandchildren at home”; 28 or approximately 2% responded, “Single with children/grandchildren at home”; 398 or approximately 34% responded, “Couple with no children/grandchildren at home”; 213 or approximately 18% responded, “Couple with children/grandchildren at home”; 333 or approximately 29% responded, “Retired with no children/grandchildren at home”; 51 or approximately 4% responded, “Retired with children/grandchildren at home;” and 37 or approximately 3% responded, “Other.” “Other” responses are listed in **Appendix F**.

The responses to the question, Please explain why you indicated “Have not visited/utilized [Franklin Square Park](#) or Rarely or Sometimes visited/utilized [Franklin Square Park](#) during the last 12 months” can be found in **Appendix G**.

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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The data from the Online survey was analyzed and synthesized along with other information to provide guidance and direction in the establishment of the final **City of Southport Franklin Square Park Report and Site Master Plan**.



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- ♦ ***(Q10) When asked, “Why do/would you or any members of your household visit/use [Franklin Square Park](#)? (PLEASE MARK ONLY UP TO FIVE).” The responses are:***

- 1) Attend Concerts—607 responses
- 2) Attend Cultural Events—495 responses
- 3) Attend Social Events—528 responses
- 4) Be Closer to Nature—262 responses
- 5) Enjoy the Azaleas/Flowers—545 responses
- 6) Enjoy Nature/Outdoors—566 responses
- 7) Enjoy Pathways—295 responses
- 8) Enjoy the Shade Trees—660 responses
- 9) Exercise/Wellness/Fitness—90 responses
- 10) Experience Adventure—14 responses
- 11) Mediate—33 responses
- 12) Picnic—100 responses
- 13) Read—59 responses
- 14) Relax/Relieve Stress—211 responses
- 15) Sit on the Benches—231 responses
- 16) Spend Time with Family/Friends—266 responses
- 17) Other—68 responses
- 18) Not Applicable—4 responses

*These responses indicate [Franklin Square Park](#) visitors/users come to the [Park](#) to Enjoy the Shade Trees, Attend Concerts, Enjoy Nature/Outdoors, to Enjoy the Azaleas/Flowers, to Attend Social Events, and to Attend Cultural Events .*

See **Appendix H** for responses to **Q10**; “Other” responses to **Q10** are listed in **Appendix I**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### REASONS FOR VISITING/USING FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK

<b>REASON TO VISIT/USE FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS</b>
<i>ENJOY THE SHADE TREES</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>ATTEND CONCERTS</i>	<i>607</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>ENJOY NATURE/OUTDOORS</i>	<i>566</i>	<i>49%</i>
<i>ENJOY THE AZALEAS/FLOWERS</i>	<i>545</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>ATTEND SOCIAL EVENTS</i>	<i>528</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>ATTEND CULTURAL EVENTS</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>ENJOY PATHWAYS</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS</i>	<i>266</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>BE CLOSER TO NATURE</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>SIT ON THE BENCHES</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>RELAX/RELIEVE STRESS</i>	<i>211</i>	<i>18%</i>
<i>PICNIC</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>EXERCISE/WELLNESS/FITNESS</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>OTHER</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>6%</i>
<i>READ</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>MEDIATE</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>EXPERIENCE ADVENTURE</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>NOT APPLICABLE</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0%</i>

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ♦ (Q11) When asked, “Which of the following *features/amenities* presently found at *Franklin Square Park* do you approve of? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” The responses are:

- 1) Azalea Bushes—1,050 responses
- 2) Benches—1,048 responses
- 3) Bike Racks—493 responses
- 4) Dogi Pot Litter Bag Dispenser—691 responses
- 5) Gazebo and Stage/Bandstand—849 responses
- 6) Old Well/Gazebo—661 responses
- 7) Pathways—874 responses
- 8) Picnic Table Surrounding Tree—546 responses
- 9) Shade Trees/Oak Trees—1,083 responses
- 10) Ship’s Anchor—579 responses
- 11) Trash Receptacles—914 responses
- 12) Other—42 responses
- 13) Not Applicable—5 responses

*These responses indicate **Franklin Square Park** visitors/users strongly approve of the existing **Shade Trees/Oak Trees, Azaleas Bushes, Benches, Trash Receptacles, Pathways, and the Gazebo and Stand/Bandstand.***

See **Appendix J** for responses to **Q11**; “Other” responses to **Q11** are listed in **Appendix K**

### **APPROVAL OF FEATURES AND AMENITIES**

<b>FEATURE/AMENITY FOUND AT PARK</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS</b>
<b>SHADE TREES/OAK TREES</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>AZALEA BUSHES</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>BENCHES</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>TRASH RECEPTACLES</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>PATHWAYS</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>GAZEBO AND STAGE/BANDSTAND</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>DOGI POT LITTER BAG DISPENSER</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>OLD WELL/GAZEBO</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>SHIP’S ANCHOR</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>PICNIC TABLE SURROUNDING TREE</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>BIKE RACKS</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0%</b>

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ♦ *(Q12) When asked, “What do you believe are the three (3) major maintenance and management issues facing [Franklin Square Park](#)? (PLEASE MARK ONLY UP TO THREE).” The responses are:*

- 1) Azaleas are in Poor Condition—243 responses
- 2) Need More Historic Events—84 responses
- 3) Need More Concerts—214 responses
- 4) Need More Cultural Events—145 responses
- 5) Need More Markets/Vendor Opportunities—256 responses
- 6) Need to Restore/Protect Nature—613 responses
- 7) Park Itself Not Well-Maintained—415 responses
- 8) Pathways Not Well Maintained—169 responses
- 9) Too Many Concerts—71 responses
- 10) Too Many Cultural Events—30 responses
- 11) Too Many Markets/Vendor Opportunities—234 responses
- 12) Trees are in Poor Condition—395 responses
- 13) Other—70 responses
- 14) Not Applicable—40 responses

*These responses indicate [Franklin Square Park](#) visitors/users want the [Park](#) Properly Maintained and Managed while not significantly reducing the Number of Event Opportunities and Experiences.*

See **Appendix L** for responses to **Q12**; “Other” responses to **Q12** are listed in **Appendix M**

### **MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

<b>MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS</b>
<b>NEED TO RESTORE/PROTECT NATURE</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>PARK NOT WELL MAINTAINED</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>TREES ARE IN POOR CONDITION</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>NEED MORE MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>AZALEAS ARE IN POOR CONDITION</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>TOO MANY MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>NEED MORE CONCERTS</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>PATHWAYS NOT WELL MAINTAINED</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>NEED MORE CULTURAL EVENTS</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>NEED MORE HISTORIC EVENTS</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>TOO MANY CONCERTS</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>TOO MANY CULTURAL EVENTS</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3%</b>

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

♦ *(Q13) When asked, “Which best describes your vision for **Franklin Square Park**? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY).” The responses are:*

- 1) Arts Park or Arts in the Park—529 responses
- 2) Cultural/Historic Park—600 responses
- 3) Destination Park for Residents—772 responses
- 4) Destination Park for Visitors—543 responses
- 5) Mini-Park for Passive Recreational Use—260 responses
- 6) Nature/Educational/Interpretative Park—421 responses
- 7) Venue for Special Events such as Concerts—621 responses
- 8) Venue for Special Events such as Festivals—571 responses
- 9) Venue for Special Events such as once-a-week Markets/Vendors Opportunities—420 responses
- 10) Venue for Special Events such as once-a-month Markets/Vendors Opportunities—310 responses
- 11) Venue for Special Events such as once-a-quarter Markets/Vendors Opportunities—280 responses
- 12) Venue for Special Events such as once-a-year Markets/Vendors Opportunities—231 responses
- 13) Venue for Special Events such as Community Gatherings—531 responses
- 14) Other—60 responses

*These responses indicate **Franklin Square Park** visitors/users envision the **Park** as a Destination Cultural/Historic Park for Residents and Visitors that is utilized on a regular basis for Community Events, Opportunities, and Experiences.*

See **Appendix N** for responses to **Q13**; “Other” responses to **Q13** are listed in **Appendix O**

### **VISION FOR FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

<b>VISION</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES</b>
<b>DESTINATION PARK FOR RESIDENTS</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS/CONCERTS</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>CULTURAL/HISTORIC PARK</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS/FESTIVALS</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>DESTINATION PARK FOR VISITORS</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS/COMM</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>ARTS PARK OR ARTS IN THE PARK</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>NATURE/ED/INTERPRETATIVE PARK</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS/1 A WEEK</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS/1 A MONTH</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS/1 A QUARTER</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>MINI-PARK FOR PASSIVE REC USE</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS/1 A YEAR</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5%</b>

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ♦ ***(Q14) When asked, “What are the five (5) most important amenities that should be found at Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ONLY UP TO FIVE).” The responses are:***

- 1) Azaleas/Flowering Shrubbery—858 responses
- 2) Bandstand—520 responses
- 3) Benches—839 responses
- 4) Bike Racks—90 responses
- 5) Entrance Archway—139 responses
- 6) Exercise/Fitness Stations—15 responses
- 7) Free Little Library—37 responses
- 8) Kiosk—8 responses
- 9) Memorial Planters—61 responses
- 10) Natural Foot Paths—527 responses
- 11) Night Lighting—342 responses
- 12) Paved Foot Paths—177 responses
- 13) Picnic Shelters—122 responses
- 14) Public Restroom—316 responses
- 15) Shade Trees/Oak Trees—975 responses
- 16) Water Fountain—165 responses
- 17) Well—171 responses
- 18) Other—18 responses

*These responses indicate Franklin Square Park visitors/users envision the Park with Natural Shade Trees and Flowering Shrubbery and Benches and Foot Paths from which to enjoy the Bandstand.*

See **Appendix P** for responses to **Q14**; “Other” responses to **Q14** are listed in **Appendix Q**  
**AMENITIES THAT SHOULD BE FOUND AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

IMPORTANT AMENITY AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
SHADE TREES/OAK TREES	975	84%
AZALEAS/FLOWERING SHRUBBERY	858	74%
BENCHES	839	73%
NATURAL FOOT PATHS	527	46%
BANDSTAND	520	45%
NIGHT LIGHTING	342	30%
PUBLIC RESTROOM	316	27%
PAVED FOOT PATHS	177	15%
WELL	171	15%
WATER FOUNTAIN	165	14%
ENTRANCE ARCHWAY	139	12%
PICNIC SHELTERS	122	11%
BIKE RACKS	90	8%
MEMORIAL PLANTERS	61	5%
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY	37	3%
OTHER	18	2%
EXERCISE/FITNESS STATIONS	15	1%
KIOSK	8	1%

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- ♦ (Q15) When asked, “Please state *any additional improvements and enhancements at Franklin Square Park that would improve/enhance your overall parks and recreation experience*”. The top responses/themes are:

- 1) An Approach to Operation and Management which includes Proper and Regular Maintenance, Improved Landscaping, and Scaled Back Use and Provision of Festivals/Events/Activities within **Franklin Square Park**—213 responses
- 2) Basic Improvements and Enhancements to the Existing Amenities and Proper and Regular Maintenance of **Franklin Square Park**—175 responses
- 3) An Approach to Operation and Management which includes Proper and Regular Maintenance, Improved Landscaping, but Removal of all Festivals/Events/Activities from **Franklin Square Park** to Other Venues in the City of Southport—102 responses
- 4) The Protection and Maintenance of the Trees in **Franklin Square Park**—73 responses
- 5) The Provision of Safe, Functional, and Defined Preamble Material Foot Paths within **Franklin Square Park**—51 responses
- 6) The Need for Renovation of the Existing Stage/Bandstand in **Franklin Square Park**—28 responses
- 7) The Addition of Night Security Lighting in **Franklin Square Park**—24 responses
- 8) The Desire for Less Visible Dirt and More Grass in **Franklin Square Park**—20 responses
- 9) The Need to Repair the Existing Ballast Stone Perimeter Wall Around **Franklin Square Park**—13 responses
- 10) The Desire for a Water Fountain Display in **Franklin Square Park**—13 responses

*These responses indicate **Franklin Square Park** visitors/users strongly desire better and more consistent maintenance of the **Park**, the continuation of the festivals/events/activities within the **Park** on a controlled and scaled back basis, improvements to the foot paths, the Stage/Bandstand, and the grass areas in the **Park**, the addition of night security lighting and a water fountain display in the **Park**, and the ballast stone wall repaired around the **Park** perimeter.*

*A full listing of responses to Q15 is included in Appendix R.*

## **IMPROVEMENTS**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS AT [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#)

<b>IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>
<b>OPERATE AS IS WITH PROPER AND REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND SCALED BACK EVENTS/ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>FIX EXISTING AMENITIES AND PROVIDE PROPER AND REGULAR MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>OPERATE AS IS WITH PROPER AND REGULAR MAINTANANCE BUT REMOVAL OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>PROTECT AND MAINTAIN ALL TREES</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>PROVIDE SAFE, FUNCTIONAL, AND PERMEABLE FOOT PATHS</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>RENOVATE EXISTING STAGE/BANDSTAND</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>ADD NIGHT SECURITY LIGHTING</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>REMOVE DIRT AREAS AND ADD GRASS AREAS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>REPAIR BALLAST STONE WALL</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ADD WATER FOUNTAIN DISPLAY</b>	<b>13</b>

# ***ENHANCEMENTS***

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT COMMENTS**

The public input comments revealed consistent results often leading to the establishment of several diametrically opposed themes throughout the various stages of the public input process.

There were certain **positive themes** that were identified throughout the public input process such as:

1. the need for regular and proper maintenance of **Franklin Square Park**
2. the need to preserve and safeguard the trees and shrubbery within **Franklin Square Park**
3. the desire to keep motorized vehicles out of **Franklin Square Park**
4. the desire to see grass areas return to **Franklin Square Park**
5. the desire to see the trees and shrubbery within **Franklin Square Park** properly mulched
6. the desire to keep **Franklin Square Park** a positive component of the City of Southport
7. the desire to maintain the historical character and nature of **Franklin Square Park**

There were also certain **diametrically opposed themes** identified throughout the public input process such as:


1. **What to do about the Stage/Bandstand—repair it and leave it where it is presently located? Or remove it from its present location within the center of **Franklin Square Park** and move it to a different location within **Franklin Square Park**?**
2. **Should the City continue to use the Stage/Bandstand in **Franklin Square Park** for concerts, festivals, markets, private events, community and individual gatherings, etc.? Or relocate the concerts, festivals, markets, private events, community and individual gatherings, etc. to another venue in Southport such as the Garrison Lawn, Bay Street, or Taylor Field?**
3. **Should a formal and dedicated pedestrian pathway and walkway system be established within **Franklin Square Park**? Or should the City leave **Franklin Square Park** as it currently is without a formal and dedicated pedestrian pathway and walkway system?**

## ***SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT COMMENTS***

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ***Consultant Inspection, Analysis, and Evaluation of [Franklin Square Park](#)***

 ***[Franklin Square Park Assessment](#)***—[Franklin Square Park](#) lies within the heart and soul of the Southport downtown central business district and tourist areas. The [Park](#) is in a square with is commonly known as Franklin Square, and bordered by N Howe Street, E West Street. N Atlantic Avenue and E Nash Street. It is the location for many special events and functions highlighting and celebrating the City of Southport throughout the year and is known as ***“The Tree-Studded City Hub for Events.”*** The [Park](#) contains many large old live oak trees and several once magnificent azalea and camelia bushes as well as other flowering shrubbery, natural vegetation, benches, a large Stage/Bandstand area, a small picnic area, and undesignated natural footpaths. The Franklin Square Art Gallery is adjacent to the [Park](#). Other buildings and amenities within Franklin Square include a Public Restroom, the Southport Baptist Church, the Southport Baptist Weekday Preschool, the Southport Fire Department Downtown, the Southport City Gym, an Outdoor Basketball Half-Court, the Southport Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Offices, the Masonic Lodge, and the Southport Trinity United Methodist Church.

An obvious observation is that the [Park](#) has not been well maintained over the last several years. The trees are not in the best of condition nor are the flowering shrubs. There is no grass growing in the main center of the [Park](#) and as a result there are numerous bare spots and dirt spots throughout the this central portion of [Franklin Square Park](#). The Old Well Pump is no longer in operation. Several of the formal entrances into the [Park](#) are in need of repairs and enhancements. The night lighting system is harsh and ineffective. The existing Stage/Bandstand is in great need of repairs. Where there was once a system of pedestrian pathways and walkways, there is now no identifiable pedestrian pathways and walkways but a lot of bare dirt and soil areas that become very muddy and difficult to walk through after a rain.

There are numerous tripping hazards within the [Park](#) as well as several informal and ineffective pedestrian entranceways into the [Park](#). Many of the live oak trees are exposed to vehicular traffic and parked vehicles which could lead to root damage and collisions with damage to the tree trunks themselves. The ballast stone wall is absent in several locations and damaged in other locations. In general, [Franklin Square Park](#) is in poor condition and in need of maintenance and repair and improved amenities and features.



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### **CHAPTER FOUR: PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND IMPLEMENTATION**

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Before proceeding with the Proposals, Recommendations, and suggested Implementation Phasing for the **Franklin Square Park** project, it is important to discuss the circumstances and issues encountered during this process. The comments and information received during each of the Assessment Phases of this project highlighted the intense emotional response **Franklin Square Park** has generated in the recent past from all segments of the City of Southport population. Unfortunately, several of these emotional responses are diametrically opposed. For example, a significant number of individuals would like to see the number of programs, services, events, activities, markets, community and individual gatherings, etc. stopped at **Franklin Square Park** all together and moved to other locations in the City or at least greatly reduced if

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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continued at [Franklin Square Park](#). An equally large and vocal number of individuals would like to see the number of programs, services, events, activities, markets, community and individual gatherings, etc. increased or at least remain at the same level at [Franklin Square Park](#). A significant number of individuals would like to see the existing Stage/Bandstand moved to a different location within [Franklin Square Park](#). An equally significant number of individuals would like to see the existing Stage/Bandstand renovated or replaced but remain in its current location within [Franklin Square Park](#). An almost unanimous response during all of the Assessment Phases was the need for [Franklin Square Park](#) to be properly, consistently, and professionally maintained at all times under all circumstances.

The [Franklin Square Park Operational Report](#) and *Site Master Plan* are grounded in an analysis and synthesis of current background information for [Franklin Square Park](#), an inventory, evaluation, and assessment of [Franklin Square Park](#), and, the identification of citizen and participant needs, wants, desires, and interests. The **Operational Report** recognizes that the primary reasons for visiting/using the [Park](#) are to **Enjoy the Shade Trees, Attend Concerts, Enjoy Nature/Outdoors, Enjoy the Azaleas/Flowers, Attend Social Events, and Attend Cultural Events**. The **Operational Report** also recognizes that the major maintenance and management issues facing the [Park](#) are the **Need to Restore/Protect Nature**, that the **Park is Not Well Maintained**, that the **Trees and Azaleas are in Poor Condition**. Not far behind those compatible maintenance and management issues are the diametrically opposed ideas that **More Markets/Vendor Opportunities and More Concerts are needed, AND** that there **Are Too Many Markets/Vendor Opportunities**. **THE ONE ISSUE AGREED UPON BY ALL IN ALL PHASES OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS WAS THE NEED TO RESTORE [FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK](#) AND THEN PROPERLY MAINTAIN THE [PARK](#) INTO THE FUTURE.**

The recommendations of the [Franklin Square Park Operational Report](#) and *Site Master Plan* attempt to bring all of these ideas and concerns, whether compatible or diametrically opposed, together into a workable and operational plan and are designed to be planned and implemented over the next 4 Fiscal Year periods and could be funded from current appropriates, future appropriations, grants, gifts, donations as well as in-kind offerings from civic and private sources such as the Friends of Franklin, the Southport Garden Club, the Forestry Committee, DSI, etc.



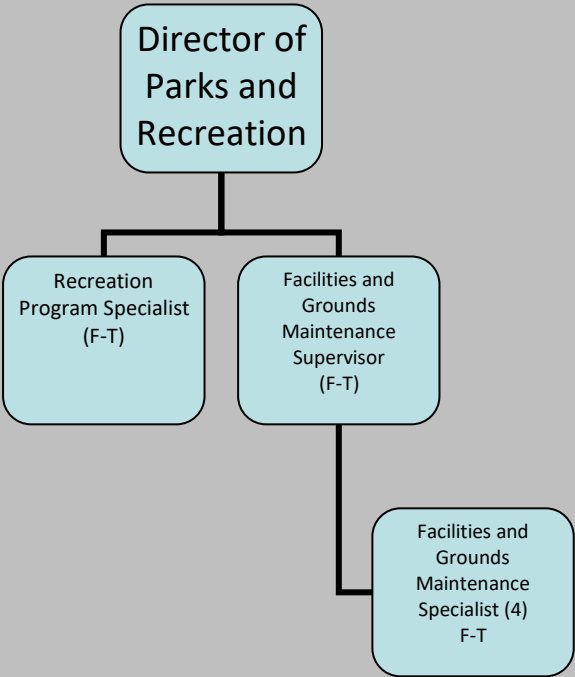
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FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE 2024 – 2028 Fiscal Years

Recommended Additions, Improvements, Modifications, Enhancements, and Implementation Schedule for Franklin Square Park:

- ◆ Create a Building and Grounds Maintenance Division within the City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department which includes:
  - ❖ Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor (1)—Head of the Maintenance Division within the Parks and Recreation Department and supervised by the Director of Parks and Recreation. Responsible for the day-to-day supervision and management all other Maintenance Division employees and the maintenance and care of all City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks including Franklin Square Park
  - ❖ Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Specialists (4)—Work as a Crew of two (2) Maintenance employees supervised by the Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor. Responsible for conducting the daily maintenance and care activities for all City of Southport Parks and Recreation Department facilities, areas, and parks including Franklin Square Park (Appendix U)



◆ **Complete and Follow the Recommendations Contained in the Tree Assessment Report by The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company**

❖ **Option One**

- Recommend removing live oaks #3, #24, and #25 entirely to remove the risk of root, root collar, trunk, crown, and branch failure. Grind the resulting stumps and back fill the holes. There will be no residual risk for these three trunks, crowns, or branches, but there may be a tripping hazard with the remaining roots, stump, or grindings that you will need to address for all three trees.
- Recommend the remaining 19 trees be pruned to remove dead branches 2 inches and larger in diameter, reduce the spread and weight of their crowns, and thinned so that winds easily move through their canopies, reducing the likelihood of branch, stem, or root failure. Completing the pruning would result in maintaining the low overall risk rating and reducing the likelihood of failure.
- Recommend installing cables in the live oaks #35, #43, #44, #45, and #46 to provide support to co-dominant stems. Completing the installation of cables would aid in maintaining an overall risk rating and likelihood of failure.
- Recommend installing lightning protection systems in live oak #5, #8, #16, #22, #35, #43, #44, #45, and #46 to reduce the likelihood of these trees being damaged by lightning strikes.
- Recommend for the 19 live oaks not identified for removal implement a soil management program based on soil testing to try and correct nutrient deficiencies and/or toxicities that may be detrimental to plant health.
- For all live oaks that remain, recommend an inspection interval of every 12 months and after major storm events
- All recommended work should be performed by qualified arborists and in accordance with industry accepted standards and best management practices set forth by the American National Standards Institute and the International Society of Arboriculture.

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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◆ **Develop a Departmental Parks and Facilities Overall Maintenance and Care Plan for [Franklin Square Park](#) which includes:**

- ❖ **WHEN [Franklin Square Park](#) will be maintained and cared for—daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly, and/or after programs, services, events, activities, markets, and other community and individual gatherings**
- ❖ **WHO is responsible for each maintenance and care activity at [Franklin Square Park](#)—Which Crew is responsible for each maintenance and care activity and which crew member is responsible for each maintenance and care activity**
- ❖ **WHAT are the specific maintenance and care activities to be schedule and performed at [Franklin Square Park](#) to include but not necessarily limited to**
  - **Trash pickup schedules**
  - **grass cutting schedules**



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- **grass fertilization schedules**
- **grass trimming schedules**



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- **grounds aeration schedules**
- **mulching schedules**
- **shrubby trimming schedules**



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- **shrubby fertilization schedules**
- **shrubby planting schedules**
- **tree trimming schedules**
- **tree fertilization schedules**
- **tree planting schedules**
- **what and when maintenance will occur after events, festivals, markets, activities, and community and individual gatherings at [Franklin Square Park](#)**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

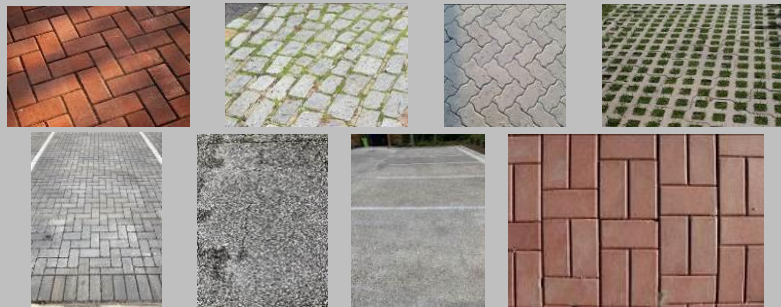
### ◆ Specific Additions, Improvements, Modifications, and Enhancements to Franklin Square Park

#### OPTION #1—NOT IN A PRIORITY ORDER

- ❖ Demolish the existing Stage/Bandstand and Reconstruct a new Stage/Bandstand in the South of the Park in the green space North of E Nash Street and North of the Fire Department Building and the Public Restroom—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASES #1, #2, AND #3**



- ❖ Pave the Area of the Park immediately in front of the newly constructed Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Move the Anchor from its current location South of E West Street to the area where the Stage/Bandstand use to be located and add a Buoy, a Stone Plaque telling the Franklin Square Park story, and a statue of a Sea Captain—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**

The inscription on the Stone Plaque should read: *The land, originally known as "The Oak Grove," which is now known as Franklin Square Park, was set aside for the people in January 1793 by then North Carolina Governor Benjamin Smith for educational, fraternal, religious, and recreational purposes. "The Oak Grove" formally became a park in the 1930s.*



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** which are not part of the sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper to connect to the Interior Pedestrian Pathway system—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Close the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into **Franklin Square Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery Parking Lot near the historical marker—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Formalize the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into Franklin Square Park from E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence, from E West Street at the end of the Stone Ballast Wall along E West Street, and at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street—**PHASE #3**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the **Park**, particularly at the main entrances to the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**
- ❖ Design the **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway and Walkway System and construct the Interior Pedestrian Pathway Walkway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and connect to the eleven (11) Designated **Park** Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**
- ❖ Plant St. Augustine Sod in bare areas within the **Park** that can and will Support Grass—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



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- ❖ Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Add an Irrigation System and St. Augustine Sod to the Northwest corner of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Install a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Construct a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Paver Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the **Park** along E West Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the exposed pipe in the center of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Remove if possible or Plant Shrubbery if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Install a Shrubbery Screen around the three (3) Power Boxes in the more central area of the **Park** and the one (1) Power Box near the main Howe Street/E West Street entrance to the Park to conceal them—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Install Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers between E West Street and the existing Rope and Post Fence and designate the area for “Handicapped Parking Only”—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Plant at least six (6) native Oak Trees to replace the Live Oak Trees which have already been removed from Franklin Square Park—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camellias in appropriate locations throughout Franklin Square Park—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability in the Park—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## ◆ Suggested Implementation Schedule—Option #1

### ❖ Phase 1—2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

- Properly Maintain **Franklin Square Park** from this point forward



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- Follow the Recommendations contained in the Tree Assessment Report by The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company from this point forward
- Strictly adhere to the Recommendations for Festivals, Events, Markets, Activities, and Community Gatherings from this point forward
- Search for Grant Opportunities to fund the demolition and replacement of the Stage/Bandstand
- Replant Live Oak Trees to replace those previously removed
- Close the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into the **Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery
- Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”



- Install a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Gallery Art parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue
- Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 2—2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

- Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street



- Pressure Wash the Outdoor Half-Court Basketball Court and Repaint the Lines



- Pave the dirt area along E West Street with Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers and mark it for “Handicapped Parking Only”



- Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged



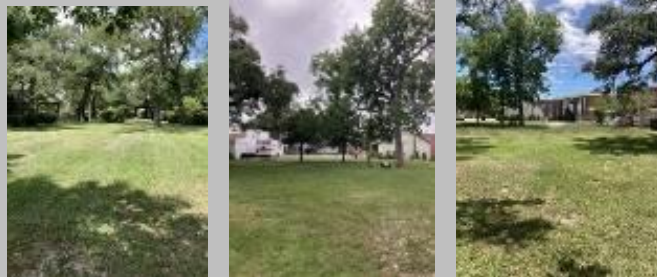
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the [Park](#) along E West Street
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the [Park](#)
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the exposed pipe in the center of the [Park](#)
- Remove if possible or Plant Shrubby if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 3—2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

- Upon receipt of the necessary grant funding, construct the new Stage/Bandstand in the grass area behind and West of the Fire Department Building



- Pave the area of the **Park** immediately in front of the newly constructed Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks
- Demolish the existing Stage/Bandstand after completion of the new Stage/Bandstand
- Move the Anchor from its current location to the area in front of where the Stage/Bandstand was located and add a Buoy, a Stone Plaque telling the **Franklin Square Park** story, and a statue of a Sea Captain



- Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting
- Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** which are not part of the sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper and connect to the Interior Pedestrian Pathway System
- Design the **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway System and construct the Pathway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and connect the **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway System to the eleven (11) Designated **Park** Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations within the [Park](#), particularly at the main entrances
- Formalize the two (2) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into the Park from E West Street and the one (1) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church and N Howe Street



- Construct a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Half-Court Basketball Court



- Install Wi-Fi capability in the [Park](#)



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## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 4—2027 – 2028 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

- Plant St. Augustine Sod in bare areas within the Park that can and will support Grass
- Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots that will not support grass where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible
- Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
- Add an Irrigation System and St. Augustine Sod to the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)



- Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it



- Install a Shrubbery Screen around the three (3) Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#) to conceal them and the one (1) Power Box near the main Howe Street/E West Street entrance to the Park to conceal them
- Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camellias in appropriate locations throughout [Franklin Square Park](#)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ◆ **OPTION #1 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

#### ❖ **COST ESTIMATE FOR OPTION #1—\$183,950 – \$245,000**

- Stage/Bandstand Demolition
  - Approximately \$3,000 – \$5,000 using City resources
- New Stage Construction and Installation
  - Approximately \$150,000 – \$200,000—cost could be covered using a State or Federal Grant or the Non-Profit Friends of Franklin Square Park Foundation
- Paving—in front of Stage/Bandstand and along E West Street (2 locations)
  - Approximately \$10,000 – \$12,000 using an outside contractor



- Nautical Theme Area
  - \$7,000 – \$9,000 using an outside contractor and City resources
- Security Lighting
  - Approximately \$4,000 – \$5,000 using an outside contractor
- Entrance Formalization (11) and Closing (3)
  - Approximately \$3,000 – \$4,000 in materials and using City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- Repaint Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$100 – \$200
- Install new Park Regulation Signage
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- Sodding and Irrigation
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,500 – \$2,000

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **Mulching**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,000 – \$1,500
- **Ballast Stone Wall Repairs**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$250 – \$300
- **Fencing Around Four Sisters**
  - No cost utilizing City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,000 – \$1,200



- **Post and Rope Fencing around six (6) Live Oak Trees**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- **Removal of Hazards and/or Screening**
  - Approximately \$1,500 – \$2,000 in materials and using City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- **Removal of Red Bricks**
  - No cost utilizing City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- **Planting of Live Oak Trees—6 – 8**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$300 – \$500
- **Planting of Flowering Shrubbery**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- **Improvements to Outdoor Half-Basketball Court**
  - Approximately \$500 – \$1,000 in materials and using City resources to complete the project
- **Installing Wi-Fi capability**
  - Approximately \$200 – \$400

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## ❖ POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

### ▪ External Funding Sources

#### • Federal Grants

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



#### • State Grants

- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)



#### • Non-Profit Grants

- Non-Profit Friends of Franklin Square Park Foundation
- Individual Gifts and Donations
- Corporate Gifts and Donations

## ❖ POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE SOURCES/RESOURCES—SUPPORT, LABOR, AND MATERIALS

### ▪ City of Southport Departments, Boards, and Committees

- Community Relations Department
- Development Services Department
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Public Works Department
- Beautification Committee



#### • Forestry Committee



- Historic Preservation Commission
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

### ▪ Community Organizations and Clubs

- Southport Garden Club
- Friends of Franklin



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

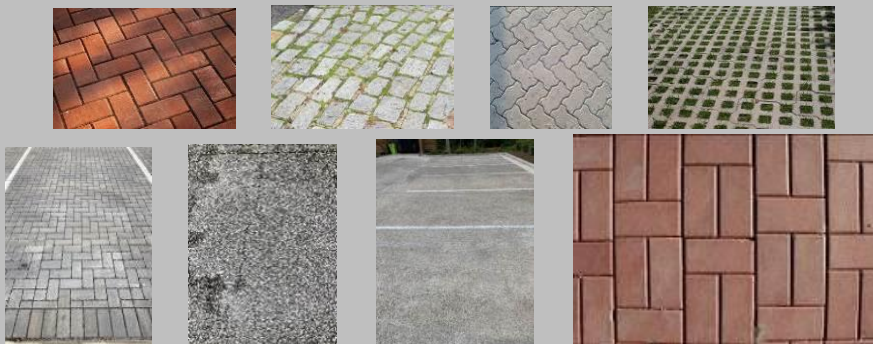
### ◆ Specific Additions, Improvements, Modifications, and Enhancements to Franklin Square Park

#### OPTION #2—NOT IN A PRIORITY ORDER

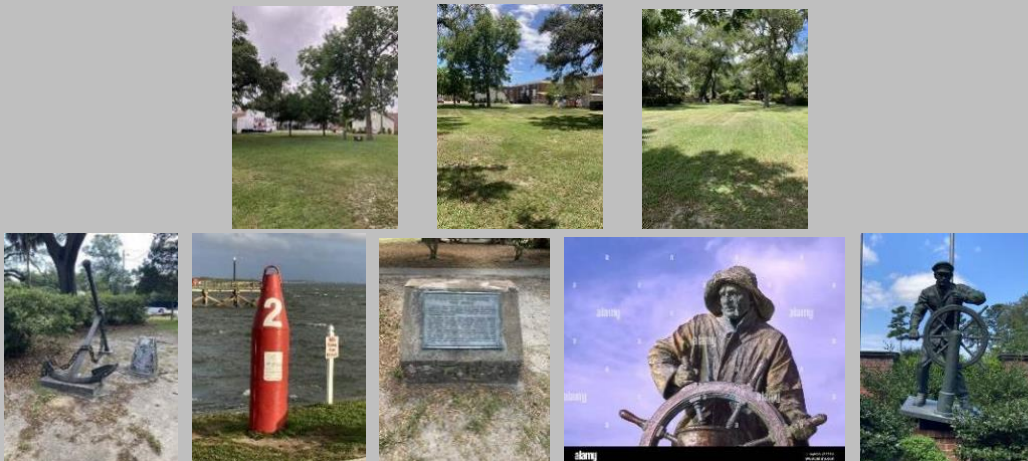
- ❖ Inspect the existing Stage/Bandstand for damage and make the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance its appearance and functionality or totally replace it, if necessary, and leave it in its present location—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASES #1 & #2**



- ❖ Pave the Area of the Park immediately in front of the Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Move the Anchor from its current location South of E West Street to the area in the South of the Park behind the Fire Department Building and the Public Restroom Facility and add a Buoy, a Stone Plaque telling the Franklin Square Park story, and a statue of a Sea Captain—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** which are not part of the sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Close the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into **Franklin Square Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery Parking Lot near the historical marker—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Formalize the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into Franklin Square Park from E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence, from E West Street at the end of the Stone Ballast Wall along E West Street, and at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the **Park**, particularly at the main entrances to the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**
- ❖ Design the **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway system and construct the Interior Pedestrian Pathway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and connect to the eleven (11) Designated **Park** Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**
- ❖ Plant St. Augustine Sod in Bare Areas within the Park that can and will Support Grass—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



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- ❖ Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- ❖ Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Add an Irrigation System and Sod to the Northwest corner of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Install a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Construct a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the **Park** along E West Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the exposed pipe in the center of the **Park**—**PHASE #2**
- ❖ Remove if possible or Plant Shrubbery if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Boxes in the more central area of the **Park** to conceal them—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Install Permeable Pavement between E West Street and the existing Rope and Post Fence and designated the area for “Handicapped Parking Only”—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Plant at least six (6) native Oak Trees to replace the Oak Trees which have already been removed from [Franklin Square Park](#)—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias in appropriate locations throughout [Franklin Square Park](#)—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability in the [Park](#)—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ Suggested Implementation Schedule—Option #2

#### ❖ Phase 1—2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

- Properly Maintain **Franklin Square Park** from this point forward



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- Follow the Recommendations contained in the Tree Assessment Report by The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company from this point forward
- Strictly adhere to the Recommendations for Festivals, Events, Markets, Activities, and Community Gatherings from this point forward
- Inspect the existing Stage/Bandstand for damage and begin making the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance its appearance and functionality or totally replace it, if necessary, and leave it in its present location
- Replant Live Oak Trees to replace those previously removed
- Close the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into **Franklin Square Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery Parking Lot near the historical marker
- Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”



- Install a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Gallery Art parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue
- Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 2—2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

- Continue making the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance the Stage/Bandstand's appearance and functionality or totally replace if necessary
- Pave the area of the **Park** immediately in front of the newly constructed Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks
- Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street



- Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines



- Pave the dirt area along E West Street and mark it for "Handicapped Parking Only"



- Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged



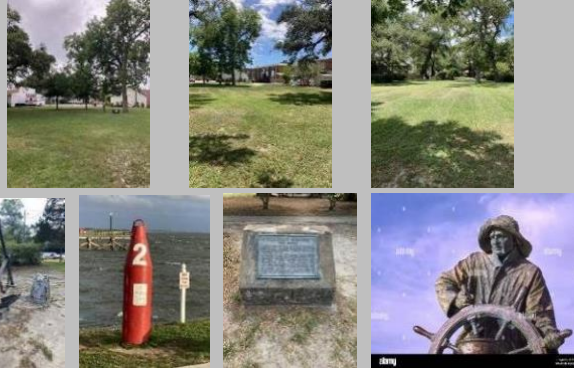
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the **Park** along E West Street
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the **Park**
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the exposed pipe in the center of the **Park**
- Remove if possible or Plant Shrubbery if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the **Park**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 3—2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

- Move the Anchor from its current location South of E West Street to the area in the South of the **Park** behind the Fire Department Building and the Public Restroom Facility and add a Buoy, a Stone Plaque telling the **Franklin Square Park** story, and a statue of a Sea Captain



- Design the **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway system and construct the Interior Pedestrian Pathway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and connect to the eleven (11) Designated **Park** Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances
- Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations within the **Park**, particularly at the main entrances
- Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting
- Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** which are not part of the sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper
- Formalize the two (2) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into the Park from E West Street and the one (1) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church and N Howe Street
- Construct a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court
- Install Wi-Fi capability in the **Park**



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## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 4—2027 – 2028 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

- Plant St. Augustine Sod in bare areas within the Park that can and will support Grass
- Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots that will not support grass where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible
- Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
- Add an Irrigation System and St. Augustine Sod to the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)



- Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it



- Install a Shrubbery Screen around the three (3) Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#) to conceal them and the one (1) Power Box near the main Howe Street/E West Street entrance to the Park to conceal them
- Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias in appropriate locations throughout [Franklin Square Park](#)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ◆ **OPTION #2 Budget Considerations**

❖ **COST ESTIMATE FOR OPTION #2—\$33,950 – \$45,000 (Repairs Only)  
or \$183,950 – \$245,000 (Demolition and Replacement)**

- **Inspect the Stage/Bandstand and repair as necessary**
  - **Approximately \$3,000 – \$5,000 using City resources**
- **Stage/Bandstand Demolition—if necessary**
  - **Approximately \$3,000 – \$5,000 using City resources**
- **New Stage Construction and Installation—if necessary**
  - **Approximately \$150,000 – \$200,000—cost could be covered using a State or Federal Grant or the Non-Profit Friends of Franklin Square Park Foundation**
- **Paving—in front of Stage/Bandstand and along E West Street (2 locations)**
  - **Approximately \$10,000 – \$12,000 using an outside contractor**
- **Nautical Theme Area using and outside contractor and City resources**
  - **\$7,000 – \$9,000**
- **Security Lighting**
  - **Approximately \$4,000 – \$5,000 using an outside contractor**
- **Entrance Formalization (11) and Closing (3)**
  - **Approximately \$3,000 – \$4,000 in materials and using City resources and volunteers to complete the project**
- **Repaint Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street**
  - **No cost utilizing donations and City resources to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$100 – \$200**
- **Install new Park Regulation Signage**
  - **No cost utilizing donations and City resources to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300**
- **Sodding and Irrigation**
  - **No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,500 – \$2,000**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **Mulching**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,000 – \$1,500
- **Ballast Stone Wall Repairs**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$250 – \$300
- **Fencing Around Four Sisters**
  - No cost utilizing City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,000 – \$1,200



- **Post and Rope Fencing around six (6) Live Oak Trees**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- **Removal of Hazards and/or Screening**
  - Approximately \$1,500 – \$2,000 in materials and using City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- **Removal of Red Bricks**
  - No cost utilizing City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- **Planting of Live Oak Trees—6 – 8**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$300 – \$500
- **Planting of Flowering Shrubbery**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- **Improvements to Outdoor Half-Basketball Court**
  - Approximately \$500 – \$1,000 in materials and using City resources to complete the project
- **Installing Wi-Fi capability**
  - Approximately \$200 – \$400

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## ❖ POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

### ▪ External Funding Sources

#### • Federal Grants

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



#### • State Grants

- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)



#### • Non-Profit Grants

- Non-Profit Friends of Franklin Square Park Foundation
- Individual Gifts and Donations
- Corporate Gifts and Donations

## ❖ POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE SOURCES/RESOURCES—SUPPORT, LABOR, AND MATERIALS

### ▪ City of Southport Departments, Boards and Committees

- Community Relations Department
- Development Services Department
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Public Works Department
- Beautification Committee



#### • Forestry Committee



- Historic Preservation Commission
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

### ▪ Community Organizations and Clubs

- Southport Garden Club
- Friends of Franklin



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ◆ Specific Additions, Improvements, Modifications, and Enhancements to **Franklin Square Park**

### **OPTION #3—NOT IN A PRIORITY ORDER (RECOMMENDED OPTION)**

- ❖ Inspect the existing Stage/Bandstand for damage and make the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance its appearance and functionality or totally replace it, if necessary, in its present location—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASES #1 & #2**
- ❖ Pave the Area of the **Park** immediately in front of the Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** which are not part of the sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- ❖ Close the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into **Franklin Square Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery Parking Lot near the historical marker—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Formalize the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into Franklin Square Park from E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence, from E West Street at the end of the Stone Ballast Wall along E West Street, and at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the **Park**, particularly at the main entrances to the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**
- ❖ Design the **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway system and construct the Interior Pedestrian Pathway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and connect to the eleven (11) Designated **Park** Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Plant St. Augustine Sod in Bare Areas within the Park that can and will Support Grass—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



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- ❖ Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Add an Irrigation System and Sod to the Northwest corner of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Install a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- ❖ Construct a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the **Park** along E West Street—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the exposed pipe in the center of the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Remove if possible or Plant Shrubbery if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the Park—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Boxes in the more central area of the Park to conceal them—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

- ❖ Install Permeable Pavement between E West Street and the existing Rope and Post Fence and designated the area for “Handicapped Parking Only”—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Plant at least six (6) native Oak Trees to replace the Oak Trees which have already been removed from **Franklin Square Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #1**



- ❖ Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias in appropriate locations throughout **Franklin Square Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #4**



- ❖ Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #2**



- ❖ Install Wi-Fi capability in the **Park**—**TO BE COMPLETED DURING PHASE #3**



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## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ Suggested Implementation Schedule—Option #3

#### ❖ Phase 1—2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

- Properly Maintain **Franklin Square Park** from this point forward



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- Follow the Recommendations contained in the Tree Assessment Report by The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company from this point forward
- Strictly adhere to the Recommendations for Festivals, Events, Markets, Activities, and Community Gatherings from this point forward
- Inspect the existing Stage/Bandstand for damage and begin making the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance its appearance and functionality or totally replace if necessary
- Replant Live Oak Trees to replace those previously removed
- Close the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into **Franklin Square Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery Parking Lot near the historical marker
- Install a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”



- Install a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Gallery Art parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue
- Remove the small Batch of Red Bricks



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 2—2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

- Continue making the necessary repairs and improvements to enhance the Stage/Bandstand's appearance and functionality or totally replace it, if necessary
- Pave the area of the [Park](#) immediately in front of the newly constructed Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks
- Repaint the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street



- Pressure Wash the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and Repaint the Lines



- Pave the dirt area along E West Street and mark it for "Handicapped Parking Only"



- Repair the Ballast Stone Wall where damaged



- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the [Park](#) along E West Street
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the [Park](#)
- Remove if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, the exposed pipe in the center of the [Park](#)
- Remove if possible or Plant Shrubbery if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### ❖ Phase 3—2026 – 2027 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

- Design the **Park** Interior Pedestrian Pathway system and construct the Interior Pedestrian Pathway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and connect to the eleven (11) Designated **Park** Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances
- Install new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations within the **Park**, particularly at the main entrances
- Remove the existing Night Security Light and add appropriate Night Security Lighting



- Formalize the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** which are not part of the sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper



- Formalize the two (2) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into the Park from E West Street and the one (1) Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church and N Howe Street
- Construct a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court
- Install Wi-Fi capability in the **Park**



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## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ❖ Phase 4—2027 – 2028 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

- Plant St. Augustine Sod in bare areas within the Park that can and will support Grass
- Mulch the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots that will not support grass where necessary and Sod the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and maintain Grass Areas where possible
- Mulch all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
- Add an Irrigation System and St. Augustine Sod to the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)



- Install a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it



- Install a Shrubbery Screen around the three (3) Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#) to conceal them and the one (1) Power Box near the main Howe Street/E West Street entrance to the Park to conceal them
- Plant native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias in appropriate locations throughout [Franklin Square Park](#)

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### ◆ **OPTION #3 Budget Considerations**

❖ **ESTIMATED COST FOR OPTION #3—\$26,950 – \$36,500 (Repairs Only)  
or \$176,950 – \$236,500 (Demolition and Replacement)**

- Inspect the Stage/Bandstand and repair as necessary
  - Approximately \$3,000 - \$5,000 using City resources
- Stage/Bandstand Demolition—if necessary
  - Approximately \$3,000 – \$5,000 using City resources
- New Stage Construction and Installation—if necessary
  - Approximately \$150,000 – \$200,000—cost could be covered using a State or Federal Grant or the Non-Profit Friends of Franklin Square Park Foundation
- Paving—in front of Stage/Bandstand and along E West Street (2 locations)
  - Approximately \$10,000 – \$12,000 using an outside contractor



- Security Lighting
  - Approximately \$4,000 – \$5,000 using an outside contractor
- Entrance Formalization (11) and Closing (3)
  - Approximately \$3,000 – \$4,000 in materials and using City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- Repaint Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$100 – \$200
- Install new Park Regulation Signage
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- Sodding and Irrigation
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,500 – \$2,000

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- **Mulching**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,000 – \$1,500
- **Ballast Stone Wall Repairs**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$250 – \$300
- **Fencing Around Four Sisters**
  - No cost utilizing City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$1,000 – \$1,200



- **Post and Rope Fencing around six (6) Live Oak Trees**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- **Removal of Hazards and/or Screening**
  - Approximately \$1,500 – \$2,000 in materials and using City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- **Removal of Red Bricks**
  - No cost utilizing City resources and volunteers to complete the project
- **Planting of Live Oak Trees—6 – 8**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$300 – \$500
- **Planting of Flowering Shrubbery**
  - No cost utilizing donations and City resources and volunteers to complete the project—without donations the cost will be approximately \$200 – \$300
- **Improvements to Outdoor Half-Basketball Court**
  - Approximately \$500 – \$1,500 in materials and using City resources to complete the project
- **Installing Wi-Fi capability**
  - Approximately \$200 – \$400

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## ❖ POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

### ▪ External Funding Sources

#### • Federal Grants

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



#### • State Grants

- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)



#### • Non-Profit Grants

- Non-Profit Friends of Franklin Square Park Foundation
- Individual Gifts and Donations
- Corporate Gifts and Donations

## ❖ POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE SOURCES/RESOURCES—SUPPORT, LABOR, AND MATERIALS

### ▪ City of Southport Departments, Boards and Committees

- Community Relations Department
- Development Services Department
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Public Works Department
- Beautification Committee



#### • Forestry Committee



- Historic Preservation Commission
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

### ▪ Community Organizations and Clubs

- Southport Garden Club
- Friends of Franklin



## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- ◆ **Festivals, Events, Markets, Activities, and Community and Individual Gatherings—Regardless, which of the three (3) options is selected, recommend no more than approximately 40 events per year in [Franklin Square Park](#) and no vendor events other than the [Farmers' Market](#) AND**
- ❖ **Permanently move the location of the [Farmers' Market](#) from the main sections of [Franklin Square Park](#) to the Hard Surface Basketball Half-Court Area Adjacent to the City Gymnasium, and allow no more than 100 Vendors**



- ❖ **Permanently move the location of the [Nature Festival Events](#) from the main section of [Franklin Square Park](#) to [Taylor Field](#)**
- ❖ **Permanently move all [Winterfest Vendor Events](#), [Spring Festival Vendor Events](#), and [Solstice Festival Events](#) out of [Franklin Square Park](#) and to [Taylor Field](#), [Garrison Lawn](#), [Bay Street](#), or other locations acceptable to the organizers and permissible by the City of Southport Mayor, Board of Alderman and City Administration**
- ❖ **Allow the annual [Easter Egg Hunt](#) to continue in the main sections of [Franklin Square Park](#)**
- ❖ **Allow the [Concert Series](#) to continue in the east section of [Franklin Square Park](#) once the new and improved Stage/Bandstand is constructed and the permeable/pervious pavers have been installed in the area in front of the Gazebo/State/Bandstand**
- ❖ **Allow [Wedding Events](#) in [Franklin Square Park](#)**
- ❖ **Allow the [Preschool Graduation Ceremonies](#) in [Franklin Square Park](#)**
- ❖ **Allow the [Christmas Eve Services](#) in [Franklin Square Park](#)**
- ❖ **Allow [Small Rental Events](#) which involve no Vendors in [Franklin Square Park](#)**
- ❖ **Allow [Winter Festival Events](#) with no Vendors in [Franklin Square Park](#)**
- ❖ **Allow the [Plein Air Festival Art Sell](#) in [Franklin Square Park](#) on the Hard Surface Basketball Half-Court Area Adjacent to the City Gymnasium, and allow no more than 100 Vendors**

- ◆ Non-Profit “Friends of **Franklin Square Park**” Foundation—Regardless, which of the three (3) options is selected, the City of Southport Administration should work with the City of Southport Citizens to create a Non-Profit “Friends of **Franklin Square Park**” Foundation, and the functions of this Foundation would be to:
  - ❖ Support all aspects of the maintenance, improvement, and enhancement of **Franklin Square Park** by:
    - Solicitating funds for the general maintenance and care of **Franklin Square Park**
    - Soliciting funds for the improvement and enhancement of **Franklin Square Park** such as:
      - The renovation of the existing Stage/Bandstand
      - The demolition of the existing Stage/Bandstand
      - The acquisition, construction, and installation of a new and improved Stage/Bandstand
      - The Paving of the area immediately in front of the Stage/Bandstand with permeable pavement, pervious pavers or bricks
      - The removal of the existing Night Security Light and the installation of appropriate Night Security Lighting
      - The Formalization of the six (6) Designated Pedestrian Entrances into the **Park** not part of the existing sidewalk system by laying permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks through the Entrances into the **Park** proper
      - The closing of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrance that leads into the **Park** from the Franklin Square Art Gallery Parking Lot
      - The Formalization of the Informal and Unofficial Pedestrian Entrances that lead into **Franklin Square Park** from E West Street at the East end of the post and rope fence, from E West Street at the end of the Stone Ballast Wall along E West Street, and at the opening at the corner of the Baptist Church on N Howe Street

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The Repainting of the Pedestrian Crosswalk on E West Street
- The installation of new Park Regulations Signage at strategic locations throughout the [Park](#), particularly at the main entrances to the [Park](#)
- The Design of the [Park](#) Interior Pedestrian Pathway system and the Construction of the Interior Pedestrian Pathway System out of permeable pavement, pervious pavers, or bricks and the Connection to the eleven (11) Designated [Park](#) Entrances excluding the E West Street and E Nash Street sidewalk entrances
- The Planting of St. Augustine Sod in Bare Areas within the Park that can and will Support Grass
- The Mulching of the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots where necessary and the Sodding of the Bare Spots and Dirt Spots and the maintenance of the Grass Areas where possible
- The Mulching of all of the areas around the Trees and Shrubbery
- The Addition of an Irrigation System and Sod to the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)
- The Repair of the Ballast Stone Wall
- The Installation of a Protective Fence around the “Four Sisters”
- The Installation of a Post and Rope Fence like the Post and Rope Fence on E West Street around the Live Oak Trees East of the Franklin Square Art Gallery parking lot and West of Atlantic Avenue
- The Construction of a Permeable Pavement or Pervious Pavers Parking Area in the space between E West Street and the existing Outdoor Basketball Half-Court/City Gymnasium
- The Removal if possible or covering with a Landscape Feature if not possible, of the Water Gauge at the Northwest Corner of the [Park](#) along E West Street

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The Removal if possible or covering with a Landscape Feature if not possible, of the Water Gauge near the Fire Department Building on the Southside of the [Park](#)



- The Removal if possible or cover with a Landscape Feature if not possible, of the exposed pipe in the center of the [Park](#)
- The Removal if possible or Plant Shrubbery if not possible, around the wire cable near the Baptist Church in the Northwest corner of the [Park](#)



- The Installation of a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Box directly behind the Fire Department Building to conceal it
- The Installation of a Shrubbery Screen around the Power Boxes in the more central area of the [Park](#)
- The Removal of the small Batch of Red Bricks
- The Installation of Permeable Pavement between E West Street and the existing Rope and Post Fence and the designation of the area for “Handicapped Parking Only”
- The Planting of at least six (6) native Oak Trees to replace the Oak Trees which have already been removed from [Franklin Square Park](#)
- The Planting of native Flowering Shrubbery such as Azaleas and Camelias in appropriate locations throughout [Franklin Square Park](#)
- The Pressure Washing of the Outdoor Basketball Half-Court and the Repainting of the Lines
- The Installation of Wi-Fi capability in the [Park](#)

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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**APPENDIX—A**  
**PUBLIC MEETING INPUT SESSION FORMAT**  
**CITY OF SOUTHPORT, NC**  
**OPERATIONAL REPORT AND SITE MASTER PLAN**  
**FOR *FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***  
**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION—July 17, 2024**

## **I. OPENING OF THE MEETING:**

### **A. Introduction**

- Welcome! My name is Dr. Jim Herstine. I am a Professor Emeritus of Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management at UNC Wilmington, and I have been contracted by the City of Southport to facilitate a Public Forum discussion regarding an **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- Thank you for joining me today

### **B. Purpose**

- Your input in today's discussion is especially timely and important.
- The City of Southport would like to determine your opinions, thoughts, and recommendations regarding an **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- As community stakeholders and leaders, what you tell me today will help the City establish an **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**

### **C. Procedures/Ground Rules**

- I will incorporate your thoughts and suggestions into a final **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park** that will be submitted to the City of Southport in draft form in August 2024 or September 2024 and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for discussion in September 2024 or October 2024
- The City of Southport is interested in all your ideas, comments, and suggestions and there are no correct or incorrect answers. All comments, both positive and negative are welcome. However, we hope to end with the positive! 😊
- Feel free to **DISAGREE AGREEABLY** with one another, as this is a **FRIENDLY** open dialogue and discussion
- There will be no **FINGER POINTING** or **BLAMING!** We are here not to discuss **WHY** things happened in the past or who is to blame **BUT** we are here to discuss **HOW TO PROCEED** into the future!
- I would prefer that only one person speak at a time since I am interested in what everyone has to say
- Please remember that I am a neutral party

### **D. Explain about the note taking and the Flip Chart**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## II. What is an Operational Report?

1. An **Operational Report** is a written document which lays out a strategic plan of action for the operation, management, and maintenance of an entity, in this case **Franklin Square Park**
2. The Operational Report will include recommendations regarding:
  - a. Staffing
  - b. Maintenance
  - c. Programming
  - d. Management
  - e. Operation

## III. What is a Site Master Plan?

1. A Site Master Plan provides a Land Use Plan for a defined parcel based on an organization's strategic objectives such as **Franklin Square Park**
2. A Site Master Plan defines short- and long-term land use requirements as a framework for present and future use
3. A Site Master Plan will typically include locations of buildings and structures built on the property, as well as any physical features such as driveways, walkways, benches, stages and such
4. A Site Master Plan will also include natural landmarks such as trees, shrubs, and water source

## IV. QUESTIONS

- What do you see as the **EXISTING POSITIVE ASPECTS** of **Franklin Square Park** that need to be protected and enhanced now and into the future? In other words, what about **Franklin Square Park** that exists today should we carry into the future as a part of the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**?
- What do you see as the **EXISTING NEGATIVE ASPECTS** of **Franklin Square Park** that need to be eliminated and discarded now and into the future? In other words, what about **Franklin Square Park** that exists today should be ended now and discarded into the future as a part of the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan**?
- What do you see as the **FUTURE ASPECTS** of **Franklin Square Park** that do not exist today, but should exist and be added to the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** and carried into the future?
- What do you see as the major obstacles to establishing a workable, suitable, and manageable **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**?

## V. CLOSING: DR. JIM HERSTINE

- A. Information gathered from meeting will be combined with the other information gathered and analyzed to prepare the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- B. Please contact Dr. Jim Herstine at 910.200.5005 or [herstinej@uncw.edu](mailto:herstinej@uncw.edu) if you have any additional comments or questions
- C. Thank you so very much for coming and for your comments!!!!

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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**APPENDIX—B**  
**PUBLIC MEETING INPUT SESSION FORMAT**  
**CITY OF SOUTHPORT, NC**  
**OPERATIONAL REPORT AND SITE MASTER PLAN**  
**FOR *FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***  
**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION—July 27, 2024**

## VI. OPENING OF MEETING:

### B. Introduction

- Welcome! My name is Dr. Jim Herstine. I am a Professor Emeritus of Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management at UNC Wilmington, and I have been contracted by the City of Southport to facilitate a Public Forum discussion regarding an **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- Thank you for joining me today

### D. Purpose

- Your input in today's discussion is especially timely and important.
- The City of Southport would like to determine your opinions, thoughts, and recommendations regarding an **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- As community stakeholders and leaders, what you tell me today will help the City establish an **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**

### E. Procedures/Ground Rules

- I will incorporate your thoughts and suggestions into a final **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park** that will be submitted to the City of Southport in draft form in August 2024 or September 2024 and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for discussion in September 2024 or October 2024
- The City of Southport is interested in all your ideas, comments, and suggestions and there are no correct or incorrect answers. All comments, both positive and negative are welcome. However, we hope to end with the positive! ☺
- Feel free to **DISAGREE AGREEABLY** with one another, as this is a **FRIENDLY** open dialogue and discussion
- There will be no **FINGER POINTING** or **BLAMING**! We are here not to discuss **WHY** things happened in the past or who is to blame **BUT** we are here to discuss **HOW TO PROCEED** into the future!
- I would prefer that only one person speak at a time since I am interested in what everyone has to say
- Please remember that I am a neutral party

### E. Explain about the note taking and the Flip Chart

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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### VII. What is an Operational Report?

3. An **Operational Report** is a written document which lays out a strategic plan of action for the operation, management, and maintenance of an entity, in this case **Franklin Square Park**
4. The Operational Report will include recommendations regarding:
  - a. Staffing
  - b. Maintenance
  - c. Programming
  - d. Management
  - e. Operation

### VIII. What is a Site Master Plan?

5. A Site Master Plan provides a Land Use Plan for a defined parcel based on an organization's strategic objectives such as **Franklin Square Park**
6. A Site Master Plan defines short- and long-term land use requirements as a framework for present and future use
7. A Site Master Plan will typically include locations of buildings and structures built on the property, as well as any physical features such as driveways, walkways, benches, stages and such
8. A Site Master Plan will also include natural landmarks such as trees, shrubs, and water source

### IX. QUESTIONS

5. What do you see as the **POSITIVE ASPECTS AND COMPONENTS** of this **Draft Franklin Square Park Site Master Plan** as presented? Which aspects of this **Draft Site Master Plan** do you approve of?
6. What do you see as the **NEGATIVE ASPECTS AND COMPONENTS** of this **Draft Franklin Square Park Site Master Plan** as presented? Which aspects of this **Draft Site Master Plan** do you disapprove of?
7. What would you like to see **ELIMINATED FROM** this **Draft Franklin Square Park Site Master Plan** as presented?
8. What would you like to see **ADDED TO** this **Draft Site Master Plan** as presented?
9. Any **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING** this **Draft Site Master Plan** as presented?

### X. CLOSING: DR. JIM HERSTINE

- D. Information gathered from meeting will be combined with the other information gathered and analyzed to prepare the **Operational Report** and **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- E. Please contact Dr. Jim Herstine at 910.200.5005 or [herstinej@uncw.edu](mailto:herstinej@uncw.edu) if you have any additional comments or questions
- F. **Thank you so very much for coming and for your comments!!!!**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## APPENDIX—C

### FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Focus Group Session Discussion Guide for June 6, 2024

City of Southport **Franklin Square Park** Operational Report and Site Master Plan

#### I. Introduction

##### F. Welcome

- My name is Dr. Jim Herstine. I am a Professor Emeritus of Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management at UNC Wilmington, and I have been contracted by the City of Southport to facilitate a Focus Group Session discussion regarding an **Operational Report and Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- Thank you for joining me today

##### G. Purpose

- Your input in today's discussion is especially timely and important.
- The City of Southport would like to determine your opinions, thoughts, and recommendations regarding an **Operational Report and Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- As community stakeholders and leaders, what you tell me today will help the City establish an **Operational Report and Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**
- You will be here for about 2 hours

##### C Self-Introduction

- Ask each participant to introduce him/herself and tell the other participants about his/her association, experience and interest in **Franklin Square Park**

##### F. Procedures/Ground Rules

- I will incorporate your thoughts and suggestions into a final **Operational Report and Site Master Plan** that will be submitted to the City of Southport in draft form in August 2024 or September 2024
- The City of Southport is interested in all your ideas, comments, and suggestions and there are no correct or incorrect answers. All comments, both positive and negative are welcome. However, we hope to end with the positive! 😊
- Feel free to **DISAGREE AGREEABLY** with one another, as this is a **FRIENDLY** open dialogue and discussion
- There will be no **FINGER POINTING** or **BLAMING**! We are here not to discuss **WHY** things happened in the past or who is to blame **BUT** we are here to discuss **HOW TO PROCEED** into the future!
- I would prefer that only one person speak at a time since I am interested in what everyone has to say
- We will try to keep this discussion under 2 hours, so we will move through the questions in a timely fashion. I may have to end a discussion and move on to another topic so please do not be offended.
- Please remember that I am a neutral party

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## G. Explain about the note taking and the Flip Chart

### II. What is a Site Master Plan

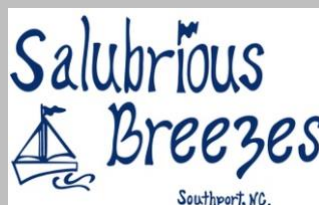
5. A Site Master Plan provides a Land Use Plan for a defined parcel based on an organization's strategic objectives such as **Franklin Square Park**
6. A Site Master Plan defines short- and long-term land use requirements as a framework for present and future use
7. A Site Master Plan will typically include locations of buildings and structures built on the property, as well as any physical features such as driveways, walkways, benches, stages and such
8. A Site Master Plan will also include natural landmarks such as trees, shrubs, and water sources

### III. Focus Group Session Discussion: Questions

- What do you see as the **EXISTING POSITIVE ASPECTS** of **Franklin Square Park** that need to be protected and enhanced now and into the future? In other words, what about **Franklin Square Park** that exists today should we carry into the future as a part of the **Site Master Plan**?
- What do you see as the **EXISTING NEGATIVE ASPECTS** of **Franklin Square Park** that need to be eliminated and discarded now and into the future? In other words, what about **Franklin Square Park** that exists today should be ended now and discarded into the future as a part of the **Site Master Plan**?
- What do you see as the **FUTURE ASPECTS** of **Franklin Square Park** that do not exist today, but should exist and be added to the **Site Master Plan** and carried into the future?
- What do you see as the major obstacles to establishing a workable, suitable, and manageable **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**?

### IV. Closing

- A. Are there any more thoughts related to the discussion of a **Site Master Plan** for **Franklin Square Park**?
- B. Thank you!!!!



# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## APPENDIX—D

### **CITY OF SOUTHPORT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

The Southport Board of Aldermen and the Southport Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee want to receive input from citizens about the revitalization of Franklin Square Park, along with the future use of this City park. Franklin Square Park has been a part of Southport since the 1930's and is in need of improvements, renovations, and enhancements. Please help us develop a Site Master Plan for Franklin Square Park by answering a few questions for us.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY BY MAY 30, 2024!!!!**

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us sustain and improve Franklin Square Park!

### **DEMOGRAPHICS—The demographic information you provide below is completely confidential!**

Q1 Which of the following best describes your City of Southport residence status?

Q1a ☐ Full-Time/Permanent Resident; own my own home; and pay City of Southport property taxes →Proceed to Q2

Q1b ☐ Full-Time/Permanent Resident; rent/lease my place of residence →Proceed to Q2

Q1c ☐ Part-Time Resident; own my home; and pay City of Southport property taxes →Proceed to Q2

Q1d ☐ Part-Time Resident; rent/lease my place of residence →Proceed to Q2

Q1e ☐ Live in the 28461-zip code, but **NOT** within the city limits or Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Southport →Proceed to Q3

Q1f ☐ Tourist/Visitor; live within 1-hour drive of Southport →Proceed to Q3

Q1g ☐ Tourist/Visitor; live outside a 1-hour drive of Southport →Proceed to Q3

Q1h ☐ Other (Please Explain) \_\_\_\_\_ →Proceed to Q3

Q2 How long have you resided in the City of Southport?

Q2a ☐ less than 2 years

Q2b ☐ at least 2 years but less than 10 years

Q2c ☐ at least 10 years but less than 20 years

Q2d ☐ 20 years or longer

Q3 What is your gender?

Q3a ☐ Male

Q3b ☐ Female

Q3c ☐ Other

Q4 What is your race/ethnicity?

Q4a ☐ Alaska Native

Q4b ☐ American Indian

Q4c ☐ Black/African American

Q4d ☐ Caucasian/White

Q4e ☐ Hispanic/Latino

Q4f ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Q4g ☐ Two or More Races

Q4h ☐ Some other Race (Please Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Q5 Including yourself, how many individuals in your household are in the age groups below (Please respond with a number for each category)?

Q5a ☐ Young Children (5 & Under)

Q5b ☐ Children ( 6 – 14)

Q5c ☐ Youth (15 – 20)

Q5d ☐ Young Adults (21 – 34)

Q5e ☐ Adults (35 – 65)

Q5f ☐ Seniors (Over 65)

Q6 Which of the following best describes your household?

Q6a ☐ Single with no children/grandchildren at home

Q6b ☐ Single with children/grandchildren at home

Q6c ☐ Couple with no children/grandchildren at home

Q6d ☐ Couple with children/grandchildren at home

Q6e ☐ Retired with no children/grandchildren at home

Q6f ☐ Retired with children/grandchildren at home

Q6g ☐ Other (Please Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK SPECIFICS

**Q7** Have you or any members of your household visited/used Franklin Square Park during the last 12 months?

**Q7a**        Yes → Proceed to Q8

**Q7b**        No → Proceed to Q9

**Q8** How frequently have you or any members of your household visited/used Franklin Square Park during the last 12 months?

**Q8a**        Rarely (1 – 5 Visitations/Utilizations) → Proceed to Q9

**Q8b**        Sometimes (6 – 10 Visitations/Utilizations) → Proceed to Q9

**Q8c**        Often (More than 10 Visitations/Utilizations) → Proceed to Q10

**Q9** Please explain why you indicated “Have not visited/used Franklin Square Park during the last 12 months” to Q7 OR indicated “Rarely” or “Sometimes” to Q8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q10** Why do/would you or any members of your household visit/use Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ONLY UP TO FIVE)

**Q10a**        Attend Concerts

**Q10b**        Attend Cultural Events

**Q10c**        Attend Social Events

**Q10d**        Be Closer to Nature

**Q10e**        Enjoy the Azaleas/Flowers

**Q10f**        Enjoy Nature/Outdoors

**Q10g**        Enjoy Pathways

**Q10h**        Enjoy the Shade Trees

**Q10i**        Exercise/Wellness/Fitness

**Q10j**        Experience Adventure

**Q10k**        Meditate

**Q10l**        Picnic

**Q10m**        Read

**Q10n**        Relax/Relieve Stress

**Q10o**        Sit on the Benches

**Q10p**        Spend Time With Family/Friends

**Q10q**        Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q10r**        Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q10s**        Not Applicable

**Q11** Which of the following features/amenities presently found at Franklin Square Park do you approve of? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

**Q11a**        Azalea Bushes

**Q11b**        Benches

**Q11c**        Bike Racks

**Q11d**        Dogi Pot Litter Bag Dispenser

**Q11e**        Gazebo and Stage/Bandstand

**Q11f**        Old Well/Gazebo

**Q11g**        Pathways

**Q11h**        Picnic Table Surrounding Tree

**Q11i**        Shade Trees/Oak Trees

**Q11j**        Ship’s Anchor

**Q11k**        Trash Receptacles

**Q11l**        Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q11m**        Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q11n**        Not Applicable

**Q12** What do you believe are the three (3) major maintenance and management issues facing Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ONLY THREE)

**Q12a**        Azaleas are in Poor Condition

**Q12b**        Need More Historic Events

**Q12c**        Need More Concerts

**Q12d**        Need More Cultural Events

**Q12e**        Need More Markets/Vendor Opportunities

**Q12f**        Need to Restore/Protect Nature

**Q12g**        Park Itself Not Well-Maintained

**Q12h**        Pathways Not Well Maintained

**Q12i**        Too Many Concerts

**Q12j**        Too Many Cultural Events

**Q12k**        Too Many Markets/Vendor Opportunities

**Q12l**        Trees are in Poor Condition

**Q12m**        Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q12n**        Not Applicable

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## VISION FOR FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK

Q13 Which of the following best describes your vision for Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Q13a___ Arts Park or Arts in the Park  | Q13b___ Cultural/Historic Park                 |
| Q13c___ Destination Park for Residents   | Q13d___ Destination Park for Visitors          |
| Q13e___ Mini-Park for Passive Recreational Use                                       | Q13f___ Nature/Educational/Interpretative Park |
| Q13g___ Venue for Special Events such as Concerts                                    |  |
| Q13h___ Venue for Special Events such as Festivals                                   |  |
| Q13i___ Venue for Special Events such as once-a-week Markets/Vendor Opportunities    |  |
| Q13j___ Venue for Special Events such as once-a-month Markets/Vendor Opportunities   |  |
| Q13k___ Venue for Special Events such as once-a quarter Markets/Vendor Opportunities |  |
| Q13l___ Venue for Special Events such as once-a-year Markets/Vendor Opportunities    |  |
| Q13m___ Venue for Special Events such as Community Gatherings                        |  |
| Q13n___ Other (Please Specify) _____   |  |

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK AMENITIES

Q14 In your opinion, what are the five (5) most important amenities that should be found at Franklin Square Park? (PLEASE MARK ONLY FIVE)

- |                                      |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Q14a___ Azaleas/Flowering Shrubbery  | Q14b___ Bandstand        | Q14c___ Benches                   |
| Q14d___ Bike Racks                   | Q14e___ Entrance Archway | Q14f___ Exercise/Fitness Stations |
| Q14g___ Free Little Library          | Q14h___ Kiosk            | Q14i___ Memorial Planters         |
| Q14j___ Natural Foot Paths           | Q14k___ Night Lighting   | Q14l___ Paved Foot Paths          |
| Q14m___ Picnic Shelters              | Q14n___ Public Restroom  | Q14o___ Shade Trees/Oak Trees     |
| Q14p___ Water Fountain               | Q14q___ Well             |                                   |
| Q14r___ Other (Please Specify) _____ |                          |                                   |
| Q14s___ Other (Please Specify) _____ |                          |                                   |

Q15 Please state any additional improvements/enhancements at Franklin Square Park that would improve/enhance your overall parks and recreation experience:

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Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping us sustain and improve our services!



CITY OF SOUTHPORT

*Parks & Recreation Department*

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## **APPENDIX—E**

### ***OTHER RESPONSES REGARDING “RESIDENCE STATUS” (Q1)***

- Born here, family has been here since late 1700s
- I lived in Southport from 1963-68 and consider it my “home town”
- We are building a house in Southport and will hopefully be living there by August of this year
- Resident 15 years. Moved December 2023
- I live in Supply and visit Southport at least 2 times per week
- Will be moving there this month but have visited for years
- My Father was a teacher, coach, and principal at Southport High School. I played in the park and have enjoyed its beauty all of my life. It is a huge part of Southport and its history. It needs to be saved
- Parents live in Southport. I live in OKI
- Own home in Oak Island town limits
- I live in Bolivia
- I live on Oak Island. My parents and grandparents and most of my family were born and raised in Southport
- Landowner
- Live in a nearby city 10 minutes from Southport
- I grew up in Southport; spent 18 years living there. My whole family still lives there, and I plan to move back when I turn 28
- Daughter of full-time resident; visits 2 – 4 times per year
- Former resident now living at Oak Island
- Born and raised in Southport. Now reside on Oak Island
- Grew up in Southport. A graduate of Southport High School. Have family there
- I live over an hour away but am a Native of 28461-own a family home and property still. Family is 4<sup>th</sup> generation Southport
- Part-time resident of OKI
- Live in 28422 area code
- Live on Oak Island and frequent the park often
- Local-nit tourist – living on Oak Island
- I lived in SPT for 2 years (2021-2023) while working at Duke Energy
- Oak Island resident
- My mother lived there for 40 years as did my sister. Both are deceased as my sister just recently passed. I have been coming every year and loved Franklin Park and Southport

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Born and raised, have family still living there. I visit often. Love my hometown!
- Former resident of Southport, both as a homeowner and a renter
- Full-time permanent resident of BSL
- Work in Southport and live in the county
- Native of Southport
- Live in the 28461-zip code (outside city limits), but do pay city property taxes via ownership of a commercial unit located within the city limits
- Grew up in Southport; my mother still lives within city limits
- Oak Island full-time resident
- Part-time resident of zip code 28461, but NOT within the City limits or Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Southport
- Commercial property owner in Southport. Live in Oak Island
- Home on Oak Island
- Former citizen
- We live in Bolivia, but life is in Southport
- Live in Bolivia, NC and visit Southport regularly. Born and raised in Brunswick County, NC
- Oak Island resident; frequent Southport regularly
- Grew up in Southport; my family still lives here and visit my family often
- Oak Island part-time resident
- Own a house on Oak Island. Visit Southport OFTEN
- Grew up in Southport
- I am not a tourist. I live in Winnabow. My husband and I support our local musicians
- In 28461 and in the ETJ area
- PT resident of Oak Island, NC and visit park often
- Born and raised in Southport. Husband got transferred but plan to return soon
- Live in a nearby community
- Market Vendor that lives in Shallotte
- Live nearby permanently and own home
- Tax payer business owner
- Have lived on Oak Island for 35 years. Attend Trinity Methodist Church in Southport
- Live in Palmetto Creek and frequent Southport for shopping, entertainment and restaurants
- My daughter has a vacation home in town. We stay there in the winter
- Previous resident and visitor
- I live in Oak Island

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Live nearby in 28422 zip code area
- Permanent resident and home owner Oak Island ND 28465
- Caswell Beach resident, but shop, eat, & enjoy activities in Southport. Probably attend 8090% events at Franklin Square Park
- I have lived in Brunswick County since 1983 and worked in Southport for approximately 30 years. I am currently retired
- Live in Bolivia. Spend a lot of time in Southport
- I have family in Southport, so I am there very often, but it is not my permanent legal residence
- Property owner in Boiling Spring Lakes
- Full-time; permanent resident; own home; live in the ETJ Extra Territorial Jurisdiction
- Full-time Oak Island resident
- Own beach home in Caswell Beach, frequent Southport
- I am a member of the Associated Artists of Southport and have been at the gallery 14 years +
- Live in Caswell Beach but eat, play, shop, live, and worship in Southport
- Business property owner on South Howe Street for over 35 years
- Full-time permanent resident residing in the ETJ not paying city taxes
- Local, frequent visitor, live within a 20-minute drive
- We live near Sunset Harbor but lived in Southport for 15 years. I chaired and served on the Southport Beautification Committee and was also on the Forestry Committee
- Live outside Southport 25 minutes away
- I live in Oak Island, but work in Southport
- While I am not domiciled in Southport, I do work there. I work at two art galleries and am a frequent shopper in the town
- I live on Oak Island
- Full-time permanent resident residing in ETJ
- Former resident and member of the Board of Alderman
- I live off 211. Come to south 3-4 times a week
- Brunswick County resident for 38 years – own home in Shallotte
- Lived there for 18 years. Still go back often
- OKI resident
- Business Operator
- Live 3 minutes from downtown
- Have a boat, 2<sup>nd</sup> home, at Safe Harbor south of Harbor Marina

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Business owner. We did the markets in the Park
- I am a Potter and participated in all of the events in Southport. Love it there
- Vendor
- Work full-time in SP. I lived in SP for 5 years
- Brunswick County native
- Oak Island
- Homeowner on Oak Island
- I grew up in Southport. Attended Southport High School from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to graduation
- Live in Winnabow but my Mom's side of the family was born and raised in Southport, so I have grown up here as well
- I live near Southport, but I work there and rent an art studio near there, go to BCC there and spend most days there
- Live in Oak Island but work in Southport
- Our home is on North Atlantic, between Owens & 8<sup>th</sup>
- Live in ETJ and own property in city and pay taxes
- Live in 28451 zip code. Approximately 20 miles north of Southport
- Homeowner at Oak Island for over 50 years. Current resident at Matthews, NC and moving to OKI – Southport in next 3 months
- A participant in the weekly Market as well as festivals
- Southport native, recently relocated for work
- Live in Supply; 28422
- Long-time resident – property owner/home
- Oak Island resident
- Own home is in Brunswick County not far from Southport. Member of Southport Baptist Church. Had practice in Southport. Love the park
- Live on Lockwood Folly river and come to Southport several times a week and am a member of Southport Baptist Church
- Permanent resident own home in ETJ

## ***OTHER RESPONSES***

## ***TO “RESIDENCY”***

### **APPENDIX—F**

#### ***OTHER RESPONSES TO “HOUSEHOLD DESCRIPTION” (Q6)***

- Parents living with children
- 3 adults = 1 elderly and 2 adults 56 and 63
- Daughter living with mother
- Retired with parents living with us
- Widowed
- Retired with daughter and SIL
- Couple plus sister family
- Single with child and grandparent
- Retired couple with 1 parent living with us
- Multi-generational: 2 Retired Adults, 1 Single Adult, no children
- Married couple, one retired, one working. 1 military member
- Two people in above selected age range; one is retired, one is not. Tried to put the slider on 2 for 2 people. It would not accept that answer and only gave me the option to choose 10. Only 2 people live here—unless the cat’s count
- Couple semi-retired; no children or grandchildren
- Retired. Husband still working. I keep grandchild in home everyday
- 2 retired adults and 1 adult still working
- My sister lives with us as our children and grandchildren do not
- 3 wives and 2 children
- Semi-retired with retired spouse and visiting children and grandchildren
- Widow with children
- Not relevant
- Couple retired, no children in area, live with elderly mom
- None of your business – not applicable to a park survey
- Stupid Question
- Married with pets and Grandchildren that live with us in the ETJ
- Retired. Just my husband and I
- Retired with children living at home
- Widowed, retired, no children or grandchildren at home
- Retired and living with my daughter in her house
- Co-owner of property
- Not relevant
- Retired with adult children living away
- Couple with special needs adult at home
- I live with 2 other people that I am not related to
- Widow – 2 grown adults living within. 28461
- 4 adults living in the household

## ***OTHER RESPONSES TO “HOUSEHOLD DESCRIPTION”***

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## **APPENDIX—G**

### **WHY RESPONDENTS “RARELY,” “SOMETIMES” OR “HAVE NOT VISITED/USED”**

#### **FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q9)**

- Scheduling conflicts
- Music concert, festivals
- Come home to Southport twice each year
- Closure to pedestrians. Respect for fragility of trees and bushes
- I work and do not have a lot of time but did take my relatives there when in town
- We visit regularly and make FSP part of our routine
- Usually, the concerts and craft fair
- Live in PA visit yearly. My mom and her Dad planted azalea bushes 7 decades ago
- Concerts, festivals
- Walked through the park a few times; went to Wednesday market a few times
- Have been to festivals there and frequently walked through on the way to church
- Visited with visiting guests; went to craft festivals; and visited to walk and enjoy the park
- I enjoy the gatherings at the park such as the festivals, concerts, tours and nature
- Mostly for special events
- We use it every time we are in town to meet with our builders in Southport
- Whenever I am in Southport, I wander through if there are no barriers into the park also whenever there is an event we go
- I go to festivals and markets
- The park is in terrible shape. Not a real garden park now
- When we are visiting our family in Brunswick County
- Love going to festivals there-which have obviously not been happening, would usually visit more often
- Walks, reading, fairs, concerts
- We visit when in town
- Various festivals
- I visited the park approximately 8 times during the past 12 months
- We enjoy attending the 4<sup>th</sup> of July craft show and the Southport summer market days
- I visit when there is an event in the park
- Events and concerts
- We live 2 hours away, but will be residents this month
- Festivals and music
- Craft shows and concerts
- When I ride through Southport, I make it a point to visit all the landmarks enjoyed growing up. The park is on that list
- We are here part-time
- Was living in another State while building my home in Southport. Every trip here we went to the park
- For relaxation and festivities and concerts
- Events
- Went to summer market every week until park closed
- Usually for a concert or event

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Loss of park like setting
- Just bought home in September 2023, and the park was closed a few months later
- Work nearby and frequently walk by daily
- Farmers market occasionally, music occasionally
- Attend concerts and markets
- Too difficult to walk around there. Many free roots and uneven walking paths
- Concerts, fairs, markets
- Have wanted to use it more but it has been closed
- Our church is beside there but we mainly go to markets there
- Attended concerts and fairs in the park
- Just moved to Oak Island area at the end of November and then the park closed not long after that
- Visit for walks, events, pleasure as time allows
- Only there in summer
- Attend some events held there
- We mainly go into Southport, 20-minute drive for us, for holiday activities, fairs, and concerts
- Visit during events
- Attending an event of interest
- Enjoy quiet time in the park
- Artisans' crafts
- I am handicapped and cannot negotiate the park safely. I also live extremely near to the park and can, and do, listen to all the music presented in the park while sitting on my porch
- Whenever in town I love sitting in the park and visit when fairs are going on
- Walked through
- Live out of town
- It has been closed off for most of the time we have lived here so far
- Part-time residents so we are not there often to participate in events
- Only get there 3 times a year and visit 1 to 2 time each visit
- Often go to festivals and markets held there. Strolls with the kids here. Only shady place left to enjoy nature downtown
- Not sure what there is to explain. I go when I can
- Attended festivals and walked through
- In September, I walked through the park with a good friend who also lived here during her childhood in the 1960's. We talked about how beautiful the park was when we were children. When my family from out of town visit we often walk through the park. I go to the Art Gallery now and then and walk over to the park
- We visit when events are going on
- Go to the market or walk through it
- Concerts, craft festivals, etc.
- To walk through
- We enjoy all functions held at the park. Used to enjoy it when our grandson played there after preschool next door as well as when there was music on Friday nights
- I always walk through the park when I come back home to visit family. It is the only peaceful spot left in our town

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Farmers market and concerts
- Distance
- We are part-time residents. We have passed through FSP on many occasions to visit east of Howe and also to listen to music
- We love to attend the fairs and festivals in the park. Rarely use it otherwise
- Visited for recreation with the kids, arts and craft fairs, and concerts. Also enjoy often from the sidewalk or street just admiring the trees when passing through or visiting downtown merchants
- Every time we visit my dad, we visit the park (both for markets and to enjoy when there is not a market set up)
- I often walk through the park
- I have attended events in the park
- Not in Southport that often
- Craft show, walking through
- Have walked my dog there, attended fairs, concerts
- We occasionally go to the Summer concerts
- We visit Southport weekly since we live nearby. We do not visit Franklin more often than 6-10 times annually because there is no beauty there anymore
- Just a stroll through, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, concert
- To the weekly market
- Live in St. James and visit the park when I come into town
- Due to our distance, we do not get to Southport as often as we would like. Also, traffic on 211 is a nightmare at times
- Question is vague. I have attended music events there but no more than 2 or 3 times before access was limited
- On walks for exercise. Approximately 2-3 times in the last 12 months. My husband's band has been part of the Summer Concert Series in the park twice in the last 12 months
- Trying to preserve it. It is great need of help. I was born and raised in Southport and wish to see it restored
- Attend concerts in summer
- Go to Southport about twice a year
- Weather
- Not here full-time
- Couple of times a month
- We are from Asheville, so we only make 1-2 trips per year, but we always make multiple visits to FSP to enjoy the ambiance, azaleas, musical performances, etc.
- Concerts, crafts fair
- Work in the area and visit for lunch
- It has been closed so that limits the number of times
- While in Southport, we included the park on some morning walks
- Avoid Southport during busy times
- Would go more but it is closed
- My parents lived in Southport for over 50 year from 1959 until 2010. I grew up there and currently live in South Carolina. My wife is also from the area. The park was a crown jewel of Southport that we visit a couple of times a year, wishing it could be restored and maintained to its former beauty

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- We only visit that park about twice a year
- Walk
- We enjoy walking through the park with our granddaughter while reminiscing about my childhood spent there
- We just recently moved here in January
- Would have visited more but park has been closed
- Town markets, picnics
- Terribly busy life and go there when I can
- We go to Southport for many reasons, walking around the park most times we visit
- Craft fairs and City events
- Concerts, festivals, craft shows, and markets
- I attend some activities schedule throughout the year
- Attend when they have marketing events
- When we visit Southport, we go to the events held there
- We are part-time residents of Southport
- Walk through the park occasionally
- Not enough market or concert events, lack of parking
- Attended the market, enjoyed the shade trees
- I have been to the market several times
- Visited the park for art shows and markets
- Walks, festival, concerts
- Markets and festivals
- I go several times when I am in Southport, and it is beautiful
- Gone there to festival
- Festival, strolls before closure
- Farmers market & sometimes walk through with my dog. We usually walk closer to the riverfront
- Market
- I walk through while in town and also attend markets and music events
- I visited markets and the concerts
- As an area to walk and enjoy the quietness
- Riding bikes through and checking out the concert
- We walk through the park when exercising/exploring or when there is a specific event that we are interested in
- Mostly for the Wednesday vendor events
- Enjoy outdoors and historic Southport spaces
- Festivals and events
- For events of interest
- Festivals and music
- For special events
- I always walk through if I am walking by, attended a festival or two and a concert there as well
- Concert and festival; walking dog
- Only go for farmers market occasionally and art show/music
- I like to show my visitors how beautiful the park was
- Attend the various craft fairs

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Walk through on the sidewalk
- Unless an event is held there, I rarely visit
- For events only
- Festivals and special events
- Walks downtown about 2x per month plus attend farmers market and craft fairs held in the park
- Independence Day: spring and fall festivals, concerts
- Attended festivals in the park
- We go every time we make it into Southport
- Visits monthly
- I visit the park when there are special functions. I love the location. It is a perfect location for functions. I agree that the vendors should not drive in the park but set up on foot. I would hate to see Franklin Square Park sit unused. It should be maintained between functions. I love the gazebo it adds so much appeal for the use of the park. If functions are not held there, hardly anyone would visit the park. It would just be an unused area!
- I go to Southport Baptist Church and love to walk through the park afterwards
- Walks around Southport for markets and walks
- Mainly for the market/music
- Wednesday Market and spring festival
- Beautiful place to walk or catch your breath on a bench in the shade during those hot days. Occasionally events but mainly to enjoy a peaceful respite during visits to the shops, restaurant and ship viewing that are also such joys of Southport
- 2 times in the last 12 months
- Fourth of July: SOIF Walk; concert
- I am currently going to Chapel Hill for cancer treatments...to sick to go out as much
- We attend festivals and the weekly market
- Concerts, craft fairs
- Concerts, Easter egg hunt, festivals and walking around
- I do not spend a lot of time there
- Walking around and visiting vendors and listening to music
- 2 times each for my wife and I
- It has been closed recently which limits visiting
- Markets and concerts
- Go to concerts and markets/festivals
- No dog to walk anymore there
- Usually for festivals
- Summer festivals
- Well, it has been closed for several months now so that is the main reason
- It is crowded and ground is unsteady
- I have seen Shows there
- Needs seating
- To enjoy a little nature and a walk around the park
- Not in Southport enough due to work
- We have had to be out of the area more
- Walk around, festival and concerts

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Sometimes we are entertaining guests, and they are not interested in touring Southport, which is a shame
- We walk the park when I have visitors
- Events
- Love going to Festivals in Franklin Park, nice place to walk our dogs
- Visit while on vacation
- We go when we want to
- Visit during festivals
- We like to walk in the park
- We visit for festivals and sometimes just to walk around
- Walking around Southport
- Festivals and concerts
- My kids and I love walking through the park and seeing the stunning trees and wildlife
- It has been closed recently so have not been able to visit
- It has been cordoned off. No music or markets
- For events held there
- Walking around
- I just go to the craft fairs
- I tend to park close to the waterfront and spend my time walking there, instead of the park
- Forth of July and fall festival
- Festivals
- Walked thru on a visit
- Travel a lot but enjoy the beauty of the park whenever we can
- Walk over while eating out and during festivals
- We usually stroll through the park when we visit
- To see local music concerts, markets, and art shows
- Usually in Southport on business or for dinner or meeting friends
- Attend local festivals, shows, and fairs in the park
- Beautiful park! Great paths
- Art show, vendors, music
- We walk through the park when we are downtown and attend events that are in the park
- The park is closed so we cannot visit
- Usually for events
- Walking, music vendors
- I do not get there as often since I moved out of the city limits
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July arts & craft
- Attend concerts
- We visit the Southport area two or three times each year. WE ALWAYS visit Franklin Park during our trips. It is one amazing example of the idyllic atmosphere we so dearly love about Southport
- The park does not invite you to sit and enjoy. We walk through the park, but it is not nice
- We always visit when we are travelling in Southport
- We have had picnics and love going to the markets here
- Surgeries
- We stop by the park almost every time we go to Southport

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I moved farther away from Southport, so I do not get to go as often
- Farmers' market & just a stroll
- It has been closed for 6 months
- Farmers' Market
- Usually walk to shops. Sit in swings on the waterfront. Go to events in Franklin Square Park and walk around. Eat at picnic tables
- I do not visit often as I do not live in Southport now
- Craft fairs
- Stroll through when on vacation. Go to the crafts festival
- Visited occasionally with kids when downtown
- I am a senior citizen that likes to walk in the park with my grandchildren and remember when I played in the park as a child. It used to be so beautiful. I avoid the park when it is packed with people due to events being held there
- Art, music, and Farmers' Market festivals
- Summer market days, walk dogs during evening concerts
- Attending events, going to the "Art" place
- Visited for special events
- Loved walking through and just sitting
- We attend craft fairs and concerts only
- Farmers' Market, taking a walk, etc.
- We come down to Oak Island multiple times a year to our family home and always visit Southport while here
- For concerts
- It is not that pleasant
- Craft festival, picnic with kiddos, rest after shopping downtown
- My son lives in Wilmington. I am disabled
- Sometimes
- We visit the park for most shows, exhibits, music, festivals whenever in town and sometimes just to walk through and enjoy the park
- I love to walk through and see the blooms on the plants
- We moved farther away from the park. We walked it daily when we lived on Nash Street
- It is either too crowded with festivals or lacking comfortable places to rest
- Just moved here 6 months ago
- I am a part-time resident
- Walks
- For events and concerts
- Do not live in town but enjoy concerts and markets
- We enjoy attending events held there and walking through the park on visit to Franklin Square Gallery
- Walked through and sat in park
- No place to park
- It has been closed
- Concerts
- Attend occasional events
- Have been to the park anytime I come to Southport; and love to walk through it and catch my breath away from the world

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Been to craft fairs and farmers' market
- Been there for concerts, craft shows, etc.
- Farmers' Market and festivals
- Attend concerts and shows, craft fairs, etc.
- No grass: water pump needs to be repaired; not interested in all the festivals
- Concerts, markets, walking
- Events are usually when I visit
- We go only when there are festivals
- While visiting friends for the weekend, summer vacation on Oak Island
- Markets, music, just sit and eat lunch
- A couple of craft shows and a couple of bands
- I was part of the summer market, Winterfest, and spring fest
- Went to a few concerts and a couple of rallies
- Kids play there and concerts
- I like the craft shows
- I use Franklin Park every time I visit Southport. I will be relocating to the area soon. It is part of Southport's history and can never be replicated. Oh, the live oak trees. What can I say, they set my heart on fire. If only they could talk. Please do not cut them down
- We love the farmers' market and some of the markets
- Concerts, markets
- We love to wander through admiring and loving the trees, shrubs and flowers. It has been a part of our lives for 60 years and we treasure the experience. It has been awesome to introduce our grandchildren and extended family to the beautiful Franklin Square Park
- Just busy
- Vacation and festivals
- Concerts, festivals
- I mostly go to the events, preferring small less crowded ones. I enjoy my yard or waterfront for enjoying nature
- Concerts, craft shows, just sit
- Attend summer market and concerts
- Mostly for concerts and occasional vendor events
- Dog walking
- Visit when events are going on there
- Time. Traffic is taking up my time. I have a busy life
- We went for the music and a few bazaars
- Farmers' market
- We go to the vendor events
- Concert and the museum
- We have attended the Art Gallery, and any festivals held in the park
- I have always been a vendor for each of your Craft Festivals
- We spend time on Oak Island as well
- Own property but only there about 10 weeks out of the year
- Associated with events happening when I am in Southport
- I am there for concerts, bike rides, farmers' market
- I have respected the fact that it has been closed during the recent months
- Events were cancelled

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- No particular reason
- I visit during local festivals
- We always walk through when we visit for vacations. We come around 3 times a year for Fourth of July, Wooden Boat Show, and just a vacation
- Farmers' market, concerts and the occasional walk through the park
- Busy year and only attended events
- No longer live there. Only come back to visit friends and family
- Would not visit during fascicles
- Shortly after we were here, it was shut down so we could not visit as we wished
- Depends on what is going on in the park
- Attend events at the Park
- Visited when the Park was in use for public events, such as summer market, concerts, Spring/Winterfest, etc. if you consider walking through occasionally visiting rate would be more
- Market and music
- Farmers' Market, concerts
- Take guests to Art Gallery and walk in the beautiful square
- Try to go to Wednesday markets, but only there if there is parking nearby. Was sometimes too hot for concerts and other events
- Communications and timing
- Just to walk through with the dogs or go to the weekly market
- Weekly Farmers' Market
- Market
- Attended events
- Festivals
- For events only
- For craft shows and concerts
- Mobility issues
- Went to Summer market a few times
- We used to go to the concert series and the market, but since the ground has become basically dirt, we stopped going. Our shoes or feet (if wearing flip flops) would come home filthy
- To buy vegetables and visit friends
- What is to explain?
- We work full-time
- During summer market
- Go there fairly often when weather well, but know it has been closed off lately
- We walk thru it periodically
- Fourth of July festival and events there
- Live outside the city. Still love riding by the park and seeing the beautiful flowers and trees when going through town
- We go to all of the festivals and some bands and plays
- The park has been closed. We came to the park for events such as rat festivals and the farmers' market
- We are aged, walking with canes so it is difficult for us to visit more often
- Festivals and events

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Attend events in the park
- Live outside the town. Do not get there often
- Sometimes
- It is depressing to see it in its current state
- I attend the craft fairs held there
- Our family has vacationed yearly in the Southport area. One of our favorite places is Franklin Park
- Enjoy the azaleas and shade of the trees
- No
- I have attended a farmers' market/summer market there. I have walked through there when noting was going on as I was enjoying the day in Southport
- We are here part-time for now so only make some of the markets and concert events
- I visit your beautiful park for concerts and cultural art events. If only those wonderful trees could talk!
- Whenever visiting Franklin Square Gallery
- For music and festivals, also Franklin Square Gallery
- Walk adjacent to park when visiting Franklin Square Gallery
- I come to an occasional concert and weather permitting, I like to come to a spring or summer market. Too crowded and hot for summer markets
- We are new to the area, lots to see. We will be back! 😊
- Attend the Farmers' Market, visit the Art Museum, cut through when walking around the area
- I have visited for Farmers' Market and evening concerts last summer
- Walk the park often just to relax and get away from the hustle
- Enjoy showing visitors and guests. Also attend occasional events
- Farmers' Markets
- Attend concerts, fairs and farmers' markets
- For vendor markets
- We visit often and we come to the park often with our children to walk through and we do picnics there all the time there especially before we leave to go home
- I live out of town
- I did not select rarely
- Like to wander through the park
- Blocked off
- It means I have visited 6 to 10 times; not sure what there is to explain
- Picnic in the park
- Craft shows, market, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Christmas decorations, nature walks
- Work at FSG and walk in park; go to concerts in park
- Visit craft shows & concerts
- In Southport I go to lunch, have classes/visit the Franklin Gallery, go to the post office, thrift store, etc. and usually walk through the Park
- When our child was younger, we would visit often
- Attended outdoor concerts there and the 2023 Plein Air Festival
- We visit when there is an event, and it works with our schedule
- Use when we have company visiting or a show is going on
- I visit when in town. Went frequently when I lived there

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Spring festival and farmers' market
- The park is no longer an inviting place to go. It is a sand pit with no walking paths or nice areas to relax and enjoy the sanctity it once held
- Rest there on my walks a few times per week
- Go there for events about once/month during the season
- Nothing going on
- Flowering bushes and greenery are not nice as they once were. Used to go and sit or walk in the park but it is depressing now
- Walks, concerts, city functions when permitted
- Excising 5 times
- Like walking in there
- I only go when there is an event
- Just looking around
- We worked the Farmers' Market
- Participate in all events held there as an artist, potter
- Visit park only to attend concerts and to craft sales events
- Festivals
- We are vendors at the Spring Festival and the Winter Festival and also attend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival (not as a vendor)
- Markets and live music
- I participated in two craft shows
- Just to walk and look at the scenery. Also, to craft shows
- We visit for the various craft festivals held throughout the year
- I am an Artist and have for the past 45 years
- It is no longer beautiful and pleasant. Makes me sad to see it ruined
- We will occasionally walk through the park or sit and enjoy the trees for a while when we are downtown for other reasons
- Walked through park. I listened to music. Went to craft festivals
- Concerts, summer market, craft fairs
- We to as many festivals and entertainment activities as well as the farmers' market as we can
- Like going to the shows/music/vendors in the park. Enjoy walking through the park
- We walk through to get to a couple of restaurants. Also love to visit when there are festivals in the park
- I attended concerts and farmers' market
- I was a craft vendor for the December holiday show at the park
- For events or dinner
- I have so many memories of the park. The azaleas and Camilla trees lined the pathway. A water pump was located within the park. It is a shadow of my memories. I have walked through it several times and cannot believe another piece of my memories is gone. My family lives in Southport. Over the years friends would walk to visit the Sister's Tree, the old playground and the park. It is depressing to go there now
- Events such as music or festivals
- For events downtown
- Farmers' Market, Music & Community Events
- Did not select "Rarely" or "Sometimes"

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I go every year for the 4<sup>th</sup> Festival. I love the market weekly pop up, and I like to just walk through the park
- When the City allows vendors to set up or Music in the Park – we love that – and sometimes while out walking I enjoy strolling through the park
- Festivals, concerts & farmers' market
- Not full-time resident but have visited on occasion when in town
- Concerts and first Friday
- I like to take my grandkids there. It does not look like the pretty park it was when I was growing up, but I like to tell them about how it used to be when people would water their horses at the well and how Pete would fuss at you if you got off the paths. I loved the banana shrubs too
- When were there and there is an event
- Try to visit the park on our trips back home
- Like to stroll through
- Mostly visit when there are events
- Like to walk through the park when I am in the area
- Attended markets
- Usually only go there for festivals and special events
- It has been closed for a few months. Have not been able to go there. But like to walk through or attend any of the concerts there or festivals
- I am a member of Franklin Square Gallery, and sometimes stroll through the park. I also have the summer markets
- Craft shows
- I go for the market, festivals, and wander through when downtown
- Attended summer concerts and craft fairs when in town
- We like to walk through the Park, take our sweet granddaughter to the park and we like the Wednesday market and maybe an occasional concert. So maybe more than 6. We live off Moore Street (long-time residents). We miss Franklin Park. I agree it should be preserved but not like this. Keeping city owned parks from tax paying residents just seems wrong. I am afraid to walk through it with granddaughter
- Festivals and the summer market weekly
- Park is in need of attention for safety and beauty
- Walk, art building, fairs and market
- About 10 times in the last 12 months
- Walking, festivals
- I would go there when they had music on Thursday nights
- Mostly for festivals but also to walk
- Festivities and concerts
- Walk through
- Festivals, walks, etc.
- It is sort of out of my radar as a place to go. It is in bad shape and not so pleasant
- We loved going to the concerts in the park
- We are not full-time residents
- Market and walking
- Music and shopping
- Markets

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Given the lack of parking for planned functions within Southport, we choose our timing of visits carefully
- Busy working
- There have been limited public events there
- Well, since it has been closed for months now, and events at the park cancelled, there has been little opportunity to visit. If you asked about the year prior, the answer would have been often
- Visit 4<sup>th</sup> and a few concerts
- Walk or ride bike through the park as exercise, enjoy the camellias in bloom, visit the art gallery
- Events, walking dog, etc.
- Walk through and attend concerts
- Mostly for events. Concerts, festivals. Occasionally walked through with my dogs or alone
- I go when I walk my dog or there is a festival
- Wednesday market and on trips to Franklin Gallery
- Festivals
- Attended art fair and also have walked around while going to Franklin Gallery
- Park was closed
- Visit the farmers' market, go to Franklin Square Gallery for events, go to summer concerts in the park
- We do not patronize vendors
- Visit for the events
- Usually for events, crafts, markets and concerts. Walks and biking around the town
- When visiting downtown, I/We will sometimes walk through the park, or just sit and relax. Maybe have a snack or a sandwich
- I go when there is an event or to get to the Gallery
- I often visit the park when I am shopping or walking around Southport. I typically go to Southport once per month – sometimes more often. It is a good place to rest, enjoy the quiet or pass through on a walk. Only wish it were better maintained and not used for events
- Not available
- Bad health
- When the weather is nice, we love to walk around town and through the park
- Summer market
- I go to markets and concerts when I can
- I live out of town now and cannot visit as frequently as I would like
- Attend festivals, concerts, and markets in the park
- Family business out of state
- Visit the park, festivals, vendors, concerts
- Attended concerts there
- Sometimes went to Wednesday Markets, but not consistently – did not attend concerts
- Occasion walks
- We live in Oak Isla and visit Southport frequently. However, the park has been closed since December, so we have not been able to visit it much in the last 12 months
- UTILIZE DURING WARMER DAYS AND MONTHS
- We come to listen to bands

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Concert
- Market
- A peaceful respite where I could pause while waiting for relatives/friends who are visiting to go shopping. A useful rendezvous point for scattered group members
- Go for events when held in town
- More visits previously but it has been closed this year
- Would visit craft fairs
- Markets
- Do not recall
- Concerts cancelled/it has been closed
- Concerts. Just to walk through and sit with coffee
- We visit as tourists, so it is not as often
- Attended events and toured art work in the Gallery
- Special events and the Market
- We walk through there on our Southport walks and have attended markets and music there
- When events were there or walking through
- Craft fair
- Just to view the damage from years of neglect
- Visited for festivals, concerts, and farmers' market
- We like to walk downtown, and we enjoy the camellias in the park and also come down for the various festivals
- I visit during events hosted there
- When the park was open, we would go for events and concerts
- I am not aware of events
- We go to some festivals in the park and visit Franklin Square Art Museum
- We walk through or beside the park many times, daily, when we are in town
- Occasional walk
- I went to many of the Summer Market events last year and some of the music events
- Walked through it while downtown. Listened to concert, Wednesday art & craft market
- The park was closed for an extended period of time
- Once visited to listen to music and once for a market
- Just visited for a few events
- The park has been closed until recently
- I live outside of downtown Southport
- Market
- I have attended Farmers' Market, Craft Show, and an Evening Band concert. I have bicycled through or nearby
- July 4<sup>th</sup>, concerts, farmers' market, etc.
- Walk through it when walking around town or out and about to exercise
- We do not attend events at the park because of traffic on those days
- Only for events/markets hosted at the park
- Concerts and walk through to enjoy
- Go for markets and music events
- Few events

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I am usually passing through, sometimes to go to the gallery or beyond. It seems dark and run down – better now with trees trimmed
- Too busy or too hot
- Music, farmers' market
- I walk through the park and attended some events
- I go to farmers' market and when artist sell their work and concerts
- Wheelchair user difficult to go around
- Stopped attending concerts to help save FSP
- Like going to the shows/music/vendors in the park, enjoy walking through the park
- We walk through to get to a couple of restaurants. Also love to visit when there are festivals in the park
- No need to be in that part of the city
- Last visited 13 months ago. Re walked childhood pathways with grandkids. Showed them the water pump that I actually drank from as a child
- Not an attractive place to visit anymore. Festivals, vendors, etc. have destroyed the beauty it once had
- We are residents of Colorado. Southport is my hometown but have not been there since 2022. Plan to be there this Autumn
- It is a mess due to neglect & destruction!
- We do not visit parks because of our age but I know younger people do
- Visitor to the area once a year
- The last time I was there was 18 months ago. Have relocated to the Charlotte area
- It has been closed
- Moved prior to that, visited the park 2 or more times per week
- I have been confined because of medical conditions for the last year, anticipating getting back down on weekends this summer
- No need
- We have visited the park for the Thursday evening concerts. For various reasons we did not get there last year
- Moved here in Nov 2023
- We have not visited
- Own property in Boiling Spring Lakes and will build home in 5 years. Live in Lexington, KY at present
- Have not really had time
- Attend Franklin Square Gallery, do not use park
- No event or reason to visit
- Walk adjacent to park when visiting Franklin Square Gallery
- No reason
- We do not live anywhere near the park; therefore, we have no use for the park unless there is a festival – AND WE LOVE THE FESTIVALS at the park! We are not going to drive into the golden city just to walk on the narrow path from one street to the next street
- Park was closed and could not walk among the flowers and trees
- Last time we visited was at a music venue over a year ago
- Have been to a few festivals in past years, but do not care about those anymore: same-old, same-old, and too crowded. I enjoy the concerts, but have not had time to attend
- Too far from home & beach is closer

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The “park” is no longer there. It is now a fairground which I do not want in our once beautiful place
- It has been closed
- There is no longer a park worth visiting. Hopefully, soon common sense will return, and the park can be restored
- We have driven by but not visited it to walk around yet
- Use to go there but as we age we do not go into town much except to go to restaurants or to get ice cream
- Closed
- Want to preserve it as a park not an entertainment venue
- No draw in the last year
- We did not use the park
- Nothing to go there for. No flowers. No paths to walk, sand, sand, sand!!!!!!



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# ***WHY RESPONDENTS “RARELY,” “SOMETIMES” OR “HAVE NOT VISITED/USED” FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### APPENDIX—H

#### *WHY RESPONDENTS “VISIT/USE” FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q10)*

<i>REASON FOR VISIT/USE</i>	<i>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES</i>
<i>ATTEND CONCERTS</i>	<i>607</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>ATTEND CULTURAL EVENTS</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>ATTEND SOCIAL EVENTS</i>	<i>528</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>BE CLOSER TO NATURE</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>ENJOY AZALEAS/FLOWERS</i>	<i>545</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>ENJOY NATURE/OUTDOORS</i>	<i>566</i>	<i>49%</i>
<i>ENJOY PATHWAYS</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>ENJOY THE SHADE TREES</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>EXERCISE/WELLNESS/FITNESS</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>EXPERIENCE ADVENTURE</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>MEDIATE</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>PICNIC</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>READ</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>RELAX/RELIEVE STRESS</i>	<i>211</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>SIT ON THE BENCHES</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS</i>	<i>266</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>OTHER</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>6%</i>

## ***WHY RESPONDENTS “VISIT/USE” FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## **APPENDIX—I**

### ***OTHER REASONS WHY RESPONDENTS “VISIT/USE”***

#### ***FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q10)***

- Walk my dog
- Play with my dog or walk my dog. Take pictures
- Drum circle was fun
- Markets
- Festivals
- Craft shows/festivals
- Spike's!
- In the summer it is shaded and the coolest spot I can go to and get a break from the tourists and St. James people that infest the town, other than staying in my house
- Go to Festivals and Markets
- Markets
- Walk our dog
- Farmers market
- Summer market
- Farmers market every week. Fall concerts. Craft fairs
- Take family photos, farmers market
- Walking the dog
- Go to the weekly and spring artisan/farmers' market
- Weekly markets
- Vendor at Summer Market and other markets
- Farmers Market
- Farmers' Market
- Farmers' markets
- Market Wednesday
- Wednesday Markets
- Markets on Wednesdays and other market events
- Farmers' Market
- I work at the Art Gallery
- Attend market events
- Attend the Farmers' Market and any other markets during the year
- We ride through the park on the sidewalk between E. West and Nash when going to church
- To go to the Post Office
- Drumming in the park
- Paint and photograph
- Farmers' Market last year
- Farmers' Market
- Summer Craft shows
- Attend markets and festivals. For family gatherings, we all have homes with some sort of lawn on which to gather. We are not going to lug coolers and food and more to a location

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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where a toilet is more than a few feet away and unpredictable as to whether the community toilet is unlocked

- Craft fairs
- Vendor at farmers' market
- Southport Summer Market, Spring Market and Winterfest
- Work at Franklin Square Gallery and transit park to lunch and alike
- We are vendors and attend the Spring and Winter Festivals
- I rent art space to sell my paintings
- Markets and Festivals
- I have lived in Southport all my life except for when I was in the service or away at school. My mother would take us kids to the park on a regular basis back when there were shell paths among the azaleas & you had better stay on those paths, too! Sometimes we would have a picnic. I walk a lot & always walk through the park. It is such a shame our town has let the park get in such bad shape. Few here are still old enough to remember how pretty it used to be. I hope it will be restored. I belong to Friends of Franklin
- Love to just quietly walk with our Greyhounds in the park
- Visit Franklin Square Gallery
- I hope those ladies who are trying to get the park restored are successful. I sure would love to see it beautiful again before I pass on
- I, like many others, grew up in SPT, went away to college, married, & moved on. But, I still have family & friends there & try to get back 2 or 3 times a year. The park was always a favorite place of mine & the family and was in much better condition then. It makes me sad to see how that beautiful, historic park has been so neglected & trampled down. I hope the efforts to restore it are successful
- Attend market to buy produce
- Craft show
- Attend weekly and seasonal markets
- Go to the markets
- Farmers' market
- Wednesday Market Day in the summer
- Participate in the Southport Summer Market
- Walk my dog
- 5 options are not enough answers for me. There are a number of things to enjoy about a beautiful garden/park
- Farmers' and craft market
- Attend markets
- Farmers' Market
- I am old enough to remember when the park was beautiful & there was only an occasional event held there. I have seen the increase in the number of events over the years & the last 10 years or so has helped destroy our once beautiful park. I would like to see it restored & the events moved to a more appropriate place
- Spring festivals and art shows
- Walk our dog through the park
- To enjoy the greenspace in the midst of asphalt and concrete. The City of Southport should value this luxury – not all towns have. Unfortunately, all the City of Southport's Parks and Recreation together with DSI and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee want to destroy it with

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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markets, festivals, vendors....which is absolutely disgusting. The city/DSI/4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, etc. have no respect for the park's history, the greenspace, or its beauty

- Walk dog
- Farmers' market



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# ***OTHER REASONS WHY RESPONDENTS “VISIT/USE” FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### APPENDIX—J

#### RESPONSES TO “APPROVAL OF FEATURES/AMENITIES” FOUND AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK” (Q11)

REASON FOR VISIT/USE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES
AZALEA BUSHES	1,050	91%
BENCHES	1,048	91%
BIKE RACKS	493	43%
DOGI POT LITTER BAG DISPENSER	691	60%
GAZEBO AND STAGE/BANDSTAND	849	74%
OLD WELL/GAZEBO	661	57%
PATHWAYS	874	76%
PICNIC TABLE SURROUNDING TREE	546	47%
SHADE TREES/OAK TREES	1,083	94%
SHIP’S ANCHOR	579	50%
TRASH RECEPTACLES	914	79%
OTHER	42	4%

**“FEATURE/AMENITY”**

**APPROVAL  
RESPONSES**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## APPENDIX—K

### ***OTHER RESPONSES TO “APPROVAL OF FEATURES/AMENITIES”***

#### ***FOUND AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q11)***

- The ballast stone wall around the park that unfortunately has had parts removed and needs to be restored
- Camellias, dogwoods
- Camellias
- The history of Southport
- Crushed oyster shell pathways. Camellias, water pump working. Grass
- There is so much more to enjoy than is listed and so much more could be added to make it as beautiful & enjoyable as it used to be
- Sidewalk crossing it for bikes
- Trash receptacles on the outer perimeter of the park would be better
- The stones have historical significance—had been ballast stones from old I have been told
- Enjoy the social nature of concerts, fairs, kids’ events in park. Put permanent pathways if you must protect tree roots, but do not limit events in the park or place limits on how many people can be in the park at one time. Take care of liability issues with limbs, but then reopen the park to its citizens. It belongs to all of us, not just a select group
- Love the live oaks
- Please. A play area for children that blends in to the park. Small. Perhaps it is a play structure. Get rid of the well. It is dumb. Replace it with a climbing play structure/pirate boat!!!!
- Markets
- I love the sense of community the park provides. I enjoy the concerts and arts/crafts and the bringing together of residents and visitors enjoying each other. It is the focal point, along with the Garrison, of what makes Southport unique. Please let us continue to use it as it has been used and intended to be used by the people who gifted it to the town. Figure out how to robe the trees and continue a planting/replanting plan...in fact, let us add a waterfall or some other feature that enhances the park. Keep the park open and the pavilion usable and in use. We live in Hallmark Town, so let us keep it that way. Spend some money to maintain the park and protect the look and feel BUT use it!!!! Both can be true at one time. It can be maintained and in top condition, and events can be hosted numerous times a year. We have lived here for almost 30 year.. let us not forget that the town was sleepy before the Spring Fest and Winterfest. The tourism director for SPT worked to build these activities to increase foot traffic to the downtown areas and stores. DSI has been instrumental in the success of growing awareness that has helped businesses by increasing foot traffic during the otherwise quiet months
- The ballast stone wall...and the history of how Franklin Square and the park came to be. I love history and learning about this amazing town
- It is a historical landmark of the community and county
- So, your list essentially describes the current features of the park. At this point in survey, I see no reason to remove any of them, specifically the stage or gazebos

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I just appreciate having a park that is well kept and maintained that reflects beauty and is peaceful. I would like the beautification to continue toward Howe Street so that the community of trees, green space can expand to other areas as part of the city master plan
- Franklin Square Gallery
- When we lived there I would go & take my children for picnics, Easter egg hunts, etc. I enjoyed teaching them about the various flowers, trees, shrubs & history. Back then it was a beautiful park. It looks so SAD now. Would love to see it restored & kept that way
- The park needs a structured plan designating areas for picnics, watching the birds, reading, etc. it used to have all that and should again
- The city needs a professional landscape designer. Get rid of the old trees. They are unsafe. Plant ne ones for the next generation. We can all agree that azaleas are beautiful, but only once a year! They should not be the central theme of the park. Use the space wisely
- The cool stone wall around the perimeter of the area....but it needs repairing badly and the park needs tons of attention – horrible shape
- I sure would love to see it look like it once was
- As I said before, I would like to see it restored to an actual PARK – not some fairground, commercial activity venue as has been the purpose recently
- A beautiful park, green space in Southport that enhances the beauty of the town. The festivals and markets are destroying the park. Most of the trees that need to be cut down are the ones in the area where the events are held...DUH!!! Quit using Scott Len to tell you what to do. You hired Barlett Tree Service who is the expert – not Scott. He has no background or degrees in forestry...he is what we call a “self-made know it all.”
- Festivals
- Decent bathrooms
- Always enjoyed Christmas tree lighting in park
- Art Gallery
- The LIVE OAKS
- The park should be restored to its beautiful potential. Get the money changers out of the park!!!!
- Festivals, concerts in the park
- Camellias
- Once again, put the park back to be similar to what it used to be. Folks enjoy a beautiful green space just for its peace & tranquility
- Public bathrooms
- Love to take our kids there for egg hunts, etc. We enjoy family picnics, walk the dogs, etc.
- Ballast stone wall with lanterns at the two entrances – from Howe and from E West Streets. The ballast stone wall is in horrible shape due to the numerous festivals and markets – sections removed for the vendors as well as the lanterns not working. The City of Southport – including Parks and Recreation and DSI (biggest contributor to the demise of Franklin Square Park) should be embarrassed at how over the last 30 years the park used for a “fairground” and the vendors have paid their little amount to have a space and then they leave a path of destruction on the way out of town. The money DSI likes to brag about in their ads is \$12,500 over the last 11 years – LOL – do the math! That equals to \$1,136 per year – or \$94.609 a month or about \$3.15 a day. What did that money go towards that was given to Parks and Recreation? That would barely cover the cost of pulling weeds for an hour a month....just pathetic....and yet they have done hundreds of

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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thousands of dollars of damage to a historic park that was never meant to have commerce in it. Wake up and smell the azaleas and camellias – the ones that are left!

- The beautiful ballast stone wall – that the City and DSI have just about destroyed by removing sections of it for vendors. Shameful!!! It needs to be repaired, and the lanterns restored to working order
- The ballast stone wall which needs repairing and the parts removed to be replaced – it defines the park proper of Franklin Square
- I like the bandstand, but feel it is old and unsightly and should be rebuilt



# ***OTHER***

# ***“FEATURE/AMENITY”***

# ***APPROVAL***

# ***RESPONSES***

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### APPENDIX—L

#### **RESPONSES TO “MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES” FACING FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q12)**

<b>ISSUE RESPONSE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES</b>
<b>AZALAES IN POOR CONDITION</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>NEED MORE HISTORIC EVENTS</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>NEED MORE CONCERTS</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>NEED MORE CULTURAL EVENTS</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>NEED MORE MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>NEED TO RESTORE/PROTECT NATURE</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>PARK ITSELF NOT WELL-MAINTAINED</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>PATHWAYS NOT WELL-MAINTAINED</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>TOO MANY CONCERTS</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>TOO MANY CULTURAL EVENTS</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>TOO MANY MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>TREES IN POOR CONDITION</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6%</b>

## **“MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES” FACING FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## **APPENDIX—M**

### ***OTHER RESPONSES TO “MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES”***

#### ***FACING FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q12)***

- The park was originally designed to be a passive, peaceful place for people to enjoy—not for commercial purposes! There are too many other places in SPT to have events & markets rather than destroy our historic park!
- The City has lost sight of what this historic Franklin Square was given to the City for. It was never meant to be an area for commercial business
- The well is pretty dangerous. Keep it but change the terrain around it
- Decades of neglect. Need annual funding in budget for routine maintenance. Not elimination of events
- I do not know enough about those issues to respond
- Needs to be more receptive to our citizens with disabilities
- Stage could be updated and improved
- Park and Rec management has not done anything for soil or appropriate grass for the shaded conditions that see heavy traffic. They also have little involvement and getting park activities suitable for kids
- Trees, azaleas and shrubbery all look to be in poor condition. I recall a time when the greenery was lush, the azaleas and camellias were full of healthy blooms, the tree crowns were full and healthy, and the tree roots were not so exposed. And there was grass.....not these large, exposed patches of dirt. The park was also home to squirrels and many species of birds
- 4<sup>th</sup> vendors, market vendors are great but even concerts just need to be in a larger open place like Tailor Field. I am a native. Tailor Field was great as I was a child—football, baseball, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July functions. Franklin Park is small, nice, nature and picnic area. Put it back the way it worked
- I do not believe you need fewer or more events in the park or that the craft shows and festivals are causing the problem. The park is a living, growing ecosystem often inhabited by humans. The vegetation and trees need continual maintenance to survive and thrive. Dead limbs need to be trimmed. In the circle of life, some trees may eventually die and need to be removed. But many old live oaks in Southport are surrounded by cement or pavement which must be worse than people walking in the park to attend events. There needs to be a balance of use and maintenance, but eliminating events in the park is cutting the heart out of Southport
- I love exactly what it has been used for and would love to see it simply well maintained for continued uses such as the markets and concert series
- Trees and shrubs need to be maintained. The town had done nothing along these lines. Stop blaming it on events that take place in park
- I want the trees to stay. ALL of them. I grew up playing inside the 4 sisters' trees, climbing the ancient Oaks, playing tag under the canopy and to think any of them may be taken down because of an insurance company makes me sick
- I think the park is great and the events are amazing for our community. If we just need more maintenance and care for the trees then let us do that.....but not take the park and events away

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- When was the last time the beautiful Oaks were fertilized since no natural nutrients come from a constantly pristine ground – giving trees a chance to mend and grow rather than cutting them down??
- Trees and plants die. It is the cycle of life. They are sustainable. Plant more trees/bushes/native plants. All other activities in balance
- Tree roots are a hazard for pedestrians
- Political and ridiculous ploy for attention for Alderman
- Parking
- Too many dogs roaming through poor pet owner responsibility in picking up pet waste and controlling their pets
- Too many sit-down events. The park should be used as a garden/walk through, not a place for large crowds to sit or booths to cover the park
- Needs more grass, very dusty/dirty, azaleas need to be maintained/controlled so the stage can be seen from more places in the park
- I take my grandchildren there to picnic & enjoy nature – teach them about birds & plants & tell them stories about the way it used to be. It is sure not like it used to be! But wish it were
- Needs to be a space where kids can run around, couples and friends can sit and chat under the trees, classes can have a picnic, the drum circle can gather, plays, concerts, and community events happen. Basically, like the town square. A gathering space that should be beautiful but not so protected that it cannot be a useful space to the community
- The park's "pathways" should be defined, marked, and mulched with the goal of preserving root systems of understory plants and trees. The public needs access to the park and events in a controlled environment
- The park has been neglected for too long. Yes the trees need to be saved. Yes the azaleas need to be pruned and trimmed after blooming. The grounds should reflect walkways, grassroots areas. A dedicated picnic area and dog area
- Maybe a couple of children's events
- Need new trees as current one are aging out
- The tree roots are a safety hazard. It is time for a complete redo of the park. Some of the big trees need to go
- The park has become a dirt patch. Looks dilapidated. Top priority should be preserving and enhancing the grounds
- Other than maintenance and health of the oaks and azaleas, the events at the park are exactly right for the size of it
- Farmers' Market once a month instead of once a week in season; other events should take place in the evening to allow residents a relief from traffic
- Just need a little more maintenance to protect the bushes and trees, but would still hold some activities there
- Just some minor landscaping
- Need additional and wider pathways, possibly creating a "measurable" walking path for fitness. People do not enjoy the outdoors in the same way that folks did in the 1930s. there is too much technology and social media – people do not even bother to enjoy the beauty of days old
- Proper maintenance would have ended the ridiculous no use policy

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Mowing grass and removing fallen leaves is removing nutrients needed by trees and other plants
- Balance between keeping the trees and having events. Plus, upkeep of bandstand/gazebo & trash pickup, etc.
- Since I could only choose 3 I will use "Other" to say that I think too many concerts, events, markets, etc. have led to it current sad condition. There are other places in town for these things to occur. Make it a nice park again
- The park needs to have the grounds covered to avoid erosion and to protect the trees and plants. Protective beds around the base of the large trees might give the trees some relief from too much foot traffic. A master plan for the park that includes trees and landscape management, refurbishment of the bandshell, establishment of more clearly designated pathways. It is a place for social and cultural events like all the great parks are. Limit vehicular traffic off the pavement to prevent erosion and damage to the landscaping
- We pay extremely high taxes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Brunswick County behind BHI. The park should have updated walkways in brick or similar, the stage should be updated with composite material, the trash bins updated in composite or similar material, dance stage in pavers or brick and/or simply beautifying the park. Southport is special for natural beauty, but our tax dollars do not match the beauty or enhance the beauty, particularly when we have such a large tax. Thank you
- Need surface that is geared towards clean walking surfaces and not harmful to the environment
- Need to pick more than 3. The park should be just that – a PARK! Not a spot for all the things that have been happening there in the last 20 or so years
- No major maintenance issues
- I feel the park could be kept up better – however, I do feel it should be used also – so everyone gets to enjoy the Southport Home Down feeling!! Music and vendors always draw a nice crowd and are enjoyed by all. The trees and bushes can be looked after and still allow people to use the park!
- We need to have a park like we used to have
- This question should allow more answers. There are certainly too many events happening in the park along with not enough care & maintenance
- Definitely need to keep/continue the markets and festivals we already have yearly in the park!!!
- Need to keep and continue all the festivals and summer markets we have already in the park
- I believe if pathways were in better shape and more clearly defined that people would stay on them and not walk over the tree canopy. I also would like to see the areas around the trees better protected and mulched and possibly the canopy areas cordoned off so that people will not walk over them
- Well, kept for age of trees and shrubs
- The people who are in charge of the park are NOT QUALIFIED to care for it. Their focus and their budget money is spent on recreational activities which is unnecessary because this is a retirement town
- Need to be watered
- Enjoy the summer concerts there, feel they should continue in Franklin Square Park

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

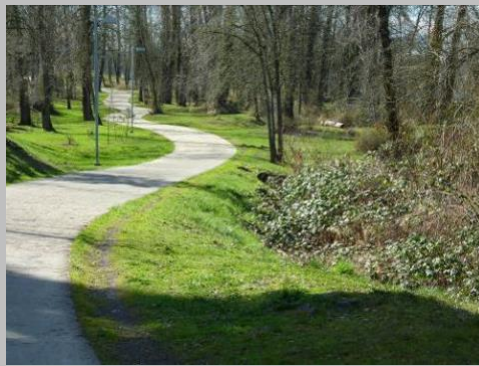
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- Get the money changers and the music concerts out of the park and restore it to its original intent
- The gazebo & bandstand need to be spruced up
- Better advertisement of events such as the Summer Market
- Need clean updated water fountain for people and animals
- Need to be able to make more choices on this one. Stop all the events & restore the park!
- Remove old bric-a-brac walls and improve architectural landscaping
- The ground/soil is compacted and needs more dirt/mulch in areas. The recent work done was a much-needed project and a step in the right direction
- Need more color. Grass, plants
- Need to have grass that is durable and can take traffic
- Need to pick more than 3! My parents grew up here & remember how pretty it used to be & how it now looks terrible
- Disappointing that the Park was not professionally managed and resulted in closures. It should be managed without the residents having to voice it or see any difficulties. The fact that we are being asked speaks poorly of City leadership
- Turn the park back into the beautiful green space it was! It adds value to the town in so many ways. The town should be embarrassed at the dust bowl they have turned it into. Since its closing in December, and without having the thousands of people and vendors trampling the grounds, it is now beginning to green up. It was like an emaciated child that is finally getting the nutrients and attention it needs!!!!
- Keep the vendors/markets/festivals/music out of Franklin Square Park. There are other areas around town to have these.....and people will come. The City and DSI has turned Franklin Square Park into Southport's state fair....and the carnies come to Southport for these "fairs" and do not spend a dime with the local merchants. The "carnie" vendors come into town, make their money, leave no money with the town except for what they paid for their "space" and then leave a path of destruction on the way out. Just like with the cemeteries – if someone had not spoken up and continually done so, the cemeteries would look deathly! Good for "Friends of Franklin" for speaking up and making the City aware of what the City overlooked and did not want to see. Shame on the City of Southport, Parks and Recreation, and DSI for all having a part in the demise of Franklin Square Park – and may I include the Tree Committee – why did not they notice the issues with the trees if they are so knowledgeable about the trees? Truth is, they are not. At least DSI paid for Barlett Tree Service to evaluate the park – one feather in their cap. But, they would not have if "Friends of Franklin" had not blown the whistle. Kudos to that group! I do not know them, but I am extremely proud of their efforts. If they had not blown the whistle, the spring festival and 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities and weekly markets would have continued. And while I am typing, restore the Whittler's Bench, the historic Courthouse, and the weather tower. The Europeans sure respect their history, and they enjoy restoring and preserving it.....the US is nothing, but a throw-away nation and Southport fits that mold
- Grass not growing. The park needs to be a full grassy area. A well-maintained grassy area can support local events however the park is in such a bad shape need to limit events till grass can become reestablished

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The park needs to be landscaped, with paved or gravel walking trails, beds indicating no walk zones around the trees and bushes, theater seating and a dance area for the stage, and designated pads for vendors



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# ***OTHER RESPONSES TO*** ***“MAJOR MAINTENANCE*** ***AND MANAGEMENT*** ***ISSUES” FACING*** ***FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### APPENDIX—N

#### RESPONSES TO “VISION FOR” FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q13)

<b>VISION RESPONSE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES</b>
<b>ARTS PARK OR ARTS IN THE PARK</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>CULTURAL/HISTORIC PARK</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>DESTINATION PARK FOR RESIDENTS</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>DESTINATION PARK FOR VISITORS</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>MINI-PARK FOR PASSIVE RECREATIONAL USE</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>NATURE/EDUCATIONAL/INTERPRETATIVE PARK</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS CONCERTS</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS FESTIVALS</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS ONCE-A WEEK MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS ONCE-A MONTH MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS ONCE-A QUARTER MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS ONCE-A YEAR MARKETS/VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>VENUE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH A COMMUNITY GATHERINGS</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5%</b>

# **“VISION” FOR FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## APPENDIX—O

### ***OTHER RESPONSES TO “VISION FOR” FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q13)***

- FSP should be a beautiful, peaceful park, as it was originally designed to be
- Franklin Square Park should be the outdoor living room of our community and to be enjoyed by all of the Town’s residents and visitors. It can serve the young and the old. It should be a place to walk your dog, meet with friends, read a book, have a picnic, have egg hunts at Easter, and most of all, a green space in the midst of asphalt and concrete. Properly maintained – walls repaired, paths re-installed, replanting azaleas, camellias, trees, etc., it could once again be known as one of the prettiest parks in the South. It would be an unbelievably valuable asset to the town aesthetically and economically. Its present state as a “dust bowl” with starving and begging for attention azaleas and trees is not aesthetically pleasing to anyone
- Concerts and plays in the park but not festivals
- This park needs to be the city’s green space....for folks to escape from the pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Its present condition is deplorable! Take the markets and festivals and thousands of feet trampling this sacred area elsewhere! There are plenty of other areas for these.....people will go wherever they are moved to. Have some respect for this valuable real estate that was a gift to the citizens of this town when it was founded
- How about just as a Park. Why does it have to DO SOMETHING? It is there for pleasure, not to make money. It is there to make people slow down and enjoy
- A sanctuary of beautiful plants, pathways, a true garden park
- A place to walk through just to enjoy its beauty
- Restoring the Park, the way it was 30+ years ago AS INTENDED!
- The Park should be just that – a PARK! Not a fairground. Too many other places in town for those other events
- This park should be used, not blocked off
- We should honor the wishes of Governor Benjamin Smith, that are written on the plaque in the park
- Kids activities involving dance, music, capture the flag, tag, dodge ball, etc. kids need space that is friendly to hot summer days
- Please bring back the simplicity and beauty of this incredibly special park. It should be a well-maintained park full of azaleas, cared for trees, pathways, benches and a place where residents and visitors can find peace. There are too many events, too much disrespect for such a once highly valued special place of peace within Southport. It is sad
- Once the park restoration is complete, it would be wonderful to continue the traditional Easter Egg Hunt in the park. This was an annual event for several decades and did not negatively impact the park
- Botanic garden
- A quiet, beautiful place to sit in cool shade as part of enjoying a visit to SPT. A quiet respite
- Continue all events previously held there, but start caring for and maintaining trees & shrubs
- The biggest problem is getting the festivals and markets a place IN downtown Southport. We can do what Charleston does and shut down a block of a street and have it there on Bay or Moore, but the character of Southport needs to stay in Southport even if Franklin Square Park cannot take on the traffic right now

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- A green space for the residents and visitors to enjoy – was never meant for commercial use
- Path only seasonal market for fruits, vegetables and plants
- As stated above, the park will be ruined if not preserved. Cultural, craft, vendor and special events should be held in venues made for that purpose.....like the Community Center
- Just a scenic park to enjoy with beautiful trees and plants
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, not just vendor market. Such as having early settler reenactment and items for sale from that time period
- Egg hunts at Easter; Halloween costume events; Christmas Lights for Christmas; costume events for dogs; anything but markets and vendors – no commercial events
- Easter Egg Hunts, Halloween costume contests for all including dogs, anything but markets, vendors and thousands of feet coming through there for days at a time. Do you people have any respect for the park or its history or respect for this green space that the town is blessed to have? Every town needs a park to provide beauty and peace not destruction from the “state fairs” and the people they bring and DSI thinks should be there. Those vendors come to town and take their money with them, and it does not go back to the city....and they leave a path of destruction on their way out. The only money that does stay here are their tents fees to DSI and I doubt much of it is given to the city for the park...the amount given over the last 11 that was printed in The State Pilot is a joke! The way this county is growing, we do not need festivals/fairs to lure people here....people come because of what we have...not because of the “carries” and their wares. We are not a little country town out in the boonies. We have risen far above being a fishing village to a resort/retirement community and the people coming here have money to spend on the nice boutiques, shops, restaurants, art galleries, etc. that we have. It is time to think outside the box!
- The paths need to be restored, the pump needs to be reactivated, more trees & plants put back, keep the markets out, get rid of that ugly stage!
- I have no vision
- Restoring it to the beautiful centerpiece of town that it once was
- A green space that promotes clean air as well as a place to gather and listen to music and enjoy the sounds of nature
- Protect our trees and bushes
- As I mentioned above, there are other places available for events that bring crowds of people. The park should be a nice quiet, peaceful, beautiful spot for all to enjoy at individual times – not all at once
- The park is the only place in town for one to go to enjoy a garden. It should be restored for that
- No markets or vendors
- To restore to its original beauty as a park only, and not as a venue for markets and vendors
- This small park needs to be a green space for the town – too valuable to be ruined by vendors, markets, festivals, etc.
- You need to put in your budget forecast for the proper pruning and maintenance fertilization and then you can still do all your events. Which includes festivals, concerts, farmers’ market, educational, picnic, Easter egg hunts, etc. etc. etc.

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Like I said about, the park should be a PARK. Not a place for events. There are other places for those things
- The Farmers' Markets are great weekly, but the other vendors need to be cut back. There are too many tents, vendors, and people especially during tourist season. Farmers' Market (food) is wonderful weekly 9:00 – 1:00
- Would love to see more grass and actual paths. Azaleas are too big for size of park
- We need a pretty place for people to go to. All those other things can go somewhere else
- As stated before, it should be a beautiful, historic PARK for residents & visitors to enjoy – not a marketplace
- Return it to what it was intended for – education, recreation, religion, and fraternal. It was given for markets/vendors. The vendors/markets have caused the park to be in its present condition – trees and shrubbery starving for attention, nutrition, care, and respect for what they were planted. Also, the wall needs to be repaired. Franklin Square is a historic area that needs to be respected and most of all appreciated as a valuable asset to Southport aesthetically and economically
- I would like to see the park developed into a botanical garden to be enjoyed as a place to admire and host the occasional concert. It would be a beautiful wedding/anniversary venue. It should not be used for markets, fairs or other hard use events
- A beautiful sanctuary garden/park that it once was and could be again
- "Farmers' Market" and "Arts Festival" have significantly degraded in quality, bring too many people tramping on dirt paths raising tons of dust & dirt, driving some quality vendors away. Pathways should be natural shells, white rock, to hold down dust and to keep people out of flower beds & grassy areas. We have been here for 20 years and have seen serious degradation to the park after the farmers' market, which was delightful at the waterfront, was moved to the park
- A small-town park for people to get together all year long including visitors from all over the world
- A small-town community park should be there for residents and visitors to enjoy as a social space where people can come together as the social beings we are
- To be restored so that it is the showplace that it once was
- A nice shady area to rest after our daily walk
- Would like to see more native flowering plants and bushes
- STOP all the events & give us back our park
- Free space for the city
- Venue for weddings
- To refurbish the park with azaleas, camellias, trees and shrubbery as it was in the past
- Greenspace – most valuable piece of property in Southport and your markets and festivals are destroying it! And DSI wants to toot their own horn that they have done so much for the park – ha ha – just laughable. \$12,500 given to Parks and Recreation over the last 11 years is quite the joke – that is barely \$3.00 a day. Did Parks and Recreation use that pathetic donation for the park....I doubt it
- Keep the vendors/festivals/markets/and music events out of the park
- It needs to go back to being just a park & not a fairground
- Greenspace for the people, birds, etc.....this town needs it.....before you turn it into Franklin Square Parking Lot

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- It was a greenspace originally and should continue to be a greenspace. The entire Franklin Square and Park Proper was given for religious, educational, recreational, and fraternal purposes only. It was never meant to be a market place/fairground for the City of Southport. Respect that!
- No vendors, markets, concerts in the park. This is a greenspace that should be appreciated, not destroyed by the greed of so many. Think outside the box – these festival vendors/markets, etc. need to be held in the streets like all other cities do and respect the sacred place that Southport is so blessed to have



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## ***OTHER RESPONSES TO “VISION FOR” FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

### APPENDIX—P

#### RESPONSES TO “MOST IMPORTANT AMENITIES”

#### AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q14)

<b><i>MOST IMPORTANT AMENITIES</i></b>	<b><i>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</i></b>	<b><i>PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES</i></b>
<b><i>AZALAES/FLOWERING SHRUBBERY</i></b>	<b><i>858</i></b>	<b><i>74%</i></b>
<b><i>BANDSTAND</i></b>	<b><i>520</i></b>	<b><i>45%</i></b>
<b><i>BENCHES</i></b>	<b><i>839</i></b>	<b><i>73%</i></b>
<b><i>BIKE RACKS</i></b>	<b><i>90</i></b>	<b><i>8%</i></b>
<b><i>ENTRANCE ARCHWAY</i></b>	<b><i>139</i></b>	<b><i>12%</i></b>
<b><i>EXERCISE/FITNESS STATIONS</i></b>	<b><i>15</i></b>	<b><i>1%</i></b>
<b><i>FREE LITTLE LIBRARY</i></b>	<b><i>37</i></b>	<b><i>3%</i></b>
<b><i>KIOSK</i></b>	<b><i>8</i></b>	<b><i>1%</i></b>
<b><i>MEMORIAL PLANTERS</i></b>	<b><i>61</i></b>	<b><i>5%</i></b>
<b><i>NATURAL FOOT PATHS</i></b>	<b><i>527</i></b>	<b><i>46%</i></b>
<b><i>NIGHT LIGHTING</i></b>	<b><i>342</i></b>	<b><i>30%</i></b>
<b><i>PAVED FOOT PATHS</i></b>	<b><i>177</i></b>	<b><i>15%</i></b>
<b><i>PICNIC SHELTERS</i></b>	<b><i>122</i></b>	<b><i>11%</i></b>
<b><i>PUBLIC RESTROOM</i></b>	<b><i>336</i></b>	<b><i>27%</i></b>
<b><i>SHADE TREES/OAK TREES</i></b>	<b><i>976</i></b>	<b><i>84%</i></b>
<b><i>WATER FOUNTAIN</i></b>	<b><i>165</i></b>	<b><i>14%</i></b>
<b><i>WELL</i></b>	<b><i>171</i></b>	<b><i>15%</i></b>
<b><i>OTHER</i></b>	<b><i>18</i></b>	<b><i>2%</i></b>

### **“MOST IMPORTANT AMENITIES”**

### **AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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## APPENDIX—Q

### OTHER RESPONSES TO “MOST IMPORTANT AMENITIES”

#### *AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q14)*

- Needs to be totally restored with new plantings of native trees (dogwoods, Hollie’s, camellias, etc.), more azaleas and other flowering shrubs, annual beds, & perennials throughout
- Lighting
- Azaleas or other plantings
- Charging station
- Enough open space to recreate
- No place to park
- Large sculptures in the park
- One garbage bin so people do not litter
- I have no expectations
- Dog waste bags
- I am repeating myself, but I think the park should not be used for ANY kind of events. It should just be a PARK. Move the events somewhere else
- The park should have a plan that encompasses all things expected in a garden park. Trees, flowers, paths, seating, fountains, photo op areas, etc. Not open-air markets!!!
- Again, restore the park to how it used to be & not a playground for adults selling stuff or making music – not right place for those things
- Events/markets/concerts
- Once again, the choices do not allow for full expression of the needs, care, & purposes the park should receive
- Flowers, shrubbery, restore the well and the oyster shell paths
- I would like to see a focus put on the native birds with maintenance of the feeders
- Grass



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## **“MOST IMPORTANT AMENITIES”**

### ***AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK***

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

## APPENDIX—R

### RESPONSES TO ANY “ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS/ENHANCEMENTS”

#### AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK (Q15)

- City should maintain park – trees, plants, grass and outdoor benches but the park should still be used for the enjoyment of the people, not to exclude concerts, markets, etc. The stage area should remain. The park can be maintained and the trees, shrubs, grasses and still be enjoyed by the community. I would hate to see the past happening banned from this park.
- Ongoing upkeep of plants and trees by an expert
- Franklin Square Park was created in 1935-36 by the WPA as a beautiful passive, “people” park. “The Grove,” as it was known before the creation of the park, was given to the town by then Governor Benjamin Smith in 1792 specifically to be used for “religious, fraternal, educational, & recreational purposes.” NOT for commercial endeavors! James Sprunt, owner of Orton Plantation at the time, contributed many plants to the WPA effort, & sent his own landscape horticulturalist to draw the original landscape plan for FSP. FSP was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. No one has suggested that all the events that have been occurring in the park be stopped. There are MANY MORE venues available throughout SPT in which they could occur. Most craft fairs & markets are held on city streets or open fields. Moving the events downtown would benefit our merchants & restaurant owners, too
- Mend the ballast stone wall to the way it was, return it to a beautiful park.....right now it is nothing but an open-air dust/dirt bowl and most of all, no more markets – Smithville Park has plenty of parking and space to have “open air markets” or utilize other areas of town. Franklin Square Park has been miss used to the point it is about to meet its demise. How shameful
- Leave it the way it is mismanagement of trees are in the past move forward with trees that are keeping it closed not a hard decision
- Taking care of the trees. The trees and flowers are the most important thing
- None
- Restore it to its original state
- Allow trees to recover and stop holding mass festivals and concerts there
- Designated sitting areas for concerts
- Vendors, tents, trucks should be forbidden. Concerts, foot traffic, benches encouraged
- Plenty of room along the waterfront for concerts, festivals, arts and crafts
- Keep restrooms on Nash Street. Maintenance of the trees and plants with a replacement plan for the future as trees and plants go
- Please bring back concerts and markets to the Park!
- Keeping heavily attended vendor and concert events must be stopped in order to preserve the park
- The stone wall around the perimeter needs mending and the areas of the wall removed for vendors need to be replaced. Keep commerce out of the park...it is not a marketplace or fairground
- I believe the park can be better maintained in regard to the trees, but also should be used for events. I do not believe we should consider the park sacred ground, it is just a park
- Upkeep and respect are essential to preserve this park that belongs to the citizens of Southport
- Dire need for general caretaking
- No vehicles allowed in the park

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Less commercial activity
- Reduce or eliminate group events
- Respect and maintain the most valuable asset Southport has. It is not a market place or fairground! For God's sake, wake up and smell the beauty it could be and quit walking around blindly in the dust bowl it has become! The vendors breeze into town, set up their tents destroying the roots of the pool plants that remain, and then blow out of town leaving a path of destruction behind and take their money with them...nothing goes back to the town except their vendor fees to DSI...and the town sees little of that. Southport does not need a festival every weekend or month....the footprint of the town cannot manage it. Let the residents enjoy their town!!!! It seems all the City cares about is tourism. Learn to care about the folks who pay taxes that go to repairing the tourism damage. This is not Disney World folks! Southport is the living room of Brunswick County – the fastest growing county in the state. People are always going to come here to shop....you do not need a festival or market to lure them here
- As a visitor, we enjoy the park. A peaceful place to relax and enjoy
- None
- General improved maintenance
- Make it a place of enjoyment, concerts, tranquility
- Nothing comes to mind
- Water fountain for people and pets
- This park's natural beauty should be properly maintained as a historical landmark for this wonderful town. It should probably not be a dog-friendly park. The plantings, trees, and ground cover would not withstand urination of numerous domesticated animals. I have always had dogs but think they do not have a place in this case
- Freshen up the park, improve the trees, shrubs, flowers. Maybe make a walking path. More grass if possible
- None
- Just clean up and fix current amenities
- We are at a crossroads where our town no longer cares about upkeep of what we have. Instead, always thinking of new ways to create more work for city workers when they cannot manage what they have now
- Greenery, healthy trees. Limited use in a mass capacity
- That park has been there for years. It has been overused by festivals. It needs to take a vacation and a little TLC like everybody and everything in this world. Let it be a park, for enjoyment do not try to monetize it. Also, this survey is screwy. We only have 2 people in our household, but I have to tell you we have 8 on the last line and this part is the worst. We use that park for a LOT of things and 5 is not enough to show that for which we have used the park. The whole survey is skewed in a direction and not a clean survey tool!
- Restore the park to its original natural beauty. Please do not use it as an events center. A peaceful pathway of beauty
- More plants
- Move the stage to the area behind the gym and landscape the area for concerts, parties, etc. With proper landscaping, the area between the gym and the Art Gallery could be an extremely attractive venue that could be rented out and would be a source of income for the City. The rents would offset maintenance costs. There is no venue in town for small events. That entire area is an eyesore. Shame on those responsible

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Would love the footpaths to be level-uneven ground as been the most irritating when visiting for any reason. I do not like the idea of fully paved paths but somehow leveling them out
- I would like to see it restored to its original beauty, and maintained thereafter
- DO NOT CLOSE PARK
- Maintain the park and keep the park for the people to use. The events are part of the town's culture
- Maintain Park
- More grass to sit on
- None
- Annual maintenance to protect tree roots and health of all vegetative material
- Please open Franklin park back up
- None
- Trees must be maintained and deemed safe. If that means removing and replacing them, then so be it!!!
- There needs to be a balance between preservation and being able to use the park for community events
- I do not think there should be any events that bring a lot of foot/vehicle traffic to the park
- Do not build ANY additional structures!
- The park deserves a mini makeover just to preserve the natural beauty found there
- Franklin Square has not been maintained by the town for many years. The trees need to be pruned, roots covered and cared for. The trees have a lifespan and will not last forever so the trees that are dead or dying need to be removed. The paths need to be maintained so that people can walk through the park and enjoy the trees. Having the park closed is horrible. It allows no one to enjoy it. The park should be used as a park and open for all to enjoy as well as allowed to accommodate weekly farmers' markets or other small, appropriate local events.
- Maintain the trees and flowering shrubs. It is a beautiful park that we frequent regularly for nature
- Better train the folks who trim the azaleas. They butchered them....
- Water fountain
- Leave the nature in place. No change is better than all change. Fix the safety issues that are present if any and leave the other alone
- Keep Southport like is has always been
- The park needs to be maintained with updated safety in mind
- Parking, lighting, more seating....benches
- Trim the live oaks but do not cut them down!
- Retain as much of the original beauty as possible
- More events and activities
- No additional
- Let people play in the park, put up lighting so summer kids can play basketball behind the gym and enjoy the park
- Keep it as is
- Anything that creates a sanctuary like environment to just be peaceful
- Protect the nature so we can continue to use it for generations to come while maintaining community events held there
- More frequently maintained
- Trees in better shape. Places to sit

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Please protect the trees that we have....paths seem worn which leads to exposing tree root system. Please DO NOT cut down any trees to add unnecessary things
- Restore to what it was----plant more native plants and trees – look to other cities (Charleston, Savannah to name a few) to see how they have appreciated and preserved their historical parks
- Repair trees
- Lighting
- Picnic area
- Walking paths
- Based on the type of tree, shrubs and the natural plantings, provide a regular schedule for maintaining proper care. Regular scheduled maintenance
- Return the park to its original state
- Keep beautiful
- Make sure trees are healthy then open back up
- Doggie bags
- The park is a great central spot for this community and offers a lovely outdoor area to relax and meet friends and enjoy nature
- I really just like it the way it is with the huge oak trees
- Most important thing is to protect and leave how it has been. I think the vendors have run the park down. Please keep the trees
- Keep the natural bushes and trees. DO NOT CUT THEM DOWN
- Trim the trees, add mulch where needed, add sprinklers to maintain green grass. Maintain the park on a regular basis. We love having the farmers' market and other craft markets but realize the park has not been maintained. Use the funds allocated by DSI and accept responsibility for the condition of the park
- More nature. Less activity
- Beautiful park! Appreciate the opportunity to use the park in a variety of ways and experiences
- More seating
- Parking
- Maintain and nourish trees and shrubs as reported by arborist
- The park should not be used for recreation or any other "events".....should be "used" as a park!
- Top priority, maintain the trees & well! Walkways to be whatever the medium, to best protect the exposed roots of the historic trees. Also, walkways to be more defined for safety & navigating. If events/vendor markets continue. Specific guidelines in place for tents, chairs, etc. placement. For concerts/movies, possibly consider permanent, weather worthy, secured benches to be placed in designated area. No bikes skateboarding!!! Lighting would increase safety & security
- Not to be used/abused for anyone's financial gain. There is quite enough of that already. It is a symbol of old Southport, and should be treated with respect
- Better maintenance of tree canopy
- I love this park and hope
- Keep the park simple and structure free! Allow residents and guests to enjoy its natural beauty while maintaining the health of the plants and the park

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Lovely place! Keeping the park in its original state but well maintained for residents and visitors is important. It is part of the town's culture and history even if nothing is going on there
- I believe the park needs some restrooms and then continue care—however, I believe this could be done with the public still being able to use it
- Restore the rock walls. Restore the park to its original condition relocate vendors
- General updating and cleanup
- Make sure well works!
- Keep Franklin Park
- Night lighting
- We need to take pride in this beautiful park...trees, bushes, flowers and benches. This should not even be up for debate
- I do not think anything needs to be added. I simply hope we can continue to use the parks and enjoy the beauty in nature
- None
- I think keeping it simple is best. I have lived here my entire 30 years of life, and the best times were when the park was used primarily for anyone to just walk through, stop, and sit, and enjoy the historic nature that exists. Only occasionally would there be festivals – Spring Fest once a year, with minimal vendors, Arts in the Park, and July Fourth vendors' market. No Wednesday summer markets. Few concerts and/or children's shows. Please keep the benches. My aunt's memorial bench is there and means so much to my family
- Put the vendor markets on closed streets to protect the park
- Protect the beauty of nature
- Maintenance where it is safe
- Restore it to the beautiful park it once was. Franklin Square was never intended for the kind of use and abuse it has suffered the last few years
- Handicapped accessibility would be great
- Love the trees!
- Better maintenance of existing amenities, dedicated city parks staff
- I can think of nothing additional at this time
- Add some hydrangeas
- I understand the trees are currently unsafe, but it seems that should have been taken care of by now. It has been months now
- None other than what has been stated above
- I love the park as is. Just needs some touch ups
- Nourish the trees and create a park
- We have a large disabled and elderly community. I enjoy them out in their wheelchairs. The shade provided helps keep them cool. The maintained paved pathways keep them safe and able to get around
- Tree maintenance
- Trim trees to make it safe to be in the park again
- Make it maintainable. Land is valuable and must make it usable
- Plaques explaining trees, well, etc.
- None
- I love Franklin Square. I walk through it every morning and have enjoyed it for many years without issue

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Replace the grass. Plant more azaleas, camellias, roses, shrubs, flowering trees and add memorial benches. Do what is necessary to care for the beautiful old oak trees
- Do not change anything. Park is amazing and perfect
- Save the trees
- Enhanced lighting
- Do not have any other comments
- More trimming and cleaning up of vegetation
- Open the park to be enjoyed by all
- The park needs paths to walk on, the bandstand needs to be redone, more park seating, a patio area in front of the stage. The whole park needs to be revived and cleaned up
- Focus on trees
- Bringing the park back to an operational point. It is hurting the community having it closed
- To see the park well taken care of, the beauty, plants, grounds, trees, preserved. I would love to see the well and pump in working order again. I would love more historic markers. I feel Southport has MANY other and better locations for concerts, events and markets
- The park needs to be restored back to its beauty and NOT used for vendors
- The park is always an attractive site that draws one's attention. Residents and visitors could enjoy the shade of the trees sitting on the benches in the heat of the season while taking a break from shopping in the quaint stores
- Protect the park
- No answer
- Regular maintenance
- During festivals/fairs/concerts, the park is a major point of destination that 100s of people use and enjoy. If you take away these activities, not as many people will enjoy the beautiful park. Please do not make it a park that looks when they are driving by but only a handful of people actually use. I was at the Board meeting when the Arborist presented his information. He did not say to stop using it. He actually said that if you add mulch and let people walk on it, it will get the organic material into the soil. That the big problem now is that the soil is too compact because mulch has not been added. He did not recommend shutting it down, other than to remove the dead trees. Please keep it a useful park and a point of destination with festivals and events
- Please try to save the trees instead of cutting them, if possible. They are what makes this park unique
- Better overall maintenance
- Maintaining a natural feel to the park feels important
- I agree the park needs to be used, but believe the events in the park should be limited to a few each year and not as frequently as it has been used over the past few years
- None
- Open back as soon as possible
- The park should be used as a place for individuals and small groups to enjoy the flowers and trees, and not as a market, festival and concert venue. The constant traffic is detrimental to the park
- No suggestion
- Better define the walking paths
- This is a wonderful community park in need of some TLC

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- It seems to be general knowledge that the trees need attention if the park is to remain open going forward. So, we need a tree specialist
- Working filtered water fountain
- It is a beautiful historical park and should be used for just that
- Plant lots of shrubs and have several small areas for planting annuals and then maintain, maintain, maintain on schedule
- Clean it up and make it a beautiful place for everyone to gather
- Open the Park!
- The way this once beautiful park has been devalued is incredibly sad to me. I may not have lived here my entire life, however the years I have lived here I have watched it go downhill to what it is now. Such a shame. Please bring back a place of nature and peace with Southport
- Fix the well and maintain the rock wall
- Get it opened quickly
- Regular landscaping maintenance, fertilization of shrubs and trees, mulching, etc.
- We live nearby and can get to restrooms, if needed, but it would probably be helpful to have them for visitors or those who live farther away
- No other thoughts
- The park is not easily accessible to citizens with disabilities. Adequate parking located close-by and level, hard surfaced pathways should be a priority
- Stop the almost weekly festivals with vendors/tents. There are other locations in Southport better suited for these. The concert series is nice, but these events result in extensive wear and tear of the plant life. And there are locations around Southport better suited for musical events (Taylor Field, perhaps?)
- Plant grass on bare areas
- Nothing
- None
- Bathrooms would be great
- Move bandstand to the space behind the gym
- None
- Restore plants
- Maintain flowers
- None
- Nothing I can think of only getting Franklin Square cleared up to open to all
- Preserve the history, add historical information about the park
- Historically, this park is important to our city. Leaving it natural but allowing for meandering walks under those trees would be a beautiful respite from all the growth in population. Limiting traffic to defined pathways would ensure the health of the vegetation
- No concerts or Arts/Crafts festivals within park. Foot traffic only
- Less dust, more grass
- Improve
- Ask the garden club to help with the replanting and maintenance. Keep up what we have now!
- The park gives Southport such lovely green space it must be protected for generations to choose. While festivals and market help fuel the local economy, they should be held on the Garrison Lawn rather than Franklin Park. I no longer attend any large event to help in the park, but would do so on the Garrison Lawn
- Open the park already!

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- In the past few years, the park has transformed from a showcase of azaleas, camellias, and a grassy lawn enjoyed by our citizens and visitors. In recent years it has become a ragged mess; a staging area for arts shows, a farmers' market, concerts, and food trucks. Only a few of the once massive azaleas and camellia bushes remain, and at some point, part of the stone wall was knocked down to allow easier access for trucks and vendor tents. Future vendor markets, invasive art shows and food trucks must find a new home. For many years, people have walked along the paths daily and generations of children played in the park without issue. Foot traffic is not choking the park, it is the over use and presence of vendors, tents, and vehicle traffic that is killing Franklin Square
- Thing the park should be left natural with its beautiful trees, well and azalea bushes. There are plenty of other parks in this county that have been "upgraded;" I think this park should be maintained but left as is
- Southport history and charm needs to be told. We may not live in Southport BUT we live within a 15-minute radius. I love this town and would give anything to see the history preserved
- Some lighting and bike racks. We have bathrooms close already
- Mosquito control
- Parks should be restored and protected from overuse as a venue for weekly markets. Our park should be a place to relax and reflect on the beauty of it and to enjoy an occasional concert. Regular maintenance should be done to keep our park healthy and to restore it to the beautiful gem it used to be
- Maintain the park & trees. Leave it open to public and events as usual. It is disappointing farmers' market and spring fling has been cancelled and believe it is overkill. Arborist is needed for the live oaks but closing the park is ridiculous
- Franklin Square should be used and enjoyed by the residents and visitors to Southport. It should not become a stagnant mausoleum to preserve some trees. Let us maintain the trees but use and enjoy the park
- Grass
- We need to get rid of the stage. That is a terrible place for concerts. Buggy, dirty, no breeze. Move concerts to the Garrison or build the amphitheater at Taylor Field as was suggested years ago
- Get the trees healthy before it is reopened
- Clean and well-maintained trees
- Beautiful natural history should be top priority. Southport does not seem to protect a historical district within the town limits. It is important to know and plan for that
- Add borders and plantings around tree roots. Add pathways made of stone dust or pavers. Trim, add, move Azaleas and other plantings. Downsize stage and rebuild it in a form that is more fitting with the Park and Southport. Create a gathering area that could be used for events such as watching cultural events, concerts, weddings, etc. Develop a plan for use and ongoing maintenance and a budget to support it
- All trees have an end of life. To maintain it over time the old trees must be assessed and removed to prevent hazards. New trees need to be planted in their place to preserve the balance. Need to consider trees whose roots do not damage the surface or walkways
- Tables
- Repairing the short wall around the perimeter

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Top priority needs to be on the health of the trees/shrubs. I do not like the various festivals. Concerts are okay, but the festivals are destructive of the park, add to traffic issues and detract from established businesses
- This survey is very biased. It would have been a good idea to utilize input from professionals or retired professionals who have experience with surveys
- At least open up the paths. My preschooler often uses these paths to get across town during his school day
- The Town needs to better care and maintenance of the park while also continuing to allow the festivals and markets that support local artisans and provide financial support for various organizations. DSI did a great job and provided important additional funding for the Town through its events. Local artisans depend on those events for their livelihood and their presence is good for the Town. Many years ago, the Town of Burgaw used the same argument of damaging nature as a ruse to try and prevent events on the courthouse square. The people rebelled and now nature and community events co-exist with even more events taking place in the heart of that town. Surely Southport can do the same
- None
- A routine maintenance schedule for the landscape so everyone can continue enjoying this beautiful park, and part of the community's history
- None
- Ground plantings, soil nourishment. Prohibit vehicles, tents, vendors
- Thank you for all you are doing
- Just care appropriately for the trees
- Needs regular maintenance done
- Fewer vendor sales
- Save as many trees as possible, but make the park safe by removing limbs, branches and any dying trees
- Clear walkways will help protect tree roots
- Featuring the beauty of the plantings and trees of our area. A place of calm and peace to offset the lively outdoor drinking and music venues about town
- I think a native pollinator garden with plant identification would be a wonderful addition to the park
- Water fountain
- Signage for the types of flowers, trees, etc.
- I just love having a town where there is land with trees. We have a or had a quaint little town and now everything is changing. We are losing that feeling. Please leave some places that keep that feeling. We are known for all the oak trees. Leave them<sup>1</sup>
- Preserve it as a nature park. Build a bandstand venue, market space somewhere else
- Regular maintenance and feeding of plants and shrubs. Mulching of shrubs and trees. Keep Friends of Franklin Park at bay. They have the wrong intentions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Better sign
- Protect trees
- Walkways to keep folks away from fragile areas
- Keep it a natural park as much as possible. The green space is disappearing from Southport at an alarming rate!!! Need the beautiful Oaks and a quiet safe place to be able to just sit and enjoy
- No comment

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Maintained pathways as needed
- It is such a lovely park, more benches and flowers and paved walk path would be awesome
- Keep it natural with the trees and shrubs. Desperate for more green space in the community. Stop with the concerts and weekly markets. So many other places to use instead
- Maintain the grounds
- I believe the main attraction of the park are the massive Oak trees and whatever needs to be done to maintain those is of most importance
- Franklin Park is an absolute gem that does deserve to be updated due to the aging trees and shrubs. Once the trees and area are deemed stable, the park should return to being a central park of the community. Having a welcoming green space for people to gather for events or to become immersed in nature is critical to any area. It provides a space for mingling and is such an asset to our community that has a green space to enhance it. I grew up in an area that had a community park MUCH larger than this one and the yearly maintenance has sustained this park for generations to use and enjoy. (For reference – This was enjoyed by my grandparents and is still beautifully maintained for families in my grandchildren's generation. I spent many happy times in that park as a child for so many events). Green spaces are SO needed for our mental and physical health so the maintenance of the park for future USE is well worth the investment. Maintain and USE this area to keep drawing people together
- Do not make this hard! Just cut dangerous limbs out and maintain the park and stage
- More grass is needed. Thin the tree canopy to allow grass to grow
- SAVE THE TREES! Stop commercializing our town!!!!
- I enjoy the park as is. I enjoy all the local opportunities for residents, vendors, and community the park has to offer. If it is a matter of preserving Franklin Square Park, I would not mind seeing a rotation of big events like spring, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Winter Festivals, wooden boat show using a rotation to help keep maintenance and our parks healthy
- Use as is with some cosmetic upgrades and nurture back to health. Repair and brighten up stage and signage with lights. More welcoming
- Maintenance of trees and shrubs
- Exhaust all options to strengthen the trees. The only reason a tree should come down is by a hurricane. The way nature has intended it. DO NOT CUT THEM!! I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation member of Southport. These trees have a spiritual quality to them. They force you to appreciate the majesty of nature and the history of this unique Southern Fishing Village. Thank you for your time
- I love it mostly the way it is
- Regular maintenance is key to keeping the park safe and beautiful. Not just cutting the grass
- Be cared for
- Save Franklin Square Park
- Swings
- Healthy trees, grass instead of dirt. Less regular foot traffic. Move summer vendor market out of park
- None
- Please bring back the farmers' market, spring festival and concerts
- None
- I think that keeping the park in good condition would be the best for the community even if that means limitations on events such as concerts and things of that manner. I do not think a public restroom is necessary since there is the public restroom right next to the park and

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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Southport Baptist. I do not think there needs to be any drastic changes, but rather restoration and maintenance to care for what is already there!

- Keeping benches in good repair
- Preservation over big change. The park needs a facelift, but nothing major changed to effect it is historical, cultural importance to our town
- Leave as is but cleanup and maintain its charm. I am fifth generation in Southport, Franklin Square Park and it oak trees are part of our history
- Species cards and kiosk of garden bed locations
- Regular grounds maintenance on trees, shrubs, and turf
- Maintain trees for safety
- There should be places prohibited for foot traffic to avoid damaging all of the ground covering
- Walk dog, short cut to dog park, and part of walk about town
- We live in Southport, though not in the downtown/historic district. We Love Franklin Square Park and go there often, whether to just walk around and enjoy nature, or to attend venues. Please save/preserve and maintain this beautiful park. It is special to residents and visitors alike!
- Water fountains
- I miss the events
- More flowers planted
- Swings for children and adults
- Love the park
- I like the idea of the park being used for special events but not so much that the azaleas/trees cannot survive
- There should be no more manufactured work done in the park other than to help restore and protect the historic properties of the park. The trees make the park. Do everything, we can do to protect those trees. Stop the venues and move them to a bigger fielded area
- Maintenance of greenery
- Thank you!
- Making it functional while maintaining nature
- We love the park and hope we can save it. We think it is ridiculous that the park is closed right now. A simple "Proceed with Caution and at Your Own Risk" sign would suffice to tell people to be careful. Also, if trees need to be managed, then manage them, and let the public back in to enjoy the beautiful park. Thank you for taking the time to help save the park!
- Better handicap accessibility
- The park should be used sparingly for small events. Priority should be conservation. Concerts and festivals should be held elsewhere
- Concerts
- Need flowers, shade trees
- Some sort of groundcover would be nice instead of dirt
- Just a quiet natural area to enjoy peace and quiet walks
- Please do not add any structures. Keep it as close as possible to the beautiful historic park we know and love. You cannot "undo" the destruction of a historical park. Please do not do this. Tend to the flowers, tend to the trees, and let it be. Have all your festivals and markets at the waterfront or on the Garrison or close down Bay Street and have it along there
- None
- Keep the beautiful oak trees

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Path lighting at dusk
- Designated paths through park
- More light. Too dark. Trees may have to be trimmed
- Mosquito control
- Redesign and update the stage area
- The azaleas and shrubs need to be maintained. The park does not need to be used weekly ruining the grounds
- Save the old trees and keep the park as beautiful as it used to be
- If you do not want the grounds to be trampled, then create clear spaces for vendors to set up and clear walking paths. Otherwise, accept that the ground will not be “pretty.” It is a worthwhile tradeoff for us to be able to use the space
- I want the park to be a beautiful relaxing place for all to enjoy
- Allowing beer or wine during festivals
- Make it more inviting and beautiful
- The park is wonderful. Just needs to get back to a healthy state and be maintained with healthy boundaries. This is a vital part of downtown
- Open back up. We need it. We use it daily
- Healthy trees
- Restore foot paths, maintain plantings more aggressively, eliminate vendor traffic, forbid motor vehicles. Restore park to its nature’s best health and then reopen for pedestrian use. Many other places could be selected for consistent vendor fairs and concerts to be. In ten years here have seen the deterioration of the park occur. The DSI fairs never had care for the grounds as any kind of priority. I was a regular participant and witness. Park needs to be treasured again as the crown jewel of Southport as well as respected. Limited community run events should be only when park is restored back to health. It was a horror that it was used last year for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities food trucks and trucks were on grounds for concerts. Time to act is now to preserve the park before this too becomes another “remember when” photograph in the State Port Pilot. Town and Parks and Recs could create a position for overseer manager of the park to maintain this preservation.
- Although I am happy that energy is being focused on reinvigorating the landscape, please do not turn it into a “look but don’t touch” space. Open the park now to pedestrians, the children in daycare and dog walkers. Whatever you end up planning is going to take time, and this neighborhood needs its green space back!
- Clean the park up and properly take care of it! It is the town’s biggest eyesore and nothing more than a dust bowl.....how shameful to let it get in that condition. Reading the plaque of the entrance to Franklin Square Park states what its purpose is to be for...obviously greed and non-locals do not understand its importance or value to the town
- Reopen the park as soon as possible
- Historical markers
- No art and farmers’ markets in the park, move them back to the Garrison Lawn or Davis Street or Atlantic etc. No need to have them on grass
- The low stone walls at the edge of the park abutting the Howe Street sidewalk appear to be in poor repair/shabby. And are a tripping hazard. Repair, replace or even remove them. The benches and gazebo/bandstand need upkeep and pressure washing

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The park is meant to be used by the public as well as being properly maintained. Turning it into a virtually non-used venue will not benefit the public. It just needs much better maintenance, not to be shutdown
- Better maintenance
- Place focus on the history of the park
- I think that Franklin Square Park should be preserved as a natural area and if determined safe by arborists and environmental specialists, it would be nice to continue hosting occasional festivals and concerts there as well. However, I believe that the integrity at the park should be the number one priority
- More opportunities to enjoy nature!
- I am a new resident and lifelong visitor of Southport. I was shocked by the cancelation of community events in the park. I think of Savannah, Georgia and its beauty yet people enjoy it every day. I think preserving nature is one thing but if people cannot enjoy the park, what is the purpose? The trees that are under question definitely withstood hurricane force winds this fall. I also think the park is well maintained. To cancel events is like hoarding beauty for one self. I would like to see research-based evidence that using the park hurts the park. To what extent? The best analogy I can give is using the beach surely has an impact, but to not use it is far greater tragedy
- Our family views the park as more of a piece of Nature than a "Venue." We hope to see the City's efforts geared more toward preserving and building out a Park than to creating a better, safer Venue for other organizations. But this is just our opinion on the matter. Thanks!! 😊
- Upkeep on the trees. They are old but I think there has been a failure made in the maintenance of the trees
- Night lighting and water fountain
- Nighttime lighting to enjoy walking in the park
- Love the park! I think that its use for festivals has created too much foot traffic which is harming its natural habitat
- Protect the trees
- Make pathways more handicapped usable. Extremely hard to use a walker over the rocks and rough terrain
- Save the trees
- More kid friendly
- Cannot think of any
- Health of trees
- Mulch pathways, fertilize trees, prune shrubs as consultant recommended and open our park
- Preservation of this beautiful park should be the top priority – any other activity should be measured whether it enhances the beauty and preservation or affects it in any negative way
- Southport should have a Park Administrator on staff re: keeping up with flora and fauna
- No change
- Residents should be allowed to sit and relax in the park
- Please do not consider change for the sake of change. Enhance the things that have made this such a special place – nature, trees, azaleas, paths, benches...peacefulness
- I believe that the park needs a break from the traffic of markets. Just like every other place needs a break. I believe that if the City of Southport is taking over for the arts, crafts, and festivals that they need to come together with a good and safe place for our markets as they bring in a lot of business too small stores and restaurants in the area

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I would like to have a quiet place to enjoy nature
- It has been used too much.....too many people and not enough care for the trees and azaleas
- Open the park to the use of tourists and residents. The park should be open to everyone. The park needs upgrading but does not need to be limited to the number of people or events held in the park
- I would like to say that there has been times I would have been at the park & it was being used for commercial purposes & I have left
- The park needs upgrading. It has been overused without the proper maintenance being done to it. The events that take place there are a major draw to the town that adds visitors and revenue to the surrounding businesses
- Greenway more
- Keeping the park as is, except maintained better by the city. Do not make it another tourist hub!!
- Maybe a plaque explaining the history of our beautiful trees
- The park is known because of the events held there annually. This should be continued
- This is a terribly constructed survey. Why do you need my race? Multiple choice question options are repetitive and too similar to provide you with useful information. Ugh
- Treat occasional for mosquitos
- Simple and natural is far better than cluttered and "touristy." Please let us keep it this way and protect what we have. Live Oaks will last forever if taken care of. Look at Savannah, GA where their majestic tree's habitat, roots, etc. are stepped on every day. They survive simply fine. They just need nourishment like we do
- That is all I can think of
- Open it to the public as it always has been. Pave pathways if it would help people meander around the park without causing harm. I have lived here for 7 years, and I always thought of the park as magical. To be able to wander in and see a presentation on the stage. Seeing kids dance and play up there. Seeing drummers in the park and peace days in September. Relaxing at night with the concerts. I have always enjoyed the markets in the park. People do not walk along hot Bay Street in the summer. Let people enjoy the magic in the park with all the events we have come to love. Now that the liability issues are being dealt with, find ways to protect the tree roots if that is a concern. Have vendors not put stakes in the ground but use sandbags. Spaced the vendors so no one is against a tree or on its roots. There are ways to protect the trees and pathways. Please give the park back to us. It is a favorite place for residents and tourists. Let us enjoy it again
- Stage needs to be fixed or replaced
- You can keep up park and utilize it for events also
- Preserve this beautiful place
- Improve the status of trees and shrubs
- Name the trees! Descriptions of trees and plants in the park
- Grass
- I think you covered it
- I am miffed! The city has a long history of using and abusing things and then tries to dodge responsibility! If it does not make money for someone then it is trashed. I am ashamed of the way old courthouse and the parks have been neglected. Shame on our city officials!
- Overall maintenance of the landscaping. All the Southport green spaces need attention! Disappointing that it takes years for the city to complete a project!

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Franklin Square Park is a wonderful gift to the community
- Protect the natural beauty of Franklin Square
- No, I love this park as is. Anything added would be extra beneficial
- More bike racks and protect the trees
- I would love to see the park remain a gathering place for the community while also having the trees and azaleas cared for. Perhaps Southport could think about a town gardener (i.e., Arlie Gardens, Bellingrath Gardens, etc.) as a future amenity for the City in another location a little farther from the town center
- Get rid of the gazebo or make a better one
- Fertilization program for trees and azaleas. Articulated walking paths designed with pebbles, mulching for tree protection and nourishment. Paths should be designed aesthetically and be inviting for pedestrians and pets. An updated architecturally designed performance stage would be a welcome upgrade
- It would be nice if the grass would grow in the park again, and if we could protect the trees and flowering bushes
- No suggestions other than the above
- Water for the dogs
- More parking
- Install an irrigation system to help grass and bushes and trees recover from events and hot dry spells
- Much better designed paths
- I think it is perfect and just needs to be carefully maintained
- I loved the music in the park but am saddened by the damage which obviously has happened over much time and neglect. If grass could be restored and people would stay in designated areas, maybe we could have concerts in the future. Please save the trees! They are God's gift to your beautiful town
- Already an awesome park that acts as our Community Center with events, festivals, concerts, and social gatherings
- I do not like using the park for vendors – parking is non-exist
- Open it
- None
- Keep the natural beauty of God's creation the focal point. Maintenance of the beauty that is already there
- City should maintain, add lighting, and fill with flowers and shrubbery
- Prohibit or limit usage of park for fairs and vendor events which put stress on the natural settings. A regular maintenance program to enhance the beauty of the park and its surroundings. A restoration and revival project to return it to its original beauty and its importance to the City of Southport
- Overall maintenance and care
- Just to be able to access the park for leisurely walks
- I think Franklin Square Park is perfect the way it has been and should be preserved for its beauty to pass down to future generations. Concerts, festivals, markets, etc. can be moved to a different venue in the city
- I remember walking through the park as a young girl and enjoying the shrubs that smell like bananas.....fragrant shrubs/plants that refresh the senses
- What is the time line going 10 weeks with no news?

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I love the park just the way it is
- A water fountain
- Mulch around trees and possibly fencing or barrier to protect them
- Simply put fencing around the trees...re-stain the bandstand, let people enjoy the park
- I would rather see the summer market be on the street to give the park relief from shopping foot traffic
- Save the trees!
- None
- I know you are trying to improve this park and that is a good thing. Please be mindful of the charm of the park and the quaint town of Southport
- More plants, fewer events
- Love this park
- Native shade plants with markers to educate people
- Restore the well
- Just bring back the beauty. If you need to move festivals, use Taylor Dog Park
- More markets
- It should be treated as a historical Park and not a venue
- Beautiful park that needs to be restored for the Southport community to enjoy. I have loved this park since we moved here 3 years ago, and it breaks my heart that it is close
- Maybe more seating
- More community events
- None I can think of
- Love the park. Cannot wait to get back to it
- Natural native plants, bird feeding stations
- More seating, better maintained trees and shrubs
- The park is a great place. Something I remember from growing up in Southport. Housing the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival is fantastic at the park. However, there needs to be supervision of the park, vendors should be conscious about where they place tents, park their cars, and leave merchandise. Visitors need to understand the park needs to be respected. Kids should not be climbing in trees. Pets should not be digging holes. And the azaleas should not be picked and prodded. It is a place to be shared with all, but there needs to be better management and protection of the park overall. Would hate to see something so beautiful destroyed because we care so much about revenue than the historical aspects of our beautiful town. It has quickly become apparent that the older locals care about our town more for its history background and natural beauty, that many of the new residents never got to experience; therefore, unable to understand the value the park has outside of its concerts and events
- Protect as much of the natural habitat as possible, especially the trees
- Clean it up
- Upfit the park and leave for the community to enjoy!
- Restore stone wall to keep vehicles out
- We should be able to have a park and with the proper care to have events too
- Just take care of it
- More benches
- This park should be enjoyed by all and not limited
- Better signage, improve existing. Better lighting
- Swings

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Parking
- Preserve this historic piece of Southport.....we have so little left of the days gone by
- Continued maintenance
- More maintenance on the trees – please protect them!!!
- I would like to see the trees trimmed to the point that they have healthy limbs and the reopening of the park, mostly as is. It has been a wonderful place for vendors which bring revenue to the City. It is also a wonderful “gateway” to the Art Museum and should be the true heart of Southport. It can be a tremendous asset to the City of Southport to have an area people can visit during the hot summer days. It would help with tourism and if vendors were allowed to sell food and beverages during summer weekends everyone, tourists and local people will benefit
- More quantity and more comfortable benches
- This park is a representation of Southport’s history and sets a tone or ambiance that reflects the peacefulness and beauty of our quaint, waterfront community
- Interpretative signs describing both historical events and botanical names
- None
- None
- Regular maintenance of trees
- I have always loved Franklin Square Park, and I appreciate this survey. Excited to spend more time in it
- Tree preservation, night lights
- As a local, I love the park, and I would love to see it flourish and locals/tourists enjoy it!!!
- There needs to be lighting as well. I did not see any buttons for that. The Park can get very dark at night, which can be scary. I grew up in this town and I love the park. I would hate to see it go away. I cannot wait to have my children be able to run through there on Fourth of July just like I did when I was little
- Fewer events and more flowers/trees protection
- Do what is needed to save as many live oaks as possible
- Protection of nature
- Keep it as a natural area to picnic and find shade
- No word
- Balancing the maintenance and preservation of the trees/shrubs while allowing full access to the public should be a top priority
- Love our park! It is a treasure for Southport
- The park is an important part of this community and needs to be maintained & preserved. Additionally, I correctly answered question 7 but it is not letting me advance
- Continue to improve & maintain
- Please, please retain the natural beauty of this beautiful haven. It is truly a highlight when we visit Southport
- Just ensure there are enough receptacles for trash and doggy bag disposal along with places to sit and clearly marked pathways
- When think of a park in any region, it makes sense that it is well maintained for use within the community. The park should be open for both residents and visitors to use and enjoy the green space in multiple ways. It is relaxing to have this as a place for small informal gathering of families letting children play as well as to draw people to the area for special events. Such

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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areas are essential to a thriving community in today's world – allows people to get unplugged, outdoors and connect

- We occasionally go into Southport just to walk around and take in the ambience, history, and beauty of the city. When we do we often walk through the park. However, it is not a beautiful park so does not invite you to sit and stay. Wish it were a beautiful, peaceful spot where people could go to sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings
- Continue the excellent maintenance for visitors' appreciation
- Some pathways are in need of repair
- The park needs to be open for all to enjoy. The live oaks are part of Southport's heritage. Do you close the whole town because some trees need caring?
- The live oaks here are absolutely gorgeous and my favorite thing about the park. They need protected
- Please keep it as a pristine park. Southport has venue spots for events in other locations. Perhaps enhancing the park to create a natural habitat and educational walk (on pathways) showcasing and informing people of all ages as to the beautiful flora and fauna living in the park. Placards with information on the trees, wildlife, etc. could be displayed. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input
- No comment
- Maintaining trees, bushes, and grass
- Keep it small and clean. We love Franklin Square
- Just keep the park open and let people enjoy it and all its beauty!
- Water drinking fountain
- We need to replant azaleas to protect the trees. The Garrison Lawn should be used for venues, not the park. Too many craft shows in the park resulted in the demise of the park. Needs to be less foot traffic and more grounds maintenance. Stiller
- More plant maintenance
- Would love to see more tables for picnics
- Gravel on the ground to prevent dirt that gets all over your feet
- Please protect the trees
- Work on the grass
- Information signs about live oak trees
- Ground work greenery to mitigate exposed compacted sand
- I think the survey covered all
- I interpreted the water fountain as for human consumption. There will never be grass growing in the park despite some people's vision due to foot traffic, sand and salt. So, if there is a pea gravel or mulch put down in the walkways and main area it would be nice to have but not necessary. The public bathrooms are wonderful and well kept. I have not been to any other public bathrooms. I felt comfortable using it. The trees and shrubs need a twice a year or once a year evaluation for maintenance. At their age, they need to have TLC, or we could have a mass failure to thrive situation. If this were to happen, the public safety would then be an additional issue to what to do about the trees and shrubs. Franklin Square Park is a diamond in the rough. Too many people complain about this and that and well you just cannot make everyone happy no matter how hard you try. She is beautiful and desirable to both animals and humans. PS, I saw in the comments someone said put fence around the tree? Please do not. people generally do not mess with the trees but having fencing around the trees would be trash. I love Franklin Square Park!

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Tear down the old stage next to the Baptist church. It is a real eyesore
- Water fountain
- None
- More grass
- Ensuring that the vegetation is healthy
- Swings
- I know things have changed since I was growing up visiting the park. It was a sanctuary even as a little girl riding my bike there....wish it could have more of that feel with some of the suggestions above
- Leave it alone. Just freshen up and maintain
- Historical signs
- More picnic tables dispensed throughout the park
- Let it recover from abuse
- I feel like the natural setting and little piece of nature nestled in the busy streets is a wonderful spot to reconnect in the middle of the excitement
- I would just like to see the trees and the azaleas protected
- Lighting and mulch and dirt
- Swings and more seating. Some improvements in children's swing area. That area is terrible
- Save the park. It is part of the town and should be respected as that. Also, do not allow golf carts on the main road. It is a safety issue
- Lighting, plant, restrooms, walkways, concerts
- Build another pier to pull people away from the existing pier. Help us spread out to reduce traffic downtown. People like to fish and water
- Maintain well
- Lighting
- Please keep the fair ground atmosphere OUT OF THE PARK
- There are several parks in the city for residents and visitors to go to if they would like to sit and read. Franklin Square Park can be used to do that 90+ percent of the time. It is a great place to host community events. It ought to remain a location for community events. Mulch should go around the base of the oaks and more care should be taken of the park by the city. And it should host events as it has for years
- Fix the trees
- Save as many trees as possible but eliminate any limbs or trees that are found to be unsafe. Weekly concerts and occasional exhibits and festivals a big plus
- Restore the beauty. Stop abusing the park
- Many live oaks downtown including the ones in FSP have been colonized by sulfur shelf mushrooms; unfortunately, that means the infected trees will all die in the coming years
- Please just maintain and keep the park in its beautiful natural state. We do not need a lot just maintaining and adding to what we have lost. Yearly or seasonal grooming, keeping the blooming plants we have maintained adding to what we have lost throughout the years of neglect from not nurturing the beautiful plants that are incredibly old. We love the way the park was before it was commercialized. Families could enjoy the peace that was there for years. It has been worn out like a pair of shoes that has had no care. Day after day of no maintenance it looks bad. It needs some love and polishing up
- More parking
- Bring the park back to nature. The over use is killing the trees and beauty of the park

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Reopen to continue enjoying the market and concerts
- None at this time
- Bike racks
- Keep it simple. Repair/replace shade trees as needed
- I believe the park should be maintained for its natural beauty and the city should find another location for vendors/markets, concerts, etc.
- Bleachers for concerts
- More benches
- More parking areas
- Water fountain
- Adding tables also places to sit to and have conversation (like the chairs and picnic tables at the Fort)
- Make it more inviting
- Local eateries
- Just make sure we take care of the trees
- None to offer
- Better care of trees, shrubs and pathways for future generations
- Sculptures and some outdoor artwork in the park
- Maintain its natural setting and use for more events
- None
- Picnic areas
- Although we do not get there frequently, we do enjoy ourselves while there
- In my opinion, this survey is very poorly constructed. The grammar is poor making questions unclear. The limit on the number of responses for some questions and all that apply for others seems to interject bias into what may be done with the responses. Protection of the park is particularly important to our community. I hope this survey answer important questions, but I am not sure you will get the information that is needed
- The park is dusty. It needs the grass and azaleas back
- None at the moment
- Landscaping overall maintenance
- More perennials. Updated bandstand
- Profession upkeep of shrubs and trees
- Use it as a park and not a venue
- None
- More perennial flowers
- Fix the little stone wall surrounding the park
- None
- Southport is a great southern port city! Do not change Southport. Let Southport change you
- Paved paths that avoid tree roots. People trip on them
- More benches for sitting
- Open the park!
- Possibly renovate the Gazebo to utilize the space. The whole stage has a lot of wasted space and could be changed to accommodate bands for the music venues
- I love Franklin Square Park and so does all of my family. I have lived here for the last 50+ years and remember when it was in its glory. About 30 years ago, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July started having craft fairs, then it turned into the Chili Cookout, then within the last 20 years the Spring Festival and

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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within the last 10 years the weekly concerts – as well as other events. These have taken a real toll on the grounds of the park. It was never meant for vendors/markets or any other business-related activity. Read the historic plaque in the E. West Street entrance to the park near Franklin Square Art Gallery. Does no one care about the most valuable piece of property in this town? DSI – the group that uses it the most has bragged in letters to the editor in the local paper that over the last 12 years they have given the town \$12,500 for the park – which equates to \$1,137 a year and \$94.75 a month. How embarrassing to brag about that! That donation would barely go to planting an azalea a month – which obviously has not been done. It would be interesting to know how that \$94.75 a month was earmarked for the park, because it would barely cover the cost to rake for an hour. It is a good thing that the Europeans take pride in their historic places and respect the intention of their buildings and parks otherwise, there would be nothing worth visiting for and do not get me started about the Courthouse!

- Keep anything that has to be temporarily anchored to the ground out
- None
- Monthly maintenance of the trees, grounds, and shrubbery would make the park more inviting along with night lighting and better marked pathways
- Protect trees with some fencing around bases, grass throughout, and trim/maintain azaleas
- Nothing
- Do not have any
- Just leave it alone. Do what it takes to maintain what is already there
- Nothing to add
- Most people loved the weekly market with the older ladies that dressed up. Now Southport soul is gone
- Concerts should be brought back to the summer
- Easter Egg Hunts, Halloween costume contests for all including dogs, anything but markets, vendors, and thousands of feet coming through there for days at a time. Do you people have any respect for the park or its history or respect for this green space that the town is blessed to have? Every town needs a park to provide beauty and peace not destruction from the “state fairs” and the people they bring and DSI thinks should be there. Those vendors come to town and take their money with them, and it does not go back to the city...and they leave a path of destruction on their way out. The only money that does stay here are their tent fees to DSI and I doubt much of it is given to the city for the park.....the amount given over the last 11 that was printed in the State Port Pilot is a joke! The way this county is growing, we do not need festivals/fairs to lure people here...people come because of what we have....not because of the money to spend at the nice boutiques, shops, restaurants, art galleries, etc. that we have. It is time to think outside the box!
- The park is a beautiful place, and I hope to enjoy it for years to come
- No park is maintenance free. It is a shame that this one has suffered from neglect
- Enjoyed our weekly farmers’ market visits, bands and the close vicinity to shopping and food, restaurants
- Finding a solution to get rid of sand/dirt areas around the walking area of the park and in front of the bandstand
- Replanting trees as they age and die, replanting plants annually so that young plants are constantly growing, adding a water feature, and roping off the near fragile areas that need protection to allow growth. My understanding is that an ongoing maintenance budget for planting and renourishing has not been part of the city’s budget substantially

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- New live oak trees and azaleas properly planted and cared for the generations to come
- More gatherings
- Let local residents not the Board of Alderman take care of it
- Not only does the park need better maintenance, but it needs to be enjoyed by 1 and all
- Night lighting near the entrance to the park
- Need Wi-Fi connectivity
- None that I can think of
- Music
- I know it has been said that all the traffic is killing the trees. The trees in Southport are park of what makes Southport so beautiful. Can more soil be added to add depth? A few concerts or maybe art in the park is nice but not a lot of other venues that could be bad for the trees
- Maintain the natural beauty
- More places to sit
- More flowering trees and plants. More grass
- Keep the markets/festivals/concerts out of the park. There are other places for them to be held. Every town needs green space for more than just economic and aesthetic reasons...it provides a peaceful place in this world of turmoil, fresh air, homes for birds, etc. Allowing DSI and others to "own the park" shows lack of leadership in the past administrations. Step up to the mound and do the right thing. There is so much ignorance floating around because no one knows or cares about why the park is there to start with and all of the newbies want to change everything. It is amazing to me that the town survived for over 200 years before some of the newbie got here
- Do not turn it into a parking lot
- Do not ignore care and feeding of the shrubbery and trees for decades and then panic because the town government ignored care and feeding of the shrubbery and trees for decades. There is room for controlled frequent use if someone understands that shrubbery and trees need care and feeding. Southport needs to learn how to take care of what they own versus "building more stuff" that they do not take care of. Protect our assets! Maintain our assets!
- Use this beautiful piece of property as a park only and not a place for selling one's items. It sits beautifully in the historic downtown and maintained it will once again once trees and azaleas are planted and maintained
- Parking?
- None
- Passive use of park to relax and enjoy its natural beauty that needs to be restored
- Continue the concerts, markets and special events
- Keep bathrooms open all year-round
- Lights
- Keeping it open! For events, music, gatherings. Its location is central to all locations in the heart of the city and a perfect gathering spot
- Remove dangerous trees and allow events to take place as long as nothing is driven into the ground
- Nothing else
- None
- We love Franklin Square Park! Please open it back up so we can enjoy it this spring and summer!
- I think it is a beautiful venue for the city of Southport

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- None
- It is perfect!
- Save the trees
- Upgrade facilities
- Preserve the Live Oak Trees!!!!!!
- Open the park back up so we can use it. I love the park and walking through it; feel like an outlaw walking around the barricades to go through it now. I cannot believe the park was shut down because a limb fell on someone. Are we going to cut down all our beautiful trees because they have limbs that eventually fall? Stop reacting like a nanny state; put up an enter at your own risk sign if you are worried about liability and let us move along
- Safe walkways. Gazebo, band/stage needs renovation
- None
- The park is great! I love the oaks and atmosphere
- Franklin Square Park is a lovely park as is. Just need to figure out a way to protect the trees
- Please allow the park to be used by both residents and visitors on a monthly basis
- Focus on the original purpose of Franklin Square Park and add historical signage focusing on the significance of the original park
- That park used to be beautiful & when Pete was there you did not get off the paths! Needs to go back to the way it was. It was so pretty
- The best attribute of this park is the gorgeous trees that hover over and protect the park itself. I love that events can be held here in the park among these historic trees. Less manufactured structures and more focus on the trees and plants. Events with awareness to the natural surroundings
- Make sure the park's trees, pathways and grounds are protected and cared for
- Benches
- Fix up the stage some. That is such an amazing space for community events....concerts, plays, rallies, walk for hunger kick off, Christmas Eve in the park.....but some of the boards on the stage could use a little attention for safety. Not an overhaul, just keeping up with the basic maintenance of it so these types of events can continue to happen in this beautiful outdoor space throughout the year
- Water feature
- Just keeping the park more of a natural area instead of being used for every occasion in Southport. Also, leaving Southport the way it is, an old fishing town! Not a high society group! Quit making it hard to live there for the ones who grew up there with all the high prices! Thank you for asking
- I cannot think of anything
- Nothing else
- Bring it back to the original
- The only thing I would recommend is that the wooden benches/tables could be assessed for replacement. I got a splinter on one last fall before the park closed. I love the park; the beautiful trees and the live music is part of what makes Southport so special
- Seasonal flowers
- Arborist to remove, prune, or replace oak trees as needed!
- Keep the original essence – do not make it all concerts or modern – keep it soft, gentle, historic – we are losing our history to concrete and red tin gaudy buildings – no keep it authentic
- More shade trees

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I do like the water fountain idea but only after some other issues are addressed. Save and plant more live oaks first
- Keep letting residents and tourists continue to enjoy the park
- Repair the gazebo; put mulch down; lights for nighttime events
- Saving the trees & bushes #1 priority
- As a resident who walks daily by or within the park (when open), I enjoy its shade in the summer. I believe that the studies will show that the City will have to spend some dollars to stabilize the soil conditions. There should be mulched pathways, designated no entry areas, selective removal and pruning of trees and understory. The park should not become a shrine that is highly restricted and an ode to days gone by from the 1930s. The current problems are fixable, and the path forward can be a success with proper management. A compromise of managed but continued use for diverse interests
- Needs overall sprucing up
- Better defined pathways, but not paved
- Just clean it up a little, trim bushes and keep it up!
- More native plants and trash receptacles
- Cannot think of any right now
- Designated paths
- Paths, grass, benches, signage on pathways. Marked entrances and golf cart parking. And budget to maintain it daily. Expand the effort throughout Southport
- Nothing
- Improve pathways
- Take care of the beauty of the park
- Proper maintenance of azalea bushes (removal of prickly vines on a regular basis), tree maintenance and not tent stakes
- Take good care of the park overall. Do what is necessary to preserve the trees
- Avoid any design features or activity that encourages excessive foot traffic, large crowds, use of trailers/food trucks, etc.
- Find some other place to have events
- Main objective should be to preserve the health and well-being of the live oaks
- Just those items marked in the survey
- Repaving the sidewalks
- Keeping it as historic as possible and help save the Oak trees that help make Southport so special
- Maybe a children's activity once a quarter
- Maybe benches
- Nothing else I can think of
- No
- For us, more benches
- Close the park to all venues
- It should be restored, maintained, and used only as was originally intended – which was certainly not for weekly or monthly markets, festivals, concerts, etc. that have over the years destroyed the grass, trees and shrubs, only to leave a once beautiful spot in dire need of resurrection
- The park needs to be open and used for community events to keep the community involved for generations to come

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The park simply needs to be maintained
- It needs to be a place for people to gather and be a community
- Additional plants requiring low maintenance
- None
- Main thing for me is keep up with maintenance of the trees. They need to be pruned, or the park will look like the town does not care also the footpaths need to be kept up with as there are a lot of people using the park (seniors) who can get hurt. I actually know seniors who will not go to the park or market there because they are afraid of the uneven ground due to the tree roots
- Restore the park to the beautiful place it was before a venue for markets, concerts, and festivals
- The natural and functional combo is special. Trees should come first if that constrains size and frequency of events – but it is worth finding the balance
- I would like to see the park restored to its original beauty without it being used as a fairground for the various festivals and markets that have led to its current condition
- Open the park
- Just interested in park restoring bushes, trees, etc. for a nice place for community use
- Healthy trees & shrubs, defined & maintained paths
- None
- Save the trees, rope around the roots so they are not stepped on
- More picnic tables and benches or have the ones there washed and stained to protect and last longer
- The park needs attention, especially the trees. There should be no vendors or markets or festivals in the park due to heavy equipment and vehicles parking on the roots of the trees and azalea bushes. The park should be reserved for foot traffic only for its beauty and peaceful atmosphere
- Time for a complete redo
- Keep open the park
- Thank you for doing this
- Would like to see more community events
- Water refill and drinking station
- The park looks a lot barer than it used to
- Try to keep it from being overused by trying to hold too many events there. The foot traffic is killing it
- Better festival organization
- Should look better than it does now
- Like the waterfront – the park is a great asset that can be used to attract visitors to our town who support our local businesses
- I enjoy walking through the park listening to birds and seeing flowers and nature
- Cleanup and better ongoing maintenance of park
- Needed restrooms
- Follow the original plantings put in by the WPA and donated by the Sprunts. Bring it back to its former glory and take care of it
- More benches
- Preserve the park
- Thank you for preserving history and keeping the park in great condition

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- More events. We love going to all the events in the park!
- I have no additional improvements to recommend
- Stress park experience and plants. Only festival should be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Move Farmers' Market to Bay street on the lawn
- Lighting
- Protect the trees. More bushes, flowers, landscaping
- Just keep it as simple as possible. The beautiful trees and flowers are wonderful. People love just sitting in there and enjoying nature and walking through there. It is a beautiful place
- General up keep and maintenance on the property. If there is a concert area perhaps its not wood but of stone and of natural hard material so it is less maintenance
- Please do whatever is necessary to keep this wonderful park open and available to all visitors!
- Leave as it
- None
- Restoring the fountain as my father many, many years ago while I was a child gave me a drink from it and said now you will always come back here along with the beautiful shade trees that at that time were dipping Spanish moss are my favorite Southport experiences
- More trees
- MORE weekly vendor markets of flowers and vegetables
- Certified wildlife habitat
- Lawn could be improved with tree trimming letting in more light and picnic benches
- A plan for continuous professional care of the trees and shrubs
- Health of Live Oaks is paramount
- REOPEN THE PARK
- Maintaining the history and natural beauty of this park. Put the care into the landscaping and fix/replace what needs help. Nostalgia is beautiful
- The vendors do not respect the park. Keep them out! They are rude, park and block traffic
- The parks in Southport are not well maintained. Look at all the weeds at the park down by the waterfront. Parks are to be enjoyed by all. Trees are important but not at the expense of closing the park and stopping weekly events. As a business owner in downtown Southport, the markets and festivals are important. They draw in business. They bring in visitors to our beautiful town. They may not shop or eat that day, but they saw the beauty, the kindness and many come back because of that. Stop blaming DSI. It is wrong!
- Need a larger sign for the gallery near the main entrance of town
- Healthy trees and shrubs. Camellias are wonderful!
- Emphasis on preservation of Oak trees and azaleas is important. This can be a beautiful nature park that is used occasionally for tourists instead of frequent use
- None
- Historical placards about the park and Southport
- More handicapped spaces
- More seating – make small intimate areas with plants and benches
- Park cannot be expected to be as it was 50 years ago but can be better maintained to preserve as best as possible
- Bronzed statues
- Better pathways
- Better maintenance
- Open it back up to the public

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- I like it the way it is
- Open for public
- Display historical value of park
- Just trim and clean up. It is lovely for all events
- This park has been enjoyed for years and has hosted many events and summer market. Leave politics out of the park
- I would like to see Franklin Park utilize by the community and not restricted. Have the town commit to taking care of the azaleas and the oaks. Keep the vendor events as it helps the other businesses in town
- The oak trees here are a natural treasure. They must have first priority. If this park were to be treated as a natural space, it would enhance the community. It is not appropriate for vendors and large amounts of traffic. The ground is like concrete from so much traffic. The trees cannot breathe and are being killed by neglect. Southport is, "the town in an oak grove." Preserve that!
- More benches
- It is a great place to visit when guests visit
- The park simply is not used for picnics, children's playtime, quiet reading, or for full-on exercise. It is not 1930. Today's society does not take the time for these slower activities. Its original intent has come and gone. If could use some touch-ups, for sure; but it needs upgrades that meet the needs of those of us who use it – how we use it – in 2024 and beyond
- None
- Make the old pump functional
- Paved or gravel pathways, mulch around trees and azaleas, and weekly cleaning and greenery maintenance
- I think it is perfect as is
- I would like to get the park healthy again and define best use practices
- I feel the city was very wrong to blame the events that were happening in the park as why there are problems with trees or other botanical things. You do not hear that very much if at all from national or state parks where people, tourists, and nearby resident visit those places on a much more frequent basis. Having been to many of those Parks across the US and through the redwood Forest they do not typically close it down, so I look at the city management and see what you have not been doing all along to maintain whatever beauty you feel has been lost. I am a relatively new resident, so I do not know how everything looked 5, 10, 15 years ago
- Just be open
- Maintaining and protecting the beautiful trees and bushes
- New stage or platform with proper electrical support for live performances
- I think all the Live Oak Trees in Southport, not just the park, need to be looked at. I do not think it is because of foot traffic and vendors. The park may need a "rest." We all do from time to time, but the poor condition of the Live Oak Trees downtown is not limited to just the park
- Paths
- Unsure what to say that I have not already said
- It has been a beautiful park. Needs some TLC
- Park information stand
- Revitalize the soil so that it does not appear to be completely compacted – give the tree roots a chance to absorb nutrients

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- This park needs to be enjoyable for all. Paths need to be safe to follow and meander. It needs to be a place that we can come together for many different kinds of events
- More mulch to better protect the trees
- Protect the trees. Restore the azaleas. No park use as a venue for markets/vendors. Franklin Park should be a nice place for a sit, a read, enjoy a sandwich, relax, to be in nature....with healthy plants and trees and natural birds and wildlife
- Save the trees
- When I lived there the park was a beautiful, peaceful place that always drew people to walk through & enjoy its beauty & quietness. It should be restored to somewhat of its original beauty as it was intended. Parks all over the world are appreciated for just the fact that they are a quiet, beautiful place to get away! The world today needs more of that!
- Assess and trim/prune trees as needed and reopen ASAP! Certainly, before summer 2024
- Help the trees by putting in better pathways
- More benches/swings would be nice
- Loved going to the weekly market and shopping. I live about 20 minutes away. The park is in a great location. I got to shop and enjoy nature
- Restore access – this has been ridiculous
- Not much. We come down every week for the farmers' market and the large festivals (4<sup>th</sup> of July, etc.). The only damage I really see happening was when they butchered the azaleas last year. We have been visiting every year for the past 4 year and we have not seen much need for change. Just the landscaping company that completely destroyed the azaleas
- Fertilize/Care for azaleas, shrubs, and trees
- Provide barriers around Live Oaks to prevent damage to root system by being trampled by too much foot traffic. Mulch around trees to provide nourishment and protection
- Smoother pathways so people do not trip ( lots of us with health/walking issues)
- It is a beautiful, large and shaded area on a hot summer day....
- I have been a vendor at the various craft markets for 3 years. I miss that opportunity this year and working with DSI. That said, I do believe the health of the trees and park are more important than the markets
- This park adds charm to the community and the events it hosts add revenue to the city and small businesses
- It should be used in any way to best preserve the vegetation there. Move the farmers' market back to Garrison Lawn
- Replace gazebo/stage with something nicer and less obtrusive
- More level ground to walk on
- Maintain what is left of the shrubs and trees, replace/repair the stone wall, add more plants and trees. Treat it with the respect it deserves as an historical part of our history
- During winter, bring in topsoil and plant rye grass. Then as spring comes, the rye adds fertilizer, and the topsoil saves the roots and covers them up. Do this every year
- None
- Respecting the intention of the park that was given to the citizens of this town 200 years ago should be the town fathers' first enhancement/improvement. It was never supposed to be for commercial use and its commercial use over the last years have left the park in a very worn and sorry state. Every town needs green space and the ambiance of leaving Franklin Square Park as a green space for people to enjoy is so important to the future of Southport economically as well as aesthetically

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- More weekly maintenance and overbite from town maintenance. Things would not get this bad if the town stayed on top of it
- Take care of trees
- Have festivals
- The survey has covered the top items
- Do the Right Things to Keep the Park Alive.....
- It is a nice space to have in any city. Please keep it to serve as many people as possible
- None
- Love being an Artist and able to have event opportunities
- Need to restore grass or other material to cover areas where there is just dirt/sand
- Maintenance of bushes
- Franklin Square is a beautiful park
- Addition of historic information of views that would have been seen 100 years ago at each corner of the park, looking out and looking in
- Give me more reasons to go there, things to do
- Safe and trip free walking paths. More golf cart parking
- Miss doing the craft show at Easter. It was wonderful last year
- Would love to have vendor events continue as not only supports the arts but other local businesses as well!
- Better maintenance!
- More craft shows, Farmers' Market
- Maintain use for craft festivals
- Maybe some pine straw pathways to keep the dust down in the Summer. Maintenance to the above ground tree roots
- Let it be a place of quiet beauty where nature is respected and protected
- More events and more markets. Encourage visitors with more benches and picnic tables. Repair the stage to maintain safety and longevity
- If trees are trimmed and maintained, it is perfect the way it is
- None
- Please reopen the park ASAP!
- Would like to see a nicer park with real grass and plants but also one that remains home to festivals and concerts. Keep both
- More seating
- Smooth paths
- More flowers
- You need to be willing to take out the trees that are old, and then plant a new tree that should have started 100 years ago. Hopefully, you will take all the recommendations , compile them, and produce a good plan. Have a great day and God bless
- RESTORE THE PARK
- Historical map of Southport
- The park is beautiful in its own natural way...we do not need to "fussy it up" and change things. Maintain the beautiful bushes, flowers and the wonderful trees to the highest degree
- I am not sure why my gender/race has anything to do with the TREES
- The reason the park is in such poor condition is lack of maintenance/upkeep. The City should have a line-item in the budget to do REGULAR maintenance in the park
- Just overall maintenance and grass would help. Gets too dirty

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Dog cleanup stations
- Strong, secure Wi-Fi
- Downtown Southport has donated funds to the town of Southport over the years. What have they been used for and why have those funds not been used to restore Franklin Square!
- None
- None
- Better overall maintenance
- Improved overall maintenance
- I love the park!
- Maybe some kind of covering for exposed trees so people do not trip. Otherwise, the park is just naturally beautiful with all the shaded trees etc.
- The Gazebo needs attention
- More plants, maintenance of trees and pathways defined
- Ample trash receptacles
- General better regular care of the trees, shrubs, etc.
- I think the park is already great! I am sure anything being done to improve it will be awesome
- None
- I would look at Savannah historic squares – they have found a way to have heavy traffic, and historic oaks co-exist – get rid of the barriers
- The park should be a place people can visit and enjoy its historical venue. There are plenty of places vendors can set up with careful planning. The road should be done away with and only walking paths used
- Do not add or change things that are not necessary or needed
- Maintenance of natural trees/shrubs
- Pathways made from natural materials to designate foot traffic. Not pavement. Use it – but sparingly – for events
- Why do not you just maintain the park and continue using it as we have
- I genuinely believe Franklin Park can be used for all the activities it has in the past with a few rules on trailers and vehicles. It is all about proper maintenance. The park is really not used many days out of the year. Its only care is mowing and pruning. We need a city horticulturalist. Proper maintenance is the key
- Additional native plants to make it a 4-season garden to enjoy it year-round with placards of each plant & its description of bloom time and care
- Wider pathway (not necessarily wider sidewalk) as it gets tight around the old well. Also, a working old well
- Proper maintenance going forward
- I want music, festivals, and markets back in park
- PLEASE keep the authenticity of the park. It is one of the only places that has remained almost untouched by entire life. There is so much natural beauty to work with and work around
- I love the park and feeling it brings to Southport – like stated above the bushes could be trimmed more often to make them prettier
- I feel that a balanced approach to having community events in the park so people can gather together is important. But the city I feel has gone overboard n promoting so many events that draw too many people and are detrimental to the health of the trees and vegetation. Needs to be balanced because it gotten out of hand. Please preserve the park as in its original state (i.e.,

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- the old pumphouse, walkway, old lantern type lighting, NOT the obscene bright light that currently is by the gallery). Keep it simple! Thanks for giving this careful thought and planning
- Keep doing what you were doing with maintaining the existing structures, arches, benches, as well as ongoing maintenance and care of existing natural features. The several arts and crafts events that happened less than six times a year combined with farmers' market weekly during the summer, and the once-a-week concert series in the fall, are perfect uses of this community park. The field next to the park can manage tents and pop-ups from vendors without impacting vegetation. The park is fortunate to have a mature live oak ecosystem in place. The City can hold these select functions, as well as ongoing passive recreational use by residents/visitors AND to monitor, assess & care for the health of the ecosystem – they are not mutually exclusive concepts. National and state parks do it day in and day out. Outdoor leisure, recreation, and environmental impact policies and procedures should be evaluated and modified as needed, but the ecosystem will always change and cannot be kept in a bubble. Provide enough funding to enable the city to appropriately care for the park once it is used and needs plan has been identified
  - Keep it a park
  - I enjoy the park. I like to use this area as a place of peace and reflection
  - Better maintenance of the park
  - Start RESPECTING the history of the park in earnest and bring it back to beauty. Then maintain it! Make it a real "park" for those of us who call Southport home – peaceful, quiet, and lovely. Not a venue for commerce and crowds. The city "powers" are far too interested in tourism and real estate development, and it is killing the very things about Southport that bring people here in the first place. "The Grove" deserves attention and care. Consistently!
  - Just make it like it used to be
  - Preserving nature and being mindful of events and care/investment by all who enjoy the park
  - Cannot think of anything other than what I have commented on
  - Play area for children
  - There are plenty of other locations for recreation & events. The park should be set aside for its beauty & history & for human enjoyment of wildlife & natural habitats – an urban green space
  - The park should be a gathering place for the community. There are other options available for exercise so that is not necessary. We have Taylor Field which now has a water fountain. We have a library less than a quarter of a mile from the park so that is not necessary. In the past, it has been a gathering place for the community for concerts and cultural events. Steps should be taken to restore the trees and plantings, but it should not be converted to an outdoor gym, Art gallery, yoga studio, or library. It does not need to be a learning center. It should be a quiet venue when not required for a concert or cultural event
  - A relaxing natural place to visit and picnic
  - Make it prettier
  - I feel that it is especially important to return the park to its "original" state. However, it would be nice to have a few limited, well controlled, events to attract locals and visitors. I have only lived in the area for 2 plus years but am very much in favor of preserving and improving the beauty of "old" Southport. It is such a gem!
  - Pathways fixed and grass replaced
  - Mulch
  - The enhancements at Franklin Square Park that would improve/enhance my overall parks and recreation experience would be to replant trees that are being taken down, return the park to

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- its original state, repair the wall, clean it up, take the markets/festivals out of the park, and treat it as a green space between the asphalt and concrete which will enhance the town in more ways than can be counted.....and the town should count its blessing to have the very special and valuable property. It is common-sense folks!
- None
  - Maintaining the upkeep of the park such as the trees, bushes, and sitting areas. While still allowing for festivals, markets, and concerts to continue as they have for many years. I very much look forward to the events at the park
  - To keep up the maintenance of the park and flowers and azalea bushes. But still have markets, festivals, and concerts as they have in the past years. I have enjoyed and looked forward to many of these events at the park
  - I cannot think of any
  - Mulching around the large oaks
  - Grass
  - Trim trees, remove dead trees. Mulching ground around existing trees & bushes. Water, fertilizer, etc. to maintain a healthy park
  - Keep it natural
  - Keep taking care of park as a place for tourists
  - Need to be respectful of plants and trees that were the vision in 1792 when Smithville was founded for the local community and not abuse that privilege as a gathering place for small local activities.....not huge festivals. 😊
  - Allowing use of the park is particularly important to residents while we may differ on how
  - Maintaining the park as a resource for the community is essential. Keep it shady, keep it clean, keep it thriving. Regular tree and plant maintenance is critical. Capping the number of vendors at festivals could help (I admit I am no expert on that). It is a joy to attend markets and festivals there....or just to wander through on a nice day
  - Better use of the open space to the left of the stage to the back of the bathrooms
  - Bike racks
  - I enjoy the peace and tranquility of the park
  - Plant more native landscaping including more shade trees
  - None
  - The whole area needs to be grassed with natural footpaths
  - To let the residents use the park and enjoy the park with Southport Historical Society lectures, concerts, special events, and markets
  - It is a great asset to the city and should be used as such for guests and residents. I find the questions about gender, race, and household status irrelevant to this study – and intrusive. That information can be gathered as optional at the end of the survey rather than being required to complete the survey
  - Develop into a botanical garden with seating for small concerts around the gazebo
  - Water fountain, doggy bag dispenser
  - Neat and inviting
  - None
  - Stay respectful of the original intent of the park and keep its beauty
  - Festivals, markets, concerts, etc. could be rotated across several areas within the city so as not to overuse Franklin Square Park
  - Not applicable

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Working water fountains
- Would love to see its natural beauty preserved
- This is a public park to be used and not a shrine. I think it is possible to have events with proper care of the park
- I think it is important to appreciate the park for what it is – a natural and historic respite from the pavement. Foot traffic should be limited off of designated paths. It would be of great benefit to severely cut back on the number of markets and events in the park
- Have a specific design and have the city to designate a parks overseer and trained employees to maintain the park, restrict large group activities, encourage citizens to donate funding for maintenance, also plan your work and work your plan!
- A nice fountain would be a great feature
- Basically, for it to be a well-cared for park. It should be maintained and cared for by our government and not just be a group of volunteers. It would hope that people with a professional knowledge of plants and landscaping in this area would be involved
- Golf cart parking would be nice in a planned way
- It would be nice to have a small play area for children. Dogs should not be allowed as we have a new dog park
- Move farmers' market; identify walking paths with shells, river rock, etc. & signs asking public to stay on paths. Maintain trees, shrubbery, flowers. Thanks
- None
- Markers telling what each of the plants, bushes or trees are
- Save the trees and the azaleas. No more markets
- Nature and craft events for kids. Award ceremony and festival for kids who play on teams for local gym. Things geared towards the kids and families. Years ago, we used to have a fair every year that the entire town loved and was sad to see go
- Better all-around maintenance. Not used as a market place
- The live oak trees are the statement of Southport – I hope you do not destroy
- I am happy about the decision to take trees down and open the park! Great work town!
- Limiting large functions in the park would minimize the damage of vehicles to tree roots. Also, the regular festivals in the park may have drawn foot traffic, but have they benefited merchants? I once attempted to patronize a local merchant during one of these events – no parking to be found. When I returned the next week, merchant told me that she had had no sales on that festival day. Everyone was at the park! Balance needs to be found
- Replace trees removed with appropriate trees, shrubs and mulch
- More markets
- The park should be well maintained. It is one of the crowning jewels of Southport, and should be preserved as sanctuary of peace
- Preserve the natural beauty. Not more vendors or events to help preserve this park
- Add garden areas protected by walkways and an area for concert seating. This park needs beautification which has been totally neglected. Franklin Square should be a southern park adorned with flowers, statues, and perhaps a fountain. It needs to be both enjoyed and preserved
- Just keep it clean and have gathering that residents and visitors can enjoy. There are so many other areas to have a nature park. This park is small in the middle of the City, and brings in visitors from all over

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Keep it as a place for residents and visitors alike to enjoy! Gatherings bring the community and visitors together while helping local artists and vendors. That is what a small-town community park should look like! There are other places that can be used as Nature Parks. This is a small park in the heart of Downtown Southport that brings the community and tourists together.
- I like the markets. A park unused is a waste of space
- Once the park's trees, shrubs, and pathways are in good shape, be sure not to neglect them
- I think that no vehicles of any type should be allowed on the turf of any city park
- It was a nice place for a market that brought visitors to Southport. Also, the Holiday and Spring markets served to benefit the many artists and special vendors from the Southport area. All this added tourism that brought benefits to local businesses that will surely be missed
- No vehicle with trailers and food trucks on any city park property
- Born here, enjoyed the park for many years and also witnessed its destruction. It should be a relaxing space to visit and enjoy, in our fast-paced and noisy little town. Not a commercial venue to sell stuff
- I enjoy the park because it is a place where I can find some peace in a hectic busy community
- Swings, such as are placed at the waterfront park, perhaps tables for playing chess/checkers, a garden much like the one at Lowe-White Park
- Maintain natural beauty
- Some indigenous flower/plant beds
- Since we have been experiencing drought-like conditions over the past few years, I feel that frequent watering would help the park immensely. My areas of azaleas and oaks look similar to the areas of my yard where watering is difficult. I would personally help with this and maintenance to help renew and keep the park's beauty – and I feel a lot of citizens would as well. And I LOVE the events – concerts, festivals, markets – that occur under the shade of the park's trees. I do not feel as if these have harmed the park as parts of my yard with similar plants and conditions look similarly due to the low rainfall over the past few years
- I like the way it is....it just needs and irrigation system to keep it healthy
- Replace any shade tree that needs to be removed due to disease
- It needs to be taken care of the trees and the park itself. As a child we use to love going to the park and having our own things on stage. We had actual water come out of the water pump. We used to just sit and chat here
- Make it a park again and move all big gatherings back to the Garrison Lawn
- Put the events back at the park, please
- Please reduce foot/festival traffic
- Water fountain
- Nothing to add
- This park is way too small and in such awful shape that it needs to be closed and returned to a passive well-maintained area for people to walk through or sit and enjoy nature. The art fair was a terrible use of that area. You could see just how stressed and awful the place looked. This tiny area should be made into a pocket park with nothing happening there to disturb the trees, grass, bushes. Move all gatherings to Fort Johnson. Create a volunteer group that works with the city to maintain paths, trees, etc. if you do not stop over using this tiny parcel of green, it will be gone for the future. Get rid of that tacky bandstand
- Less concerts and markets

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The City should add a line item of park maintenance to the budget and get a knowledgeable person to be responsible for all Southport parks. Sadly, the present department head is not knowledgeable about anything but recreation
- Please keep people to designated natural foot paths possibly made of crushed oyster shells
- Re-open
- Please restore the trees and limit commercial use of the park
- If some older trees need to be removed, new, fairly mature trees should replace them. The City should strive to maintain healthy trees and not be so prideful about how old a tree is. Additionally, the weekly summer market must be somewhat harmful to the exposed roots. That amount of activity must cause a lot of wear and tear on the park in general
- Back to quiet contemplative uses, some music
- Regular review of park landscape conditions. Add shade tolerant gardens to the mix and expand the assortment beyond azaleas. It is currently a mess and has no garden design esthetic. This park has been shamefully neglected for decades, the oak trees and azaleas did not deteriorate with the recent influx of new residents. The bandstand is in poor condition and outdated
- Replacement of current Band Shell. Adding permanent lighting and sound system. Addition of gardens (shade plants where necessary). Azaleas and any other shrubs and trees MUST be pruned and fertilized. Improvements to the low wall along Howe Street. Signage at all access points to the park with Historical Plaques where appropriate. Attractive “historical” lighting fixtures throughout and surrounding the park. Weekly maintenance of the park!
- My husband and I walk downtown daily. We often stroll through Franklin Park. Many times, we have pulled HUGH vines out of the bushes. It has amazed us that so little care was taken. Theres vines were killing the shrubs
- The park is community gathering place and it is important to continue to improve the overall maintenance of the park
- Since my childhood, I have visited this park. (1950s – 1960s – riding the ferry from Kure Beach). Now my children and grandchildren have enjoyed this park on frequent walks and visiting the festivals. Trees: Focus on health of trees. Planting: Arborist input and design. Plantings: Azaleas and Native plants. Safety for public: Walkways. Paths. Rework: Entrance Sign at corner nearest the intersection. Attractive: Design and colors. Blend with surroundings of nature: Benches. Picnic Tables. Trash Receptacles. Gazebo: stage for group presentations. Kiosk with history of the park. Little Library, perhaps. Events/Activities: Festivals – two times a year. Network with historical groups to provide walking tours during year – heavily promote and advertise the ad historical/cultural with a “Friends of the Park.” Kind Regards: Barbara and Art Stegall – [basteg321@gmail.com](mailto:basteg321@gmail.com) Matthews, NC/Oak Island Homeowner
- Just general cleanliness, repair
- I have enjoyed the park as it is, but my elderly parents have a hard time with the footing and paths. The shade of the trees has made the park a pleasurable destination for sun relief for my family when we are out and about. The park should be open and available for community use
- Bring back concerts in the park and festivals
- It should be a peaceful well maintained green park and not used for any type of events
- It is such a beautiful Park, but the azaleas need to be trimmed back. The trees, though I know are protected, still need to be trimmed. Guys should go take a look at Sunset Park and see how beautiful it is with its live oaks. Brick pathways would be nice and beautiful as well

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- The huge stadium-style pole light should be replaced with a shielded light in compliance with the exterior lighting ordinance
- Brick walkways
- Perimeter paved paths for wheelchairs and walkers
- Regular maintenance and attention
- Better maintained. Left as natural as possible
- Bring back the markets. It was a big draw for us moving into Southport proper and paying city taxes
- Important that the park is well maintained, and the trees are protected
- Plant flowers around the trees
- None
- Paths which are wheelchair, stroller, or handicapped accessible. Also, could make the well pump workable
- Protect the trees and protect the park
- Preserve the trees
- None
- Let the park rest and grow so that it can return to what it once was. Please no more weekly markets there. It is too much
- Scale back the events going on here. There is plenty of usable land elsewhere. The camellia, live oaks, and azaleas are the major appear here. Not a bunch of yahoos selling tacky junk every week. Why not use waterfront park? The Garrison lawn? The space in between the Garrison Lawn and the Event Center? We can do so much better to keep a beautiful treasure thriving.
- Move the Farmers' Market back to the park where it belongs
- Trees need to be maintained so as not to cut them down
- Keep the grounds properly mulched and ban vehicles from entering the park, but do not ban festivals, vendors, or concerts. Maybe provide carts or wagons for vendors to move their tents and wares in/out of the park. These events are a big part of making Southport special
- I love the flowers and trees
- Night lighting at ground level, not overhead
- Keep the beauty
- Parking
- I would like to see that park restored to its former glory that we read about with trees, plants, pathways, etc. I also enjoy seeing concerts there, but I am not sure if that use is compatible with the park being more nature centric. I like the idea of sitting on a bench reading a book in the park, although have never done that. I feel the markets with lots of vendors etc. should not take place in Franklin Square Park due to damage to the trees, other plants, pathways, etc.
- Limiting the number of answers allowed skews this survey...almost seems "leading" the results. Not good...
- Let it recover from years of abuse
- None
- If I have not made myself clear yet, RESTORE THE PARK & stop the events
- In the tradition of a Commons, this park is a community gathering place and events should be allowed
- THE PARK NEEDS SOME TLC & I BELIEVE THAT VOLUNTEERS SHOULD HELP OUT CARING FOR INSTEAD OF THE CITIZENS RELYING ON THE CITY

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Some swings would be nice but more places to sit to enjoy the beauty and quiet of a park
- More lights
- Improve landscaping and add raised planters with seating. Remove historical stone walls
- Native flowers
- Franklin Square Park was given to the citizens for recreational, educational, fraternal, and religious purposes only. It was never meant for commercial purposes. Vendors and markets belong on the streets like every city has them...in the US as well as all over the world. The markets and vendors are destroying an historic park property...due to greed and the need for personal recognition with the members of DSI...they should be ashamed! The amount of money DSI brags about giving over the last 11 years is laughable! They have contributed \$12,500 since 2013 for the maintenance of Franklin Square Park...that equates to \$1,136 per year or \$94.00 per month....LOL....that would not pay for anything but perhaps a couple of hours of raking or mowing per month. It also equates to \$3.15 per day. The equation is pathetic!!!! DSI has destroyed Franklin Square Park, and they do not help the merchants because they attract people who only go to markets or festivals and do not shop locally. Southport does not need a tourism department either...the layout of the town cannot manage the traffic as it is. And the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival has been blown out of control. Southport is not an amusement park!!!!
- I believe parks are for residents to enjoy, not for commercial use by vendors
- Designate more staff for parks projects to better maintain and keep healthy the trees and plants to improve the best thing we have in the city. It is our showcase
- Speed bumps to discourage bikes, carts and any vehicles
- Better defined pathways
- Spraying for bugs
- It would be nice to be able to have grass grow and irrigation
- Keep trees trimmed. They will do better
- My hope is that we can enjoy the park AND protect nature. I enjoy concerts, but not at the expense of the safety of the trees
- Maintain trees
- More concerts
- No idea
- The trees were one of the things I loved most about Southport. It will be a tragedy to lose them
- As natural as possible with ongoing maintenance
- Do a better job of maintaining it. Instead of letting it come to the brink of ruin and then complain about the cost of mitigation
- Remove market/tradeshow type of events from this venue. This use does not preserve natural area and vegetation. Create stage/audience spaces that are more “durable” for regular use rather than bare dirt. Pave designated walkways to keep most high-volume foot traffic away from natural areas
- Replace the trees that were removed
- None
- Restore grounds and stop having vendor markets in the park
- Better parking near the park for events
- I feel that use of artificial structures (tents/canopies) or motorized vehicles should be prohibited. The ground around the tree roots should be protected from compaction
- Regular maintenance and care of trees, shrubs, and natural walking paths

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- None
- Mulch
- More flowers
- Flower and tree plantings
- More USEABLE benches and plant a few replacement trees for the future. Maintain and preserve what is there
- Irrigation and well-marked foot paths
- Natural gravel paths through the park and native plantings that accentuate the beauty of the oaks! Please! Engage the Garden Clubs in the area to help with advice on native plants and help with planting and upkeep!
- Eliminating the use of the park as a venue for festivals and markets, and return it to the beautiful park it once was and was meant to be
- Regularly care for the protect trees
- The park should be available for all
- Restore the original crushed shell pathways; add more live oak trees, azaleas, camellias, and other flowering shrubs; maintain park consistently
- Please keep vendors and concerts out of the park
- I enjoy walking the park daily and would love to see grass and other plants that bring nature
- Just remember the park belongs to the ENTIRE community not just a few long-term residents
- Four seasons' plantings to enjoy year-round. Some sort of protection to put around the trees to protect the roots & tree trunks
- Maybe additional historical markers regarding the park or the town
- Biggest problem in the park is a complete lack of maintenance. Most of the ground is bare dirt, whereas it should be maintained grass. The azaleas are allowed to grow wild to the point they accept a significant part of the park and block out any sight path through the park. There are very few benches, and ones like the old well are old, splintered wood. There should be grass, walkways, and benches—all maintained. The bandstand is nice but needs maintenance and there should be more of a defined area for viewing concerts. Uses should be defined, designed and maintained. It should be an historic, peaceful park for people, not commercial ventures and events
- More park benches, a few flower patches (large pots e.g.) butterfly bush, water fountain, protected trash barrels, colorful art
- Define the park boundaries
- More benches & defined permeable walkways
- Keep Franklin Square Park a peaceful park with no commerce and occasional community concerts. Cater to the tax paying residents and not the tourist
- Do Not allow vendors to drive vehicles in the park. Setting up the tents and tables is fine just no vehicles
- Rules and regulations so people know to treat the area with respect of nature and community
- Better sod, less dust!
- Better maintenance of park, many fewer festivals and no concerts. Quiet places to sit and enjoy nature
- Minimize the dirt paths
- Plant grass in front of the bandstand
- More plants and flower beds
- Allow the trees to recover from years of abuse

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- To return the park to its original purpose and not use it as a commercial venue such as markets and festivals
- Would be great for the park to be returned to its former beautiful condition and not be used as a site for festivals and markets
- Franklin Square Park was given to the citizens of Smithville (now Southport) for educational, recreational, fraternal, and religious purposes only. It was not given for commercial use. How DSI thinks they care about Franklin Square Park is not reflected in their donations to the park – just laughable. This group is greedy and self-serving...if they cared about Franklin Square Park, they would understand the importance of having the festivals and markets in the street (and Bay and S Howe Street can easily be closed for them). Think outside the box folks – no other city in the United States ruins their historical park like Southport does. The City of Southport, DSI, and any others responsible for allowing markets and festivals in Franklin Square Park should be ashamed!!!!
- Ensure the trees are maintained with adequate clearance around the tree to protect the roots
- Wake up City officials...do what is right for Franklin Square Park...return it to its former glory and make it the pride of Southport again. I am not from Southport, but I appreciate the history of this town. Quit trying to change it! Southport is a transient town...it is not longer the quaint little family town that it was...but it was the quaintness that brought all of the newcomers here! Newbies come here, change things, and then leave. Those that grew up here and those who have been here long enough to appreciate the town's history continue in an endless circle to try to repair the damage the transients leave behind. I am sickened by the condition of the park. Now that it has been closed and no herds of vendors/people trampling it, it is beginning to green up again...grass is trying to grow in places it has not been in years. It is trying to repair itself
- Repair the ballast stone wall and the lanterns at the entrances from Howe Street and at the sidewalk by Franklin Square Art Gallery. There are many other places to have markets and festivals.....not in one of the most valuable properties in Southport. Every town needs green space.....quit destroying this property with markets, festivals, and concerts...there are plenty of other places for them. This town is turning the park into a state fairgrounds and carnival....and these events have destroyed Franklin Square Park. And, sadly, no one cares or has the intelligence to see or understand this. Open your eyes and do what is right!!!!
- It should be left as a city park for all to enjoy relaxing in while visiting downtown. I do think once a week nightly music venue would be nice
- Saving the azaleas and live oak trees for future generations should be the top priority
- Maintenance of natural trees and shrubs
- Make it bigger and connected with other green areas for pedestrians
- Integrate and connect with green spaces in Southport
- More benches
- Why can't Southport have a pretty, quiet park like other places? People loved the old park. City should fix it. It is part of Southport's history.
- A beautiful water feature
- Maintained grounds better and more flowers/ground cover
- I do not know
- Well-Sprinkler System
- No more closures. Use the Arborist and realize some trees just die (like people) at different ages

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Think we should professionally restore the park before we destroy it!
- As long as we keep it open for ALL to enjoy and walk through – not close it down. It is a park and should be used as a park for walking and events
- Flowers
- Open your eyes City fathers! The markets and festivals in all cities and towns throughout the country are not in a historic park destroying it. They are on the streets – where they belong. Have some respect for the history of this town and the people that made it what you want to enjoy today. As the sign says, “Do not change Southport; let Southport change you.” and do not get me started about the weather tower, the Whittler’s Bency, and the courthouse that is on the National Historic Register!! You all waste more money on studies and consultants when common sense cost nothing! Do what is right
- Restore the park, the ballast stone wall, and replant the azaleas, camellias, dogwoods, etc. that have been destroyed by the City of Southport, DSI, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, and all others that attributed to its demise. Shame on all of you!!
- Grass under foot. Eliminate sand and muddy areas
- The City of Southport needs to respect the history of the park – it was designated for religious, fraternal, educational, and recreational purposes only. Keep DSI and their “carnie” events out of the park. The thousands of people they attract (carnies that do not purchase from the merchants of Southport) trample the park as well as the “carnies” wares and tents. You might as well allow elephants to trample through. Since the park has been closed since December, you can see the park “breathing” again and beginning to “green up.” The park was choking to death and emaciated from the lack of care and nutrients. The City of Southport and DSI should be ashamed!
- The park is not well maintained. There are leaves all over. There are no beds or gardens. There can be a balance between usage and plantings, trees, bushes.....it just needs to be managed and cared for
- The park needs to be maintained with new tree plantings to replace the older trees that will eventually die
- A nice fountain would be nice
- Better maintenance
- These are somewhat difficult to answer because I would definitely like it better maintained but enjoy the trees and would be nice to have nicer landscaping, but I also appreciate having it as a community asset for events. Sometimes those two goals are in conflict. So, I think it will require either innovative planning and landscape or compromise on landscaping and number of events. Good luck
- None
- None
- Knowing that the trees were properly taken care of
- Restore to original park
- Bring the park back to become the social center of our community. It has been horrible without the various activities that were there
- Bring back the weekly summer markets
- Please do not forget people with disabilities. As a paraplegic, to access the park with my wheelchair is difficult. Pepples, soft/sandy or mulchy grounds prevent people with wheelchairs to go to park as they would get stuck in the ground. Some pavements would be great. Also van accessible parking would be great. Thank you

## FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

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- Weekly food truck day
- Please preserve this natural green space as there are so few natural areas for all to enjoy left. Markets, concerts, etc. can be held on the Garrison Lawn. Taylor Field, or block off Bay Street
- The park should be a place of beauty and serenity! Get those open-air markets out of the park. It was never intended to be a fairground!
- Restore its beauty
- Concerts/markets
- Overall better general maintenance. Let us make it the showplace it can and should be!
- I am under the impression that the block where Franklin Park is designated for public gatherings for religious and community events when Smithfield/now Southport was originally chartered. Since then, it has been used as such very successfully. A number of churches, community buildings, and a large place for social/community gatherings has and continue to occur on that block. My question is, why would this need to change at all? The ambience of Franklin Park is accented by the large Live Oaks. This is a priority to maintain! I am extremely impressed with the arborist calling of the Live Oaks this Spring and it did not change the ambience of the park at all. The foot traffic around the trees during public gatherings and festivals likely had minimal effect on the health of the trees. Allowing organic matter to naturally collect (remove the grass catchers off the lawnmowers) and a little 10-10-10 fertilizer would help maintain the Live Oaks much better than keeping people out of the park. Finally, allowing a few of the volunteer trees from acorn sprouts to grow will keep the park's ambience for many generations of Southportians and visitors to come

### **“ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS/ENHANCEMENTS” AT FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK**



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#### **APPENDIX—S**

**PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET ON JULY 17, 2024**

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July 17, 2024

[illegible]**PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET ON JULY 27, 2024**

# FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK OPERATIONAL REPORT

PUBLIC MEETING—FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK

July 27, 2024

## SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	ORGANIZATION/INTEREST	EMAIL/MAILING ADDRESS
Peggy Papelars	DSI	papelars@ecorrr.com
Frank Papelars	DSI	papelars@ecorrr.com
Paul Fisher	DSI	pdf56@aol.com
Jean Tremblay		
Marilyn Wallace		
Carol Lyon		
Emily Humphreys	DSI	
Shawn Turile	City Manager	Sturine@cityofsouthport.com
Rob Liopis	State Pkts Pkts	liopis@statepktpkts.com
Rick Alt		
Joanne Patten	Friends of Franklin	
Cheryl Daniel	Friends of Franklin	
Dina Roussel		
Southport Sisters	Vander-Chapter	southportsisters@gmail.com
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## APPENDIX—U

### RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

