



Engagement Summary

what we heard

Thank you to the 300+ participants who came out to support the Saints JFX One Plan at the September Visioning Town Halls and the 162 survey respondents who shared their thoughts and ideas! The Town Halls began with an introductory presentation to answer 'what is a campus master plan?' and 'what does this mean for Saints JFX?' Participants then engaged with a series of informational and interactive exhibits, in an open house format, that explored a range of strategies for interior and exterior improvements to Parish facilities. An online survey was available for those unable to attend and for those interested in sharing additional feedback. The following is a summary of the key takeaways from the engagement that will help to inform the final campus master plan.



2
Town Halls

300+
Participants

162
Survey Responses



Key Themes

At the beginning of the process, the Planning Team in collaboration with Saints JFX staff held stakeholder listening sessions over two consecutive days. Over the course of 12, one-hour, sessions the Team spoke with 90+ individuals encompassing perspectives of parishioners at large, students, faculty and staff, teachers, parents, committee members, and the larger Wilmette community. Four key themes emerged from those enlightening discussions and will be core themes of the Saints JFX One Plan.

1

Embrace the Past, Welcome the Future.

Ensure there is space for worship, gathering, serving the larger community, education, and recreation in any new enhancements proposed in the Saints JFX One Plan.

2

Build Community Through Gathering Spaces.

Develop a variety of community gathering spaces that are adaptable, flexible, and multi-purpose to serve more than one use, support Parish and academic programming, and serve both campuses.

3

Support Existing Programming & Uses.

Provide a better experience through the built form for all existing programs, uses, and community members.

4

Embrace Connectivity, Accessibility, and a Cohesive Identity.

Improve safety and comfort for those of all ages and abilities and cultivate a cohesive identity through branding, architectural character, and signage.

Saints JFX Today & Tomorrow

Through a series of open ended questions, the community shared thoughts about the current state of the Parish and ideas for the future of the Parish over the next 10 years. Below are the most common responses.

Strengths

Community
History & Tradition
Church & Worship
Education
Leadership

Opportunities

Retain Students
Modernize Facilities
Create a Cohesive Community
Grow Parish Participation
Emphasize Financial Stability

Challenges

Aging Buildings
Maintaining Catholic Identity
Uniting the Two Church Communities
Insufficient Gathering Space
Managing Growth

Vision

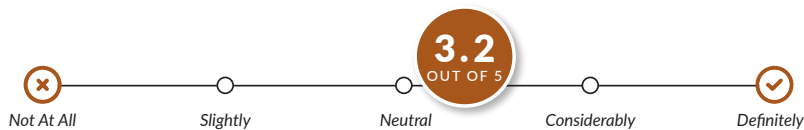
Invest in Both Campuses
Prioritize Educational Enhancements
Be Financially Responsible
Preserve History & Character
Unify Communities

Visual Preference

A series of questions were organized around key topics: **Open Space & Recreation**, **Community Hub Amenities**, **Educational Amenities**, **Branding & Signage**, **Architectural Character**, and **Mobility & Safety** to reveal the preferred character of Parish enhancements. Below are the results.

Open Space & Recreation

Importance of a Variety of Open Spaces



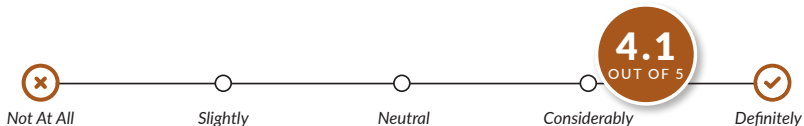
“Given the amount of land the Parish owns, there should be a **variety of uses**, meeting the needs of those who wish to **gather** for outdoor functions and those who wish to **pray**.”

Top Open Space & Recreation Improvements



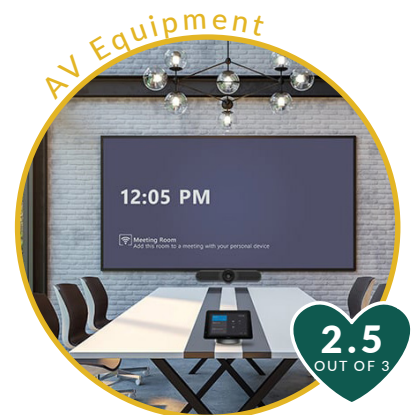
Community Hub Amenities

Importance of Indoor Gathering Space on Both Campuses



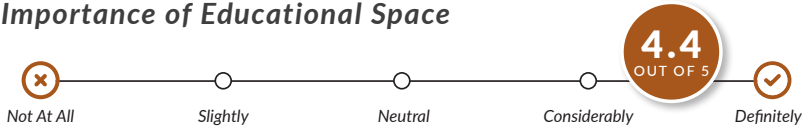
“Numerous **programs and events** would benefit from indoor gathering space: Catechism classes, men's club, Workshops, retreats, special holiday events, large meals, large lectures, to name a few.”

Top Community Hub Amenities



Educational Amenities

Importance of Educational Space



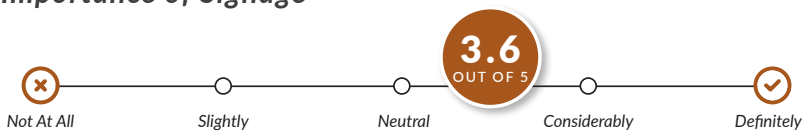
“ Our school is **thriving** and overflowing. We should see this as an opportunity to **grow and strengthen** the Parish. We should **maintain and enhance** our school with additional classrooms and competitive amenities like athletics and music rooms. ”

Top Educational Amenities



Branding & Signage

Importance of Signage



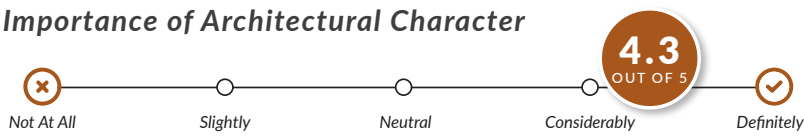
“ Signage should be a **lower priority** of the plan but is an **important element** in creating a welcoming, accessible, and cohesive Parish. ”

Top Branding & Signage Improvements



Architectural Character

Importance of Architectural Character



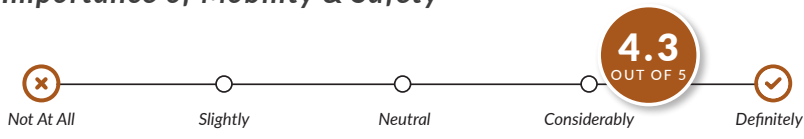
“The two campuses have **different architectural styles**, but each should be developed consistently with its original style. Both are grounded in **history** and reflect the original **cultural heritage** that should be respected and celebrated.”

Top Style - Respect the Architectural Character



Mobility & Safety

Importance of Mobility & Safety



“The **main crossings** for both campuses are safety concerns and should be made **safer for our children and Parishioners**.”

Top Mobility & Safety Improvements



The SJFX One Plan Priorities

The community was asked to prioritize the following initiatives for future investment. Below are their rankings.



#4 Open Space & Recreation

#5 Safety & Security

#6 Beautification and Curb Appeal

#7 Accessibility & Connectivity

#8 Branding & Signage

One Plan Initial Concepts

The Planning Team shared a range of concept studies with the community that illustrated physical improvements to the campuses in order to address current needs and opportunities. A comprehensive assessment of existing conditions and an extensive community outreach program informed the concepts. Concepts covered circulation and parking, entry and arrival sequence, building layout, wayfinding and signage, campus uses and programming, Parish offerings, and infrastructure. The goal of the exercise was to understand how the community would like to see the Parish enhanced over the next 10 years. Across all concepts the following improvements were most favored by open house participants and survey respondents.

- » *Improve the academic excellence for the current student population through enhancements to SJ and SFX school buildings.*
- » *Renovate the SJ rectory to provide private priest living space.*
- » *Remove the current SFX rectory for a new community hub.*
- » *Consolidate the administrative uses to the SJ campus.*
- » *Enhance play areas and the green space between buildings on both campuses.*
- » *Add a Community Hub to the SJ campus.*
- » *Remove the SJ Convent to expand outdoor recreation for the SJ school.*

Moving Forward

what's next

Based on what we heard from the community, the current state of the existing Parish facilities, and the expertise of Parish leadership and the project Steering Committee, the Planning Team will develop a refined concept for the Saints JFX One Plan. This vision will be shared with the larger community through a presentation during the first quarter of next year. Stay tuned through the project website and the Church bulletin for more information on the date for the next engagement opportunity!



www.SaintsJFXOnePlan.com