



## **Couch Park – Parks Replacement Bond – Open House #3 Comment Form Summary**

### **Overview**

---

The third open house for the Couch Park Bond Project was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 from 6pm – 8pm at Legacy Good Samaritan’s Auditorium, 1040 NW 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Outreach included a NWNW electronic newsletter article, post on project website, yard signs in the Park, flyers distributed to MLC students, and two rounds of emails to interested parties. The Open House was attended by approximately 30 community members. A paper comment form was provided at the Open House, and a similar version was posted online for eleven days after the Open House, along with the Open House presentation materials. A total of 140 comments were received.

The goal of the Open House was to share the final draft concept for the playground replacement and plaza renovations. The Open House presentation included a project overview, the public involvement process to-date, information about trees being removed and preserved, and the draft preferred concept. Members of the Project Advisory Committee spoke about their experiences. Questions and comments were taken from the audience.

Given feedback received last year from students at MLC who participated in school-organized design workshops, and the commitment of the Friends of Couch Playground and Harper’s Playground to raise an additional \$500,000 for the project, it is intended that this project will have inclusive play as a focus of the design. The aim is for the design to be as inclusive as the budget, site, and scope allows. The Loo has limited options for siting, as it needs to be accessible, near sewer / water lines, and security staff have recommended it being close to NW Glisan St for easy surveillance. Given that, the questions asked on the comment form were focused on gathering feedback on the draft preferred concept for the playground and plaza.

It should be noted that this report reflects the opinions of those who chose to participate. It cannot be considered a statistically correct survey and is not necessarily representative of the broader community. This information, in addition to information provided by the Project Advisory Committee; Technical Advisory Committee; staff, students, and faculty at MLC; stakeholders; and others will be used to inform the final design for the Couch Park plaza and playground improvements, and the installation of a Portland Loo.

### **1. What is your general reaction to the playground design for Couch Park?**

---

- Support (50%), Strongly Support (17%) = 67%
- Neutral = 15%
- Dislike (12%), Strongly Dislike (6%) = 18%

### **2. What is your general reaction to the plaza design for Couch Park?**

---

- Support (47%), strongly support (14%) = 61%
- Neutral = 20%
- Dislike (10%), strongly dislike (9%) = 19%

### **3. The playground design is inclusive and appealing for all ages and abilities.**

---

- Agree (53%), Strongly Support (21%) = 74%
- No Opinion = 12%
- Disagree (7%), Strongly Disagree (7%) = 14%

### **4. The playground and plaza design adequately serves the recreational and leisure needs of nearby neighbors, nearby schools, and other park visitors.**

---

- Agree (46%), Strongly Support (17%) = 63%
- No Opinion = 9%
- Disagree (15%), Strongly Disagree (13%) = 28%

### **5. The plaza design creates a more welcoming and usable space.**

---

- Agree (38%), Strongly Support (26%) = 64%
- No Opinion = 14%
- Disagree (12%), Strongly Disagree (10%) = 22%

### **6. If within the current project budget, Parks is not able to build every feature shown in the draft design, we want to know what you think are the most important proposed elements in the design to include.**

**From the following sixteen (16) elements, tell us what YOUR priorities are by writing:**

- **H (= High)** next to your top **SIX (6)** elements
- **M (= Medium)** next to your middle **FIVE (5)** elements
- **L (= Low)** next to your least important **FIVE (5)** elements

---

#### **Elements in order of HIGH ranking:**

1. Preservation of horse chestnut tree
2. Swing elements (adaptive swing, group rope swing, & basket swing)
3. Preservation of two cherry trees in plaza
4. Fort structure
5. Climbing dome
6. Nature play feature: boulder scramble
7. Water play feature (channels / water table) in play area
8. Nature play feature: forest walk
9. Nature play feature: wood steppers
10. Spinning or balance element
11. Climbing arch connecting to mounds
12. Nature play feature: tepee
13. Sensory elements (musical & sound elements interspersed throughout play area)
14. Inclusive surfacing in play area
15. Custom seat walls in playground and plaza
16. Nature play feature: loose parts area

**Other Elements:**

- 26% of responses wrote in “elm trees” as high priority
- An additional 4% wrote that preservation of all trees is a high priority
- 5% wrote in “monkey bars” as a high to medium priority
- Other items written in included: balance element instead of spinner (don’t like spinner), climbing wall or other more challenging equipment, more natural elements like trees/shrubs/dirt/sand, side by side slide, surface materials, and seating with full view of playground.

**Thinking about the public involvement process as a whole (not just your opinion), please evaluate the following statements.**

**17. Public input was incorporated into the overall design concept.**

---

- Agree (37%), Strongly Agree (14%) = 51%
- No Opinion = 27%
- Disagree (13%), Strongly Disagree (9%) = 22%

**18. The public process was transparent.**

---

- Agree (32%), Strongly Agree (12%) = 44%
- No Opinion = 32%
- Disagree (11%), Strongly Disagree (13%) = 26%

**What else would you like us to know? Is anything missing?**

---

- 17% of responses mentioned keep the elm trees
- 15% of responses mentioned the importance and value of trees in park
- 6% of responses mentioned concerns about noise from the playground, including musical elements
- Other issues mentioned less frequently: keep the horse chestnut tree, process/outreach to neighbors, safety issues in park, keep the bricks in the plaza, concerns about artificial turf, concerns that playground is fully inclusive, dog park issues, keep playground simple/more natural materials, monkey bars, and stormwater retention.

### **How far do you live from Couch Park?**

---

- Five blocks or less – 34%
- Less than one mile – 9%
- More than one mile – 56%

### **How often do you visit Couch Park?**

---

- Every day or every other – 47%
- Once or twice a week – 26%
- Once or twice a month – 15%
- A few times a year – 10%
- Never – 2%

### **Do you...**

---

- Have a child who attends MLC – 21%
- Have a child who attends another school – 31%
- Attend or work at MLC – 16%
- None of the above – 29%

### **How did you hear about this event / comment form?**

---

- PP&R email – 25%
- Yard sign in park – 12%
- PP&R Website – 4%
- PP&R flyer – 4%
- NWDA newsletter – 2%
- Other (see below)

**Other answers included:** Friend/neighbor, Facebook, teacher, MLC PTSA, KCLC aftercare program.

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

---

- Zero – 30%
- One – 20%
- Two – 41%
- Three – 9%

### **How old are they?**

---

- 4 and under = 23%
- 5 - 8 = 42%
- 9 - 12 = 19%
- 13+ = 16%

**I am age:**

---

- Under 16 – 15%
- 25-34 – 15%
- 35-44 – 33%
- 45-59 – 24%
- 60-79 – 15%

**I identify as:**

---

- Female – 69%
- Male – 31%
- Other – 0%

**Regarding Residence, I:**

---

- Own – 73%
- Rent – 22%
- Other – 5%

**I identify as:**

---

- White – 71%
- American Indian / Alaskan Native – 3%
- Hispanic or Latino – 3%
- Slavic / Eastern European Immigrant – 3%
- Asian – 2%
- Black or African American – 1%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – 1%
- Some Other Race – 4% (Answers: Mixed, Human)

**Zip Code:**

---

- 97209 = 38%
- 97210 = 10%
- 97211 = 8%
- 97217 = 8%
- Other zip codes / No zip code given = 36%