This resilient vision for the park is made possible by balancing systems of water, nature, activity, and circulation to create a holistic park that meets the needs of its users and the environment.
While the historic Olmsted plan successfully created a beloved destination for multiple generation of Philadelphians, the park today struggles with underfunding, deferred maintenance of historic assets and infrastructure, and frequent flooding.
The year-long Master Plan process was structured to ensure that all park users and communities were included and had the chance to weigh in on the future of the park.
Language interpreters attended all community meetings. Over 150 people participated in the kick-off meeting where they learned about the master plan goals, process, history of the park, challenges, and opportunities, and participated in interactive visioning stations.
Over 200 community members attended the second meeting where they were asked to prioritize investments for the park while finding the balance between options that "dialed-up" maximum water, activity, and nature themes.
The team created a workshop-in-a-box community engagement exercise to allow participants to design their ideal park while negotiating trade-offs between complex land use challenges involving cultural and natural resources.
The community’s priorities, pictured above, were gathered throughout the year-long planning process. The team spoke with nearly 3,000 community members and stakeholders that provided critical input that shaped the ultimate vision of the Master Plan.

**WHAT PEOPLE VALUE IN A PARK**

- 75% + cleanliness
- 66% + nature
- 71% + beauty
- 68% + activity

**HOW PEOPLE USE THE PARK TODAY**

- 33% + picnic
- 24% + walk dogs
- 68% + activity
- 20% + attend public events

**WHERE PEOPLE WALK/TALK**

- Water
  - Native plant gardens + fishing & water access
- Nature
  - Nature over looks + riparian reforestation
- Activity
  - Athletic fields + playspaces + gateway with public art
- Food & Beverages
  - Food & beverages
- Highs Community Priorities

**Park User Survey**
The Master Plan unveiling celebrated the future of FDR Park with an interactive lawn exhibit, games, food, entertainment, and a speaking program with project partners and City officials (as well as the Philly Phanatic).
The hydrology analysis carefully developed an understanding of how stormwater moved through the site and which portions of the park may experience flooding caused by low topography, high groundwater, and a non-functional tide gate that drains the park.
In partnership with the Philadelphia International Airport, new tidal and non-tidal wetlands provide important wildlife habitat and access to trails and nature while balancing cut and fill on site and providing an immersive experience.
Using soil excavated from the Wetlands and Sedge Meadow, the Hill rises above FDR Park, giving visitors never-before-seen views of the park and the Philadelphia Skyline. The hill provides access to new hiking trails and space for new habitat types.
Stepping into the Gateway Plaza from the Broad Street Station visitors are immediately drawn into the park by a welcoming view through the plaza to the sweeping green expanse of the Great Lawn and a curated view of Meadow Lake.
Partial cross-section showing the interconnectivity of systems throughout the park – water, nature, and activity/programming. The FDR Park of the future is flexible and functional, a park that can adapt to changing conditions and remains resilient in the face of challenges.
The master plan uses an inclusive range of considerations - environmental, social, and economic - to maximize the network of benefits for the park and to measure the park’s health and resiliency.
The Implementation of the FDR Park Master Plan requires a flexible framework that is dependent upon public and private funding opportunities and an ordered sequence of bundled projects based on targeting timing and movement of fill.