

Sweet Home Park System Master Plan

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Subject: **DRAFT** Summer Reading Program and Harvest Festival Pop Up Events Summary

OVERVIEW

This memo documents the results and summarizes the key takeaways from two public outreach pop up events in Sweet Home. The first event was held alongside a public library summer reading event at Sankey Park on August 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The second event took place at the Harvest Festival in Sankey Park on October 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. These outreach events were designed to gather input from residents including adults, and families with parents/guardians and children. Between the two events, the team engaged with over 200 participants.

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH

At the events, the team displayed six poster boards providing an opportunity for the community to share their input about amenity preferences, park distribution, barriers to park access, and a top priority for the park system and future development ideas at Quarry Park. Staff engaged in informal conversations and encouraged participants to share feedback primarily with sticky dots and sticky notes. The team wrote down key verbal feedback as well. All outreach content was provided in English and Spanish. Participants were provided with snacks and beverages.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Participants voted on which park amenities are most important to them or their household. Combining feedback from both events, the park amenities with the most votes are shown below.

- Water play (splash pad) (81 votes)
- Water recreation (38 votes)
- Unpaved trails (32 votes)
- Mountain biking trails (28 votes)
- Bike park (26 votes)
- Nature playground (25 votes)
- Dog park (21 votes)
- Children's playground (21 votes)

At the summer reading event, the team engaged with approximately 30 individuals including parents/guardians and children. Participants were most supportive of **water play (splash pad), children’s playgrounds, nature playgrounds, paved trails, and water recreation.**

The team engaged with approximately 175 individuals including parents, children, and adults at the Harvest Festival. At this event, participants were most supportive of **water play (splash pad), water recreation, mountain biking trails, unpaved trails, and a bike park.**

Participants also suggested ideas for future development at the Quarry Park site. The most frequently shared ideas for Quarry Park were **hiking trails/trails, campgrounds, playground, water fountain, bike trails and dog park.**

The east side of town was most frequently identified as an area in need of parks. Locations congregated around 47th Avenue, north and south of Main Street.

There was less consensus around barriers to park access. Feeling unsafe or unwelcome and lack of facilities each received 2 votes. Additionally, conditions of facilities, not accessible, barriers to access, too far away, and limited parking all received one vote each.

Upgrading existing facilities and equipment and **building parks in neighborhoods not highly served by parks** were the two highest choices when participants were asked to identify one action for the City to prioritize in the next 10 years. Both received two votes.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM EVENT DETAILED RESULTS

Potential Park Amenities at Undeveloped Quarry Park Site

Board one provided an opportunity for participants to write down their ideas for future park amenities development at Quarry Park.

Comments

- Trails/running trail by river (1)
- Dog/children’s area (1)
- Splash pad (1)
- Designated event space (1)

Highly Important Park Facilities

Boards two, three and four included park amenity and facility images and asked participants to vote on the images in response to the question, “which park facilities are highly important to you or your household?”. Space was also provided for participants to provide comments.

Water play (splash pad) was the most desired amenity, followed by children’s playground, nature playground, paved trails and water recreation. The amenities with the least amount of interest were baseball, football, tennis, pickleball, and softball. The total votes and comments are below.

Table 1.1 Highly Important Park Facilities

Amenities	Votes
Water Play (Splash Pad)	24
Children’s Playground	13
Nature playground	9
Paved Trails	8
Water Recreation	8
Public Art (Murals)	7
Natural Areas	7
Unpaved Trails	7
Covered Play Areas	5
Community Garden	5
Private Event Space	4
Dog Park	3
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	3
Soccer	3
Bike Park / Bicycle Pump Track	3
Wildlife Viewing Areas	3
Mountain Biking Trails	2
BBQ Cooking Areas	2
Picnic Pavilions and Shelters	2
Performance Venue	2
Basketball	2
Disc Golf	2
Baseball	1
Football	1
Tennis	0
Pickleball	0
Softball	0

Comments

- Swings (5)
- Nature play areas (1)
- Restrooms (1)
- Water fountains (1)
- Paved trail at river (1)
- Rail trails (1)
- More than the urban paved trail by the library (1)
- Access to playground (that is) age appropriate (1)
- Water play, splash pad (3, included in table above)
- Natural areas (1, included in table above)
- Paved trails (1, included in table above)
- Unpaved trails (1, included in table above)

General park system comments

- Access to park near airport (1)
- More sidewalks (1)

Existing Park System and Areas in Need of Parks

Board five requested participants share their perspective on the existing park system with written comments, and place dots on a park system map in response to the question, “*where are parks needed?*”. Three dots were placed on the existing park system map identifying areas in need of parks.

Identified Areas

- In the vicinity of 47th Ave and Airport Road (3)

Comments

- A park near airport side of town (2)
- 18th and north of main (1)

General park system comments

- Signage (1)
- Renovating Ashbrook’s playground (1)
- Pool (1)
- Trees and children’s play near Evergreen and Strawberry Park (1)
- Sankey Park is great (1)

Park Barriers and Top Park System Priority for the Next 10 Years

Board six posed two questions to participants: “*what are the main reasons you or those in your household DO NOT use a park or recreation facility?*” and, “*if you had to prioritize ONE action for the city to focus on in the next 10 years, which of the following actions would you choose?*” Participants could place a dot next to the provided responses under question. The table below documents their votes on each question.

Table 1.2 Park Barriers

Park Barriers (Reasons for not using a park facility)	Votes
Feel unsafe or unwelcome	1
Lack of facilities	1
Conditions of facilities	0
NOT accessible (ADA accommodations—accessible surfaces, seating, parking, etc.)	0
Barriers to access (highway/busy roads, lack of sidewalks or trails, train tracks, disconnected street grid)	0
Lack of transportation options (including car, bus, bicycling, and/or walking)	0
Park or facility hours don't work with my schedule (work, school, caregiving, etc.)	0
Don't know where parks are located	0
Too far away	0
Too crowded	0
Limited parking	0
Don't have time	0
Would rather do something else	0
Other (please describe)	0

Table 1.3 Top Priority

Top Priority (One action for the City to prioritize in the next 10 years)	Votes
Upgrading existing facilities and equipment	1
Building parks in neighborhoods not highly served by parks	1
Providing better ongoing maintenance of existing facilities and equipment	0
Building new parks and new recreational facilities	0
Improving parking (cars and bikes)	0
Improving security	0
Other (please describe)	0

HARVEST FESTIVAL EVENT DETAILED RESULTS

The same board materials were used at both the Summer Reading Program and the Harvest Festival events. The following presents the feedback heard and documented at the Harvest Festival.

Potential Park Amenities at Undeveloped Quarry Park Site

More participants shared verbal and written feedback about Quarry Park at the Harvest Festival. The community expressed a sense of attachment and familiarity to the site, drawing on personal knowledge and insights. It was mentioned that ponds are and have been a popular destination for fishing prior to city ownership. There was a strong desire for the incorporation of a pedestrian foot bridge along the upper west bank of the northwest pond, and the removal of invasive plant species to provide access to the pond for fishing. It was also mentioned that the ponds should be programmed to allow for designated fishing and water recreation areas. The following list shows all the written comments for this site.

Comments

- Hiking trails (9)
- Camping grounds (3)
- Playground (3)
- Water fountains (3)
- Bike trails (2)
- Dog park (2)
- Improve fishing trail & fishing spots (1)
- Kayaking (1)
- Motor cross trails (1)
- Archery (1)
- Bike park (1)
- Children’s playground (1)
- Covered day use area (1)
- Disc golf (1)
- Gazebo (1)
- Fee to camp (1)
- Fishing access (1)
- Fishing docks in the river and ponds (1)
- Paint ball arena (2)
- Kayak renting (2)
- Zipline (2)
- Nature play (1)
- Natural preservation (1)
- Pavilion (1)
- Remote control model boat racing (1)
- Safety camera (1)
- Small SUP area (1)
- Splash pad (1)
- Swimming area (1)
- Tennis with lights (1)
- Viewpoints (1)
- Water feature (1)
- Water park (1)
- Wayfinding (1)
- Wildlife protection area (1)

Highly Important Park Facilities

Water Play (splash pad) was the most desired, followed by water recreation, mountain biking trails, unpaved trails, and a bike park. The amenities with the least amount of interest were natural areas, pickleball, tennis and baseball. The total votes and comments are below.

Table 1.4 Highly Important Park Facilities

Facilities	Votes
Water play (splash pad)	57
Water recreation	30
Mountain biking trails	26
Unpaved trails	25
Bike Park / Bicycle Pump Track	23
Dog park	18
Nature playground	16
Wildlife viewing areas	14
Disc golf	13
Basketball	13
Community garden	12
Private event space	12
Outdoor fitness equipment	11
BBQ cooking areas	11
Public art (murals)	10
Softball	9
Paved trails	8
Performance venue	8
Children’s playground	8

Covered play areas	8
Soccer	8
Football	8
Picnic pavilions and shelters	6
Natural areas	4
Pickleball	4
Tennis	4
Baseball	3

Comments

- HOV trails (7)
- Bigger skate park (6)
- Bike racks
- Swing sets for kids and babies
- Trash and recycling bins
- Dirt bike trails
- Fitness loops
- Volleyball
- Lighting
- RC car track
- Memorial statue

General park system comments

- Improve the existing bike park (City of Redmond's as an example)
- Activate Strawberry Park, fitness loop
- OHU friendly trails
- Better bike jumps
- Fix the gazebo floor in Sankey Park
- Have the Tune it up Tuesday program at Sankey Park
- Have a designated place for the bike show in Sankey Park during the Harvest Festival

Existing Park System and Areas in Need of Parks

Several participants shared comments, and eight dots were placed on the existing park system map identifying areas in need of parks.

Identified Areas

- North of Main Street and south of Green River Road between 43rd Ave and 47th Ave (2)
- North of Northside Park (1)
- Adjacent to Sweet Home Junior High School (1)
- South of City Hall (1)
- In close proximity to the intersection of 43rd Ave and Long Street (1)
- In close proximity to the intersection of 47th and Long Street (1)
- In close proximity to the intersection of 49th Ave and Main Street (1)

General park system comments

- Strawberry Park needs a basketball court and a better jungle gym. It's a big blank canvas with lots of potential, and many kids in the surrounding homes.

Park Barriers and Top Park System Priority for the Next 10 Years

Table 1.5 Park Barriers

Park Barriers (Reasons for Not Using a Park Facility)	Votes
Feel unsafe or unwelcome	1
Lack of facilities	1
Conditions of facilities	1
NOT accessible (ADA accommodations—accessible surfaces, seating, parking, etc.)	1
Barriers to access (highway/busy roads, lack of sidewalks or trails, train tracks, disconnected street grid)	1
Too far away	1
Limited parking	1
Other (please describe)	1
Lack of transportation options (including car, bus, bicycling, and/or walking)	0
Park or facility hours don't work with my schedule (work, school, caregiving, etc.)	0
Don't know where parks are located	0
Too crowded	0
Don't have time	0
Would rather do something else	0

Comments

- Missing equipment in some (Condition of facilities)
- Yes, lack on the east part of town (Lack of facilities)
- No, tweakers (Feel unsafe or unwelcome)
- Good (NOT accessible. ADA accommodations—accessible surfaces, seating, parking, etc.)
- Long street (no sidewalks) 43rd Street (Barriers to access)
- Danger logs, danger if leave car, no sight from pond to car (Too far away)
- Limiting access all (Limited parking)
- Install park by airport land (Other)

Table 1.6 Top Priority

Top Priority (One action for the City to prioritize in the next 10 years)	Votes
Upgrading existing facilities and equipment	1
Building parks in neighborhoods not highly served by parks	1
Improving security	1
Building new parks and new recreational facilities	1
Improving parking (cars and bikes)	0
Providing better ongoing maintenance of existing facilities and equipment	0
Other (please describe)	0

Comments

- Fishing access (Upgrading existing facilities and equipment)
- How about part of long airport land? (Building new parks and new recreational facilities)
- Cameras, lights (Improving security)
- Covered playground for kids (Building parks in neighborhoods not highly served by parks)