

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the Summer of 2020, members of the community attended numerous engagement events to provide input pertaining to their desires for the future of the parks. The following are key points staff heard during the 2020 outreach:

- Keep parks safe and green
- Protect open space and natural areas
- Design parks in a context sensitive manner

Outreach was broken down into three phases, which are summarized below.

PHASE 1: ON-SITE EVENTS AND PARK SURVEYS

Staff and a design consultant team engaged the community to identify unique features and a general vision for each undeveloped park site with six on-site outreach meetings. During each session, feedback from the community was recorded and compiled. Additionally, staff administered two community park surveys and four neighborhood park questionnaires during these on-site events and online.

An overview of key opportunities and concerns for each park summarized from the events and surveys are as follows:

Southwest Community Park

Opportunities include the preservation of natural areas, creating an off-leash dog area, connecting people to the wetlands, and improving accessibility. Constraints include overcrowding, safety monitoring and maintenance.



Southeast Community Park

Opportunities include children's play areas, community gathering spots, appreciation of the park's views, and improving trail systems. Constraints include a lack of parking and safety concerns.



East Gresham Neighborhood Park

Opportunities include trail improvements, undeveloped nature, inclusive nature play, and bike pump track. Constraints include a need for development of park entrances, invasive species, maintenance, and the impact of dogs in natural areas.



Jenne Butte Neighborhood Park

Opportunities include creation of a pollinator garden, use of existing trail systems, play areas for children, and protection of the wetland. Constraints include difficult access, steep slopes, uneven soil, and a lack of nearby parks and play equipment.



Southeast Neighborhood Park

Opportunities include retaining the natural state of the park, use of existing paths, and habitat for wildlife. Constraints include invasive species, unauthorized access and camping, noise from streets and highway, and a lack of easy access.



Columbia View Neighborhood Park

Opportunities include play structures for kids, designated off-leash dog areas, improved accessibility, education, and picnic areas. Constraints include maintenance, safety concerns, a lack of trash receptacles, and overcrowding.



PHASE 2: OPEN HOUSE CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS AND ZONE MAPS

Input from Phase 1 was then used as a basis for creating conceptual designs for each park. Elements chosen for each park relied heavily on the comments collected during the on-site outreach and open house sessions. Subsequent community meetings focused on specifics relating to each park’s conceptual design, and community members weighed in on locations of amenities within parks.

For each park, “zones” were conceptualized. The zones reflect areas of different types of use such as wetland or tree stand protection, recreation, or parking/entrance area. Community events were held Fall 2020 to get input on these concepts.

WEST SIDE OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

Southwest Community Park

- Play areas
- Accessible trails & hiking
- Dog park
- Picnicking
- Community gardens
- Wildlife viewing
- Environmental education
- Wetland viewpoints
- Benches
- Restroom

Columbia View Neighborhood Park

- Play areas
- Accessible trails & hiking
- Pollinator gardens
- Benches

Jenne Butte Neighborhood Park

- Accessible trails & hiking
- Play area
- Picnicking
- Wildlife viewing
- Environmental education
- Benches

EAST SIDE OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

Southeast Community Park

- Play areas
- Accessible trails & hiking
- Viewpoints
- Environmental education
- Dog park
- Picnicking
- Pickleball courts
- Basketball courts
- Wildlife viewing
- Community garden
- Restroom

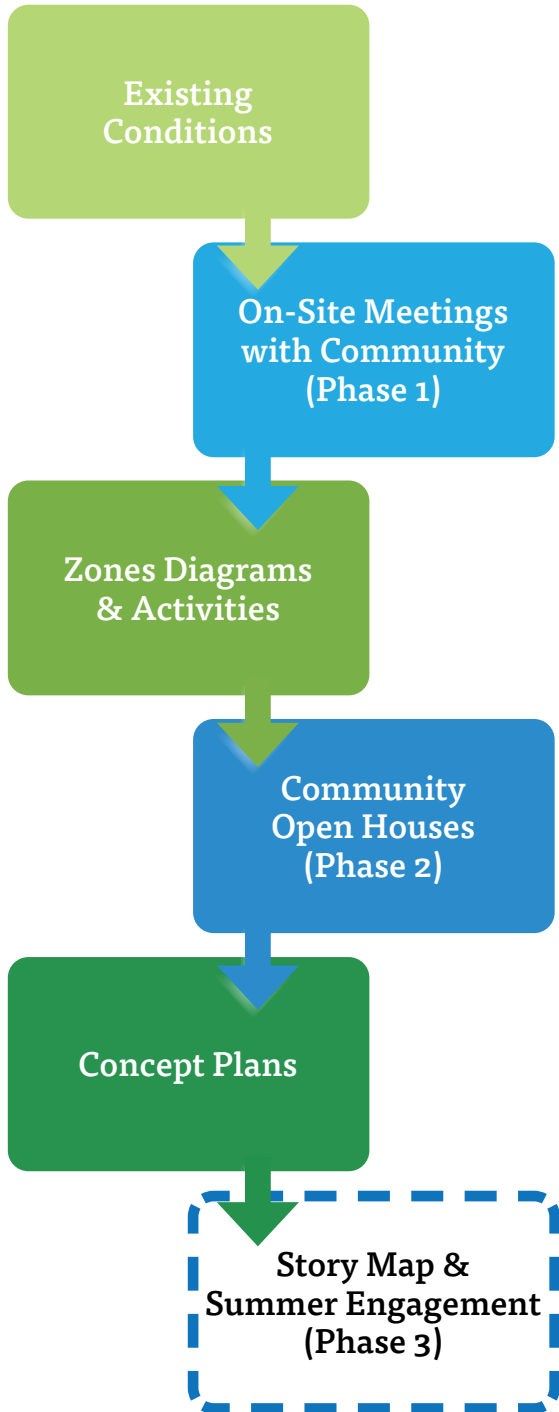
East Gresham Neighborhood Park

- Play areas
- Bike trails
- Accessible trails & hiking
- Wildlife viewing
- Benches
- Habitat restoration
- Dog waste stations
- Picnic tables

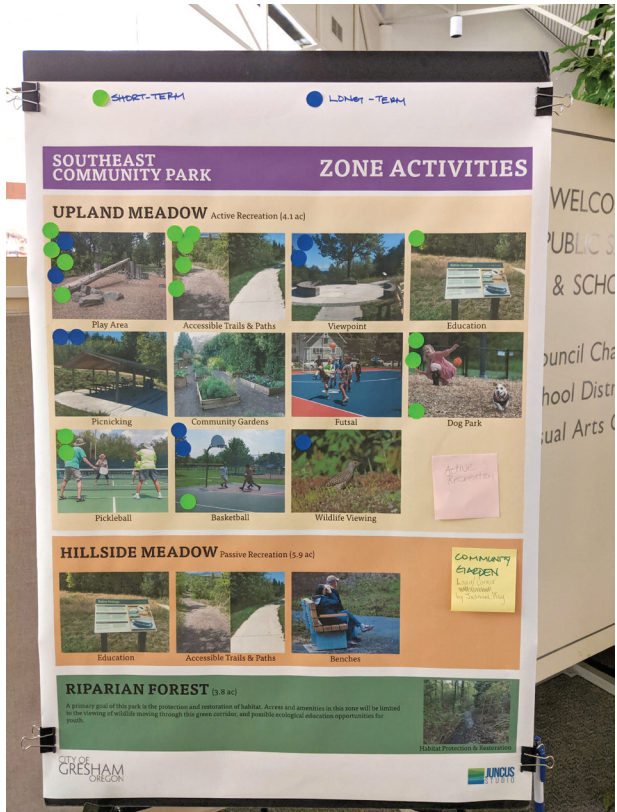
Southeast Neighborhood Park

- Accessible trails & hiking
- Benches
- Picnicking

DESIGN & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS DIAGRAM



Discussions during Community Open House events



Feedback received during Community Open House Events

PHASE 3: STORY MAP CONCEPT PLAN FEEDBACK

A key component of the concept planning effort was hearing from community members about the needs of these future parks to ensure equitable access for all Gresham residents and visitors. During the Spring of 2020, staff conducted targeted outreach to gain direct feedback on how the concept plans could best support:

- Communities of color and other historically marginalized populations
- Multi-cultural and multi-generational access to park amenities
- Youth, education and outdoor service, art and recreation groups
- Universal/inclusive design for all ages and abilities

The purpose of the targeted outreach was to ensure that as many community voices were heard, ensuring as equitable a process as possible in understanding needs and desires for developing the six parks. Staff contacted community benefit organizations via phone and email to notify them of an online mapping and survey tool called StoryMap. A Story Map is a visual online tool that helps the user explore the different amenities of the concept designs and provide direct feedback electronically. The online Story Map asks:

1. Are there additional ways this concept plan can be more inclusive in terms of design for all ages and abilities?
2. Does this concept plan meet the outdoor recreation needs for the age and cultural group that you and your family most identify with? If not, please specify.
3. Can you tell us if the design layout and amenities are welcoming to you and your family? If not, please specify.
4. What other comments would you like us to consider regarding this concept plan?

Information gathered from the Story Map survey responses from the CBOs, and the community as a whole, was integrated into this final document and used to refine the concept plan designs. The Story Map tool was then posted on the project webpage for the duration of the Summer of 2020 with the anticipation of finalizing the document and outreach in the Fall of 2020.