

F St SE

Garfield
Park

FIELD NOTES

From Bridge Spot Engagement
Spring 2026

Virginia Ave SE

695

Virginia Ave SE

Bark And Go
Dog Park

Fern Pull II
Sculpture

AC Hotel



Bridge Spot is getting an upgrade. To make the park welcoming and functional for the wide range of skaters, athletes, artists and residents who have made it such a dynamic space, Capitol Riverfront Parks Foundation wants to bring as many people into the design process as possible.

Earlier this year, we created a survey, hosted an open house and collaborated with solarpunk dc to facilitate a community zine workshop.

This zine captures the major themes and next steps for engagement, programming and design.

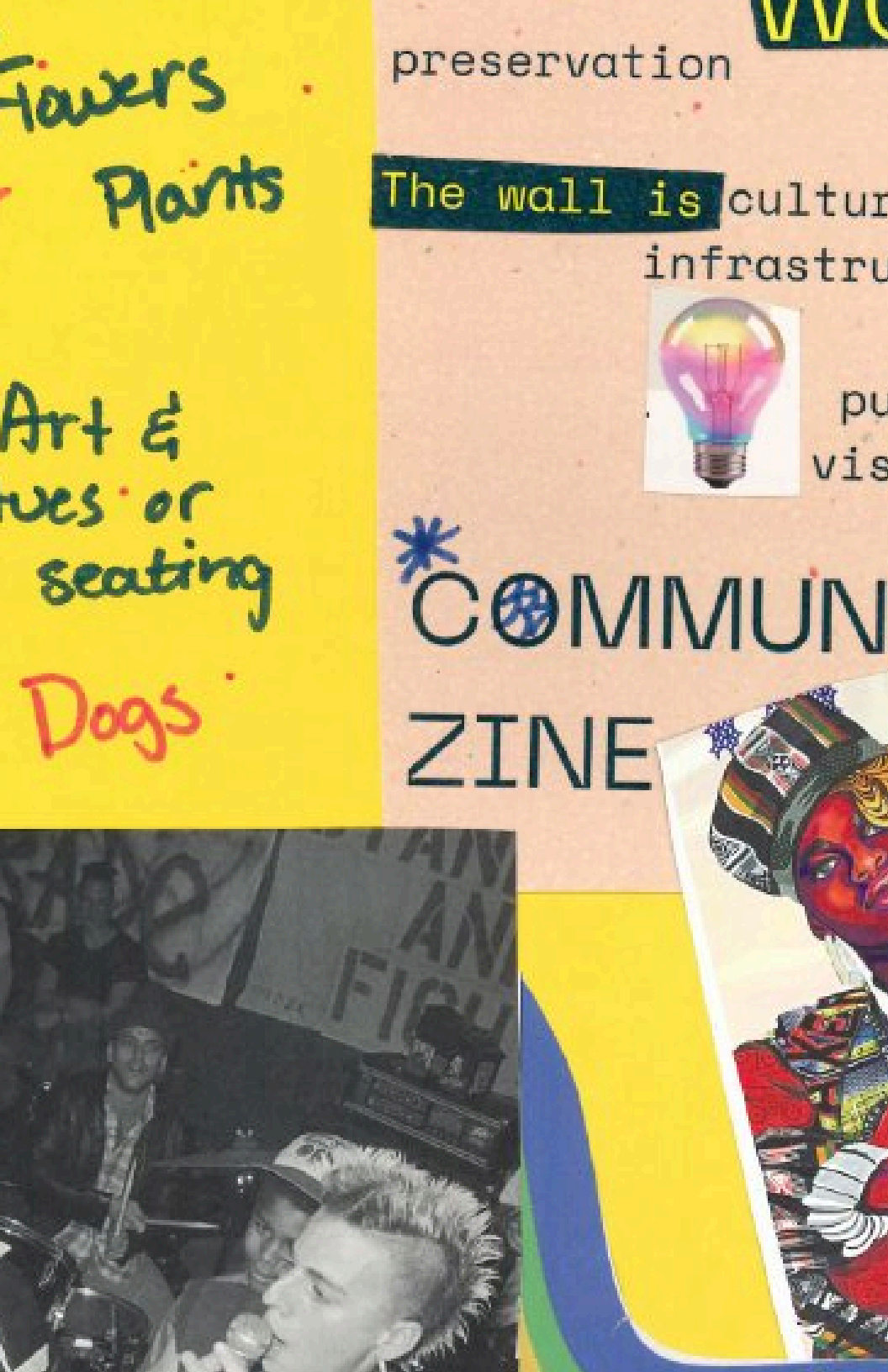


Finding #1

BRIDGE SPOT IS NOT A BLANK SLATE

The overwhelming consensus among skaters, artists, neighbors and visitors is to **preserve Bridge Spot as a skatepark and ensure plans center those who made it such a vibrant spot in the first place.**

Newcomers and enhanced programming and design elements appear to be very welcome—so long as it's not at the expense of the existing community.



Ultimately, we heard the need for **balance** between unstructured and structured canvases and community activities, which our current plan strongly supports.

Finding #2

SKATERS ARE INVESTED

The skaters we consulted were happy to provide invaluable technical feedback as well as aspects of skate culture they love and hope to preserve.

Concrete can hang, making it the material of choice. Materials like Gator Skin, wood and sheet metal can warp, chip, crack and crumble over time, posing safety issues.

Popular obstacles may need some social guardrails. Gentle signage and designated beginner zones can reinforce existing norms around sharing the space.

Skate events can attract sponsorship, visitors and interest from people who don't skate (yet). We should determine the feasibility of the most highly desired obstacles and pursue RedBull and Tech Deck as event sponsors.





Finding #3

TEENS WANT A SPACE TO CHILL

Teens, tweens, and their parents expressed the need for a space where young people can hang without being told they're in the way.

Graffiti art appeals to teens. Including teens in arts-based programs could offer a creative outlet and promote shared ownership of the space.

Teens don't need many amenities to feel at home. Hammocks, tapestries and unconventional seating make Bridge Spot more comfortable and communicate the space is designed for young people.

Food is a plus. Teen-friendly snack options could signal they're welcome at Bridge Spot. Summer concession stands could create new avenues for youth employment.

Finding #4

ART IS CORE TO BRIDGE SPOT'S IDENTITY

Our plan currently supports both ends of the spectrum: unstructured graffiti art and commissioned murals. Exploring the spaces in between could expand the ways we get to make art.

Preserving “The Wall” is crucial to place-keeping.

We heard only positive feedback about the existing murals and graffiti art.

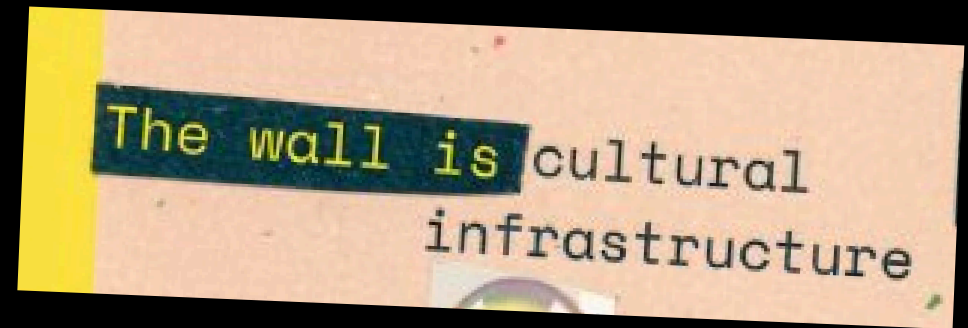
Ephemeral fixtures and events open the door to a wider range of artists. Miniature art galleries, art vending machines and art markets can all contribute to the local creative economy.

Music and multimedia art are in high demand.

More than half of survey respondents requested musical performances.

Art should explore Bridge Spot's history.

Participants requested that incoming art or signage tell the story of the park and neighborhood.





Finding #5

BRIDGE SPOT AS AN URBAN JUNGLE

Participants see nature as a way to make the park attractive, buffer noise, and support food justice.

Natural elements would motivate people to linger. We heard this across demographics and user types (commuter, athlete, etc.)

Noise from the highway turns some participants away from Bridge Spot. Natural elements could serve as a buffer. Densely planted trees can halve a highway's perceived loudness (Arbor Day, 2010). Vegetation can also shield against pollution, supporting public health.

Growing food could help combat hunger and cultivate community. Across interviews and workshops, participants became very excited at the prospect of growing food such as mushrooms. Some suggested looping in educators such as foraging groups, creating volunteer opportunities, and making any food grown publicly available.

NEXT STEPS

THIS SUMMER WE'LL ...

Begin permitting process now that site plan has received community support.

Continue fundraising and begin grant applications now that priority programs and design elements have been identified.

Facilitate tactile co-design workshops with skaters once funding is secured.

Research options for lighting, seating, pathways, food vendors + natural elements.

Reach out to new + existing stakeholders including those who were underrepresented at workshops.

Stay tuned for more workshops +
project updates here →



← and let us know what
we might have missed here