



**Gabriel Park – Open House #1 – April 2019
Comment Form Summary**

An open house for the Gabriel Park Bond Project was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at Stephens Creek Crossing from 6:00pm – 8:00pm and was attended by about 50 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 students at Hayhurst and Maplewood Elementary School and residents at Stephens Creek Crossing, posts on NextDoor.com, and a Facebook event page. The comment form was posted online for a week after the event, along with the presentation materials. A total of **107 comments** were received.

The goal of the open house was to share information about the project and inclusive play, as well as get input from the community about their ideas for a new playground. Boards were posted, and project staff were on hand to guide visitors through the displays and answer questions. All input will be shared with the design team and Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

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 and the PAC, will be used to inform the design process for the Gabriel Park playground improvements.

1. When I go to Gabriel Park, I most often arrive by: (pick two)

- Driving **71%**
- Walking **59%**
- Biking **14%**
- Other **1%**
- Public transit (bus) **0%**

Comments: We would love to walk or bike there, but there are no sidewalks on SW 45th Avenue.

2. If you arrive most often by driving, where do you park? (pick one)

- On Vermont Street **46%**
- In parking lot **29%**
- N/A **15%**
- Other **10%:**
 - Side street – SW 37th Ave (4)
 - Both Vermont St and parking lot (2)
 - Parking lots are frequently full
 - Garden lot
 - Little Gabriel



3. What are your favorite THREE features of Gabriel Park and the current playground location? (PICK ONLY THREE)

- Pathways and access to other parts of the park **55%**
- Trees and shade **53%**
- Rooms to explore and run **50%**
- Rolling hills and topography **47%**
- Access to playground and other park amenities **43%**
- Open sunny areas **19%**
- Quiet **12%**
- Other **10%**
- Surrounding views **8%**
- History of the area **5%**

Other:

- Skate park (2)
- Views are unusual in the city! Especially west views.
- Tennis courts
- Play structure
- The garden
- Central location for meeting friends
- Line of sight – my older kids play down in the trees, while my youngest is on the structure
- Dog park
- As a parent, it's easy to see my little one from all points of view, especially at seated areas
- I do not use amenities – generally just enjoy being there.
- Areas to read where no one bothers us.

4. Regarding colors and materials for the playground, do you prefer: (pick one)

- Mostly natural colors and natural materials **43%**
- A mix of bright and natural colors and materials **32%**
- Bright colors and graphics **13%**
- No opinion **12%**

Or describe a combination of options you would like to see:

- Interesting manufactured shapes and activity, some nature
- Recycled plastic
- Would love to see more of the forest/natural elements. However, I noticed those stick structures seem to deteriorate fairly quickly and have seen older children break or climb them (at Spring Garden). Love rock elements, large logs, shade structures, sitting areas, picnic areas, big and small play structures for all ages of kids. Close together structures would be helpful for parent supervision.
- Enclose that play space! Family with young children across all of Portland are DESPERATE for safe, enclosed play spaces for toddlers.
- Colors that don't get hot in the sun.

5. When I think about edges and boundaries for the playground, I prefer: (pick one)

- Playful and exaggerated boundaries and gateways as art **35%**
- Soft planted edges with minimal fencing and gates **30%**
- Open boundaries with hills and topography **28%**
- Traditional fences and gates **6%**
- No opinion **2%**

6. As a parent or caregiver/guardian, I prefer to be included in play: (pick one)

- On the edge with a high degree of visibility to all parts of the playground **55%**
- In the middle of the action, but as an observer **21%**
- In the middle of the action, I want to be part of the play experience **11%**
- On the edge with minimal visibility, kids are there to play openly **7%**
- No opinion **7%**

Or describe a combination of options you would like to see:

- Younger kids – in middle of action, older kids on the edge – depends on age of child (8)
- Combination of middle of action, part of play / be on edge with high degree of visibility (3)
- Combination of middle of action, observer / be on edge with high degree of visibility
- Combination of middle of action – both part of and observer
- In the shade (2)
- Structures that accommodate adults (2)
- Ample seating at perimeter and interior (2)
- Need gates / fencing to let kids play openly (2)
- Some swings with infant and adult seats

7. The playground will triple in size. I prefer that the new playground: (pick one)

- Is a series of sizes and shapes linked together where kids can mix ages and abilities, but also has some defined areas specific to age and ability **72%**
- Is a large single or contiguous shape, where all kids play and learn together **17%**
- Is several 'rooms' where kids spread out and has well-defined areas specific to age and ability, and fewer areas where kids can mix **8%**
- No opinion **3%**

8. When I think about a playground theme, I prefer: (pick one)

- That it blends into the existing hills and trees in a natural way **62%**
- That it stands out from the surrounding area in a creative way **23%**
- That it celebrates the history of the area in a variety of ways **8%**
- No opinion **8%**

9. I would like more information on inclusive playgrounds and ADA guidelines for play at future meetings: (pick one)

- Yes, additional resources would be helpful to support the design as the project progresses. **24%**
- No, inclusive play are described well, and I look forward to seeing how the project incorporates inclusive play principles into the design. **76%**

10. Is there anything else you would like us to know? 41 comments – below are summaries:

- Nature/views/themes (9):
 - theme should stand out as edge between woods/fields and houses
 - wood chips and stone can be slippery and dangerous
 - would like natural materials for playground
 - incorporate surrounding natural beauty and keep calming views of trees
 - like Westmoreland Park
 - farm theme does not seem to match
- Water play and splash pads are needed in SW Portland (8)
- Need boundary or fencing around playground, especially on Vermont Street side (6)
- Need equipment that serves a wide range of ages (6)
- Thank you / these improvements are much needed (5)
- Play equipment and desired amenities: swings (4), monkey bars (2), slides, ladders, zip line, tree house, picnic tables (with views of playground), benches, water fountain, and garbage cans.
- Need covered areas for shade/rain (3)
- Sensory needs / inclusive play:
 - Plan for adults / large children with special needs
 - High visual contrast with sensory areas
 - Brightly colored and open spaces are often difficult for children with sensory processing issues to visually process. Need to spin and climb. Like McMinnville city park.
- Need playground that can be maintained, focus on this over artistic designs (2)
- Don't want any changes to park (2)
- Parking/transportation– Vermont Street lost spaces, long steep walk from all parking spaces. Could spaces be added on opposite site of Vermont Street?
- No direct bus from outer parts of the Village to SWCC and playground.
- Skate park is too small

Comments written on Gabriel Park Open House board:

- Water play is good!
- Celebrate nature learning – Gabriel park woods is inspirational. How do we incorporate nature?
- SW Portland needs more splash pads.
- Play features for seniors
- Fitness equipment so parents can exercise while kids play.
- Super long slide that plays with hills (goes to community center or not 😊)
- Big kid swings! (without backs)
- Big metal sphere like at Spring Gardens Park
- Treehouse-like structure
- Simple fitness features (ex: pull up / push up bars)
- Enclosed area for family dogs

- Covered play features for rainy season
- Sand art
- Obstacle course
- Motion activated sound art
- Add tactiles please
- Rubber tiles with numbers
- No slippery materials next to stone
- Take advantage of slope
- The natural “draw” of the site (where trees are) is a strong feature
- Don’t duplicate features found in nearby playgrounds
- “monkey bars please” – area 4 year old
- Garbage cans at playground
- Keep a few picnic tables near the action so disabled adults, family picnics with elders can be close to the fun / observing.

Please tell us about yourself:

I am age:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • under 16 years 3% | • 45-59 years 14% |
| • 16-24 years 4% | • 60-79 years 9% |
| • 25-34 years 15% | • 80 & over 0% |
| • 35-44 years 56% | |

I identify as:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • female 76% | • trans male 0% |
| • male 22% | • trans female 0% |
| • genderqueer / androgynous 0% | • other 0% |

I identify as: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| • American Indian/Alaskan Native 1% | • Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1% |
| • Asian 3% | • Slavic/Eastern European 1% |
| • Black or African American 8% | • White 87% |
| • Hispanic or Latino 4% | • Other 1% |

Do you or a family member live with a disability or identify as a disabled person?

- Yes **16%**
- No **83%**

If yes, please describe the nature of you and/or your family member’s disability. Please check all that apply.

- Mental health (e.g. anxiety, PTSD) **65%**
- Cognitive (e.g. traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities) **29%**
- Mobility (e.g. walking, climbing stairs) **24%**

- Invisible (e.g. diabetes, HIV, cancer) **24%**
- Intellectual or developmental (e.g. Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome) **18%**
- Visual (e.g. blind, low vision) **12%**
- Prefer not to disclose **12%**
- Prefer to describe **24%**:
 - Epilepsy
 - Epilepsy and ADHD
 - ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorder
 - Sensory processing disorders in all 3 kids, ADHD in 2 kids

How many children under age 18 live with you?

- 0 **8%**
- 1-2 **74%**
- 3-4 **14%**
- 5 or more **4%**

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

- 0-2 years **42%**
- 3-6 years **60%**
- 7-10 years **38%**
- 11-14 years **10%**
- 15-18 years **4%**

Regarding residence, I

- own **78%**
- rent **16%**
- live with my parents **6%**

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

- Five blocks or less **26%**
- Less than one mile **40%**
- More than one mile **33%**

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

- Every day or every other day **14%**
- Once or twice a week **35%**
- Once or twice a month **33%**
- A few times a year **18%**
- Never **0%**

How did you hear about this?

- Facebook event page **36%**
- Email **22%**
- Friend / neighbor / family member **22%**
- NextDoor.com **19%**
- Other **10%**
 - SWNI Parks Committee
 - IRCO
 - Immigrant and refugee event at SWCC
 - Walked by event
 - Community Center
 - Newspaper
 - Facebook local groups
 - School
 - Work in local politics and have followed the issue closely
- Flyer **9%**
- Yard sign in park **7%**