



**Columbia Children's Arboretum  
Camp Elso Listening Session  
Friday, May 18, 2018**

**Welcome!** Thank you for joining us as we plan the future of this place.

**Step 1** – Take a dot! Mark a space on the large map that is special to you.

**Step 2** – In the space below. Tell us why this place is special– use words, pictures, poems – whatever works for you!

Think about the following:

- a. What is special to you about the park
- b. What is an important experience that you had in the park?
- c. What about the space and experience make it special?

1. What is special to me is the ambiance, the peacefulness of nature. And the chirping birds.
2. The first experience is just the awareness of the parks existence.
3. The immediate take from my kids, they felt at one with nature. This park is special because it's small and not overcrowded.
4. Such a beautiful area is covered/surrounded by an industrial area on the East/Southeast side
  - a. Flora is very nice, grass is too high but over all there is some variety
  - b. I would suggest additional native species and perhaps children's survival training
5. Learning the paths, walking the bridges, conversation in a "natural" undeveloped space
6. Reflective space open to all ages
  - a. "There is room for either composting toilet, cobb structures and connecting with the land -nature as Native Americans

**Step 3** – How will we know if we are successful? Listed below are the goals that were developed in conjunction with the 2004 Management Plan. Please use the scale to give us feedback.

- a. Are these goals still relevant?
- b. Should they be changed?
- c. Is anything missing?

### **Recreation needs**

- Meet recreation needs of existing and future area residents.  
Provide a variety of spaces and facilities that are appropriate to the site and its designation as a hybrid park

*Very Relevant*

1 – 1

2 –

3 –

4 – 1

5 –

*Not Very Relevant*

### **Environmental restoration**

- Improve habitat values through an ongoing program of replanting, invasive species removal, and restoration.
- Improve water quality in the waterways by improving water flow and other bank improvements.
- Control human access into restoration sites and natural resource areas.

*Very Relevant*

1 – 2

2 –

3 –

4 –

5 –

*Not Very Relevant*

### **Interpretive Programs**

- Provide a variety of opportunities for students and citizens to learn about the site, its natural resources, its history, the Columbia Slough, and the neighborhood.
- Provide restoration involvement opportunities for school groups and citizens.

*Very Relevant*

1 – 1

2 – 1

3 –

4 –

5 –

*Not Very Relevant*

### **Beauty and character of the site**

- Enhance and improve the park's visual character through a vegetation management program that improves views, defines open spaces, and maintains a unified palette of plant materials.

*Very Relevant*

1 – 2

2 –

3 –



4 –

5 –

*Not Very Relevant*

***A legacy of neighborhood involvement***

- Develop partnership with the neighborhood or a Friends group for programs and maintenance.

*Very Relevant*

1 – 1 (Camp Elso)

2 –

3 –

4 – 1

5 –

*Not Very Relevant*

**Step 4 – What else would you like us to know?**

- Protect trees
- Don't fight with sticks
- Protect animals & habitat & logs (animals live there)
- Access to slough/rec on
- Keep meadow mowed smaller for recreation
- No hunting or fishing
- Restroom please – important near picnic area
- How do people know about this park? – Lets get the word out
- Warn people about cottonwood
- Love shade from trees
- Put play picnic together
- Tables at fort area
- Climbing trees
- Hide n seek tag
- Mr. Fox
- Celebration of wild life
- Bird watching
- Volunteer opportunities
- BBQ – kickball
- Treasure hunt with family
- Playing on bark mounds, natural materials or more with flowers
- Use natural features that are already here
- Nature Camp – survival, fort building
- Native edible plants – gleening/survival
- Water to play in... or they will find unstructured water
- Make trees climbable...
- Signage, parking signs too.
- Seating logs/rocks/benches
- Art/interpretation
- Guided tour
- Chinook Book
- Value protects habitat
- Make sure no littering to protect animals – stewardship
- Clarify where people get to go - & animals can go
- Add self guided education at site
- Structural barriers addressed & address issues of equity + neighbors openness to visitors

