

**Parks ADA Transition Plan**

**June & July Comment Form**

PP&R received 12 comments on the Parks ADA Transition Plan supplement. Comments received are included below in their entirety. In summary, all of those who commented on the plan felt that over time the PP&R ADA Transition Plan would increase accessibility in parks and facilities.  Some commenters encouraged PP&R to continue looking for ways to make parks and facilities more inclusive, and to continue going beyond ADA minimums in designing new spaces.  Some commenters indicated specific barriers that prevented their use of pools or playgrounds, illustrating the need for PP&R to address these barriers.

1. **Do you agree that over time PP&R’s ADA Transition Plan will increase accessibility in parks and facilities? Why?**

□ Agree □ Agree Somewhat □ Somewhat disagree □ Disagree

□ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9 people selected ‘agree’, and 3 people selected ‘agree somewhat’.

* Many of the problems I have experienced at Pier Park pool are being addressed. I have yet to explore the other neighborhood parks in the plan, but as someone who helps someone in a wheelchair use the pool I have experienced a lot of frustration with the situation there.
* Because of the dedication and commitment of those involved in the Transition Plan
* It’s a start and its over due
* I agree that it is a step in the right direction though I hope PP&R continues to look beyond minimum standards for accessibility to adopt a culture of best practice that strives to serve all people
* I agree depending on how we do this, are we creative in thought and process?
* Sounds like it will, but it will be good to see how the initiative evolves. I would like to see it go beyond accessibility and towards inclusivity
* I think prioritizing the obstacles is a great step, and absolutely necessary.
* Because everyone is so great + motivated.
* More people will be able to go to the parks
* If plans presented are followed it should provide accessibility to all.

1. **What do you experience as the most significant accessibility barrier while using PP&R parks and facilities?**

* The lack of safe flooring, accessible stalls, shower bench and maneuverable shower head, and lack of a lift at Pier Pool. The pool also needs a designated parking spot on N. St Johns Ave near the pool entrance. At SJCC to access the bathrooms a person must navigate 2 doors without automatic openers. Also, the doors to the most accessible bathrooms are locked and require staff to open them. This is also the case at CJCC and it is very frustrating to need to find someone just to access the bathroom. Making smooth transitions difficult.
* Restrooms and Curbs
* Parking Sometimes
* Though facilities may be physically accessible that does not necessarily mean they are inclusive. Welcoming all people to participate together in the same way. The current model seems to categorize all people with disabilities by the lowest common denominator rather than providing unique opportunities to the diverse communities within the larger population of those who experience disability.
* Simply - If access is not available it’s a pain, biggest is the International Rose garden
* Bark chips are tough for people who use wheels. Also, it is important that there aren’t two separate facilities/elements (climbing structure, for example) - for people with disabilities, or for people without. That’s not inclusion.
* Oregon, or more specifically Portland has a great amount of nature trails, on these trails roots seem to be the greatest obstacles.
* I am no disabled but I can see it with the playgrounds.
* Accessibility to the playgrounds for children
* Bathrooms, water fountains, Playground equipment, benches
* Woodchip paths get muddy.

1. **Please provide any suggestions or recommendations for improving accessibility:**

* Please educate staff better on ADA. They need to know that aides of the opposite gender are allowed to assist individuals when a family stall is unavailable. Also, staff should set an example and not use the large stalls when there are other stalls available. My client sat shivering waiting for a stall at MDCC only to have a staff member (her camp counselor) emerge alone 15mins later from one of the family stalls. This person should know better. If a program has a person with an AIR assistant they need to know that helping that client access the building is as much their job as the AIR employee. They also should be prepared to cover breaks and lunches for AIR staff without annoyance.
* Better information on trails beyond the accessible ones.
* Pal Committee members invited?
* Increase access to programing engage folks who experience disability in the decision making process, look beyond the ADA to establish best practice, pursue the expertise of private sector partnerships.
  + Post signs in all parks "where you able to access? Negotiate this park?" it’s no ok if people don’t speak up- look at who speaks up. 2. Consider for seasonal parks a well-engineered system that works.
* Provide Smooth transitions throughout all play areas. Universal design.
* Hire crews to trim trees and monitor trails.
* Nothing

1. **What else would you like to share?**

* Thank you for making this a priority. I am appreciative of all the parks dept has done so far with regards to accessibility but glad it is recognized that more needs to happen. It should be noted that Sitton Elementary, a block from Pier Park, has 5 children using wheelchairs. The lack of any accessible play equipment at Pier is disheartening. Even just a couple of basic adaptive swings and merry go round like Columbia Park has would get a lot of good use. Please show lots of love to Pier Park and SJCC, it does not go unnoticed that these facilities lack what other parks have. Most importantly for SJCC is a splash pad. Currently St. Johns families have to travel to Columbia Park for a true splash pad. The one at Pier is cute but not what the other parks have and not central to St. Johns.
* I’m proud that Portland has lots of green space and accessible for dog owners too.
* The program mentioned public-private partnerships I believe there are many private and nonprofit organizations in Portland that are successfully engaging folks who experience disability yet their greatest struggle is finding funding and facilities to host these community events PP&R could vastly expand the accessible and inclusive services they offer by partnering to support these existing programs.
* I would also share that just maybe people with disabilities simply don’t feel important, they should. So why don’t they?
* Parks is doing a great job overall.
* You are great!

**Please tell us about yourself!**

**How did you hear about the Parks ADA Transition Plan?**

□ Email □ website □ Postcard □ Flyer □ Friend □ Family

□ PP&R employee □ other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Two people heard about the ADA Transition Plan from a flyer, three from a PP&R employee, three from a friend, two from email, one from the website, and one other.

**How often do you visit Parks, Community Centers or Natural Areas?**

□ Daily □ Weekly □ Monthly or less

Three people visited PP&R facilities daily, seven weekly, and two monthly.

**How do you get to Parks, Community Centers or Natural Areas?**

□ On foot □ By bike □ By car □ Bus □Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

People checked multiple boxes for this response. Seven people checked on foot, six people checked by car, four people checked by bike, four people checked by bus/lift.

**My most frequent use of PP&R Parks and Facilities is:**

(Check all that apply)

□ Playground □ Pool □ Sports □ Classes □ Hiking □ Picnic

□ Dog Parks □ Neighborhood Park □ Natural Area □ Community Garden

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Four people checked playground, two people checked pool, one person checked sports, two people checked classes, four people checked hiking, one person checked picnic, one person checked dog park, eight people checked neighborhood park, five people checked natural area, one person checked community garden, and no one wrote in an other.

**Do you identify as a person with a disability?**

□ Yes □ No □ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Three people identified as a person with a disability. Seven did not, and two did not respond to this question.

**How do you identify? □ male □ female □ other**

Ten people identified as female, one as male, and one as human.

**What city do you live in?**

Eleven people live in Portland, one person lives in Corvallis.

**What is the zip code of your residence?**

Zip codes include 97211 (three people), 97203 (two people), 97213 (two people), 97202, 97225, 97209, 97113, 97221.

**What is your age group?**

Three people were 35-44. Two people were 55-64. Three people were 25-34. One person was 45-54. One person was 20-24. One person was 65-74.

**How many children under 18 years are in your household?**

One person had two children under 18 years, one person had one child under 18 years.

**Which of the following best describes your household’s total annual income for 2015? [CHECK ONLY ONE]**

Three people had household incomes in the $75,000 – 99,999 range, two people had income in the $150,000 - $199,999 range, three people had income in the $15,000 - $24,999 range, one person had income in the $25,000 - $34,999 range, one person had income in the $35,000 - $49,999 range, and one person had income in the $100,000 - $149,999 range

**Which best describes your race or ethnicity? [CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY]**

One person identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native, one person identified as Black or African American, nine people identified as White, and three people wrote in under Other: Human, Asian Indian, and Pacific Islander.

**What is the primary language spoken in your home? [CHECK ONLY ONE]**

All twelve commenters selected English.

**Which of the following best describes your highest level of education? [CHECK ONLY ONE]**

Seven people selected college graduate (4 year degree), three people selected graduate / professional degree, and one person selected technical/vocational.