Errol Heights Park Outreach Summary

December Open House and Online Survey

Overview
Portland Parks & Recreation plans to spend $12.7 million to make improvements to Errol Heights Park. As part of that process, they are engaging neighbors and the public to revisit the vision and master plan for the park.

The December open house and online survey were a chance for community members to review and help refine the proposed final park design. The engagement goals included:

- Provide people with a clear overview of the current park design and programming features including the expected closure of SE Tenino Court.
- Ensure the park design responds appropriately to previous feedback and input from community members.
- Identify any major community issues with the design that could be refined.
- Gather feedback on design details including materials, play area features, and trail design.

This document summarizes the key themes and trends from the open house and survey in order to help the project team finalize the park design.

Event Notification
The events were promoted in several ways, including:

Mailer – The project team mailed fliers about the open house and survey to all homes within ½ mile radius of the park.

Email invitations - An email was sent to nearly 500 project stakeholders to invite them to the open house and encourage participation in the survey.

Social Media Outreach – The event and survey were promoted through the Portland Parks & Recreation Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as through NextDoor.

Yard signs – Five signs promoting the in-person event were posted along the perimeter of the park.

Neighborhood Association Outreach – The Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association and Woodstock Neighborhood Association promoted the engagement activities through their website and social media channels.
Cross-event promotion – Participants in the Hazeltine Park Planting & Ribbon Cutting event, which took place on the same day as the open house, were provided information about the Errol Heights Park project and encouraged to participate in the open house and online survey.

Activities

Open House Event

On Saturday, December 1, 2018 the project team hosted an open house at Lane Middle School. The public was invited to learn about the project and share their input on the proposed park design. The event was held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and featured refreshments, children’s activities, and opportunities to chat with PP&R and design team staff.

There were four input opportunities at the event:

1. **Overall Park Design**. A series of boards showcased the overall park design. Staff were available for participants to ask questions or make comments. Staff added special comments to the board on sticky notes.
2. **Design Features**. Six boards showed pictures of different types of park features and programming, such as fencing materials, trail design, or play area features. For each of the boards participants were asked to place dots on their two favorite images.
3. **Park Theme**. Four different park themes were displayed on a board along with images applicable to each of the themes. Participants were asked to place a dot next to their preferred park theme.
4. **Design a Playground**. Participants of all ages were encouraged to get crafty and design their ideal Errol Heights Park playground using a variety of natural and craft materials.
5. **Comment Forms**. Additional questions about the overall park design were asked through the comment forms which were provided at the welcome table and at a comment table.

Online Survey

The online survey was launched on Friday, November 30 and remained open for three weeks until Friday, December 21, 2018.

The online survey aimed to replicate the in-person survey with similar engagement opportunities.
Participation Results

Overall Participants

- Online Survey: 115
- Open House Sign-Ins: 47*
- Open House Comment Forms: 35

*The total number of open house attendees was higher as some people did not sign in nor had a single person sign in for a family.

Participant Demographics

It is important to note that the participants in the open house and the online survey were not necessarily representative of the general citizens in the neighborhood. The below information compares the open house and survey respondent demographics (“Participants”) with the overall demographics of SE Portland¹.

Average Age

- Participants: 46
- SE Portland: 36

% Non-White

- Participants: 21%
- SE Portland: 26%

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¹ SE Portland is defined as the Census Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) – Portland City (Southeast). Information is for 2016 from https://datausa.io/profile/geo/portland-city-(sout...
Summary of Community Input

Design Features: Natural Area

Participants in the survey and at the open house were asked to choose two preferred images from a series of eight images related to the natural area. The two most popular images were the Nature Trail and the Pollinator Garden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image Preferences: Natural Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinator Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boardwalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split Rail fence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdhouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone wall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the online survey, participants were asked to explain their choices. The most common theme in the responses was the desire for minimal disruption of the natural area while providing some access for viewing and enjoying the park. See Appendix A for full responses.
Design Features: Play

Participants in the survey and at the open house were asked to choose two preferred images from a series of nine images related to play features. The two most popular images were the **Hollow Log** and the **Natural Splash Pad**.

**Image Preferences: Play**

*Number of times each image was chosen*

- Hollow log: 74
- Natural splash pad: 69
- Log fort: 36
- Balance beam: 30
- Play net: 27
- Net swing: 21
- Rolling hill: 16
- Stump jump: 15
- Stone tactile play: 15

In the online survey, participants were asked to explain their choices. The most common theme in the responses was a desire for features that were fun for children but that blended well into the natural setting. *See Appendix A for full responses.*
Design Features: Art

Participants in the survey and at the open house were asked to choose two preferred images from a series of seven images related to art. The two most popular images were the Stone Path and the Hidey Trees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image Preference</th>
<th>Number of times each image was chosen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stone path</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidey trees</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone cairn</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooden sculpture</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color stack</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log run</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log pencils</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the online survey, participants were asked to explain their choices. There were a variety of themes in the responses, including 1) a desire for something that is interactive and fun, 2) something that fits in with nature, and 3) something that is durable and is not susceptible to vandalism. See Appendix A for full responses.
Design Features: Activity

Participants in the survey and at the open house were asked to choose two preferred images from a series of ten images related to activities. The two most popular images were the Accessible Sloped Trails and the Bird Habitat.

Image Preferences: Activities
Number of times each image was chosen

- Accessible sloped trails: 59
- Bird habitat: 46
- Basketball court: 36
- Outdoor education: 34
- Overlook: 31
- Outdoor classroom: 27
- Enhanced access to nature: 26
- Snake run: 25
- Open picnic: 24
- Bird blind: 22

In the online survey, participants were asked to explain their choices. There were a variety of themes in the responses, including 1) activities for a variety of ages and abilities and 2) something that fits in with nature. There were also a significant amount of comments about liking and desiring all of the activities listed. See Appendix A for full responses.
Park Themes

In the online survey, participants were asked to rank four proposed park themes. **Wildlife Family** and **The Woods** were the two themes that received the most rankings of first or second place.

**Theme Preferences**

*Number of times each theme was ranked First to Fourth*

*Note: totals are not equal for all themes because not all respondents ranked all themes.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
<th>Fourth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Family</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Woods</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My backyard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elemental Experience</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“My Backyard”**
- History of land use
- Hidden gems
- Quirky, authentic
- Personal/residential

**“Wildlife Family”**
- Kinship
- Sense of responsibility, stewardship
- Sharing a home
- Refuge and protection

**“Elemental Experience”**
- Water, stone, earth
- Ruineness materials
- Gritty
- Multi-sensory

**“The Woods”**
- Explore
- Discover
- Enchantment
- Celebrate cycle of life
Overall Design: Nature

On the open house comment forms and in the survey, participants were asked a number of statements about the overall design of the park and its support of the natural environment. In general, people felt that the design supported nature and balanced nature with active use.

Does the Park Design...

Number of responses for each statement
[Note: totals are not equal because not all respondents responded to all statements.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Could Be Improved</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support healthy wetlands</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support wildlife habitat</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance natural areas and active use</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents were asked to explain any answers of “Could be Improved.” Answers were highly varied, with the most common theme in the responses relating to a desire for less built areas and a particular concern about the basketball court. Those less common included comments that the design was too focused on protecting nature with not enough people-oriented programming. See Appendix B for full answers.
Overall Design: Design Goals

On the open house comment forms and in the survey, participants were asked a number of statements about the overall design of the park and how well it addressed various design criteria based on previous input about important park elements. In general, people felt that the design supported the overall design goals.

Does the Park Design....

*Number of responses for each statement. Note: totals are not equal because not all respondents responded to all statements.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Could be Improved</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for discovery</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate trails/paths</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlight viewpoints</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate opportunities for all ages</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic areas in the right location</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a safe environment</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate opportunities or all abilities</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents were asked to explain any answers of “Could be Improved.” The answers were highly varied, with the most common theme relating to concerns about homelessness and overall safety. See Appendix B for full answers.
General Comments

There were 74 people that provided general comments about the park through the open house comment form or through an open-ended comment field in the online survey. There were a variety of different themes and requests. Below are the most common themes. See Appendix D for full comments.

- **Overall support** (11 comments) – Eleven people voiced general support for the proposed design.
- **More natural** (6 comments) – Six people recommended doing more to prioritize the natural features and wildlife.
- **Maintenance concerns** (5 comments) – Five people mentioned concerns about long term maintenance.
- **Parking** (5 comments) – Five people requested increased parking space, particular for people using the community garden.