



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Meeting Summary

Beech Project Advisory Committee Meeting 2

February 12th, 2015

3:30 - 5:30PM

Location

Shaver Elementary Parent Room

3701 Northeast 131st Place

In attendance

PAC members:

Fred Colley, resident, dog walker, scientist

Jamari Gilbert, resident, student at Park Rose High School

Bill Lindekugel, Argay Neighborhood Association

Nina Palacios, resident, parent of young kids

Laura Goodman, Principal of Shaver Elementary School

Saul Orduna, Shaver Elementary School PTA Co-chair

Staff:

Hun Taing PP&R Community Engagement Coordinator

Britta Herwig PP&R Project Manager

Jeff Milkes PP&R South/Shoutheast Zone Manager

Melinda Graham, Jonathan Beaver, Tommy King (2.ink Studio)

Summary

Quick summary of last meeting was presented and Goals for PAC 2 were outlined as:

1. Review and discuss three design alternatives for Beech Park
2. Review and comment on Community Gathering agenda & format

I. Recap of PAC I input and decisions:

Location of park elements and their relationships (dog park near parking but away from community elements)
'Heart of the park (plaza, shelter, play) at the top of the hill on the south parcel
Sustainable design approach

II. Design Alternative presentation

The diagrams from PAC I were translated into designs showing more detail in element sizes, shapes, park topography.

The idea behind showing three alternative schemes is to use three different approaches to create a dialog about design elements, design approach, priorities. At this stage, there is a great deal of flexibility to change location, size, shape, priority, relationships between elements. This is the time to identify preferences or concerns and so that the design team can create one design that addresses those as best as possible for everyone. The final design will most likely be a combination of elements from the three schemes presented today.



Scheme A:

This scheme is the most passive, neighborhood oriented park design. It evolves around two open meadows and a curvilinear trail system.

- Parking for 42 vehicles is parallel to Fremont on south edge of property using both 122 and 123rd as entrance/exit
- Dog park of approximately one acre sits in the SW corner of the park allowing for mounds and landscaping to create visual interest for the park users as well as challenge for the dogs
- Play and picnic facilities with a Portland Loo are located adjacent to a circular meadow that is large enough to accommodate a U-10 soccer field but the intent in this concept is to keep the meadow open for any and all play for community members on a first come first play basis
- The main meadow is slightly sloped in the SW corner to allow for larger events to take advantage of the layout and topography
- A linear skate element for children sits near the connection between the two parcels on a slight slope almost creating a 'slalom course'
- The north parcel is divided into a smaller picnic site and adjacent meadow
- The community garden forms the center point of the north parcel with a small gathering space with a potential small shelter
- A planted trellis creates a walking interest along the north edge of the park. It has the potential to become the 'signature element' of this concept

Scheme B:

Design is linear using slopes and drainage ways to communicate spatial layout in terraces. Layout is reflective of agricultural history. Design elements are arranged along the 'rows' of space.

- Parking for 428 cars along south edge of the park with an in/out vehicular entrance on 122nd
- Dog park of $\frac{3}{4}$ acre located adjacent to parking at SW corner of park
- Community Garden space with separate vehicular entrance off 123rd at SE corner of park
- Main park space is plaza with water feature, playground, shelter and 4 unit restroom on one terrace below the parking area. This layout creates a distinct amphitheater effect making the space usable for larger events such as summer movie nights
- Big open lawn for informal play is downhill adjacent to plaza area
- Landscape buffers between looped trail system and surrounding properties will create wildlife habitat and screen park
- Strong axis to Mt. St. Helens connects south and north parcel. Linear path terminates in large geometrical mound that adds interest, recreational opportunity and viewing area to the north parcel. This axis will preserve Mt. St. Helens views even if the property to the west of the park is developed from farmland to housing (up to 3 stories).
- North parcel features U-10 soccer field and a teen area with a small skate dot (practice area for kids), and two $\frac{1}{2}$ court basketball area as well as a portable restroom
- Stormwater is conveyed in linear ditches across the park in E/W direction and collected in a wetland/stream corridor along the west side of the park draining to the north

Scheme C:

This scheme is focused on active recreation and relies on a very strong linear connection between the two parcels creating strong visual connection to Mt. St. Helens as the main organizing element of the park.

- Teen area with potential climbing feature or ping pong tables, skate dot, full court basketball area is located at the south end of the parcel next to parking lot



- Community plaza with small play area, large mound to catch mountain views as well as a boardwalk/exploration element are adjacent to teen area
- U-12 soccer field is north and downslope of the community area which also has a 6 unit restroom
- Small meadow area and community garden with vehicular access off 131st are counterpoint to active area on south parcel.
- Small dog park with parking for 11 vehicles is located in NE corner of the site

Group comments:

- Need to research community benefits and preferences of ½ court vs. full court for basketball area
- Basketball is very popular in the area
- Soccer is a definite priority (Latino community, Shaver ES). Need to resolve the programming of a soccer field to balance open, first come, first play community use with programmed league play
- The basic concept of contour lines on plans and the impact of topography on park elements needs to be explained at Community Gathering to make sure everyone understands the lines on the plans
- Dog park is fenced in all three schemes – boundaries need to show better on the plans
- Parking entrance/exit is preferred with a two-way in/out layout
- Parking in scheme A could move to the east to allow for more dog park area
- Skate dot needs to be clearly defined as an area for children
- More discussion is needed at the next PAC around safety issues related to unwanted park use at the shelter/skate dot
- Importance of creating spaces for wildlife (especially birds, who will be temporarily displaced during construction)
- Vegetation management plan will make sure that birds are not harmed during nesting season by tall meadow mowing operations such as happen on the site now

PAC agreed to move forward with all three alternative schemes for the Community Gathering

III. Discussion on Community Gathering agenda/format

The design team presented a preliminary format for the first community gathering on February 26th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Shaver ES starting with a shared meal, followed by a presentation about the park site and the three alternative schemes.

There is still discussion around the next phase: small group break outs to discuss the three schemes vs. stations with the three alternatives manned by the design team encouraging one-on-one comments or even a full open forum to allow everyone to hear the comments of individuals rather than a summary during the final meeting phase.

Hun suggested further research into needed interpretation and cultural preferences.

The next PAC meeting is on March 5th from 3:30 to 5:30pm at Shaver ES