

To: Chair Drechsler and Planning Commissioners  
From: Tina Osterink, Natural Resources Planner, 503-618-2392  
Memo Date: Oct. 17, 2019  
Meeting Date: Oct. 28, 2019  
Subject: Concept Park Planning Update  
Attachments: A: Undeveloped parks map  
B: Undeveloped park zones diagrams and activities

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The purpose of this work session is to provide an introduction and update on the Parks Concept Planning project that is an element of the 2019 Council Work Plan project called Parks, Facilities Assets and Opportunities.

The overall public purpose and community outcome of this project is an enhanced park system that reflects the needs and desires of the community. We will also summarize the outreach effort and some initial input received from the community.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2009, Council adopted the City of Gresham's *Park and Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan* that has a 20-year planning horizon. The purpose of this plan is to express the vision for the City's parks system and improve the experience and enjoyment of Gresham's residents and visitors. Currently, the City has more than 1,200 acres of park land, designated as neighborhood parks, citywide or "community" parks, trails and natural areas.

As part of the 2019 Council Work Plan project to review parks facilities assets and opportunities, staff is evaluating both near-term enhancement opportunities and longer-term aspirations for six undeveloped parks in Gresham. This information will be used to help inform Council decisions regarding prioritization of investment and future development of parks.

## **CONCEPT PLANNING PROJECT**

City staff has hired Juncus Studios to assist in creating concept plans for the city's six undeveloped parks. The plans will support City Council's community goals for livability and natural resource protection, incorporate site opportunities, and reflect community desires.

Two of the parks are community parks and four are neighborhood parks as shown in Attachment A.

- Community parks are a minimum of 10 acres, are intended to serve the entire city, and provide habitat protection and opportunities for recreation for all ages and abilities. Recreation can be both active, such

as sports and play areas, or passive, such as picnicking and walking. Community parks are designed to support equitable access to park users of all ages and abilities.

- Neighborhood parks are smaller in size and are intended to serve those within relatively close walking and biking distance. Neighborhood park amenities are often focused on sports and play and do not include large open spaces or dense natural areas.

The following are the parks for which concept plans are being developed:

- Southeast Community Park (16.1 acres)
- Southwest Community Park (34.1 acres)
- Jenne Butte Neighborhood Park (6.7 acres)
- East Gresham Neighborhood Park (5.6 acres)
- Southeast Neighborhood Park (6.5 acres)
- Columbia View Neighborhood Park (7.5 acres).

Following initial community engagement, a series of draft Zone Diagrams created by the consultant team for all six parks was developed (Attachment B). The Zone Diagrams are diagrammatic renderings that identify different areas within each of the parks where passive and active amenities might best be located as well as other enhancement opportunities.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Over this past summer, through six workshops, citywide events and an online survey, feedback from the community on the undeveloped park sites has been:

- Keep the parks safe and green
- Protect open-space and natural areas
- Desire for limited and targeted improvements.

Key questions for the Planning Commission are:

1. Do you have questions or input on the concept park planning outreach effort?
2. Are there additional suggestions you would like staff to consider?

## **NEXT STEPS**

Upcoming activities for this project include two Open House events (Oct. 28 and Nov. 7) to review the Zone Diagrams, stakeholder meetings with community-based organizations, and project updates at neighborhood association meetings.

In early 2020, there will be an Open House to review draft concept plans for each of the parks as well as a Council Listening Session on Parks on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff will return to the Planning Commission in February of 2020 prior to having City Council approve the final concept plans in Spring of 2020.