



Parklane Park – Feedback on Final Design – August 2020

Feedback on the final design for Parklane Park was collected between July 20 – August 3, 2020. Due to COVID-19, a traditional face-to-face public meeting could not be held under the current guidelines, so the majority of input was received in online formats.

The online feedback options and the site tour were communicated about via emails to the project list, posts on social media, the project webpage, signs in the park, flyers at the Parklane Elementary food pantry, and a postcard mailing to 2,400 households near the park.

To provide information, the design team prepared a video presentation that was posted to the PP&R YouTube channel with captions in English, Spanish, and Russian. The video received 377 views during the comment period. A PDF of the presentation in the same three languages was also available on the project webpage, along with an online comment form in the three languages.

On Saturday, July 25, a self-guided tour was held at Parklane Park. The 20-acre fenced area was open to the community, and a one-way walking route was marked, with a few stops highlighting the location of future park amenities. Community members were given a handout of the design that included contact info and the webpage on the back for feedback. During the three-hour event, 92 people came by. Anecdotally, after completing the tour, community members shared their excitement for the park and enthusiasm for the design.

Feedback was collected in the following ways, which are all summarized in this report:

1. July 20 – August 2: Online comment form – 73 total comments received in English, Russian, and Spanish
2. July 29: Guerreras Latinas online meeting
3. August 2: Meeting with Mien community members at Oliver-Parklane Community Garden
4. August 3: Online focus group with Russian speakers

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 Parklane Park. All input will be shared with the design team and Project Advisory Committee.



ONLINE COMMENT FORM

SUMMARY OF 73 ONLINE COMMENTS RECEIVED – ENGLISH/SPANISH/RUSSIAN COMBINED:

1. What is your general reaction to the design?

- Love it **44%** / Like it **42%** (**total = 86%**)
- Neutral / no opinion **7%**
- Dislike it **5%** / Strongly dislike it **1%** (**total = 6%**)

2. The park design promotes the spirit of community, has a unique identity, has magnetism, and is a strong identify for the community.

- Strongly agree **40%** / Agree **42%** (total = **82%**)
- Neutral / no opinion **14%**
- Disagree **3%** / Strongly disagree **1%** (total = **4%**)

3. The park design creates a destination where you can spend an entire day, with places to picnic, shady areas, and shelter from the rain.

- Strongly agree **33%** / Agree **52%** (total = **85%**)
- Neutral / no opinion **5%**
- Disagree **10%** / Strongly disagree **0%** (total = **10%**)

4. The park design provides enough places to play, provides places for peaceful respite, and is a place of beauty.

- Strongly agree **38%** / Agree **44%** (total = **82%**)
- Neutral / no opinion **4%**
- Disagree **11%** / Strongly disagree **3%** (total = **14%**)

5. The park design provides opportunities for all people to connect with nature, encouraging curiosity and learning.

- Strongly agree **29%** / Agree **46%** (total = **75%**)
- Neutral / no opinion **15%**
- Disagree **4%** / Strongly disagree **6%** (total = **10%**)

6. IF within the current project budget, Portland Parks & Recreation is not able to include every feature shown in the draft design, what are the FIVE MOST IMPORTANT proposed elements in the design to include?

- 1. Restroom 73%**
- 2. Playground 57%**
- 3. Picnic shelter 51%**
- 4. Splash pad / water feature 49%**
- 5. Dog off-leash area 40%**
- 6. Covered performance space / basketball court 37%**
- 7. Community garden 32%**
- 8. Basketball courts 26%**
- 9. Soccer field – grass 21%**
- 10. Tennis courts 21%**

- 11. Skatepark 19%**
- 12. Soccer field – artificial turf 18%**
- 13. Exercise stations 16%**
- 14. Other 18%:**
 - Trees/habitat/nature (7%)
 - Parking, speed bumps (4%)
 - Nature art sculptures (1%)
 - Softball/baseball field (1%)
 - Walking paths (1%)
 - Wall for spray painting (1%)

7. Public input was incorporated into the overall design concept.

- Strongly agree **32%** / Agree **38%** (total = 70%)
- No opinion **25%**
- Disagree **4%** / Strongly disagree **1%** (total = 5%)

8. The public process was open, inclusive, and transparent.

- Strongly agree **34%** / Agree **36%** (total = 70%)
- No opinion **22%**
- Disagree **8%** / Strongly disagree **0%** (total = 8%)

9. Thank you for participating in the design of your park. Your comments and experiences have helped shaped the design. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

(31 comments were received – below are summaries of comments by themes)

Art / Aesthetics:

- Would like some reference to the history of this spot, as Native American land, an airfield, rock quarry etc.
- Would like to see more historical, socially relevant artworks incorporated into the design.
- It's really hard to imagine if the paths offer anything exciting or unique. For example, when you walk around Glendoveer [golf course], there are many ups and downs. I realize it is bigger, but there feels like something exciting will be around the next corner. I'm not sure there is anything unique about this design, other than the view of Mt. Hood. I'm just hoping it will be constructed and upkept in a way that has a natural art aesthetic.

Nature / trees / passive spaces:

- Hope the space for nature and our many birds will be preserved.
- In regard to the areas that are supposed to be more peaceful, I am not sure if there are enough buffer zones between them and the louder, more active spaces.
- Please plant broadleaf evergreen trees! Magnolia Arbutus Marina Loquat Eucalyptus Evergreen Oaks Tanoak

Park amenities:

- Concerned about lack of baseball field (3) – could one be provided on school property?
- Kind of unfortunate that you've jammed a bunch of parking up next to the residences to the west. If I lived there, I'd be kind of ticked off.
- I've received feedback that the Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park play area lacks shade, so some sort of shade on or near the play structures would be nice.
- There should be twice as many restrooms as proposed.
- Splash pad please!

Skatepark

- We need more and larger skateparks. They are one of the most used features in parks in Portland.
- The skatepark area is too small and doesn't appear to have any street skating features. It is not inclusive of all skateboarding styles.
- We have some talented skatepark designers and builders in the Pacific Northwest and it would be great if the skatepark design is as thoughtful as the landscape design. Portland could use a good challenging amoeba-shaped skate pool. Unique features would entice me to travel 8.5 mi to use the park.
- Switch out the playground for the skate park location. People who are in the community garden who have children could have access while gardening. It is more compatible than the skate park.
- Thank you for including a skatepark!

Safety/Accessibility/ Maintenance:

- Hope pathways to benches, picnic tables, interior spaces are ADA accessible. Would like a park map in braille.
- Lighting is important to keep park safe.
- Need adequate garbage/recycling receptacles (pet waste and needle disposal?).
- Need signage: welcoming and informative signage (visual / multilingual), park rules, court and dog park usage, sanitation practices, how to report service issues, community gardens info, and nature area education/interpretive information.
- Concerned about the parking on 155th Avenue.
- Not a great connection to the two elementary schools to the east.
- I believe speed bumps should be installed on Main Street from 148th to 162nd to reduce frequent street racing activities and increase the safety of pedestrians walking to and from the park.
- I live within 2 houses away to Parklane Park. The past 45 days we have had an extreme amount of drag racing, donuts, burning rubber (to the point the tire smoke is literally in my house) which as you know is highly toxic to breathe. My biggest concern is by remodeling the park, more people will come and those drivers who are being unsafe can hurt someone. Speed bumps are a necessary thing here! If we are increasing traffic due to the park, we should install them at the very least on Millmain starting near Parklane Elementary all the way to SE 148. Obviously this isn't a park issue but it's our neighborhood and we understand that we will have a lot more traffic due to this completed project. I'm praying there will be thoughts regarding the safety of all and answers on how to implement them.
- Still hoping that the park will be built in collaboration with sidewalks being installed along 151st from Stark. Lots of people will access the park on this street and without sidewalks it won't be safe! Cars go down this street very fast.

Thank you / excited / waited a long time

- Six people wrote that they are looking forward to using the new park – thank you.

Please tell us about yourself:

I am age:

- under 16 years **1%**
- 16-24 years **6%**
- 25-34 years **8%**
- 35-44 years **35%**
- 45-59 years **25%**
- 60-79 years **22%**
- 80 & over **1%**

I identify as:

- female **63%**
- male **33%**
- genderqueer / androgynous **0%**
- transgender male **1%**
- transgender female **0%**
- other **3%**

I identify as: (check all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native **4%**
- Asian **3%**
- Black or African American **4%**
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x **14%**
- Middle Eastern/North African **0%**
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander **1%**
- Slavic/Eastern European **11%**
- White **61%**
- Decline/don't want to answer **8%**
- Unknown/don't know **0%**
- Other **3%** : Indigenous, Caucasian

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

- Yes **29%**
- No **71%**

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%**
- Visual (e.g. blind, low vision) **17%**
- Deaf or hard-of-hearing **17%**
- Cognitive (e.g. traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities) **17%**
- Mental health (e.g. anxiety, PTSD) **30%**
- Intellectual or developmental (e.g. Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome) **13%**
- Invisible (e.g. diabetes, HIV, cancer) **22%**
- Prefer not to disclose **4%**
- Prefer to describe **0%**

Regarding residence, I

- own **79%**
- rent **17%**
- live with my parents **4%**
- other **0%**

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

- Five blocks or less **47%**
- Less than one mile **18%**
- More than one mile **35%**

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

- Every day or every other day **21%**
- Once or twice a week **18%**
- Once or twice a month **14%**
- A few times a year **30%**
- Never **17%**

How many children under age 18 live with you?

- 0 **45%**
- 1-2 **46%**
- 3-4 **6%**
- 5 or more **3%**

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

- 0-2 years **16%**
- 3-6 years **25%**
- 7-10 years **27%**
- 11-14 years **25%**
- 15-18 years **22%**

How did you hear about this?

- Email **45%**
- Other **25%**
 - Russian Engagement Liaison (Hanna)
 - Attended self-guided tour
 - Have been involved in/known about this project for a long time
 - Rosewood Initiative
 - Community garden visit
 - Parklane SUN
- Flyer/postcard **18%**
- Facebook **14%**
- NextDoor.com **14%**
- Friend / neighbor / family member **11%**
- Yard sign in park **6%**



GUERRERAS LATINAS

This online meeting on July 29 was attended by 27 Latinx women who have regularly attended this group at the Rosewood Initiative. PP&R presented the three options to this group for feedback in January 2020. The video presentation and discussion were conducted in Spanish.

GENERAL:

- The presentation was very nice, but the video went by too fast, and with subtitles we didn't catch everything.
- I've lived here for almost 20 years, and I want to know when construction will begin, because over the years I have received flyers from my children's schools, which are next to the park, announcing that construction was beginning, and I would walk through there and see the place full of machinery, but no construction. I hope that this time it really begins when they say it will.
- It's very nice. My children enjoy parks a lot. Thank you for taking our opinions into account.
- I think they did put in a little bit of everything we asked for in the design. Thank you for letting us share our opinions and our ideas. Thank you for considering everything we said. It'll be a very nice park.

PARK AMENITIES:

- Will the bathrooms be enough to handle the demand?
- Would it be possible to plant fruit trees? (apple, plum...) People could pick the fruit and eat it.
- There are organizations in Portland that keep a list of fruit trees that are out in the community, and they invite people to help pick the fruit. They can take some of it home, and the rest is taken to the Food Bank.
- Will the park be accessible to people with disabilities?
- I've seen that there isn't much shade in the park. Once my children and I spent an hour there and it was very hot. We haven't been back. So it would be good to plant trees if possible. And work together to keep it clean.
- I lived in Medford, and the pool in one of the parks there lasted only 20 years, and then they took it out. I don't think there should be a pool in this park in the future, as mentioned in the video.
- Will they pave where people will be walking? I have seen that kids run races there now, but the ground isn't prepared for running or walking; it's just a dry path.
- At the last meeting we said we need a path for bikes to ride on, and you said you would consider that. Can't that be done? The idea was to avoid hitting people.
- How can I participate in the community garden?
- Could there be a bench there that says "Guerreras Latinas"? Would that be too much to ask?
- Will they have a faucet to wash our hands outside of the bathrooms?
- Sometimes people take their pets to the park but they don't clean up after them, and the park gets really dirty, so in response they prohibit pets in the park.
- Some parks have stations with green bags for cleaning up after your pets. I hope this park has that.
- Will there be a kiosk with flyers with the rules on them? And a map of the park?

- Maybe a map isn't necessary. Just on opening day. Once you've found your way around the park once, you don't need one.
- If this park will really be for us, why don't you include a place to hang a piñata in the covered picnic areas? We need a beam from which to hang a piñata. The beam could be made of wood, metal, or any other material. Something to hang a rope from, or maybe include the rope. It's normal to have a piñata when you have a party for children.

PLAYGROUND/SPLASH PAD:

- In Medford there was a park with sand, and children played there, but then they remodeled the park and replaced the sand with chopped rubber tires, and it smelled horrible, and the children wouldn't play there because it burned their feet. I don't agree with that, and it also pollutes the environment.
- Make sure that there's a play area for small children, 3 or 4 years old.
- It would be nice to have a fountain for the kids to play in. Oh, that's what a splash pad is? That's great!

PRIORITIES:

- Priorities if funds are limited: trees, splash pad, children's play area, soccer fields, basketball courts
- Eliminate if funds are limited: the large covered gathering space, one of the dog areas, or reduce the size of the dog areas.
- I loved the design, and I hope the funds allow you to build it all, because it does respond to the needs of the community in general. If you had to cut it a little bit here and there, that might be acceptable, but not too much! The park is mostly for our children. And there are some, like me, whose children are grown, but we have pets, and they can't be cooped up all day, and unfortunately not all parks accept pets. So sometimes we have to take our pets far away to find a place for them to walk for a while. So if you have to reduce the size of the dog areas, okay, but don't take them away.
- I have a little dog, and I have children too, and I also would ask you not to take out the dog areas.

ART:

- It would be nice to see each immigrant community (not just Latin American) display something from their country, like traditional clothing for example. This would strengthen our community, show solidarity, and that's especially important with everything that's going on right now.
- In the art area it would be nice to display children's drawings. The children are shut in, and seeing their drawings displayed will motivate them to go to the park. Thank you for considering our responses and for building such a nice park.
- How about a mural? With everything that's happening right now, especially the racism, it would be good to show in a concrete way that we are all one community regardless of the country you're from. In a mural the artist could express the diversity and unity of our community.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

- How will the picnic spaces be handled? First come, first serve? Or will they be reserved for a low cost? By the hour? Because I could camp out there the night before to reserve a space, but that wouldn't be fair because each family could use the space for a few hours.
- It would be great if Parks & Recreation had a web page where we could share that, for example, our group will be in the park on Thursdays from 9am to 3pm, exercising or walking together; and so another group could look at that and say, oh, Thursdays are full; let's go on Fridays.
- Will they let the community share opinions on celebrations to be held during certain parts of the year; for example, could there be a community bulletin board to announce an event that we're organizing?
- Please take organizations like Guerras Latinas into account to support the proper functioning of the park, with activities that help the community.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- Will there be security personnel? Lights?
- Will the park be smoke-free?
- We need security personnel because when it gets to be a certain time of day, many people arrive and start to smoke, and as a mother I would see that and take my kids home, so the children can't enjoy the park, can't take advantage of it.
- How would a health crisis be handled in the park?
- As a mother I would like there to be a person there to respond to health issues, because sometimes when my child has a health crisis I freak out, and I need more professional help.
- Is there a telephone number to report security problems like people smoking in the parks?
- What's up with the houseless, who sleep there or go into the bathrooms or do other things? That scares the children and it scares me too.
- I'm hearing a lot of concerns about security, and I share those concerns, but we as an activist group should maybe focus on helping Portland Parks. They're giving us this opportunity, and we can say, hey, why don't you form alliances with organizations like Guerreras Latinas so that we can work together, we can keep the park nice, and we can help you to implement programming that fits this neighborhood, because we live in this area. I would love to hear more about that. Also, I want to be clear that I don't like going to a park and find all the problems you've mentioned: lack of security, cigarette smoke, etc. You know that marijuana is legal but not in the parks. Many of us want to raise our children well, but unfortunately we run into these things because a lot of people aren't very conscious; they don't realize that we are making our best effort. So if Portland Parks forms alliances with organizations like Guerreras Latinas, and they encourage us to come and use the space to organize activities, to take leadership in caring for this park, and they give us the tools-- I always say that we don't work for free-- but we can say, okay, you don't have to spend much money; let's make a deal: if you give me a nice space to use with my family and my community, I will help you to care for it. Remember that these are public parks; they are built for us; so the community needs to do its part, which is to take care of them. And I like that you're so concerned about security, because that's a problem in this area. The situation with the houseless is a big problem. The situation with the young people who are doing unproductive things, smoking, causing damage to parks, that's a problem. I just want to say that we should take this opportunity to present proposals to them, proposals that benefit both sides.

- I don't have children, but I want to support the community, and I would be willing to help keep the park clean. Thank you for supporting us and taking our opinions into account.
 - Thank you for this new park. My opinion is that as parents we have to always keep tabs on our children, especially where there are a lot of people.
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OLIVER-PARKLANE MIEN COMMUNITY GARDENERS

This meeting on August 2 was attended by six Mien-speaking community gardeners who currently have plots at the Oliver-Parklane Community Garden, which is a PP&R-run garden on Centennial School District property, directly east of the vacant portion of Parklane Park. The meeting was conducted in Mien.

The Mien community previously liked the Central Green concept best. This design maintains that feeling with elements of the Active Rooms incorporated. They like the location of the parking and the new restrooms in relation to the garden. Since many of them are elders, the current Loo is too far away from the garden, so that limits how long they currently can spend at the garden – 1-2 hours at most. The parking adjacent to the garden is also helpful for people who can't walk very far.

They are concerned that the new garden is safe. They would like to see higher fences on the whole garden, as currently people jump the fence and steal things or vandalize the garden. The skatepark nearby seems ok, since it will be quite a distance from the current garden. They would like to have first choice about the new garden plots before they are opened up to the general community. Most may stay in their spots, but some of them have interest in a larger plot.

Having gathering areas and some seating areas scattered in the new garden would be nice. Lack of shade / covered areas are an issue for gathering in the summer (and in rainy springs). It would be nice to have fruit trees on the edge of the garden – perhaps those could go in current entrance of the garden if woodchips are delivered via the new gate.



RUSSIAN FOCUS GROUP

This online meeting on August 3 was attended by 8 Russian-speaking community members who are part of the Slavic community in East Portland. The group watched the video prior to the meeting. The discussion was led in Russian and some English.

Comments:

- How can you not like it? It's a park!
- There was a lot of discussion about the desire for a dedicated stage. Several of them liked the amphitheater and performance space shown in the Central Green design and were disappointed that this design doesn't provide a space quite like that. For a large event, an raised stage would be still needed for the performance space.

- For events, organizations often have to rent a portable stage, and the cost is very expensive and can be prohibitive to holding events.
- Being able to hold different cultural events is very important because of the diversity of cultures in East Portland and this can help bring the community together. Immigrant communities (Latinx, Middle Eastern, Slavic, etc.) all could utilize the park for special cultural events, since SE Portland does not have a large enough park for these opportunities with a stage.
- The covered performance space / basketball court might have conflicts if people want to play basketball and people want to use the performance space at the same time. Will there be a system to let people know if the space is reserved?
- Would prefer the seating area to be more elevated like at Luuwit View. Or a higher stage so it can be visible.
- Events typically take place in the summer, so to keep a space just for stage - means taking away space for kids playing during rainy months.
- Soccer and volleyball are usually most popular sports in their culture. Some people play tennis, but they know other places to go.
- Want to ensure there is open lawn for volleyball, spreading out, sitting on a blanket to feel connecte with nature, etc.
- Could there be a free book library for people to exchange books?
- Solar lights around performance area might be good.
- Regular trash pick-up is important – needs to be daily.
- Water fountains can provide a place for kids to cool off in, but also can be nice to look at. Maybe scatter around?
- Picnic area – like the covered areas and would like BBQ grills.
- Would like to see fruit trees.
- Hard to imagine how the park will look when built out – without knowing the details of the park design, the art work, etc.
- This design has a lot in it. Good for kids, but it may not provide places of respite. People will visit natural areas or the mountains to experience that.