



**Portland Parks & Recreation**

**Listening Session**

**November 17, 2016**

**David Douglas High School**

**5:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Communities Present:** Bhutanese, Iraqi, Myanmar, Tongan and Somali

Each community had 10-12 community representatives comprised of community elders, adults and youth.

The communities were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. How have you and your family used Portland Parks and Recreation services?
2. Which services have you found to be most valuable and important to you and your family?
3. What services are most important to your community?
4. Of the services provided by Portland Parks & Recreation that you have recently learned about, which of these services would you rank most to least important, and why?
5. How can Portland Parks & Recreation assist you in your integration into the community?
6. What follow up would you like to see for Portland Parks & Recreation staff?

**BHUTANESE COMMUNITY**

**1. How have you and your family used Portland Parks and Recreation services?**

We don't know about the resources available at Portland Parks and Recreation, our youth and children have been using it for soccer and entertainment.

**2. Which services have you found to be most valuable and important to you and your family?**

We don't have the knowledge about the services available under parks and recreation

**3. What services are most important to your community?**

Playground \* Community Hall. Picnic Table. Water Fountain. Restrooms. Fitness Hall. Swimming Pool. Materials needed for games and sports and transportation services. Community Hall with all sorts of sound system.

**4. Of the services provided by Portland Parks & Recreation that you have recently learned about, which of these services would you rank most to least important, and why?**

- Community Contact person with certain incentive
- Community involvement
- Clear message about the services that we get through parks & Recs

**5. How can Portland Parks & Recreation assist you in your integration into the community?**

- Need information about resources available in their neighborhoods.
- Availability of celebration facilities, gathering locations.
- Budget Hearing /Testifying
- Community hall with sound system, tables, performance infrastructure. Transportation to community center.
- Community gathering
- Multi- Cultural programs
- Introduction with the different community
- Culturally specific programming. Intro and integration among ethnic streams.
- Asking PP&R to research where to place services and facilities.

**6. What follow up would you like to see for Portland Parks & Recreation staff?**

- Community contact person. Follow-up on participations in democracy.
- Information on all PPR services and resources, not only soccer.
- Meeting with the community every after four months
- Outreach with the community
- Sharing information with the community leader.

**IRAQI COMMUNITY**

**1. How have you and your family used Portland Parks and Recreation services?**

Favorite- Stark Garden, Walking, gardening sitting in Park, Playgrounds

**2. Which services have you found to be most valuable and important to you and your family?**

Gym, swimming pool- Separated by gender, Benches, paved paths, water fountains, ponds, accessibility, lakes, water fountains, Basketball court, soccer field, indoor soccer, Programs for non-English speaking seniors. Culturally specific events/nights, Transportation.

- Movies for seniors,
- Movies in the park here
- Camping
- Community center- More, Concessions at Parks, Lower cost or waived fees for low-income covered.
- BBQ's & Picnic areas
- Youth employment – need more outreach
- More diverse employees
- Volunteering opportunities

**3. What services are most important to your community?**

- Clean, safe, supervised,
- No dogs- (Kids afraid)
- Closed at night

Least important

- Basketball, American football, Dogs

**4. Of the services provided by Portland Parks & Recreation that you have recently learned about, which of these services would you rank most to least important, and why?**

Nothing

**5. How can Portland Parks & Recreation assist you in your integration into the community?**

- Encourage different people to come together ex: Festival (esp. Spring, Summer)
- Indoor sports. Gender segregated recreational activities
- Need community centers for culturally specific gatherings to affirm community. Communicate events like dancing & singing multi-cultural festivals.
- Youth camping not in the wilderness
- Waived or reduced costs at rec centers.

**6. What follow up would you like to see for Portland Parks & Recreation staff?**

- Improve parks
- Beautification
- Check in on our needs from time to time
- Community outreach - not aware of programs.

### Myanmar community

**1. How have you and your family used Portland Parks and Recreation services?**

- Garden vegetable
- Soccer
- Community center (Swimming, gym)
- Picnics at Parks

**2. Which services have you found to be most valuable and important to you and your family?**

- Gardening
- Community centers (kids use)
- Safe for youth w/staff

**3. What services are most important to your community?**

- We need a good soccer field close to us (SE 122<sup>nd</sup>-182<sup>nd</sup>) for community use
- Community space for festivals/celebrations, water festivals, New Year, religious festivals/ Holidays

**4. Of the services provided by Portland Parks & Recreation that you have recently learned about, which of these services would you rank most to least important, and why?**

- More community gardens
- Use of spaces to cook BBQ in parks, kitchens in community centers.

**5. How can Portland Parks & Recreation assist you in your integration into the community?**

- Picnic spaces

- World Cup Soccer and community gardens – make us feel at home. We found soccer fields from the schools, no info on parks league/fields and need information about opportunities to garden
- Local gathering places and community center - SE Division and SE 150th
- Happy to see government caring for us. At community celebration.
- Adjusting to the new school system, SUN schools should provide prep. Orientation
- We need bilingual staff in our dialects(s)

**6. What follow up would you like to see for Portland Parks & Recreation staff?**

- Parks to host multicultural meetings
- More info in our dialects
- 150<sup>th</sup> & Division is an important site to build for so many our families (We have been very engaged with this project). These 7 acres could meet most of our needs

**PACIFIC ISLANDER**

**1. How have you and your family used Portland Parks and Recreation services?**

- Playground
- Parties (Birthday, weddings)
- Culture events
- Teen night
- Movie nights
- Walks
- Tennis
- dancing
- Swimming pool
- Free lunch summer program
- Arts & Crafts
- Sports (Rugby)

**2. Which services have you found to be most valuable and important to you and your family?**

**3. What services are most important to your community?**

- Family activities
- Availability- Safety
- Classes in park

- Music

**4. Of the services provided by Portland Parks & Recreation that you have recently learned about, which of these services would you rank most to least important, and why?**

Nothing

**5. How can Portland Parks & Recreation assist you in your integration into the community?**

- Playgrounds and pools, free lunch, arts programs.
- Fields for rugby
- Teen nights.
- Community rooms.
- St. Johns; SECC; Charles Jordan; Peninsula Park; Montavilla
- Indoor activities all year long
- Feels safer in open areas
- Elders gathering center, classes they can teach youth traditional activities, manners, values . Hire elders to engage elders.
- Hire community members
- Class that focus on pacific Islander culture  
Ex- Dances, music, language, arts + craft, Instruments, Health-nutrition  
Fitness center, family
- Center for holding forums & Community gatherings
- Activities for seniors  
Classes on science + other education  
Kitchens to serve meals

**6. What follow up would you like to see for Portland Parks & Recreation staff?**

- Need follow up valuating their contribution to democracy.
- Info meetings make it happen!
- Not just our feelings but reports back of change
- Tired of stating feelings wants to see change

**Somali Community**

**1. How have you and your family used Portland Parks and Recreation services?**

- Separated swim times i.e. men/women
- Traditional dance for culture(summer)
- Accessibility is difficult those in SE, offers there; those in N offers there
- Understand park regulations, i.e. What is allowed in park
- What roles can seniors play in park

**2. Which services have you found to be most valuable and important to you and your family?**

- Park activity for females in culture- be culture based
- Separate exercise, not just swimming- not culturally acceptable to mix male & female activities.
- Specific culture “Holidays” be acknowledged- offer activities around “Holiday”

**3. What services are most important to your community?**

Workshops & tours of parks- instruct what is offered, how to interact; have at different parks to understand what is different.

**4. Of the services provided by Portland Parks & Recreation that you have recently learned about, which of these services would you rank most to least important, and why?**

- Increase children’s activities
- Community entertainment
- Youth engagement

**5. How can Portland Parks & Recreation assist you in your integration into the community?**

- Need information about resources available in their neighborhoods.
- Availability of celebration facilities, gathering locationsChildren’s events, separated gender activities, particularly swimming.
- Seniors gathering places. Women free and nice gathering places.
- National and faith celebrations.
- Understand what different rules for different parks.
- Children activities, healthy youth activities.
- Summer activity and work with leaders and provide assistance for large family moms and grandmas.

- Provide elders for recreation activities
- Translated PPR newsletter
- Put fences on busy streets – we have large families and need barriers to keep kids from running in streets
- Parks help keep children busy
- Transportation assistance to get families to Park (especially families of single mothers)

**6. What follow up would you like to see for Portland Parks & Recreation staff?**

- Get a park newsletter (all parks)
- Fence on street side of park- especially where busy main street
- Kids activities, birthday parties, swimming (New Columbia)