



Mill and Midland Parks Combined Master Plan Phase 2 Summary of Outreach & Feedback

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1. Public Outreach

Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R's) primary goal of the public outreach was to notify neighbors and community stakeholders about the continuing planning process for Mill and Midland Parks, and to invite them to the upcoming "Community Gathering" to be held at Midland Library on September 15, 2016 (Public Meeting #2).

Outreach for this event primarily consisted of distributing flyers (in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese languages) to homes, apartments, and businesses in the neighborhoods surrounding Mill and Midland Parks. PP&R focused on community members who were most geographically impacted by the park plans (i.e., the residences and businesses located adjacent to the parks). From August 27 to August 28, 2016, PP&R volunteers distributed a total of approximately 450 flyers to Midland Park neighborhoods and 600 flyers to Mill Park neighborhoods during these outreach efforts.

Several days before the Gathering, Community Engagement Liaisons (CEs) visited homes with residents who spoke Spanish, Vietnamese, and English to invite neighbors to the event. PP&R asked members of the Community Representative Committee to invite their constituents to the event. PP&R also used bilingual lawn signs, a project website update, and outreach to social media to advertise the Gathering.

2. "Community Gathering" Overview

The first goal of the Gathering was to continue to develop relationships and trust with the community. PP&R accomplished the first goal by providing an accessible, fun, family-friendly event in the community's neighborhood.

The second goal of the Gathering was to recognize the existing conditions of the parks. PP&R accomplished the second goal by asking attendees to take a tour of Midland Park, and to visit the information booth to learn about the existing conditions at Mill Park and Midland Park. PP&R and design consultants engaged attendees in discussions about the existing conditions of the parks and discussed attendees' interests and concerns about the future of the parks.

The third goal of the Gathering was to identify the community's goals and priorities for the two parks, and for community members to recognize the goals and priorities of each other. PP&R accomplished the third goal by asking attendees to fill out a survey/comment form, and to participate in a park visioning activity and subsequent group discussion. PP&R's survey/comment form and park visioning activity communicated using three languages: English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The activity gave attendees the opportunity to communicate using their native languages, and/or with images. During the group discussion and meal, PP&R facilitated a community conversation in which participants viewed the vision boards, and provided an opportunity for community members to elaborate on their responses to the question, and to notice some of the things that others had drawn and written on the vision boards. PP&R





led the discussion in English, and CELs provided simultaneous translation and engagement in Spanish and Vietnamese.

3. Highlights of Feedback

Community provided feedback on the two parks using a variety of means including:

- Written survey/comment forms submitted at the “Community Gathering” (PP&R collected comments on a total of 23 English language and 5 Vietnamese language survey/comment forms from participants who wished to provide additional comments. PP&R did collect Spanish language surveys, but unfortunately these surveys were lost.
- Verbal comments that were captured on large flip charts by PP&R staff and design consultants

Raw feedback data are included in the Appendices of this document:

- Appendix 1: Comment Form Data
- Appendix 2: Verbal comments (discussions with PP&R staff, and flip chart notes)

The following summary highlights the concerns and interests for the parks from the above feedback mechanisms:

Midland Park:

- Safety and security concerns around nuisance and illegal activity; campsites
- Desired character:
 - Natural beauty, plantings, trees
 - Connection to Midland Library: opportunities for education and library programs
 - Peaceful and quiet, with walking paths and benches
 - Opportunities for children to play
 - The park has potential to be a place that the entire family can enjoy

Mill Park:

- Safety and security concerns
- Desired character:
 - Opportunities for children to engage in active play
 - A place for family gatherings





Appendix 1: Comment Form Data

English-speaking Respondents

Station 2: Midland Park Tour (optional): Take a walk through the park and answer these questions.

What do you notice about the park?	What questions do you have about the park?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural beauty • Noticed the park rangers how clean activity keeping the homeless transaction • Benches are nicely located and security was quickly dispatched • Grasses • It's empty • Pathways are hard to see. • Homeless, Path ways not identifiable • Lately I's been much better leaned and maintained. Earlier this summer, there were at least 17 tents with people living in them at the park. Rampant drug issues, garbage piles, which drew rats and all sorts of other issues which seem for more under control now. • I like the wood chip, trails and benches spread throughout. Very peaceful. • I didn't know this was a park I thought it was a hangout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the label trees be saved? - Will the park be used for environmental story and education in connection with the library? • Can you keep Midland park natural at least own small but charming identity • Perhaps a gate and steps on the North side hill? • Why there is not a playground? • What exactly would a natural park look like and who would maintain it? • Where is the funding come from to the repair the parks? • How soon will development happen? Will the park continue to receive attention that will present another tent community popping up here? • How can the park be beautiful ad what is the best source of sustaining • Legality of camping? • Is there going to be any honey bucket? • We should not have honey bucket • They should not use drugs at the park?





What do you notice about the park?	What questions do you have about the park?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the sun shines beautifully through the trees. The dark mulch that makes up the path. (I like it). A feeling that this park has amazing potential.• At night there is a lot of yelling, there here been gunshots, and homeless camps. I live in the apartment right next to the Midland Library. There is always questionable smells and activities going on.• I notice about the park that will be useful for use.• Unkempt, Random and Unwelcoming.• Not much trees and it most being cut down. Make a nice park.• I noticed that this park will be really useful in our future life if we make useful things based on how people want it.• Playground on how people walk it people walk it in our community park will help us.• A lot of trees and benches, no playground	





Station 3: Mill & Midland Park Information Booths: Visit each park booth to learn about the conditions of the parks

	Mill Park	Midland Park
What possibility are you most excited about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children playing activities that are physic and exercise play equipment • I like the sides • Turning it into fun usable gathering spot for library users, families, and the general neighborhood • The instability and crime issues that come with the homeless encampments • Community Garden, Amp theater and splash pad • Soccer field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature trails, bird sanctuary, environmental studies and plants • About the paid houses going up again, hopefully fencing the south and north wing • Children’s park • Hope is going to have a trampoline • Having activities structures to bring people together/ climbing structure • Area to relax and read a books from the library, a place to walk and run around the park • Walking paths and a natural setting with better lighting • Library classes outside - Quiet place to read • New growth of community, nature • More playground





	Mill Park	Midland Park
What are you most concerned about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope is not the same as a small Ventura park • Drunk people • No Bathroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park will become just another open playground like we already have • That Midland would turn into another Ventua Park, a cultural park • Privacy • Fighting • Human faces, trash, broken benches, a well-established restroom that is maintained well. • Security/drugs homeless • Attracting another homeless community • Playground • Gang activity

Station 4: Vision Board: On the vision board, write or draw the type of environment that would make you feel welcome at the park? Notice what others have expressed on the board.

Tell us what about what you drew/wrote and why?

- Midland Park to keep natural feeling as unique inner city park. I f the park is used for environmental causes connected to the library will keep the park in use that noted empty inviting homeless.
- We live around the center and would like to be able to come to Midland Park and peacefully enjoy the nature without being many danger or have to worry about safety.
- Better lighting, water fountains, children activity, walking paths, natural settings, and trees maintained. Public bathrooms will attract more homeless? A space for story time.
- I wrote about lit paths and trails. I also think a community garden would be therapeutic and fan for families. Security is also needed strongly at both parks.





Station 5: Community Food & Discussion (Begins at 7:00pm)

In the group discussion, what are you hearing is most important to the community about these parks?

Mill Park	Midland Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety play for children and a place for family events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural, environmental- Children studies, connected to the library, Library safety concerns day and night.• Our hope for this park is to keep the park's identity by keeping the trees, but to have a natural play area for kids in front of the window so people can make sure they are safe and doing well.





Vietnamese-speaking Respondents

Station 2: Midland Park Tour (optional): Take a walk through the park and answer these questions.

What do you notice about the park?	What questions do you have about the park?
Keep the existing trees Having a walking path for pets Having sliding and activities for children The park must be clean and beautiful. It is not for homeless people. Having a walking path Build more activities for children such as sliding, swing, Keeping existing trees which grow more Keeping the existing trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need benches to seat - Need walking path - Need the play ground for children, but must be safe - Need a tai chi place for senior The park must be for everyone (including adult and children) Keeping the existing trees

Station 3: Mill & Midland Park Information Booths: Visit each park booth to learn about the conditions of the parks

	Mill Park	Midland Park
What do you see as the greatest opportunity?	Many activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being close to a library and convenient for everyone to seat there and read books - Need a garden of flowers Be convenient near the library
What do you see as the greatest challenge?	Safe	-Not sure to have enough financial support to finish this project soon





Station 4: Vision Board: On the vision board, write or draw about the experiences and feelings you want to have when visiting these parks. Notice what others have expressed on the board. Tell us what about what you drew/wrote and why?

Station 5: Community Food & Discussion (Begins at 7:00pm)

In the group discussion, what are you hearing is most important to the community about these parks?

Mill Park	Midland Park
- Safe - Convenient	- Safe - playground

Spanish-speaking Respondents

PP&R did collect Spanish language surveys, but unfortunately these surveys were lost.





Appendix 2 – Verbal Comments

Discussions with PP&R Staff

- Recently, the safety and security at the park have improved greatly at Midland Park thanks to Park Rangers' activities.
- In the future:
 - The character of Midland Park should remain peaceful and quiet, with a “forest” feeling.
 - Please make the park more welcoming to birds: please bring back low plantings and bird houses that would attract birds.
 - Please make the park a chemical-free park: no pesticides or herbicides.
 - Do not use chemicals around the bases of trees, as it could kill the tree, creating a hazard.
 - Children's enrichment should be included in the park. Perhaps there could be opportunities to partner with the library.

Flip Chart Notes

- A. The greatest hope for the park
- Safe park for everyone to enjoy
 - Community activate the space
 - Midland- safe oasis = Adjust to library
 - Peaceful place to relax/ walking paths
 - Story time arts
 - Book sculpture
 - Nature play/nature park- not plastic structures
 - Library use to of park- environmental education
 - Mill Park = community park
 - Midland = natural identity
 - Small nature play near library
 - Water fountain
 - Safe all times of day
 - Folks to be able to relax and not bothered by others
 - Improved security
 - Find balance between security and privacy
 - Pool at (Midland)
 - Plan should generate positive activity and energy at the park
- B. More activities for the kids/playground-play structures
- Spray park
 - Water feature
 - Sand structure (Midland)
 - Swing for little kids
 - Trampoline (Mill Park)





- Slides
 - Trees
 - Bathrooms/cleaning stations for children
 - Inclusive play for all ages
 - Keep trees in Midland Park
- C. What feelings/environment do you want at both parks?
- Midland: nature opportunities
 - Facilities that are for all ages: toddlers, youth, teens, adult
 - Safety be addressed in partnership with library
 - PP&R indicates this could be a possibility to work with County
 - To have a sharp container
 - Clean drinking water
 - Improve lake of water near trees
 - Keep the trees and picnic tables that allow folks to write things and make notes
- D. Concerns about safety syringes in park; how can we stop this?
- PP&R is working to address this issue... perhaps having sharps containers though these have related risks because people can remove them.
 - Safety for homeless, visibility and camping at the park
 - Circulate library users and park users
 - Patrol safety
 - Dog signals (“Pick up After Dogs”)

