

# Master Plan Summary Report for Franklin Special School District

JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FREEDOM INTERMEDIATE  
SCHOOL, FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND POPLAR GROVE SCHOOL

PREPARED BY:



FOR:



## Project Overview

BWSC was engaged by the City of Franklin and the Franklin Special School District (FSSD) to prepare a concept plan for new recreational facilities at four FSSD school sites – Johnson Elementary School, Freedom Intermediate School, Freedom Middle School, and Poplar Grove School. The partnership between the City of Franklin and FSSD will expand recreational programming available to students at the four campuses and will provide more recreational opportunities for city residents on nights and weekends, when not being used by the schools.

Throughout the process, the BWSC team met regularly with FSSD and the City of Franklin to review work products and access agreement for moving forward. Two open community meetings were held. The first was a visioning meeting on April 27, 2017, to assess the community’s desire for different types of facilities and programming on the sites. The second meeting was a priority-setting meeting to assess the most desired improvements to be included in the first phase of improvements at the sites. At both meetings, attendees expressed a desire for facilities with maximum flexibility and the ability to accommodate a wide range of users – multipurpose recreation fields and restroom buildings were a frequently expressed request throughout the community meetings.

Within this report are summaries of the two community meetings, final concept plans including recommendations for the layout of recreational facilities to be included on each site, general recommendations for design and operations, and preliminary estimates of probable cost for those facilities.

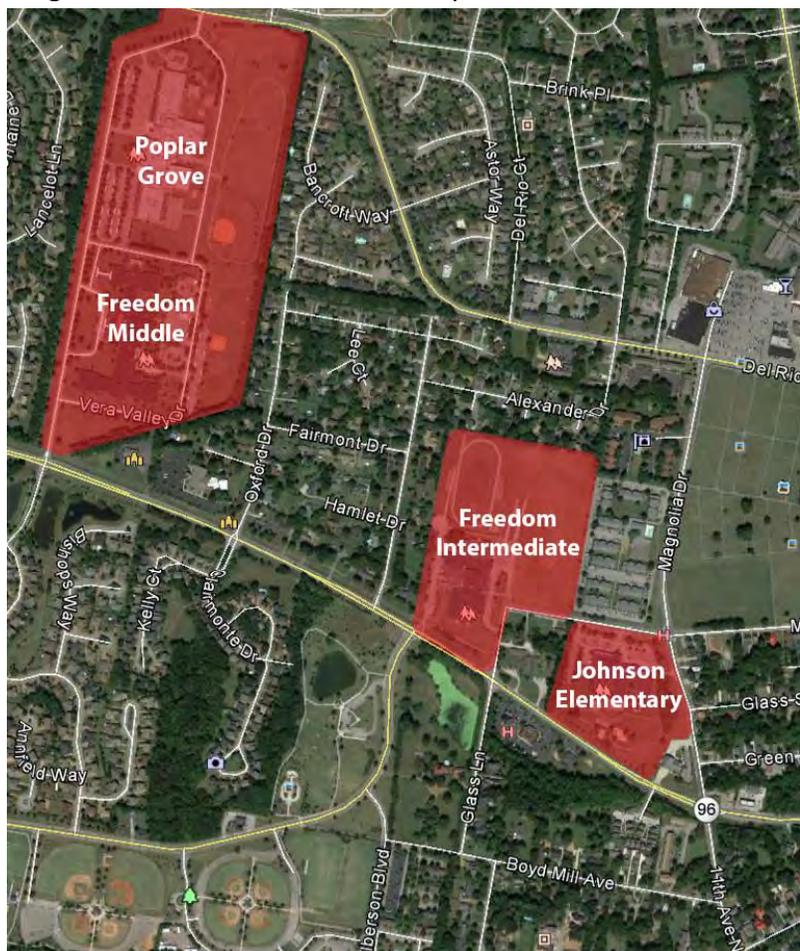


Figure 1: Location Map

## Summary Report of the Interactive Public Input Meeting – Mapping the Ideal Park



BWSC facilitated an interactive public meeting on April 27, 2017, to gather input from teachers, parents, parks users, and others on their programming ideas. The meeting was held at the Freedom Middle School gym. At the meeting, input was gathered from the approximately 40 attendees through several exercises.

Participants provided input through voting on top priorities for future facilities and programming from a predetermined list assembled by the project team. Attendees were given three dot stickers to vote for their top three choices for each of the two different categories.

Participants were then asked to design their ideal park. This activity involved placing scaled templates of various facilities, such as soccer fields and track, as well as gardens, pavilions, and public art, on a large aerial photo of the schools.



Finally, participants were asked to share any additional thoughts they had on a large sticky note as they left the meeting. Many additional ideas were captured in this area that helped the team to further understand the prioritization.

The comments and information gathered during this public meeting will help the planning team determine community priorities, and it will guide the development of the conceptual plans.



## Meeting Input Summary

### Facilities

Takeaway: Make the facilities easily accessible, flexible, and student-oriented.

- 1. Walking trails and sidewalks were the highest-ranked priority for new facilities (18 votes).** At the meeting, both verbal and written input were received that the track needs to be improved and that major investments in sidewalks are needed to connect the facilities at the four schools. Additionally, commentary was received that the cross-country team is at a disadvantage because of inadequate practice facilities. Investments in sidewalks to connect the schools could not only provide the facilities to improve the cross-country program, but also allow for a more efficient sharing of resources among the four schools and connect to Jim Warren Park.
- 2. Multipurpose fields for sports such as soccer or lacrosse (13 votes) was second.** Attendees at the meeting reported that the facilities at the schools have been “loved to death,” the grass needs to be rehabbed, and nets and other fixtures need to be replaced. Overall, attendees wanted flexibility for the fields to easily accommodate different sports and different age groups.
- 3. Youth Softball/Baseball and Tennis tied for third place (12 votes).** Comments were received in writing and verbally at the meeting that it is a problem for softball to be located offsite. Children with working parents who do not have transportation to other locations cannot participate in the sport, so it would be preferable to have it on-site. Many comments were received about problems with the current baseball field and the need for more and improved facilities.
- 4. Following behind were amenities to add to the comfort and usability of the facilities, like a trees and shade structures (7 votes) and a pavilion (6 votes).**

### Programming

Takeaway: Programs geared toward outdoor learning and nature are as important as team sports.

- 1. Outdoor classrooms (13 votes) was the highest-ranked priority for programming, followed by Nature Interpretive Displays and Summer Day Camps (11 votes).** Concern was expressed in written and verbal comments that there are a high number of children who are possibly unsupervised after school and over summer break and that there was a need at the school to provide programming.
- 2. Soccer (11 votes) was the highest-ranked team sport, followed by softball (6 votes) and baseball (6 votes).** Much of the input at the table exercise focused on improving fields for group athletic sports, and it was noted that these fields are in high demand for those activities.
- 3. Art lessons (6 votes) and garden clubs (6 votes).** At the table exercise, attendees suggested that students could construct and maintain gardens as service projects, or it could be built into school curriculum.

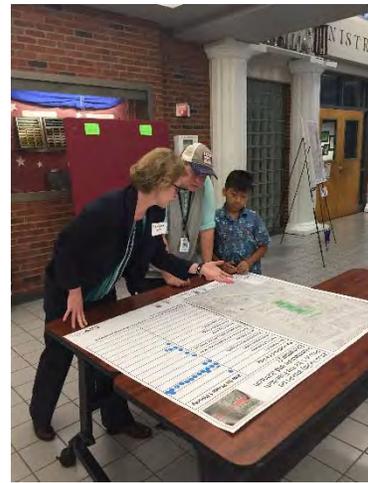


## Interactive Public Input Meeting – Priority Phasing of Recreational Improvements



BWSC facilitated an interactive public meeting on September 5, 2017, to gather input from teachers, parents, parks users, and others on their ideas for prioritizing the phasing of recreational improvements at the FSSD campuses. This was the second broad community engagement meeting in the process and built upon information received at the previous meeting where attendees shared their top priorities for future facilities on the school campuses.

At the September 5 meeting, input was gathered from the approximately 30 attendees through several exercises to determine top priorities for phasing of the construction of the new facilities. Attendees were given two dot stickers to vote for their top priority at each campus.



### Meeting Input Summary

#### Priority for Phase 1 at the Freedom Intermediate and Johnson Elementary Site

Multipurpose Fields (15.5 votes) and Restroom Buildings (4.5 votes) were the highest-ranked priorities for the first phases of improvements. This outcome is consistent with the views expressed at the April community meeting.

Following were playground Improvements and Performing Arts Amphitheater Area, each receiving two votes. New Sidewalks, Landscaping, Nature Play Area, and Storage Facilities each received one vote. These facilities would all be welcome improvements at the schools, but are not considered as high a priority as new fields and restrooms.

Parking Area Expansion and Art Sculptures did not receive votes.

**Priority for Phase 1 at the Freedom Middle/Poplar Grove Site**

Multipurpose fields (15.5 votes) and restroom buildings (4.5 votes) were the highest- ranked priorities, along with Tennis Courts (5 votes) and Improve Baseball Field (5 votes) for the first phases of improvements. This outcome is also consistent with the views expressed at the April community meeting of students eager to engage in extracurricular sports.

Following were Softball fields (4 votes), New sidewalks (3 votes) and Landscaping (2 votes). The desire for softball on the site was expressed by several dedicated attendees at both meetings, with reports of children unable to participate currently because they did not have transportation to get to offsite practice locations.

Storage, Basketball, and Parking expansion were the lowest priorities of those participating, receiving one vote each.

**General Comments Received:**

- *Regarding the softball fields – I would love to see TWO fields, since there are TWO middle schools. More opportunities for girls! Thanks!*
- *Having children in the school district I am thrilled to see this partnership. Thanks!*
- *Safety concerns about public usage during school hours. New parking located by the school playground. New sidewalk proposed by the playground fence.*
- *Traffic survey needed*

After gathering site data and community input, the BWSC team recommends the following improvements, as outlined on the subsequent pages.

## **General Recommendations**

The following are general recommendations for the improvements proposed at the school sites. Careful planning and thoughtful implementation are critical to successful outcomes of the partnership between the Franklin Special School District and the City of Franklin Parks Department. Given the heavy use of the equipment at these sites, all furnishings should be high-quality for long-lasting results. These guidelines are suggestions and not intended to restrict innovation.

### **Landscaping**

New trees should be planted to provide shade along sidewalks, trails, playgrounds, and on the south side of buildings for passive solarization. New trees and plant material in and around parking lots should be planted in accordance with City of Franklin code requirements.

### **Signage**

Signage is needed to address several items. Most notably, signage is necessary to address closure to public use during school hours. Signs restricting the use of recreational facilities by the general public to hours when they are not in use by the schools, such as nights, weekends, and summer break. This signage will alleviate some of the concerns for security during school hours as mentioned by several attendees at the September 5, 2017, community meeting.

### **Furnishings**

Using the same type of furnishings throughout the Franklin Special School District will help provide a cohesive appearance throughout the campuses. All furnishings should be high-quality to endure the heavy use of the equipment at these sites.

### **Lighting**

Use only fixtures that reduce the potential for light pollution and glare. Reduce the source intensity levels with lighting at the edges of campuses, adjacent to residential areas. Ensure that lighting is turned off by 10 PM. Consider LED lighting options to reduce costs of operation and maintenance. Note: Lighting can be solar, which eliminates the need for underground wiring.

### **Playgrounds**

All playgrounds should be inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). Inspectors check many elements, including the safety surface. Loose surfacing such as wood chips should be maintained at a depth of 12 inches and be freestanding of water and debris within all fall zones. Inspectors will also check the temperature of equipment, which can become hot in direct sunlight and cause injuries to unsuspecting children at play and other hazards.

NRPA has created “The Dirty Dozen,” a comprehensive 12-point inspection guide for playground safety. A free copy is available for download on the NRPA website at [www.nrpa.org/playgroundsafety..](http://www.nrpa.org/playgroundsafety..)

### **Sports Field Fencing**

Sports field fencing should be specified at the appropriate height and setbacks from the field of play to provide a safe separation between the field and spectators without creating a safety hazard for players or impeding spectator visibility. The type of fence selected is an important consideration. Galvanized chain link fencing is the most common fence type. Vinyl-coated chain link provides more aesthetically pleasing appearance than standard galvanized fencing, but is more expensive. Sports field netting can be utilized in appropriate areas to provide better visibility and less wind resistance than chain link fencing.

### **Maintenance and Field Use Schedule**

School-park partnerships have the potential benefits of sharing equipment, supplies, and personnel between both organizations. The partnership between FSSD and Franklin Parks Department should include a shared schedule for maintenance, as well as use of the fields.

## **Recommendations for Freedom Intermediate School and Johnson Elementary Concept Plan**

See 11x17 foldout plan for conceptual plan outlined below.

### **Freedom Intermediate School**

Freedom Intermediate School has a track with bleachers and an existing concession/restroom building. The field inside the track is currently used for football. There is also a newly installed playground on the southern and northern ends of the school. To the east of the track is a large grassy area that is currently not programmed. This area is large enough to accommodate a large multipurpose/lacrosse field, and three multipurpose/U4 soccer fields. Recommended improvements also include an additional restroom building and parking area (approximately 120 spaces) between the track and new fields to accommodate recreational facility users. Additional restriping and reorganizing of the existing parking areas is recommended to achieve maximum efficiency.

Additionally, a nature play area between the track and fields, which could be a Kid's Adventure Course, and additional tree plantings would be of added value to the campus to accommodate children who are not participating in organized sports. Placing a piece of public art or a sculpture prominently at the entrance on Highway 96 is also recommended. A series of themed public art sculptures at the four campuses would be an eye-catching way to provide unity among the campuses.

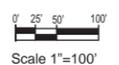
### **Johnson Elementary School**

Johnson Elementary School has existing playgrounds and a track that are adequate for their needs; however, a small soccer/multipurpose field could be added by the southwest corner of the school. The planned sidewalk improvements along Highway 96 will be a welcome improvement for the community to provide better pedestrian access to the site. Public art sculptures could be located in prominent locations along Highway 96 or at the corner of Glass Lane and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to accentuate the entrances to the school. Tree groves and other landscaping improvements would beautify the grounds.



# Franklin Special School District

Freedom Intermediate and Johnson Elementary Preliminary Concept Plan  
 September 20, 2017



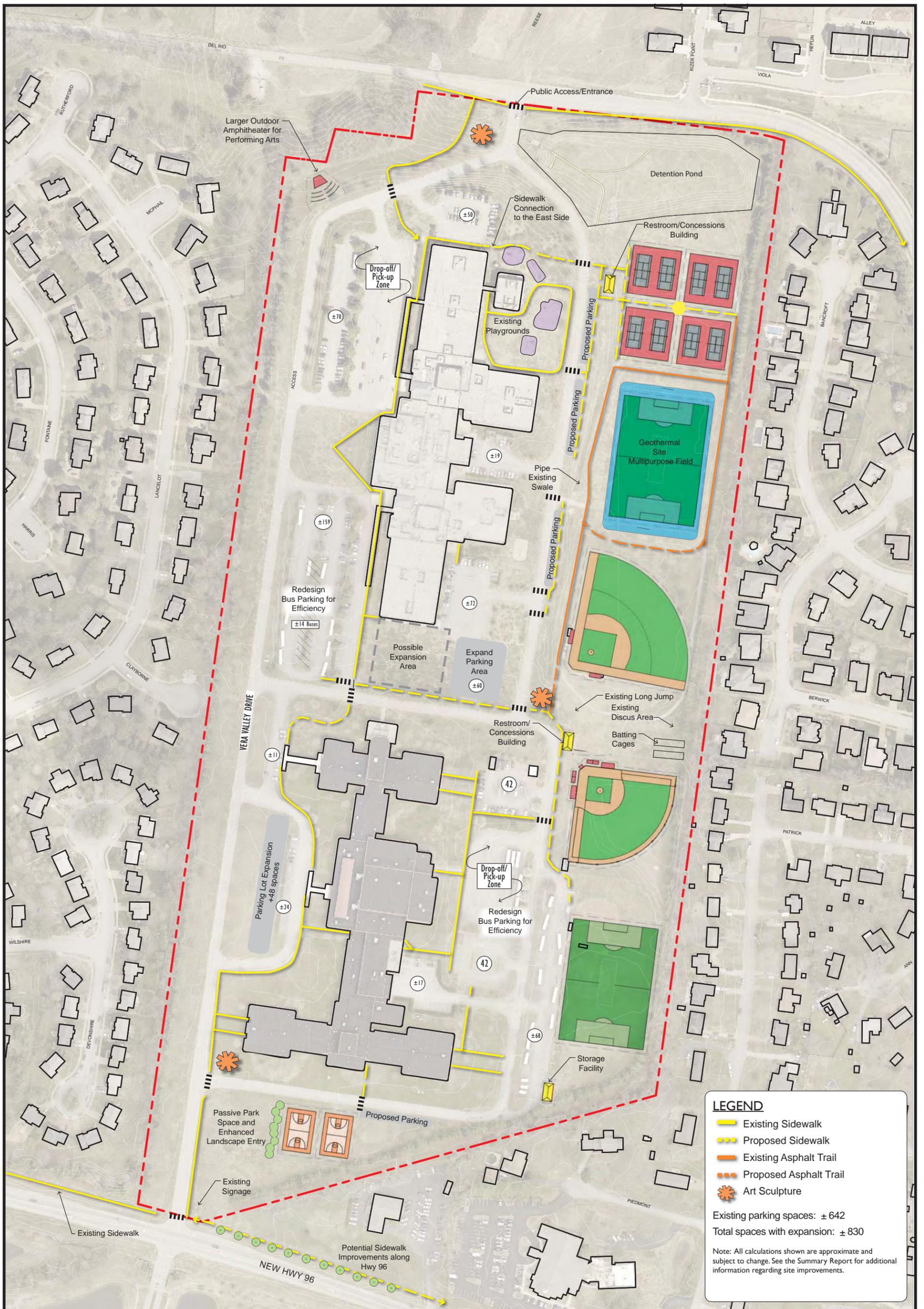
## **Recommendations for Freedom Middle School and Poplar Grove Middle School Concept Plan**

See 11x17 foldout plan for conceptual plan outlined below.

### **Freedom Middle and Poplar Grove Middle School**

The Freedom Middle and Poplar Grove Middle School recommendations are treated as a single campus because of their close proximity and students of the same grade levels. The campus currently has a network of sidewalks within it, but the plan recommends new sidewalks to fill gaps to allow for efficient pedestrian movement around the site, and also to connect with offsite sidewalks. As was recommended at the other campuses, public art sculptures placed at the entrances to the schools and the recreational area would create a theme of unity among the campuses. It is recommended that all parking areas be analyzed and redesigned so that maximum efficiency can be achieved. Additional parking areas are recommended throughout the site to supplement the available parking. Improvements have recently been made to the playgrounds behind Poplar Grove Middle School, so this concept plan does not indicate additional playground facilities on the campus.

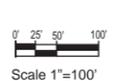
There is a strong need and desire on the part of the community for new recreational facilities at this campus, including restroom/concession buildings to support the recreational programs. In the northwest corner of the site, a large outdoor amphitheater for performing arts is proposed. Four new tennis courts and a restroom/concession building have been sited at the north end of the side adjacent to the detention area. A multipurpose field is proposed on top of the existing geothermal field. Care will need to be taken that nothing is sited in this location that would disturb the underground geothermal equipment. A newly improved baseball field, batting cages, and a new softball field are located in the center of the site. An additional restroom/concession building is proposed in this area to support these programs. The existing long-jump and discus areas are to remain. An additional multipurpose/lacrosse field and storage building are located at the southeastern corner of the site. Two basketball courts are proposed along the entrance drive adjacent to Highway 96 behind the existing fence row. Additional landscaping between this area and the entrance drive is recommended.



# Franklin Special School District

## Freedom Middle/Poplar Grove Preliminary Concept Plan

September 20, 2017



**Overall School Connectivity**

During this design process, the community expressed a desire to connect the two campuses. The new sidewalk that the City of Franklin is planning to build will be of great benefit to improving the campus connections, as well as connecting them to Jim Warren.

In addition, the BWSC team determined that completing the sidewalk network around and through the campuses could create an opportunity for a 5K route (See Figure 2 below). With improvements to the infrastructure and safety crossings, this route could be utilized for cross-country practice or community-sponsored race events. Mile markers could be placed every 0.25 miles to help identify the distance and define the route of the trail.

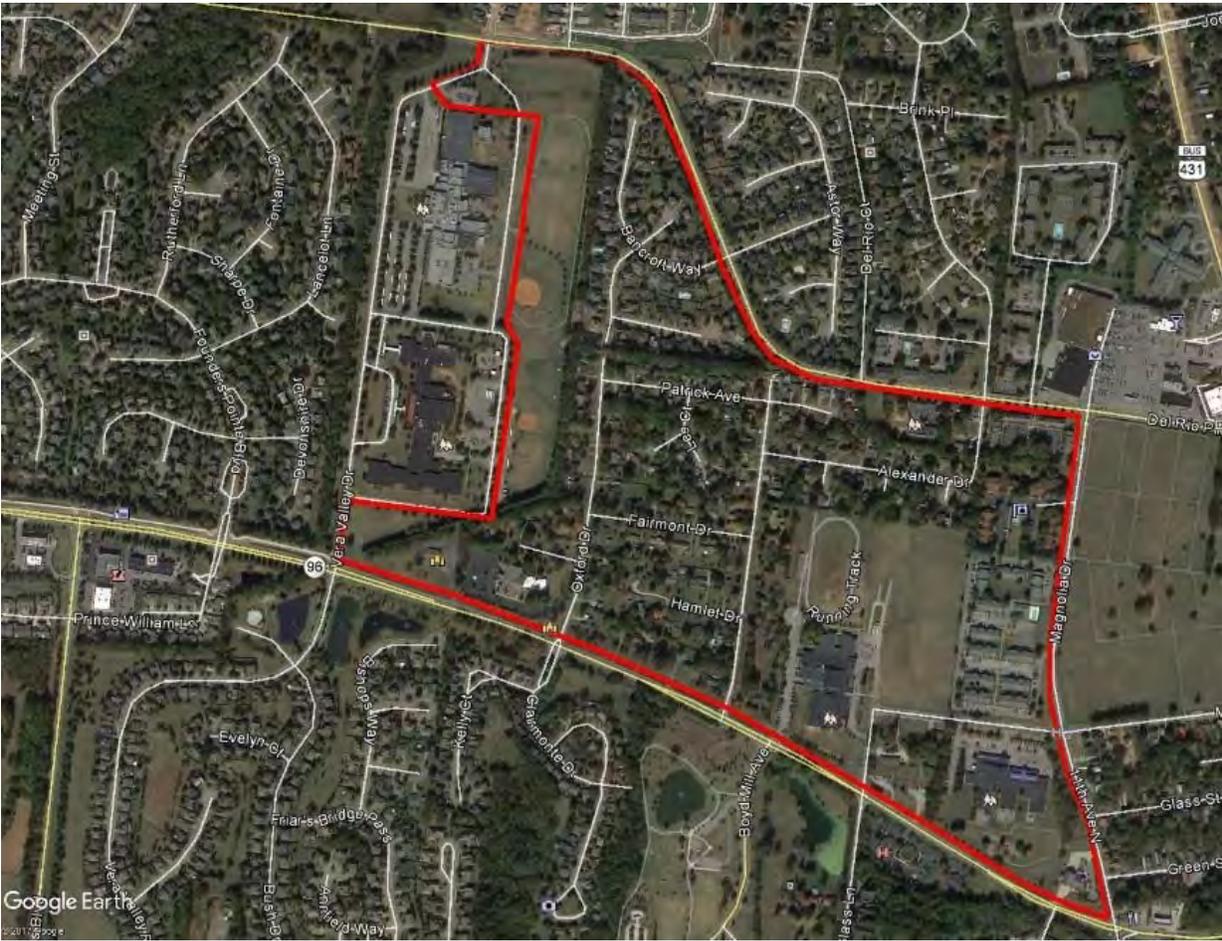


Figure 2: Potential 5K Route

**Cost Estimates - Freedom Intermediate and Johnson Elementary**

**PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT	RATE	TOTAL
1	New Concrete Sidewalk (6' wide)	2,400	LF	\$50	\$120,000
2	Crosswalk Markings	6	Each	\$1,000	\$6,000
3	New Parking Lot (+/- 120 spaces)	52,500	SF	\$4	\$210,000
4	Reconfigure Bus Parking for efficiency	1	LS	\$20,000	\$20,000
5	Restroom/Concession Building	1	LS	\$500,000	\$500,000
6	Large Multipurpose Fields (63,000 sf)	4	LS	\$750,000	\$3,000,000
7	Small Multipurpose Fields (10,000 sf)	1	LS	\$150,000	\$150,000
8	Landscape at Entry	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
9	Storage Facility (location to be determined)	1	LS	\$350,000	\$350,000
10	Playground Safety Improvements	1	LS	\$150,000	\$150,000
11	Nature Play Area	1	LS	\$100,000	\$100,000
12	Art Sculptures Platforms (art donated by others)	3	Each	\$50,000	\$150,000
13	Landscaping (throughout the campuses)	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
	<b>Subtotal:</b>				\$4,816,000
	General Site Work	6%			\$289,000
	GC General Conditions OH & P	8%			\$385,000
	Contingency including design fees, mobilization, etc.	25%			\$1,204,000
	<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$6,694,000</b>

Items needed that may impact the opinion:

- Utility Relocation(s)
- Geotechnical Engineer Testing & Analysis
- Environmental issues and mitigation requirements



Public Meeting Attendance Sheets – April 27, 2017

Franklin Special School District **Interactive Public Input Meeting**

NAME	E-MAIL	PARENT	TEACHER	STUDENT	OTHER
Paige Cruse	paige@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parkville-COF
Mindy Tate	mindy@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Franklin Tomorrow
Gay Marks	gmarks@owm.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kristina Lewy	angel@photon.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Holly Osteen	holly@photon.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Randy Steekens	steer@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering-COF
Ellen Moore	ellen@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering-COF
Kristen Stanfill	kristen@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering-COF
Rebecca Eaton	rebecca@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Member
Lisa Chetman	lisa@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Health (KSSD)
Jenny Benhill	jenny@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friends of Franklin Park
Katell Glader	katell@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jim Stinson	jim@engr.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alisha Erickson	alisha@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poplar Grove Principal
Janey Parker	janey@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friends of Franklin Park
Lon Uehling	lon@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Free Yang Woods	free@engr.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shirley Watson	shirley@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ali Foster	ali@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer - Friends of Franklin Park
Kelly Selfe	kelly@engr.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Franklin Park

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Public Meeting Attendance Sheets – September 5, 2017

Franklin Special School District **Open House**

NAME	E-MAIL	PARENT	TEACHER	STUDENT	OTHER
Randy Stevens	ors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coed
Craig Conaway	es@me.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Karen Menning	Lo.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Allena Bell	fuge@me.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Board Member
Ann Petersen	st.net	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALDERMAN
Ken Moore	.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor
Mark Hilly	tr.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COF Staff
Febert O'Leary		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board Member
Marshall Martin	estnet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alderman
Michelle Smith	.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M.P. Solomon		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dana McEnton	.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alderman
Chip Spencer		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSPD Staff
Michael Skinner	stinting.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COF
Kerri Husson	.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Principal of FWS
Kristi Jefferson	.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Suzanne Genting	ing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nikki Synger	ing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Gregory Bell	ing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Avery Bell	ing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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