



**Creston Park – Open House #1 – May 2018
Comment Form Summary**

An open house for the Creston Park Bond Project was held on Monday, May 21, 2018 at Creston School from 6:15pm – 7:30pm and was attended by about 40 community members. Outreach included emails to the project list, posts on the project website and Parks online calendar, yard signs in the park, flyers distributed to nearby park neighbors and to all Creston School students, and posts on NextDoor.com. The comment form was posted online for a week after the event, along with the presentation materials. A total of **104 comments** were received.

The goal of the open house was to get input from the community on three draft design options for the playground. Boards were posted, and project staff were on hand to guide visitors through the displays and answer questions. All input will be used by the design team to create a draft final design which will be shared at the next community meeting and online for further feedback.

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 by Parks staff, will be used to inform the design process for the Creston Park playground improvements.

1. Which would you prefer in the play area: (pick one)

- Natural play elements – *encourages imagination; exploration, and decision making; tactile, nature focused* **37%**
- Modern play structures – *encourages imagination, exploration, and decision making* **28%**
- Traditional (post and platform) play structures – *familiar, defined uses and play* **22%**
- Independent play elements – *ground level separate pieces for individual or group play* **7%**
- No opinion **6%**

2. What are you and your family's top FIVE priorities for types of play at Creston Park's play area? (pick only five)

- Climbing **85%**
- Swinging **73%**
- Sliding **51%**
- Balancing **41%**
- Playing in a group (cooperative play) **35%**
- Running **24%**
- Creating with imagination **23%**
- Scrambling **23%**
- Digging **20%**



- Playing individually (solitary play) **19%**
- Creative building **17%**
- Spinning **17%**
- Contemplating nature **11%**
- Making music **10%**
- Rocking **6%**
- Developing fine motor skills **5%**
- Gathering **3%**
- Resting **2%**
- Other **5%:**
 - Children's mural; hanging – monkey bars or similar; inclusive play (ADA accessible and special needs equipment); multi-level play; slides for younger kids separate from slide for older kids and wide slide like current so parent can slide with child; teeter totter; water feature (2).

3. I would use the Creston Park playground more if: (pick your top three)

- It had more/better features for children (5-12) **58%**
- It had more/better features for young children (2-5) **52%**
- It had more benches/table areas for adults and kids **32%**
- It had more individual play opportunities **33%**
- It had more group play opportunities **21%**
- It had more/better features for teens **13%**
- It had more ADA accessible features **6%**
- Other **23%:**
 - Better wet weather surfaces.
 - Enjoy it being in shade – would want to keep shade.
 - Features for adults.
 - Felt safer (2)
 - If it keeps equipment like swings for age 2 and under (3)
 - It had less traditional play features and more natural play features.
 - It stayed how it is (though I am in favor of added ADA accessible features).
 - If we lived closer.
 - Less noise from the suspension bridge.
 - Maximized the play space with function equipment (much is no longer working include water feature).
 - More climbing.
 - More dogs.
 - Natural landscaping with benches.
 - Tall structures were more accessible or repaired
 - Water feature was brought back (2)
 - We use it a lot already as it is (4).

4. When my family picnics, we: (pick one)

- Bring our *immediate* family and prefer to be at tables *close* to the activity **64%**
- Bring our *immediate* family and prefer to be at tables *separate* from the activity **17%**
- No opinion **11%**
- Bring our *extended* family and prefer to be at tables *close* to the activity **8%**
- Bring our *extended* family and prefer to be at tables *separate* from the activity **1%**

5. Which option do you like best overall? What is your second choice?

- **Option 1: *I See You*:** Peek-a-boo frames and mirrors throughout the Douglas firs invite exploration and new views throughout the playground. Climbing towers offer views beyond and down into the playground. What can you see? What do you see differently?
- **Option 2: *Imagine That*:** Non-prescriptive play abounds with this rich palette of materials that creates play zones and adventure pathways for multiple skills levels. A pathway of poles and frames align to create opportunities for dodging, weaving, building, and more. Soft mounds provide a place to climb or lay back by yourself or with a friend. Clamber around on low boulders or hang back in a hammock. Where does your imagination take you?
- **Option 3: *Rope Around*:** A large net climber, spinner, and group swings support a whole party. You can reach new heights by climbing to the top or by resting against a soft tile mound and looking up into the trees above. Who will you climb and swing with?

FIRST CHOICE: (pick one)

- Option 1 – I See You **28%**
- Option 2 – Imagine That **28%**
- Option 3 – Rope Around **23%**
- A combination of options **22%**

SECOND CHOICE: (pick one)

- Option 1 – I See You **34%**
- Option 2 – Imagine That **34%**
- Option 3 – Rope Around **32%**

Suggestions for combinations:

- Mix of option 1 and 2.
- Option 1 is my first choice, but if you go with option 2, include slide(s) in the rock climbing hill.
- Combine the building frames/natural play of #2 with the playground equipment of #1.
- Option 2 – prefer bigger boulder elements if you include rocks. Maintain more up and over instead of moving around/through elements, plus a slide.
- I like the net features from Option 1 and the natural elements of Option 2.
- Combine #2 and 3: Net climber with rocks and hilled surfaced play. Group swing(s) or hammock(s), pole walk.
- Option #3 with slides.
- Option #3 seems problematic with one major play structure that could be dominated by a few kids of any age group over 5.
- Option # 3: Definitely want a large rope climber like #3. Like the stone/quarry play.
- Option #3 is least desirable to our family.

6. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

- 20% mentioned the need for swings, with the majority mentioning specifically infant/toddler swings.
- 11% included comments about needing a play area for younger kids (under 5) since the adjacent school playground is designed for older kids. Some wanted a separate area or separate slide option. Others mentioned that toddlers need challenging climbing opportunities, too.
- 7% commented about leaving the existing equipment as it or fixing it to be safer / accessible.
- Other comments:
 - Colors – bright colors may look out of place in this area’s natural beauty.
 - Consider using the wall as a major structural element (no disturbing of trees) with peek-a-boo windows and/or tunnel, climbing holds at varying challenge levels, a small slide, musical instruments.
 - Dogs – would like fencing between play area and dog area.
 - Dogs – would like a water fountain with a dog bowl.
 - Group swings can create behavior issues or chaos.
 - Less focus on a single structure and more focus on exciting elements throughout.
 - Less mulch the better.
 - Like climbing structure at Jubilee Gardens Playground (UK) and Regents Parks (UK).
 - Location: suggest moving the location of the playground into other area, such as old tennis courts, into part of the off-leash area, or generally giving it more square footage in proportion to other park uses. (3)
 - Loose parts should be an addition to a permanent structure (like cave or log climber).
 - More seating options (tables, benches).
 - Natural materials: anything with natural materials (logs, boulders, sand, etc.) would be wonderful.
 - Rope-based structures are not welcoming to younger users and lack the play value of a more rigid structure. Ropes are good for climbing but not imaginative cross-age play. Would prefer play structure for more than just climbing – with platforms and interactive features like steering wheel, tunnels, bridge, windows, periscope/telescope etc.
 - Safety – would like more patrols at night/dusk in park.
 - Shade – make sure there is still shade, keep slides out of sun. (3)
 - Thanks for investing in our park! (2)
 - This park has heavy uses by summer camps and the school, so need equipment that can handle a large number of kids.
 - Westmoreland Park: would like slide in accessible mound like at Westmoreland Park.
 - Westmoreland Park: it’s the best park in the city – design something similar.
 - Would like ground-level accessible spinner.
 - Would like musical elements. (2)
 - Would like new workout bars.
 - Would like play structures to be accessible, not just pathways.
 - Would like splash pad or water feature. (2)
 - Would like teeter totters. (2)
 - Would like to paint a mural. (2)

Notes from PP&R in response to above comments:

PP&R and the design team are looking into options to provide individual swings, especially toddler swings.

The playground equipment was assessed by both our PP&R certified playground inspector and an outside playground equipment provider to see if any equipment could be kept, to save project funds. Unfortunately, the existing equipment has many safety and maintenance issues. Several of the main structures have rotting wood and were installed over 30 years ago, so are beyond their life expectancy. The shady tree-covered conditions at Creston create a moist environment that contributes to rot, algae, and moss and creates slippery conditions.

The larger issue is that the existing wooden play equipment is out of compliance with current federal safety standards from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM that PP&R must follow. In particular, the equipment does not meet current standards for fall protection. Generally, this is because today the trees have grown so large, that many of the tree trunks are now within the fall zone. Finally, most of it lacks accessibility and inclusive play features.

Please tell us about yourself:

How far do you live from Creston Park? (pick one)

- Five blocks or less **49%**
- Less than one mile **30%**
- More than one mile **21%**

How often do you visit Creston Park? (pick one)

- Every day or every other day **29%**
- Once or twice a week **37%**
- Once or twice a month **21%**
- A few times a year **13%**
- Never **0%**

Do you... (check all that apply)

- Have a child who attends Creston School **29%**
- Work at or attend Creston School **2%**
- Have a child who attends another school or day care **54%**
- None of the above **29%**

How did you hear about this?

- NextDoor **45%**
- Email **27%**
- Yard sign in park **24%**
- Facebook **22%**
- Friend / neighbor / family member **17%**
- Creston PTA **17%**
- Flyer **14%**
- **Other:** Neighborhood association (3).

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

- 0 **12%**
- 1-2 **77%**
- 3-4 **9%**
- 5 or more **1%**

What are their ages? (check all that apply):

- 0-2 years **36%**
- 3-6 years **60%**
- 7-10 years **31%**
- 11-14 years **19%**
- 15-18 years **9%**

I am age:

- under 16 years **7%**
- 16-24 years **3%**
- 25-34 years **14%**
- 35-44 years **49%**
- 45-59 years **20%**
- 60-79 years **6%**
- 80 & over **0%**

I identify as:

- female **66%**
- male **33%**
- genderqueer / androgynous **0%**
- trans male **0%**
- trans female **0%**
- other **0%**

I identify as: (check all that apply)

- American Indian/Alaskan Native **2%**
- Asian **2%**
- Black or African American **1%**
- Hispanic or Latino **8%**
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander **0%**
- Slavic/Eastern European **2%**
- White **87%**
- Other **6%**

Regarding residence, I

- own **83%**
- rent **11%**
- live with my parents **5%**
- other **1%**