

New Neighborhood Park in the Bonnie Meadow Area

Community Conversations Findings Summary

November 22, 2017

New Neighborhood Park in the Bonnie Meadow Area

Community Conversations Summary

Three community conversation events were held at Beaver Acres Elementary School on the evenings of October 24 and 26 and on the morning of November 4. These conversations, structured like focus groups, were intended to gather input from neighbors and community members regarding their values, needs, and desires for a new neighborhood park. Input and discussion was directed to help THPRD understand how the new park can best serve the neighborhood and park users. A total of 31 people participated in the conversations, nearly all of whom were nearby neighbors of the park site.

Recruitment for the community conversations consisted of door-to-door canvassing near the park, posts on Facebook and Nextdoor, emails sent via the THPRD listserv, and personal contact with the Creative Learning Center and Bethlehem Lutheran preschools and Beaver Acres Elementary Hispanic Liaison staff. Based on comments from participants, canvassing and Nextdoor appear to have been the most effective recruitment methods. Participants applied to join a conversation group through an online form on the project website or by directly contacting staff. As an incentive, participants were offered an honorarium of \$25 per household as well as passes to THPRD facilities.



René Brucker describes the park site and neighborhood context to participants at the November 4 meeting

Each conversation was structured similarly. After a round of introductions, René Brucker led a brief discussion about the site's neighborhood context, history, and current conditions. Then Vaughn Brown led an exercise in which participants were asked to describe what an ideal neighborhood would look and feel like. Participants were asked to visualize what physical features they would expect in this ideal neighborhood and how the people there would interact with the setting and each other. Participants were prompted to compile a list of the factors that made their visualized neighborhood, and then choose three or four of the most important elements to be posted on the wall. These items were grouped by topic and became the basis for conversation about how a park design can contribute toward enhancing neighborhood quality of life.

The findings from these conversations summarized below will be used to establish the vision and guide the park's design. Participants in the upcoming design workshops will refer to the summary findings as they develop initial park concepts. Park concepts developed in the design workshops should capture the most commonly held and important preferences expressed by participants to date.



Participants at the October 24 meeting listen to René Brucker's presentation about the park

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION 1 (October 24)

Participants: 12

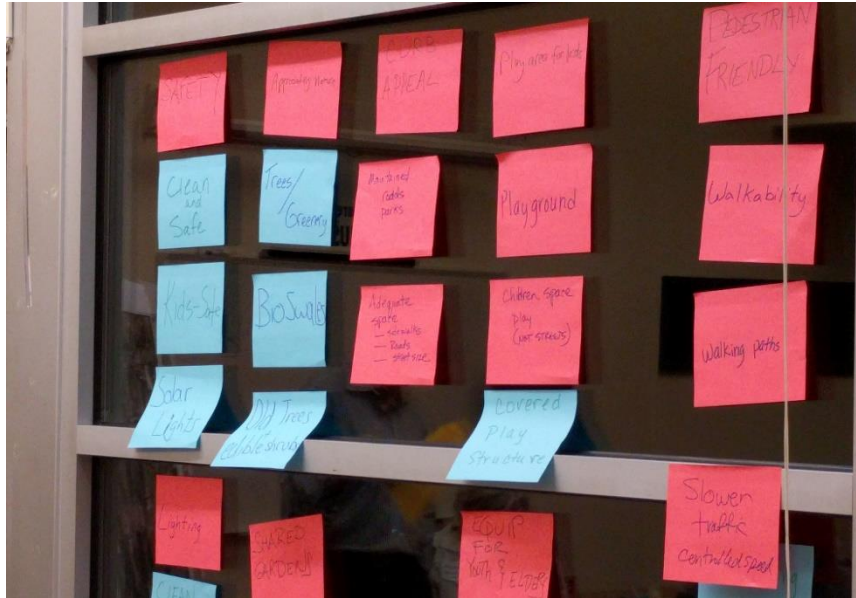
Project team in attendance: René Brucker, Gary Keck, Rob Russell, Vaughn Brown, John Todoroff

Neighborhood elements of importance to participants:

- Safety, especially safe walkability
- Activities for all ages
- Healthy activities for exercise and play

Park amenities and features discussed:

- Walking paths
- Places to gather
- Information kiosk
- Parking spaces
- Nature play area
- Preserving existing trees
- Dog run
- Community garden
- Sports fields
- Bird habitat



Participants wrote down features they believe are important to an ideal neighborhood, which were arranged in categories. These notes are transcribed in Appendix C.

Concerns:

- Pedestrian safety on streets adjacent to the park site, especially SW 187th
- Park amenities might attract too many outsiders
- Drainage and flooding

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION 2 (October 26)

Participants: 10

Project team in attendance: René Brucker, José Esparza, Vaughn Brown, John Todoroff

Neighborhood elements of importance to participants:

- Pedestrian safety and walkability (this topic generated the most discussion)
- Community cohesion
- Places for active recreation

Park amenities and features discussed:

- Sidewalks
- Stormwater management
- Trees and natural setting
- Sport courts, e.g. pickleball
- Community gathering space
- Bird habitat

Concerns:

- Flooding
- Scarce street parking

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION 3 (November 4)

Participants: 9

Project team in attendance: René Brucker, Bill Evans, Vaughn Brown, John Todoroff

Values and characteristics of importance to participants:

- Safety
- Slow traffic
- Nature
- Playgrounds

Park amenities and features discussed:

- Dog run (dropped after discussion about size requirements and attractor of non-neighborhood park users)
- Amenities that attract a range of ages
- New trees
- Nature play area
- Basketball court
- Gathering places with covered areas and barbeque amenities
- Community garden
- Synthetic playground surface (like at Mountain View Champions Park)

Concerns:

- Pedestrian safety in the neighborhood
- Attractive amenities like a dog park would cause parking issues
- Balancing vegetation with the need for visibility from the street



Vaughn Brown leads the discussion at the October 24 meeting

Key findings summary

The most consistent input across the three community conversations will inform further public involvement and outreach efforts for the park's design. The most prominent and often heard topic that emerged from the conversations was concern about pedestrian safety in the neighborhood, especially along SW 187th Avenue where sidewalks are lacking with increasing cut-through traffic and drivers frequently traveling at unsafe speeds. Participants also expressed desire for park amenities that attract visitors of all ages: playground facilities for young children, sport courts for teenagers, walking paths for seniors, and gathering spaces for families. Drainage problems on the site were discussed at all three meetings, and some participants suggested that the park design could incorporate stormwater management features that are attractive or provide bird habitat. Participants understood that certain amenities, such as a dog park or an exceptionally high quality playground, will likely involve a trade-off of attracting users from outside the neighborhood who might contribute to parking problems in an area where on-street parking is already scarce.

Vision statement

Based on what we heard at these community conversations, we recommend the following Vision Statement to guide the design of the new park:

A safe place for people of all ages to gather, play, and enjoy nature

- Pedestrian safety and neighborhood walkability
 - Incorporate design features that increase safety and enhance the pedestrian experience
- Amenities for neighbors of all ages
 - Provide opportunities for many types of active play and relaxation
 - Bring neighbors together by providing gathering spaces with tables and covered areas

Demographic summary of community conversation participants

Participants were asked to fill out a form that included demographic questions about age, gender, children living in their homes, and their distance from the park site.

Age: About half (48%) of participants were between the age of 35 to 54, with 26% in the 18–34 category, 19% in the 55–74 category, and 6% in the 75 or older category.

Gender: Slightly more than half of participants (58%) were female.

Children: Slightly more than half of participants have children living with them. In response to the question “How many children under the age of 18 live in your home?” about half (48%) of participants reported none, 23% reported two children, 16% reported one, 10% reported three, and one participant reported four or more.

Distance: Most participants live close to the park. In response to the question “How far do you live from the park site?” 84% chose either “Next door” or “Easy walking distance”, while one participant chose “Longer walking distance”, two chose “Biking distance”, and one chose “Very far”.

Appendix A:

Community Conversations recruitment flyer

BONNIE MEADOW NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



Help shape a new park for Aloha

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District is planning a new neighborhood park. Help guide the planning and design process by providing input. We invite you to participate in a small group discussion with your neighbors.

Join a community conversation

We are organizing three community conversations that will bring together small groups of participants who represent the neighborhood to talk about community needs. Groups will meet on:

- October 24, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- October 26, 6:30 - 8 p.m.*
- November 4, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

** Translation services will be provided at this session.*

Meetings will take place at Beaver Acres Elementary School (2125 SW 170th Ave, Beaverton). Light refreshments will be provided.

Participants will receive \$25 as thanks for your time.

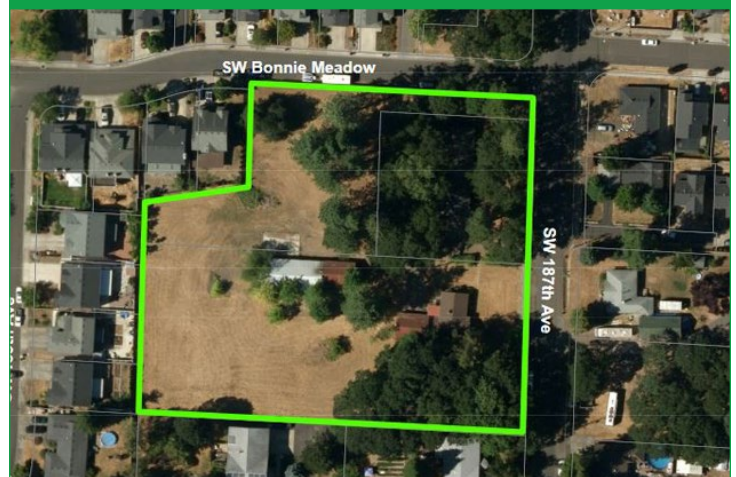
If you'd like to apply to join a community conversation, **respond by October 20** with your name and phone number to:

John Todoroff
(503)235-5881
john@jla.us.com

Our planning and design process will include input from neighbors and the broader parks community to ensure that the design and amenities provided within the new park are considerate of the needs and concerns of local residents.

This park will serve thousands of neighbors within a demographically diverse, residential neighborhood in the Aloha area.

New park location (2135 SW 187th Ave)



For more information, updates, and other ways you can provide input about the park design, visit thprd.org/newpark

Appendix B:

Project fact sheet

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IN THE BONNIE MEADOW AREA

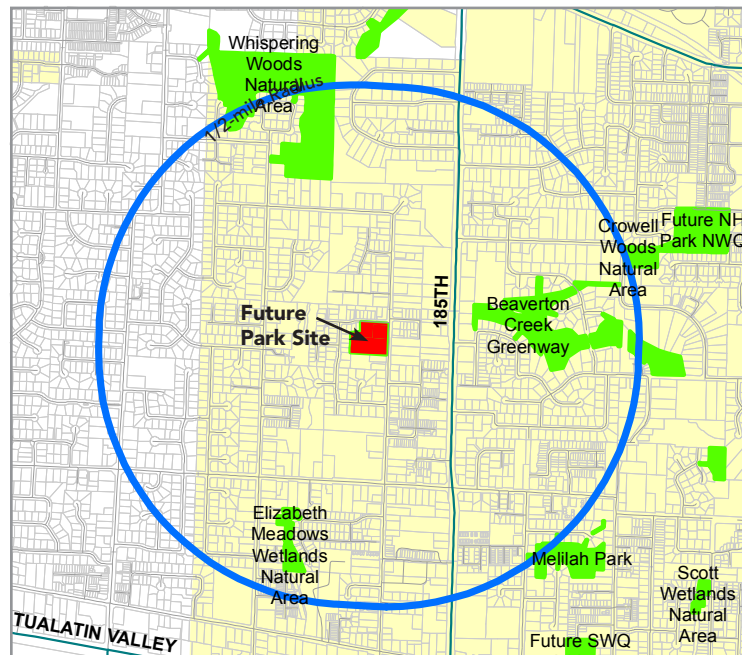


Connecting people to nature and play

The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District is planning a new 2.5-acre park in Aloha. Upon its completion, in 2020, this neighborhood park will serve residents in a diverse, mixed-density residential community.

Community input will be an essential component of our planning and design process. We want to be sure that our master plan is informed by the community's needs, desires and concerns so that the neighborhood gets a park it can enjoy for generations.

Sign up to receive project updates at: thprd.org/New-Park



About the park site



This site is composed of three tax lots at the southwest corner of SW 187th Avenue and SW Bonnie Meadow Lane. Nearby THPRD amenities include: the Crowell Woods Natural Area (to the northeast), the Beaverton Creek Greenway (to the east) and the Tualatin Hills Nature Park (to the southeast).

In 2014, the property was acquired by THPRD with 2008 bond measure funds earmarked for new park acquisition.

The entire site is relatively flat. The northern end and the southeast corner are covered by a canopy of oak, fir and ponderosa pine trees, while the remaining property consists of open field.

Many years ago at this site, the owner, F.N. Mitchell became a recognized authority in poultry raising. He later manufactured wire baskets. Mitchell Wire Products produced and shipped up to 50,000 gym baskets a year to destinations around the world.

Potential Park Features

This park's master plan will be developed after extensive public engagement with the **Bonnie Meadow community**. The park design will be customized to suit the wants and needs of park neighbors. Typically, THPRD neighborhood park amenities could include:

- Traditional play equipment (swings, slides, climbers, etc.)
- Nature play elements (logs, boulders, etc.)
- Community gardens
- Maintained open lawn areas
- Enhanced natural areas
- Picnic areas and gathering spots
- Paved and/or unpaved paths
- Benches
- Drinking fountains
- Ornamental and native landscaping
- Multipurpose sport courts
- Futsal and/or bocce ball



Timeline

This timeline details the planning phase of this development, which will include extensive public engagement. It will conclude with the submission of a master plan to the THPRD Board of Directors by June 2018. Permitting, construction and other facets of this project will be scheduled after master plan approval. The park is scheduled to open in 2020.

FALL 2017	WINTER 2018	SPRING 2018
STAGE 1: Needs Assessment	STAGE 2: Park Design Concepts	STAGE 3: Master Plan Review & Approval
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community conversations with neighbors• Online survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze stage 1 feedback• Public design workshops with landscape architects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze stage 2 feedback• Design and release master plan draft• Neighborhood meeting• Virtual open house• Incorporate public feedback• Adjust, finalize master plan for THPRD Board approval

Get Involved!

What features and amenities do you want to see at your new neighborhood park? Help guide our planners by providing your input. Take a survey, discuss the project with our planners, participate in a design workshop and review the draft master plan.

For more information, contact:

Rob Russell
THPRD Design & Development
503-629-6305 | rrussell@thprd.org

José Esparza
Community Engagement Specialist
503-619-3979 | jesparza@thprd.org

**You can learn more
about the project,
submit your ideas,
and sign up to receive
project updates at
thprd.org/New-Park**

NUEVO PARQUE COMUNITARIO EN LA ÁREA DE BONNIE MEADOW

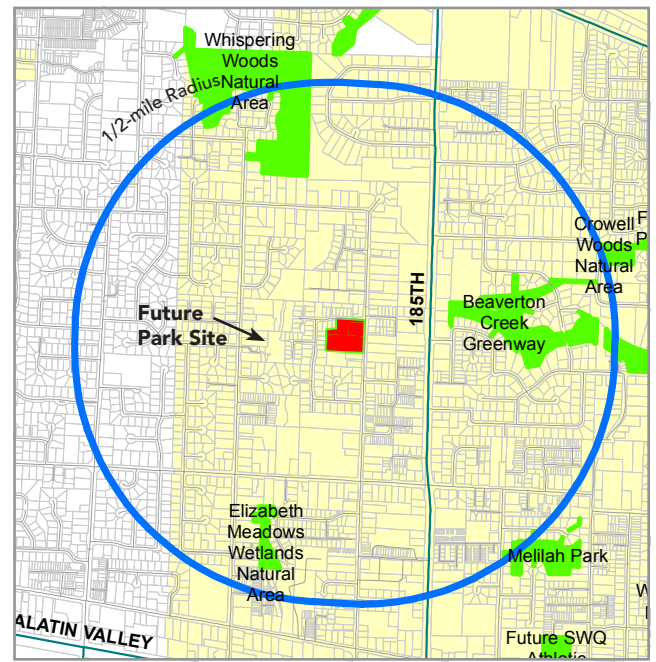


Conectando a las personas a naturaleza y diversión

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District está planeando un nuevo parque de 2.5 acres en la área Aloha-Reedville. Al finalizar, este parque comunitario servirá a los residentes dentro de un vecindario de densidad mixta.

La aportación de la comunidad será un componente muy importante en nuestro proceso de planificación y diseño. Queremos asegurar que nuestro plan maestro sea informado con necesidades de la comunidad, sus deseos, y sus preocupaciones. Queremos que la vecindad reciba un parque que pueden utilizar y disfrutar para generaciones.

Regístrese para recibir las últimas noticias del proyecto en: thprd.org/newpark



Sobre el sitio del parque



El sitio del parque se compone de tres lotes ubicadas en la esquina suroeste de SW 187th Avenue y SW Bonnie Meadow Lane. Comodidades en la zona de THPRD incluyen: la área natural de Crowell Woods (al noreste), Beaverton Creek Greenway Creek (al este) y Tualatin Hills Nature Center (al sureste).

En 2014, la propiedad fue adquirida por THPRD con fondos asignados por la medida de bonos de 2008 para la adquisición de nuevos parques.

El sitio entero es relativamente plano con el extremo norte y la esquina sureste son cubiertas por un dosel de roble, abeto y pino ponderosa, mientras que la propiedad restante consiste en campo abierto relativamente plano.

Hace muchos años en este sitio, el propietario, F.N. Mitchell se convirtió en una autoridad reconocida en avicultura. Más tarde fabricó cestos de alambre de pollo. Mitchell Wire Products produjo y envió hasta 50,000 canastas al año a destinos alrededor del mundo.

Características potenciales del parque

El plan maestro de este parque será apropiado para satisfacer las necesidades de la comunidad de Hazeldale. El diseño del parque se adaptará a los deseos y necesidades de los vecinos del parque. Típicamente, THPRD ofrece las siguientes características y servicios en parques comunitarios y pueden ser incluidos en el diseño del nuevo parque:

- Equipo de juego tradicional
- Elementos de juego de natural Jardín comunitario
- Zonas de césped para jugar
- Mejora de los espacios naturales
- Áreas de picnic y lugares de reunión
- Vías pavimentadas y sin pavimentar
- Bancos y fuentes de agua potable
- Ornamentales y jardinería nativo
- Canchas deportivas de multiusos
- Cancha de fútbol o bochas



Cronograma del Proyecto

La fase de planificación de este desarrollo incluirá amplio tiempo dedicado a la opinión del público (primavera de 2017). Finalizará con la presentación de un plan maestro a la mesa directiva del THPRD para junio de 2018. Permiso, construcción y otras facetas de este proyecto se programarán después de la aprobación del plan maestro, a medida que los fondos estén disponibles para completar el proyecto.

OTOÑO 2017			OTOÑO 2017/INVIERNO 2018			PRIMAVERA 2018		
ETAPA 1: Evaluación de necesidades			ETAPA 2: Conceptos de Diseño de Parques			ETAPA 3: Revisión y Aprobación del Plan Maestro		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conversaciones comunitarias con vecinos sobre características potenciales del parque• Encuesta en línea			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analizar los comentarios públicos de la Etapa 1• Talleres de diseño público con arquitectos de parques			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analizar la retroalimentación de la etapa 2• Diseñar y lanzar el plan maestro al público• Reunión de vecinos• Jornada virtual de puertas abiertas• Incorporar la opinión pública• Ajustar, finalizar el plan maestro para la aprobación de la mesa directiva de THPRD		

¡Ayude a Diseñar el Parque!

¿Qué características de diseño y servicios quiere en un parque comunitario? Ayude a guiar el proceso de planificación y diseño, incluyendo aportaciones al equipo del proyecto. Participe en la encuesta, discuta el proyecto con nuestros planificadores, participe en talleres de diseño comunitarios, y revise el plan maestro.

Para más información, contacte:

Rob Russell
THPRD Design & Development
503-629-6305 | rrussell@thprd.org

José Esparza
Community Engagement Specialist
503-619-3979 | jesparza@thprd.org (*habla español*)

Conozca más sobre el proyecto, envíe comentarios e inscribirse en la lista de correo en thprd.org/newpark

Appendix C:

Transcribed responses from participants

The following are participants' responses from the ideal neighborhood visualization exercise, organized by theme.

October 24, 2017

Safety & Upkeep

- Safety
- Clean and safe
- Kids are safe
- Clean top soil
- Lighting
- Solar lighting

Landscape & Scenery

- Trees/greenery
- Bioswales
- Old trees and edible shrubs
- Shared gardens
- Drainage
- Appreciating nature

Access and Transportation

- Curb appeal
- Adequate space
 - Sidewalks
 - Roads
 - Street size
- Maintained roads
- Pedestrian-friendly
- Disability-friendly
- Accessible pathways
- Walking track
- Controlled speed – slower traffic
- Walking paths
- Walkability
- Walking paths
- Parking balance

Animal Access

- Animal-friendly
- Dog-friendly

- Dog run

Community Enhancement

- Enhanced sense of community
- Community buildings
- Organized events
 - Birds
 - Stars
 - History
- Healthy noise – laughter
- Covered gathering area
- Community board
- Equipment for youth and elders
- Activities for all ages
- Activities for all ages (i.e. Basketball)

Children

- Synthetic grass for soccer
- Playground
- Water play
- Play area for kids
- Children space play (not streets)
- Covered play structure

Amenities

- Restrooms

October 26, 2017

Community Enhancement

- Park
- Park – physical outlets – tennis/basketball/soccer/etc.
- Sports field
- School
- Open community
- Peaceful
- Community garden spaces
- Kids playing together

Safety & Lighting

- Lighting
- Lighted streets
- Safe!
- Safe
- Safety (lighting)

- Well-patrolled
- Ample lighting

Access & Transportation

- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks
- Bike-ability/walkability
- Public transit/bike and walkability
- Trails for running/biking
- Parking
- Safe traffic – room for parking, walking, bikes
- Easy, safe walking
- Close to amenities

Landscape & Scenery

- Trees and grass
- Green spaces/trees/creeks
- Trees
- Bird/butterfly attracters
- Well-maintained public areas
- Smart weather planning – water/snow/etc.
- Bioswales

November 4, 2017

Animal Access

- Dog walkers
- Dog park

Children

- Kid structures and areas to play for all ages
- Playground
- Playground
- Giant play structure
- Kid's play park
- Playground
- Splash pad

Access & Transportation

- Joggers
- Slow traffic (narrowed streets, not speed bumps)
- Slow streets (safer roads)
- Less on-street parking
- Less traffic

- Bike-friendly
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Safety road traffic
- Walking trails
- Walking paths
- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks
- Contiguous sidewalks

Community Enhancement

- Serene and active areas
- Community gathering place
- Gathering place
- Area for neighborhood BBQ's – summer nights

Landscape & Scenery

- Gardens, neighborhood vegetables and fruits
- Nature
- Trees – safe wooded areas with paths
- Nature – natural space
- No concrete jungle

Amenities

- Drinking water
- Restrooms
- Bathrooms

Safety

- Safe environment
- Down-facing street lights (not garish)
- Safety
- Lighting – even at night
- Safe place for children to play