



## **North Parks Block - Parks Replacement Bond - Open House #1 - February 29, 2016 Comment Form Summary**

### **Overview**

The first open house for the North Park Blocks Playground Bond Project was held on Monday, February 29, 2016 from 5:30-7:00pm at WeWork, 220 NW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Outreach included a NWNW electronic newsletter article; post on project & Parks website; yard signs in the Park; flyers distributed to Emerson students, Ramona Apartment residents, and neighboring businesses; and two rounds of emails to interested parties. The Open House was attended by approximately 35 community members. A paper comment form was provided at the Open House, and a similar version was posted online for one week after the Open House. A total of 89 comments were received.

The goal of the Open House was to share three concepts for the playground replacement and get feedback on the different options. The Open House included presentations on the Project Scope and Schedule by Robin Laughlin, PP&R Project Manager and the three concepts by Robin Wilcox with PLACE Studio. Questions and comments were taken from the audience.

It should be noted that this report reflects the opinions of those who chose to participate. It is not necessarily representative of the broader community. This information, in addition to information provided at the North Park Blocks Focus Group meeting and by Parks staff; students, staff, and faculty at Emerson School; and other stakeholders will be used to inform the development of the final schematic design for the North Park Blocks playground improvements.

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### **1. What are your favorite things about the current playground (pick all that apply)?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swings – 65%                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance space / stairs – 20% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing / fort structure – 65% | <input type="checkbox"/> Bright colors – 15%              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shade from trees – 54%          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mirrors – 6%                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slide – 38%                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see below)                |

#### **Other**

- 7% of participants prefer monkey bars
- 8% of participants prefer fences, open areas, or both

### **2. I would use the North Park Blocks playground more if (check all that apply):**

- It had more/better features for children (5-12) – 75%
- It provided a more relaxing environment – improved landscaping / benches – 36%
- It had more/better features for young children (2-5) – 24%
- It had more/better features for teens – 3%
- Other :
  - 13% of participants would like more open areas
  - 6% of participants would like a safer space
  - 2% of participants would like a more natural feel

**Concepts for the Playground:**

The three concepts show different options for play features, trees, and lights. Please tell us what your preference is for each of these.

**3. Climbing Feature - I PREFER (circle one):**

Overhead bars – 36%	<b>Climbing nets – 48%</b>	Stand-alone walls – 16%
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**4. Spinning and Balance Feature - I PREFER (circle one):**

Individual challenge elements such as “dancers” to stand or lean on – 28%	<b>Group efforts to stand or lean on – 46%</b>	Poles that rock back & forth – 17%	Overhead spinning elements – 9%
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**5. Trees - I PREFER (circle one):**

<b>Keep 3 of the 4 existing trees in the play area. Remove the small sweetgum tree and replace it outside of the play area with appropriate different tree. – 54%</b>	Keep all 4 of the existing trees in the play area in their existing locations. – 46%
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**6. Lighting - I PREFER (circle one):**

<b>Remove all four light poles from within playground fence, and provide light to the playground from the edges. – 69%</b>	Keep all four light poles within playground fence, and add color to the protective surfacing to alert users. – 31%
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The three concepts show different options for play themes and layout. Please **CIRCLE** which element you prefer in the **OPTIONS** for **EACH GROUP**:

<b>OPTION 1 - Mounds</b>	<b>OPTION 2 - Wave</b>	<b>OPTION 3 - Net</b>
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**a) Overall Theme – I PREFER (circle one):**

<b>More organic with mounds and curving pathway patterns – 49%</b>	Structured central play with graphic play surfacing – 34%	More contemporary with off-set main play structure, graphic play surfacing and angular pathways – 17%
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**b) Main Play Features – I PREFER (circle one):**

Two types of net climbers, mounded ground surface, many smaller play elements – 30%	<b>More structured in the center with slides and climbing – 56%</b>	Large contemporary net climber – 14%
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**What else would you like us to know? Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your preferences or hopes for the play area? Is anything missing?**

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Below is a breakdown of additional comments received by theme (percentages are out of all 89 participants):

- Expand play area to allow tag, ball games, and other activities – 35%
- Make sure play area is fenced/enclosed – 15%
- Include swings – 10%
- Include mounds – 8%
- Include slides – 7%
- Concern that Couch and N Park Blocks playgrounds will be closed at the same time – 6%
- Stop trying to grow grass and replace with surfacing – 6%
- Safer equipment, surfacing, and surrounding area – 6%
- More or better lighting – 6%
- Include basketball courts – 4%
- Include monkey bars – 4%
- Include spinners/merry-go-rounds – 4%
- Provide better seating for adults – 3%
- Keep the trees for play and natural appearance – 3%
- No ropes or nets as they are hard to maintain – 2%
- More natural areas – 1%
- Include a tree house – 1%

**Any feedback on tonight's meeting: What went well? What could be improved?**

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- While the target audience is Emerson School, this playground should be more universal, a destination for all families with children in NW Portland
- Thank you for being curious about your community's needs
- Sometimes hard to hear
- Nicely presented!
- Very excited about the playground getting a much-needed update

**Please tell us about yourself:**

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**How far do you live from the North Park Blocks? (pick one)**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Five blocks or less – 18% | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than one mile – 13% | <input type="checkbox"/> More than one mile – 69% |
|--|---|---|

**How often do you visit the North Park Blocks? (pick one)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every day or every other day – 73% | <input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice a month – 11% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice a week – 13%         | <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year – 1%     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Never – 2%                  |

**Do you...**

- Have a child who attends Emerson School – 56%
- Have a child who attends another school – 23%
- Attend or work at Emerson School – 8%
- None of the above – 18%

**How did you hear about this event?**

- PP&R email – 19%
- PP&R website – 5%
- PP&R flyer – 6%
- yard sign in park – 12%
- Emerson School – 56%
- other (see below)

**Other**

- o 2% WeWork
- o 2% word of mouth
- o 1% neighborhood association (PNDA)

**How many children do you have living with you under the age of 18?**

- One – 11%
- Two – 27%
- Three – 3%
- Zero – 2%
- Did not say – 57%

**How old are they?**

- 0-2 years old – 9%
- 2-5 years old – 34%
- 6-9 years old – 37%
- 10-12 years old – 16%
- 13 and older – 4%

*Please provide the following optional demographic information to help us serve you better.*

**I am age**

- under 16 – 7%
- 16-24 – 0%
- 25-34 – 7%
- 45-59 – 20%
- 60-79 – 7%
- 80 & over – 0%
- Did not say – 11%

**I identify as**

- female – 60%
- male – 40%
- other – 0%

**Regarding residence, I**

- own – 74%
- rent – 23%
- other – 3%

**I identify as (please check all that apply)**

- American Indian/Alaskan Native – 3%
- Asian – 7%
- Black or African American – 6%
- Hispanic or Latino – 7%
- Recent African Immigrant – 0%

- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – 3%
- Slavic/Eastern European Immigrant – 3%
- White – 60%
- Some Other Race (see below)

**Other**

- 2% Jewish
- 1% Armenian-American
- 1% Mixed