



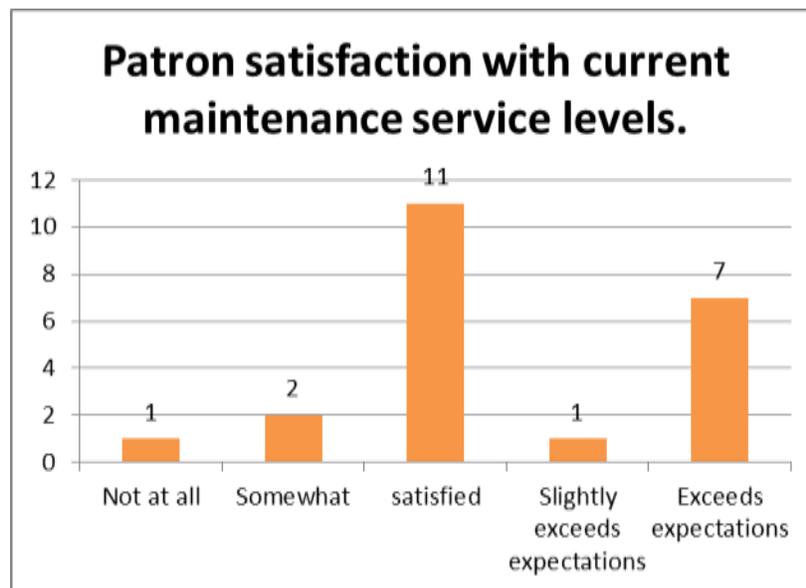
# Raleigh Park Open House Summary (11/30/16)

Approximately 40 community members participated in an open house meeting about Raleigh Park on 11/30/16. During the meeting, patrons rotated through four comment stations (Park Maintenance, Park Usage and Changes, Pros and Cons, Nature) to help staff understand how they currently use the park, what they most appreciate about it, and what they would like to change. The comments below are arranged thematically.

## Content summary:

- People generally like the park/pool as-is and feel that the level of service meets or exceeds expectations. All existing amenities are well-used by patrons.
- The pool is valued by the community. Several people would like to see a longer season.
- Dogs were a source of strong feelings; some disliked dogs off leash, while others were strongly in favor of letting their dogs off leash/creating an off-leash area.
- Paths are the most commonly used feature. A desire was expressed for soft surface trails- perhaps around the perimeter.
- There was a perception that the hilly edges of the park are a natural area.
- A majority of patrons were encouraging of planting additional vegetation along the stream.

Park Maintenance Summary: *Comments in this section relate to daily maintenance activities and changes that can be made as part of standard operations. A majority of patrons were satisfied with the services currently offered.*



## Most repeated comments (no specific order):

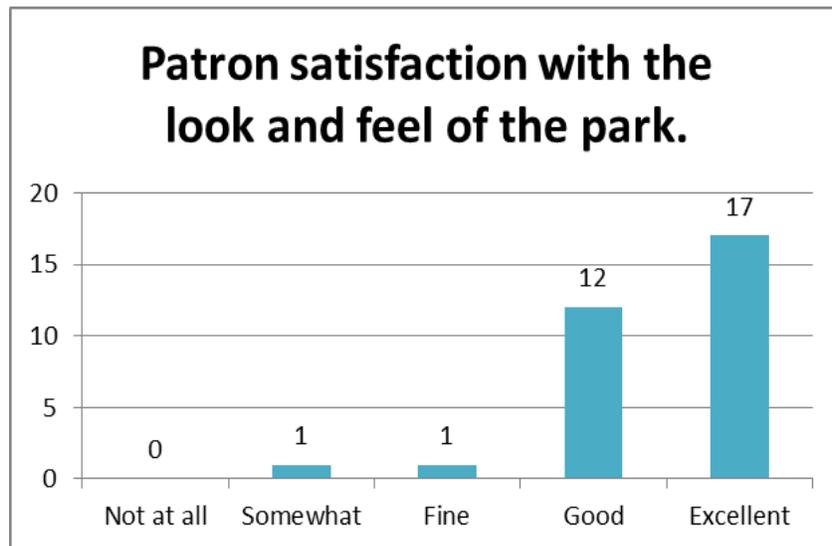
- A dog off leash area is desired. Maybe in the upper terrace or along the north slope.
- Enforcement of dog on leash rules is desired- especially before 9am. Two people reported being bitten in the past.
- Sand pit is great.

- Raise/repair the bridge near ash grove.
- Add more picnic tables in NW picnic area. Create flat spots for picnic tables.

General comments:

- Too much driving on wet grass, creates mess. Would like less mowing on wet soil.
- Limit mowing and leaf blowing.
- Do not use herbicide in the park.
- Take out or trim dead dangerous tree limbs/trees.
- Path to school is sometimes slippery with moss/leaves. Path is too steep and rough. It floods near pool. A railing on the steep part would help seniors.
- Prune apple trees so they can be picked. They go to waste on the ground now.
- Sand pit is too messy and attracts cats.
- Clean graffiti off tree uphill from tennis courts.
- The staff is very pleasant to work with- very responsive Thank you all!
- Homeless people are rare in the park, though one person believes there is an encampment on the south slope near tennis courts.

Park Usage & Changes Summary. *Conversations and mapping exercises showed that virtually all areas of the park are used regularly. Many patrons stated that they liked or “loved” the park the way it is and that no changes were desired. A number of suggestions for minor changes or amenity additions were made.*



Most repeated comments about desired change (no specific order):

- Walking is a favorite activity among most users and several comments were made to support the experience:
  - Soft surface path around the perimeter.
  - More lights along path.
  - Build trail from Miner Way to the bridge/main path.
  - Construct a sidewalk from the park to the school.
- Add apple trees on the hill where some have fallen.
- Like/need to keep an open area for sledding near apple tree.

- Install benches along path (for seniors).
- Remove horseshoe pit. Rarely if ever used.

General comments about desired changes:

- More sun around picnic area.
- Add a community garden (possibly on the hill south of pool).
- Add disc golf around edges of park.
- Add a giant chess set near NW picnic area.
- Build a covered play area.
- Add a large modern ropes/climbing structure. See Lea McKeighan Park as a reference.
- Better children's playground- especially for older kids.
- Like concerts.
- More family concerts.
- Add bocce court.
- Add three to four exercise stations along the path.
- Acquire house near parking lot to use as community center with a coffee shop, kitchen, and ability to do things like wedding receptions, reunions, etc. Similar to Laurelhurst Club across the street from Laurelhurst Park in Portland.

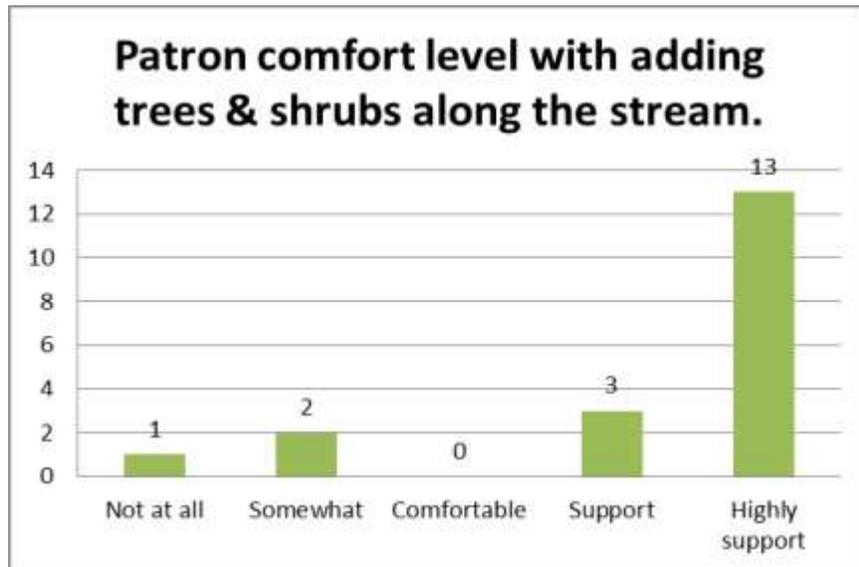
General park usage comments:

- I like the park art, natural areas, and creek.
- Love balance of sun/shade.

Pool-specific comments. *Patrons who commented like and use the pool and wanted to see it open longer.*

- Keep pool open longer: March through November (or at least May – September)
- Cover the pool for year round usage.
- Don't cover the pool.
- More activities at the pool.
- Add a splash pad.
- Add a fitness/weight room.
- Add more lap swimming times.
- More shade in the pool area, I miss the cottonwoods.
- No trees near the pool- mess and problem to pool.

Nature Specific Summary. *Based on a voting exercise, a majority of people consider slopes of the park- especially ash grove to be a natural area. There was also a strong desire to vegetate the banks of the creek.*



Most repeated comments about desired change (no specific order):

- Maintain big trees in vicinity of NW picnic area. Area is much used.
- The park needs to be cleared of ivy and excess brush (blackberries, English hawthorn).

General nature comments:

- Turn ash grove into natural area.
- Do not spend money to craft a wetland area in ash grove.
- Can you work with school on pollinator habitat? Especially near soccer field.
- Please do not increase paved areas or developed areas. Give up the fight with water and get as close as possible to the natural forces.
- Patrons identified many wet spots around park- none were a surprise to staff.

### Next Steps

1. Review most repeated comments as they received more community input than others.
2. Investigate feasibility and magnitude of desire for changes. Convene community for input depending on scale of proposed changes.
3. Determine which basic maintenance requests can be implemented immediately and which may be phased in over time.