

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AT CROWELL WOODS



Design Workshops Summary

Overview

Three park design workshops were held at Beaver Acres Elementary School on February 22, 23, and 25, attended by 8, 8, and 16 participants respectively. Community members worked with planning and design staff from Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and landscape architects from WH Pacific to identify preferred features and locate them within the proposed park site. The goal for each workshop was for small groups to create conceptual park plans that contained the elements and provided the services most desired by the community.

THPRD advertised the workshops and recruited participants with a postcard mailing to 683 residents within a 600' radius to the proposed park site., Facebook posts, and email announcements sent to THPRD listserv subscribers as well as the project interested parties list that has been collected for the project. Participants registered online for one of the workshop events and were sent reminder notices and phone calls.

Each workshop began with Steve Gulgren, the THPRD project manager, introducing the project to participants with a presentation about the new park master planning engagement process, funding availability, and the kinds of features that are consistent with a neighborhood park. Mark Hadley, landscape architect from WH Pacific, described the site and explained its topographical and environmental parameters and constraints, including regulations protecting wetland areas. John Todoroff of JLA Public Involvement reviewed the themes that emerged from previous outreach efforts, including the online survey and the community conversations, and instructed participants to keep these in mind while exploring design ideas for the park. The master plan vision and key principles below compiled from previous public input was presented as guidance for the workshop participants.

Vision and Key Principles

A Safe Community Gathering Place in a Natural Setting

1. An Interest in Retaining the Area's Natural Setting
 - Design activities and amenities to leverage and protect the natural setting of the park.
 - Provide environmental information to educate park users of all ages.
2. The Expectation of an Inclusive Gathering place
 - Create gathering places – open space, picnic tables and covered areas.
 - Foster family oriented and multigenerational activities such as play amenities that encourage diverse use.

3. The Desire for a Safe, Clean Park

Small Group Conceptual Park Design

Participants were split into groups of four or five for the activity and assembled at separate tables. At each table, at least one staff person from THPRD or WH Pacific helped to facilitate the conversation and answer questions. Site maps showing the site inventory (delineated wetlands, slopes, trees and other vegetation, and existing informal pathways) and an aerial photo map were placed on the table for participants to examine and mark up with their suggestions for park amenities and locations. To help participants visualize the siting of park amenities, scale-model placeholders representing the footprint of park facilities (such as a nature play or more traditional playgrounds, covered areas or picnic tables) were provided. During the 40-minute design session, participants collaboratively worked out their ideas for placement of pathways, open lawn areas, playgrounds, community gardens, street access, gathering areas, and more. At the end of the activity, a representative from each table presented their group's design sketch to the larger group and discussed how they arrived at their solution.

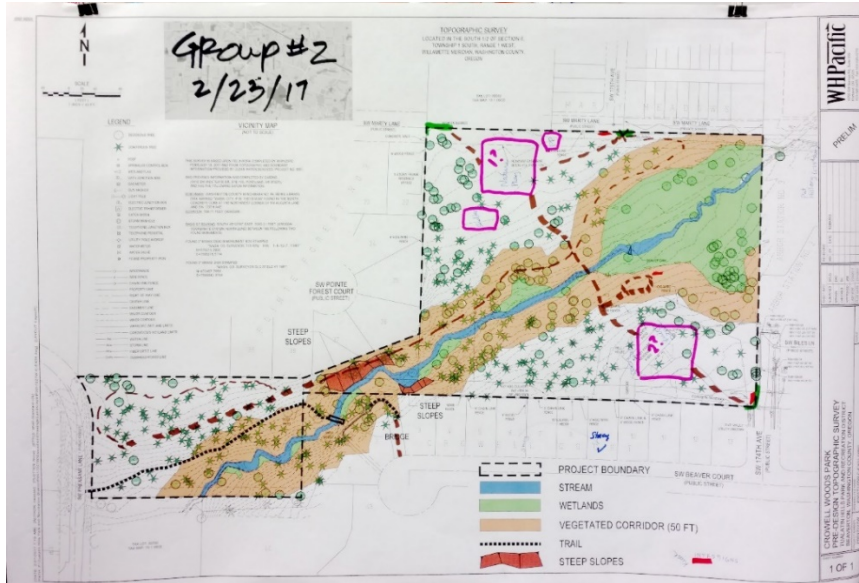


In total, eight groups worked on conceptual park designs working within existing site conditions. Their preferences for important features and, to a great extent, their location were very similar. Common themes emerged:

- In the western property, upgrade existing soil pathways to soft-surface gravel pathways and create new access points from SW Pheasant Lane, but otherwise keep design interventions minimal.
- A pathway should extend east from the western property, along the creek through the existing Crowell Woods property, and then branch into at least two pathways on the eastern property
- In the eastern property, create a pathway that crosses over the creek at the center of the parcel where it would least disrupt the wetlands. Build a viewing platform at the creek crossing with interpretive elements.
- Create access points on SW 174th Avenue at the southeast corner of the western property and on SW Marty Lane at the northwest corner, and at the intersection of SW Marty Lane and SW 175th Avenue.
- The northwest and southeast triangle areas of the western property are the most appropriate locations for neighborhood park development such as; playgrounds and gathering spaces.
- Preserve as many trees as possible.

Some differences between groups emerged as well:

- Some groups' designs included a community garden, which would serve nearby residents who live in apartments and townhouses without yards. For the groups that wanted the community gardens, the difference in discussions revolved around where to place them; in the northwest triangle or the southeast triangle.
- Some groups designed pathways with neighborhood connectivity in mind, while others prioritized loop pathways for a pleasant on-site walking experience. Either way, both types of pathways can be accommodated in the draft master plan.
- There were varying degrees of group discussions regarding the removal of trees for future park development. However, since all of groups focused the bulk of their proposed park development in the southeast triangle (where the existing house is), this would result in minimal tree removal.



Groups of participants created maps showing placement of park elements on the site.

Next Steps

All the ideas gathered at the design workshops have been compiled and will guide the project team’s drafting of a park design. A neighborhood meeting and virtual open house will be held in early May to present the draft park master plan and hear additional community feedback. That input will be considered in developing a final preferred park master plan slated for approval by the THPRD Board in June. Construction is expected to begin in spring/summer of 2019 and the park should be open to the public later that fall.