



**Gabriel Park – Open House #2 – May 2019  
Comment Form Summary**

An open house for the Gabriel Park Bond Project was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at Southwest Community Center from 6:00pm – 8:00pm and was attended by about 60 community members. Outreach included emails to the project list, info on the project website, yard signs in the park, flyers distributed to students at Hayhurst and Maplewood Elementary School, posts on NextDoor.com, and a Facebook event page. The comment form was posted online for about 10 days after the event, along with the presentation materials. A total of **159 comments** were received.

The goal of the open house was to get input from the community on three concepts for a new inclusive 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. If a playground entry from SW Vermont Street was able to be provided, do you prefer: (pick one)**

- A connection that enters to the side of the play area or play area path **40%**
- A connection directly into the play area that uses gates for safety **26%**
- I prefer no connection from SW Vermont Street **20%**
- No opinion **13%**
- Other **2%**

**Comments:** I prefer a path entrance that doesn't connect to Vermont Street for safety, playground should be in different location.

**2. What are you and your family's top FIVE priorities for types of inclusive play at Gabriel Park's play area? (PICK YOUR TOP FIVE ONLY):**

- Climbing **65%**
- Sliding **51%**
- Features for children 5-12 **46%**
- Individual swings **42%**
- Water play exploration (non-splash pad) **41%**
- Features for young children (2-5) **35%**
- Group play opportunities (cooperative play) **30%**
- Fully accessible play features **25%**
- Balancing **25%**
- Individual play opportunities **19%**
- Group swings **19%**
- Scrambling **19%**



- Music/sensory elements **17%**
- Spinning **16%**
- Running **15%**
- Features for teens **13%**
- Rocking **11%**
- Developing fine motor skills **9%**
- Other **8%**

**Other:**

- Splash pad/water feature (2)
- Zipline that is accessible (2)
- Really tall fireman's pole
- Monkey bars
- Fitness equipment for adults
- Features for adults with disabilities

**3. What would you prefer in the play area? (pick one)**

- Modern play structures – *encourages imagination, exploration, and decision making* **70%**
- A combination of these options (descriptions below) **13%**
- Traditional (post and platform) play structures – *familiar, defined uses and play* **7%**
- Unstructured play – *ground level separate pieces for individual or group play* **6%**
- Open informal play – *focuses on movement, game or play creation* **4%**

**Combination of options you would like to see:**

- More natural materials (6)
- Open informal play that allows parents to step back and watch children explore safely
- Open informal play combined with modern and traditional play structures
- Open areas to run around and play tag, but also big structures to climb/scramble/hide in
- Modern and open informal
- Modern and unstructured
- Modern and spaces for unstructured and group play
- Modern but with traditional play structures for a range of ages, plus some unstructured play. Noted that they like modern play but not always accessible for toddlers.
- Combo of nature, unstructured, and modern
- Higher ratio of unstructured play
- Unstructured – and more like Harper's Playground in Abor Lodge Park
- Unstructured, modern, traditional
- A combination of traditional (2-5 year accessible and safe) and modern structures for 4-8 yr. Focus on smaller kids and safety, as older kids use the rest of the park.
- Like play structures at Meinig Memorial Park in Sandy and Children's Park in Hood River. Post and platform but also encourage open, informal play.
- Adult exercises opportunities (pull-up bar, etc.)

**4. Regarding quiet or passive space, do you prefer: (pick one)**

- Partially enclosed and cozy space **36%**
- Open small group space **28%**
- No opinion **21%**
- Open individual space **15%**

**Comments:** Like cozy space but don't want to attract negative behavior, space where parents can watch kids play, cozy spaces combined with open small group one.

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

- **Option 1 Tower: separated large play spaces** utilizing existing site topography, linked by play hills and accessible walkways, and featuring an integrated inclusive play tower with slide.
- **Option 2 Wave: connected multi-level play space** carved into the existing landscape using a continuous feature wall (wave) that integrates multiple potential play options and skill levels.
- **Option 3 Tunnel: series of terraced play spaces** utilizing existing and new topography for play opportunities, linked together by an imaginative transparent play tunnel and boundary, and featuring an inclusive play structure at the upper terrace.

### First Choice: (pick one)

- Option 1: Tower 26%
- Option 2: Wave 34%
- **Option 3: Tunnel 39%**

### Second Choice: (pick one)

- Option 1: Tower 29%
- **Option 2: Wave 37%**
- Option 3: Tunnel 35%

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

- Mix all three!
- Mix Option 2's slides and wall with some tunnel areas and a tower.
- Tower concept – combine bridge with climbing wall in Option 2 (4)
- Tower concept does not seem very accessible.
- Tower – like that it has a gate. No boundaries otherwise though (and lose the play opportunity that the boundaries create in the other two concepts).
- Tower - Like the bridge but it needs to be safe. Perhaps it should not connect to Vermont but only go between two play structures.
- Tunnel concept with a tower in one of the play areas. (4)
- Tunnel concept combined with the Wave. (3)
- Tunnel needs to have good visibility and access. Prefer open tunnels (2)
- Tunnels: like the concept as it feels like the tunnels are their own play area. Like the yellow tunnel image but not the white tunnel (too enclosed, feels prison-like).
- Wave: like that it follows and uses existing slopes (2).
- Wave seems like a big caving out of treed landscape.
- Wave: like the climbing pieces a lot and feels more open and better visibility for caretakers.
- Wave: like that this concept shows two pathways and has limited access from Vermont St.
- Wave: Openness and movement generally which is I like Wave. Could achieve some of the Tunnel by having one structure as kind of cozy or enclosed.
- Wave: would like to see a mix of activities on the wall, not just climbing holds.
- Prefer options that children who move at a variety of skill levels can access.
- Any option should have small play area for 2-5 years old.
- More natural or nature opportunities.
- Area is so sloped that a climbing wall with ground-level slides would work well here.
- Limit access to Vermont Street, fencing.

**6. Is there anything else you would like us to know? 51 comments – below are summaries:**

**Safety:**

- Tower – concerns about safety and access for young children. Several mentioned the tower at Spring Garden Park has a small entrance, so it is hard for kids to get out sometimes or for parents to get inside to assist young kids. (6)
- No bridge or direct access to SW Vermont Street for safety, need fencing (4)
- Need open lines of sight to watch kids (2)
- Consider moving playground farther from busy roads.
- Concern about safety of natural materials such as rocks and logs. Noted that Spring Garden has areas where rocks and logs are near concrete paths and concern that children could fall and be hurt.

**Inclusivity/Accessibility:**

- Include as many accessible play structures as possible.
- Sensory play equipment
- Add ASL sign hand shapes.
- Focus on making playground inclusive to those with disabilities. Non-disabled kids can adapt and already have more options for play.
- Wave and Tunnel concepts seem the most inclusive for young and old with disabilities.

**Amenities:**

- More picnic tables for groups
- Sufficient space for adults seating.
- Please stop putting infant changing tables inside the ADA stalls. Many people who need stalls cannot wait until a baby is changed. It seems unfair that the infant and ADA user have to compete for space. Appreciate gender neutral family stalls – more of these.
- Shade for parents and kids
- It would be nice to have bike parking closer to the playground than to the restrooms.
- Need sidewalks on SW 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Other:**

- Thank you (7) - one noted they love seeing equipment their daughter with a disability can use with typical kids.
- Splash pad, water features are highly desired and lacking in SW Portland (4)
- Natural materials, reference to nature and dairy history, foster viewing the park landscape and trees (3)
- Would prefer to attract young children, not teens. Would like infant swings.
- Margaret Mahy Park in Christchurch, NZ – amazing example of inclusive playground.
- Would like adult fitness equipment.
- Budget – would like info on costs in surveys.
- Convert fields to turf to make more revenue.
- Don't close community centers.

## Please tell us about yourself:

---

### I am age:

- under 16 years **4%**
- 16-24 years **4%**
- 25-34 years **18%**
- 35-44 years **57%**
- 45-59 years **13%**
- 60-79 years **5%**
- 80 & over **0%**

### I identify as:

- female **82%**
- male **16%**
- genderqueer / androgynous **1%**
- trans male **0%**
- trans female **0%**
- other **1%**

### I identify as: (check all that apply)

- American Indian/Alaskan Native **1%**
- Asian **3%**
- Black or African American **6%**
- Hispanic or Latino **5%**
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander **0%**
- Slavic/Eastern European **2%**
- White **88%**
- Other **1%**

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

- Yes **28%**
- No **72%**

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

- Mobility (e.g. walking, climbing stairs) **48%**
- Mental health (e.g. anxiety, PTSD) **31%**
- Intellectual or developmental (e.g. Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome) **21%**
- Cognitive (e.g. traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities) **21%**
- Visual (e.g. blind, low vision) **14%**
- Deaf or hard of hearing **12%**
- Invisible (e.g. diabetes, HIV, cancer) **7%**
- Prefer to describe **10%**:
  - Autism (2)
  - Sensory issues (seeking and avoiding)
  - Delayed gross motor skills development
- Prefer not to disclose **2%**

### How many children under age 18 live with you?

- 0 **13%**
- 1-2 **70%**
- 3-4 **17%**
- 5 or more **0%**

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

- 0-2 years **29%**
- 3-6 years **54%**
- 7-10 years **37%**
- 11-14 years **18%**
- 15-18 years **4%**
- N/A **8%**

**Regarding residence, I**

- own **78%**
- rent **15%**
- live with my parents **6%**
- Other **1%**

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

- Five blocks or less **21%**
- Less than one mile **41%**
- More than one mile **38%**

**How often do you visit Gabriel Park? (pick one)**

- Every day or every other day **13%**
- Once or twice a week **22%**
- Once or twice a month **45%**
- A few times a year **20%**
- Never **1%**

**How did you hear about this?**

- Facebook event page **49%**
- Email **23%**
- Friend / neighbor / family member **21%**
- NextDoor.com **10%**
- Flyer **5%**
- Yard sign in park **5%**
- Other **5%**
  - Walked by event (3)
  - Hillsdale Mom Facebook page
  - Maplewood Facebook page
  - PP&R Instagram
  - Work at SWCC
  - What's App



**PARKS REPLACEMENT BOND**

[ParksReplacementBond.org](http://ParksReplacementBond.org)

