



**SPRING GARDEN PARK
SUMMARY OF COMMENT FORM RECEIVED**



EVENT: Spring Garden Park Community Gathering #2
DATE: September 29th, 2015
TIME: 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
LOCATION: Multnomah Arts Center

1. Outreach for Community Gathering #2

Outreach for this event included a mass email blast to the Project Advisory Committee, database mailing list, and all parties listed in the Public Involvement Plan. Six signs were posted within the surrounding neighborhood: one on the Dolph Ct. park entrance, one at the Spring Garden St. entrance, one on the interior of the park near the benches, two on each frontage of SW 30th and Dolph Ct. at Fire Station #18, and one at the corner of SW 30th and SW Barbur. Southwest Neighborhood Inc. (SWNI) sent out a mailer to the Multnomah Neighborhood Association mailing list, an article was published in the SWNI newsletter, and Friends of Spring Garden posted a flyer on their Facebook page. Members of the PAC forwarded the email flyer to their neighborhood mailing lists. Portland Parks & Recreation volunteers leafleted residences, including apartment buildings, within a ¼ mile radius of the park with 300 flyers.

About 40 adults and youth attended the Community Gathering. Our PAC members served as resources for neighbors to ask questions. Our Project Manager, Travis Ruybal did a presentation at around 5:45pm and it was recorded by our PAC member Ken Klein. The video was posted on our website to help provide context for the comment forms and the designs.

2. Methodology

The comment form survey consisted of 3 pages of questions geared to determine the respondent's preferences on the various elements of design concept A, B, C. The survey was distributed during the Community Gathering and available online for two weeks.

This is not a generalizable survey. It serves the purpose of providing guidance for the design. Not everyone who filled out the survey answered all the questions and some gave multiple answers to one questions. The ones with multiple answers were not counted because it was difficult to determine their preference.

Due to mistakes in translating the hard copy to online track it, there were some discrepancies. The online survey asked for one selection from each category whereas the hard copy survey asked for a selection from each line item within a category. Walkways, Play Areas, Natural Areas, Entrance at SW Spring Garden St. and Entrance at SW Dolph Ct had multiple line items to choose from on the hard copy while on online, all the line items were consolidated giving the reader the option to choose only one element.

The data on both forms are still relevant and provide useful direction to the design. The online surveys give us information on the highest priority or preference from a larger pool of options while the hard copy survey provides us with more specific preferences. In the end, the data reveals clear preferences for specific elements. 54 comment forms were submitted, 28 hard copies were submitted and 26 submitted online.

3. Summary of Findings



Overall, based upon the feedback we received people preferred Playground design Option “A” that incorporates many of the elements of design concept B with significant preferences for:

- Paved arcing walkway with intersecting soft surface paths
- Soft surface paths throughout site
- No off-leash dog area
- Picnic structure on the South-center of site, half circle paving with wood structure
- Picnic areas with tables around structure in paved area, with tables within the flower garden
- Playground to facilitate more free play, and retaining wall with guardrail along SW Dolph Ct
- No Manicure lawn
- Additional trees throughout site, along walkways, open space on east side to sled, flower gardens
- Native landscape planting on east & west boundaries
- Entrance at SW Spring Garden St to have main walkway entrance between water quality and day lighted stream facilities
- Trees, grass adjacent to SW Dolph Ct.
- Street Improvements – trees, grass adjacent to SW Dolph Ct., Curbs, sidewalks, street trees

The elements below are preferences from design concept A:

- Play areas – circular form with benches all around, no fencing around
- Loo on west boundary at SW Dolph Ct, near entry playground
- Secondary entry on west side boundary with stairs up the hill
- Entrance at SW Dolph Ct - Gathering circle /entry plaza at SW Corner Dolph Ct

The elements below are preferences from design concept C:

- Play Areas – retaining wall with guardrail along SW Dolph Ct
- Paved entry of design concept C

Details

Question #1 – Which overall design concept do you generally prefer?

- 48.1% Option A - Circular playground & picnic area
- 40.7% Option B - Master Plan/Multi Path
- 24.1% Option C- Traditional/Contemplative

Question #2 – How important is it that the park has a water feature?

- 35.2% 1 (not important)
- 18.5% 2
- 18.5% 3
- 14.8% 4
- 27.8% 5 (very important)

Note: 53% don’t want water feature, 42% do, this is not a significant difference

Question #3: Design Menu, Percentages that are highlighted show a clear preference

A. Walkways

- Option A 20.4% Circular paved walkway
- Option B 38.9% Paved arcing walkway with intersecting soft surface paths**
- Option C 7.4% Square, formal paved walkway

- Option A 11.1% Soft surface path around stream day lighted facility
- Option B 42.6% Soft surface paths throughout site**
- Option C 16.7% Soft surface path around stream day lighted facility



B. Dog Area

- Option A 25.9% Enclosed off-leash area
- Option B 46.3% No off-leash dog area**
- Option C 22.2% No off-leash dog area**

C Picnic Structure

- Option A 31.5% SE site location, circular paved area with structure**
- Option B 6.3% South-center of site, half circle paving with wood structure
- Option C 16.7% South-center, square paved area with wood structure

D Picnic Areas

- Option A 27.8% Circle of tables around paved gathering area
- Option B 35.2% Tables around structure in paved area, and 4 more tables distributed within flower garden
- Option C 14.8% Tables in "U" around structure in paved gathering area

E. Play Areas

- Option A 37.0% Circular form with benches all around**
- Option B 16.7% Quarter-round with benches in inner circle
- Option C 3.7% "L"-shape with benches on south and north side

- Option A 16.7% Nature-based /hybrid playground
- Option B 22.2% Nature-based /hybrid playground
- Option C 22.2% Nature-based /hybrid playground with wall on north, west, east sides
 - Nature –based/hybrid playground with barriers (2x)

- Option A 7.4% Fencing around playground
- Option B 33.3% No fencing around playground to facilitate more free play**
- Option C 13.0% Fencing and retaining wall along SW Dolph Ct.
 - Need elements that act as fence
 - Seat wall around play area and sand
 - Bigger playground area even at the expense of flower area
 - Natural plantings
 - Soft versatile boundary
 - Not necessarily a wall, but hedges to create a low barrier from the rest of the park
 - Need more details for play structure
 - My daughter loves the natural areas to climb on. She also would love a set of monkey bars. She’s a climber

- Option A 3.7% Other
- Option B 5.6% Other
- Option C 20.4% Retaining wall with guardrail along SW Dolph Ct.**

F Open Lawn

- Option A 3.7% Circular manicured lawn at picnic area with seat wall
- Option B 31.5% No manicured lawn**
- Option C 20.4% Square manicured lawn in picnic area on southeast side with seat wall

G Loo



Option A 31.5% On west boundary at SW Dolph Ct., near entry, playground

Option B 18.5% On west boundary at SW Dolph Ct., near entry, playground

Option C 18.5% On west boundary at SW Dolph Ct., near entry, playground

- Move loo to central south end of park
- No loo
- Only put this if you are able to maintain

H Natural areas

Option A 13.0% No change from current fenced area

Option B 20.4% No change from current fenced area. Additional “natural areas” with native plants and grasses, wildflowers will be added

Option C 22.2% No change from current fenced area. Soft surface path, interpretive signage, formal gardens

- Interpretive signs but not formal
- On south side away from houses

Option A 7.4% Additional trees throughout site, along walkways

Option B 31.5% Additional trees throughout site, along walkways, open space on east side to sled, flower gardens

Option C 11.1% Trees planted along linear path system. Native plants, grasses in landscaping, formal flower gardens in center-west

Option A 11.1% Native landscape planting on east & west boundaries

Option B 29.6% Native landscape planting on east & west boundaries

Option C 9.3% Native landscape planting on east & west boundaries

I Entrance at SW Spring Garden St.

Option A 18.5% Main serpentine walkway entrance between water quality and day lighted stream facilities

Option B 42.6% Main walkway entrance between water quality and day lighted stream facilities

Option C 7.4% Main walkway entrance between water quality and day lighted stream facilities

Option A 25.9% Secondary entry on west side boundary with stairs up the hill.

Option B 13.0% Secondary entry on west side boundary with stairs up the hill

Option C 13.0% Secondary entry on west side boundary with stairs up the hill.

Option A 0.0% Other

Option B 7.4% Other

Option C 3.7% Angled walkway with connections to soft surface path around day lighted stream

J Entrance at SW Freeman St.

Option A 16.7% Paved entry

Option B 14.8% Paved entry

Option C 20.4% Paved entry

Option A 1.9% Other

Option B 18.5% Other

Option C 3.7% Other

- No paving on entry. Keep current access
- Unpaved entry because no parking available parking on unimproved road. Should be pedestrian traffic only



- Leave current soft entry
- Need offset parking off Dolph court, street to narrow
- Natural or compacted gravel entry
- Freeman is a Barely paved street with no parking, so shouldn't be a main entrance and not paved
- No paved entry, soft surface path, no street parking and street unimproved

K Entrance at SW Dolph Ct.

Option A 37.0% Gathering Circle/entry plaza at SW corner/Dolph Ct.

Option B 27.8% Pie-shape entry point

Option C 11.1% Square entry plaza

- Brick design

Option A 7.4% Trees, hedges adjacent to SW Dolph Ct.

Option B 20.4% Trees, grass adjacent to SW Dolph Ct.

Option C 14.8% Retaining wall with guardrail an formal hedges adjacent to SW Dolph Ct.

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L Street Improvements

Option A 16.7% Trees, hedges adjacent to SW Dolph Ct., curbs, sidewalks, street trees

Option B 31.5% Trees, grass adjacent to SW Dolph Ct., curbs, sidewalks, street trees

Option C 24.1% Retaining wall with guardrail an formal hedges adjacent to SW Dolph Ct., curbs, sidewalks, street trees

4. Demographic Data

Gender

Female 51.9%

Male 31.5%

No answer 3.7%

Residence

Own 59.3%

Rent 16.7%

Other 0.0%

No answer 5.6%

Age

Under 16 9.3%

16-24 0.0%

25-34 22.2%

35-44 22.2%

45-59 24.1%

60-79 20.4%

80+ 0.0%

No answer 3.7%

Ethnic/Racial Identity

American Indian/Alaskan Native 1.9%





Asian	1.9%
Black or African American	0.0%
Hispanic or Latino	0.0%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Recent African Immigrant	0.0%
Slavic/Eastern European Immigrant	0.0%
White	66.7%
Some other race (unidentified)	5.6%
No Answer	7.4%

5. Are there any other comments you would like to share with us?

- 12 people want leave SW Freeman entry as is
- 11 people do not want a DOLA (Dog Off Leash Area)
- 11 people want some variation of nature play, 3 want sand play
- 9 people want some small water play feature i.e. water pump
- 4 people want a to add sails to the play area for sun/rain coverage
- 3 people want DOLA

(These are unedited from the comment forms)

1	Add sails to play area for sun/rain coverage.
2	Move loo between playground & picnic shelter along fence/SW Dolph Ct.
3	No dog park
4	All designs look good, but off-leash creates safety issues and uses a lot of the park. Please don't put one there.
5	Kids need a hand pump to manipulate water
6	Living elements in nature play area (living willow tunnels throughout
7	No paving on SW Freeman. Street is unimproved. Keep it as is.
8	Make paved area decorative tiles.
9	Retaining wall-a nice natural looking boundary
10	Leave SW Freeman entrance as is (no paving)
11	Add sails and/or other shelter to some benches/parts of play area for rain and sun cover
12	Add secure boundary on SW Dolph (fenced) and only partially fence play area
13	Water feature like a pump for play area
14	Living willow tunnels/art near pond (they soak up water, too)
15	Living elements of play area-a living nature play area, not just natural materials
16	Top play area of Plan A w/ the circle path that heads down combined with middle level of Plan B & lower and upper fence across SW Dolph
17	Sail theme
18	Water feature: small for kids maybe. But no big feature.
19	Move loo to center south on Dolph between playground and shelter
20	Loo-on south side away from houses
21	Would like to preserve the current usage of the park: play area for kids.
22	The sandbox is what gets used the most b the little kids.
23	Preserve the view to the north from the top.



24	Sledding in winter and peaceful sitting areas.
25	Would like to see a slide that can be used by older kids, too.
26	An area where movies can be shown.
27	I like the flower gardens with sitting benches. Keep the trees down the middle of the park short so the view is not blocked.
28	Living willow tunnels near Spring Garden Park
29	Add sun & rain shelter, but small, floating
30	Need elements that act as a fence
31	Please consider a sail over the play area to increase use in the more difficult weather
32	Pre-teenage fun without being a "problems magnet" (lights off after dark helps. Something for 10 year olds (not every feature for little children)
33	Performance area for...
34	Nothing blocking the eastern sky (for ex. the shelter). Moonrise, sunrise
35	A sail cover for 1/4 or 1/3 of children's play area-RAIN!
36	A small water feature (no depth, only flowing) for kids to dam-Not too big!! Maybe away-is from where littlest kids would be likely to be.
37	An Archimedes (sp?) screw would be wonderful!!
38	Some of the paved paths flat so elderly or unfit can pace themselves.
39	A sand area
40	A Park Keepers opportunity. When I come with my children, before we play, we do some "park keeping" (like housekeeping). Maybe there are wire screen frames to sift junk out o of the sand. Maybe we know what are weeds that don't belong (photos?) and we pull a few out. Maybe there's a waterproof box with a journal where we record what we did to help (badge, t-shirt?):-) Sealed tub with a few garden tools to pull weeds.
41	Seat wall around play are and sand.
42	Brick design for gathering circle/entry plaza at SW corner/Dolph Ct.
43	No loo (x7)
44	SW Freeman St. Unpaved entry, because no available parking on unimproved road. Should be pedestrian traffic only.
45	Please no picnic table in close proximity to east side of park. Noise carries badly. I live in house on Freeman St. and hear drinkers, loud talkers in the wee hours. (see Plan B-Picnic Areas)
46	We live on the east border of the park. Having picnic tables in that area will encourage noisy behavior at night.
47	SW Freeman St. Unpaved no parking.
48	Sidewalks must extend 30th >>Capitol Hwy.
49	Soften the "edges" of Option "C"
50	Spring Garden Park offers an unusual opportunity for dark sky (relatively) observation of stars and planets with binocs and telescopes. At the recent lunar eclipse 60 people showed up and we educated kids about the night sky. An astronomy teacher from Wilson High School brought his 10" telescope and astronomy students to teach other kids. Please consider a flat area to the north (closest to Spring Garden St.) side of the play area, clear of obstructions and for people to set up telescopes at night.
51	Against dog park & fence. If Design "A", then consider replacing dog park area with a section from "B".
52	SW Freeman-leave current soft entry



53	Dog area must be included. If not, residents will still bring their dogs so that could pose issues.
54	Currently there is no off leash dog area, but people use it that way anyways. I feel the same will happen in native plants area if there is no fenced area. Would like a dog park for absolute sure.
55	Also, would really like to have some manicured lawn.
56	PLEASE include an open lawn space for free play & picnicking! Let's prioritize our families & kids over our dogs in the park!
57	Love the formal gardens w/ inset picnic tables in the serpentine design-seems great for exploring together in families.
58	Love the meandering paths of "B" and sled slope.
59	Play area (B) --Much bigger playground area even at the expense of the flower beds.
60	Much larger play area-with structures appropriate for younger children and teens. NO SLIDES!! Too much injury risk. Love the rope structures and don't mind losing gardens.
61	NO DOG PARK - tends to be dirty-degrades the character of a small park, dusty in summer. Irresponsible dog owners. I like the shelter area of "C" to be a group picnic/reserved area.
62	SW Portland lacks water play features for kids.
63	Nature-based/hybrid playground with barriers.
64	I prefer the combination of Alt. Plan A & Alt. Plan B, specifically 1)maintaining the lawn of A; 2)eliminating the dog off leash area; and 3)replacing the off leash area in A with the flower gardens/learning garden as rendered in Alt. Plan B.
65	Play area "B": soft vegetative boundary
66	I like round design features of Plan "A", but with no dog park, rather I would like to see soft paths/flowers instead. I hope the trees, when mature, won't block territorial landscape views, especially at the top. I would like to see some shade/shelter option closer to playground.
67	Any activity to attract teens ,relax and enjoy, love the flower garden & circular (larger) playground
68	for Dolph Ct. on Plan B, an entrance on the east corner for folks walking up the hill is needed
69	Because Plan B keeps the most open and natural spaces, this is my preferred plan. It does need the addition of a pathway on the SE Dolph Ct. corner for folks coming up the hill (both Plan A and C have this path. Plan B keeps open areas for what is the only real sledding hill in the neighborhood. However, the addition of so many trees will block any hopes of kite flying or Frisbee tossing, etc. which have long been a custom here during the spring and summer months.
70	In general, it is my opinion that all the plans are over-designed, breaking up into little sections what has been the only real open space in an otherwise urban, paved neighborhood. With all the structures and the addition of excessive new vegetation we will no longer have the wonderful sunset views to the west or the moon-rise views to the east. Gone is the open natural space we fought for when the old school property was first designated as a city park and the first master plan was drawn up. The addition of a covered pavilion on a paved surface will only increase the noise and decrease the peace of the park's immediate neighbors. This area may also prove to become an overnight hangout for underage drinking and partying from 2-4 AM (something that has recently started happening more often since "Movie Night" but will only increase into the rainy months with the addition of a covered shelter). We are aware of the additional vegetation planned for the noise reduction along the east and west perimeters however that will not counterbalance the increased volume from the megaphone effect of the hardscape and Pavilion roof. The roof should at least be positioned so the gable end faces North-South, not East-West as is shown on the plan.
71	Please reconsider this covered area and its effect on the neighborhood and eliminate it from the plan or redesign it with some kind of additional sound proofing and softer surface.



72	The best part of the plans submitted is the play area. Our neighborhood has many young families now and an open natural play area that can accommodate more children and their parents is welcome by all. Thank you for reading my comments. I appreciate all the hard work that has gone into the planning process already. I look forward to a final plan that has considered all of our concerns and represents the consensus of the majority of the neighborhood. You will read below that I rent my home but I have cared for this property as if I owned it for almost 20 years. I have a heartfelt interest in the future of the park just outside my gate. Thanks again.
73	SW Spring Garden Entrance: Most people enter at the west entrance
74	There are a lot of trees in the design. I hope they are more like Vine Maples and shrubbery-not trees that will exceed 30-feet in height. Another concern is the slippery leaves on the paved surfaces in fall when the rains come. Thank you.
75	Play area: Something that is easy to maintain.
76	Loo: Only put this in if you are able to maintain
77	SW Freeman is a BARELY paved street with no parking, so shouldn't be a main entrance and not paved.
78	SE corner of Dolph Ct. will be an entry regardless, so lets make it official, a lot traffic enters that way from the apts.
79	Play area: not necessarily a wall, but hedes to create a low barrier from the rest of the park.
80	SW Freeman: no pave entry, soft surface path. No street parking and street unimproved
81	Expand the native grass landscape area south. Like both options on C-Walkways question, but could only choose one. Good job!
82	<p>I'm ditto'ing what my husband, Peter McMinn wrote. I'm a property owner on Spring Garden St. (the poetry box) but have been unable to participate in meetings for the current new plans. I'm out of the loop with many of the relevant conversations, and I know my concerns below have been discussed to varying degrees. But as a close neighbor, I need to take this opportunity to weigh in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go with soft paths: I can say there is no worse place for asphalt paths than this park. The ground water is so active that, for nine months out of the year, the terrain literally undulates, with sink holes and hillocks forming every two weeks during the winter. In the space of three to five years, asphalt will ripple and crack. In order for paved paths to remain safe, especially in regards to ADA, they would need to be repaired at least once every eight years. Judging from the way paved paths are maintained in other SW Portland parks, this is far from budget-wise. 2. No enclosed off-leash area: Off-leash dog areas do much more harm than good. Because of the constantly flowing underground springs located across the incline of the park (not only on the north end), an off-leash area would very quickly turn into a mud pit and therefore a huge waste of space and money eventually needed to restore the area. None of the three plans accommodate shifting an enclosed area to allow for restoration. 3. Remove non-native invasive species: Locust, blackberry, and English ivy need to be replaced with native species of grasses trees and foliage. 4. Keep the plum trees: They are still healthy and produce a sizeable quantity of fruit each year. Once cleared of scrub and pruned, these trees can be a living heritage feature of the new park. Neighbors and new visitors alike should be able to continue enjoying these plums for years to come. 5. Limit parking, noise and trash: signage should clearly indicate park hours along with all other Parks & Rec restrictions. Trash cans should be made available throughout the park, especially near parking. <p>Keep maintenance costs low Increase native habitats Encourage responsible canine play Protect valuable trees</p>



83	The comments directly above were repeated verbatim by the spouse of the person commenting above.
84	Dog park is the biggest priority for me and my family. This is a natural gathering area for our community that provides a walkable area for our dogs to play. The bigger the dog park, the better.
85	SW Freeman St.: Not paved, unimproved street can't handle parking and pedestrians.
86	Please don't pave a path through the whole park. It will be too cut up as it's not a lot of land to begin with. It will detract from the beauty as well.
87	Need more details for play structure.
88	My daughter loves the natural areas to climb on. She also would love a set of monkey bars. She's a climber.
89	I loved the design of A the best, but my daughter and I both would rather not have a fenced off dog area. Both A and B feel the most natural and keeping to the neighborhood style which we like a lot. We're nervous that as soon as a park has an official fenced in dog area, like others in the city, it would become much more populated, and that's frustrating for a small, neighborhood park. In addition, when dogs are kept in a smaller confined area, the grass takes an incredible beating (like the upper dog area at Gabriel where there is no longer any grass). Regarding the play area: I like the idea of no bright plastic structures although I'm sure they are much easier to care for. A roped climbing "monkey bar" type thing sounds interesting.
90	SW Freeman: No paved entry!
91	SW Spring Garden Entrance: soft surface entrance between water quality and daylighted stream facilities
92	SW Freeman St.: soft surface
93	Plan B mostly accommodates what Children need and want. Children like to step from the playground right into nature for interactive nature play of children and their parents, without having to watch out for bikes whizzing by...a soft path makes more sense there, (and some shade trees) and everywhere else. More natural play structures keep the the park natural, like it is now. All of our friends and kids feel like that as well.
94	SW Freeman: need offset parking off Dolph Ct., street too narrow. Any thoughts on parking for the park?
95	Dog park!
96	Prefer Option A, but without the dog park.
97	I think it is important to keep it as natural looking as possible. No bright colored play structure-natural wood, stone, etc. much better. Too many flower gardens will be pretty but just take up too much space. An off leash dog area is unnecessary and would be unattractive & take up too much space.
98	I would like a little more area for playground in plan B (we have 2 small boys and live a block away and know a lot of small kids (3-6) in that range in the neighborhood, similar to that in plan A. I don't really care about circular vs. quarter shape as much as what is attractive about plan A, is that it has more space and for plan B is that almost the entire playground is very visible from the shelter/picnic tables area. This is especially important if for example, the shelter can be rented out for parties. If yes it can be rented out, then the shelter and lawn can be a little more separate from playground as in plan A (since presumably other kids can still play on the playground). Also, like the bigger lawn area of option C to serve some simple group sports like frisbee/kicking a ball around. Don't really want flower gardens as in plan B where the lawn is in A & C. Also, would like the concrete pathway to be a big loop (if it's not already, it's not clear).

