

**North Portland Aquatic Center
Executive Summary of Community Engagement
Phase 2 / Cycle 1 – March 2025**



Option 1:

Heart of the Park



Option 2:

Meet Me at Geneva



Option 3:

Beacon in the Park

In March 2015, the above three site design concepts were shared with community for their input and feedback in the following ways:

- **March 10:** Project Advisory Committee meeting
- **March 12 :** Focus Groups
- **March 10-23:** Online Survey

Seven of the Project Advisory Committee members attended an online discussion for two hours that included a presentation of the concepts followed by discussion and survey questions. Two days later, a two-hour online engagement was held with five affinity groups that followed a similar format to the PAC meeting (presentation, small group discussion, and poll questions). The broader community was invited to participate through an online survey that was open for two weeks.

Below is a summary of the highlights of the three engagement activities, with a focus on overall themes and preferences. A full report on each activity that provides greater detail is available at portland.gov/parks/construction/north-portland-aquatic-center-project .

Option 1: Heart of the Park

- Main entrance to parking lot on Fessenden, less impact on Geneva Street residents
- Closeness of outdoor amenities and flow/connections between
- Proximity of bus stop (if relocated)
- Good visibility of splash pad and plaza from Fessenden, invites people in
- No need to cross parking lot to access all park amenities, feels safer

Option 1 Concerns:

- Splash pad proximity to Fessenden
- Parking lot proximity to Clarendon Early Learning Center
- Increase in traffic congestion on Fessenden
- Green space is hidden from view from Fessenden – primary view from Fessenden is the building and parking lot

Option 2: Meet Me at Geneva

- Like having parking lot tucked behind building, so it is not the primary view from Fessenden
- Proximity of entrance to Fessenden and bus stop
- Geneva Street may not have as much congestion issues as Fessenden
- Location of plaza and splash pad creates safer place for children, more setback from Fessenden
- Largest green buffer between park and Clarendon Early Learning Center
- Some like the separation of the splash pad from the pavilion
- Parking is accessible and convenient for community users and competitive swim user entrance

Option 2 Concerns:

- Parking splits building from open space in park. Kids would have to cross the parking lot from play area to get to Aquatic Center and splash pad.
- Impact on Geneva Street residents with increase in traffic, already narrow street
- Some do not like having the splash pad so far away from events happening at the pavilion
- Splash pad may be too much in the shade

Option 3: Beacon in the Park

- Plaza and splash pad highly visible and welcoming from Fessenden
- Pool oriented towards views of trees and park, not Fessenden traffic
- Splash pad is located in middle of plaza, farther from main street and parking

Option 2 Concerns:

- Feels fragmented and busy
- Don't like location of main parking lot – cuts park in half and creates safety issues
- Pavilion location feel disconnected from other park amenities
- Splash pad location may still be too close to Fessenden

How will you typically get to the NPAC at Northgate Park?

	Car	Walk	Bike	Bus	 Scooter	LIFT	Other
PAC	43%	14%	29%	14%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Focus Groups	54%	18%	14%	11%	n/a	4%	n/a
Online Survey	52%	19%	22%	4%	0.6%	0.3%	2%

Do you prefer to access the parking off N Fessenden or N Geneva?

	Fessenden	Geneva	No preference
PAC	75%	0%	25%
Focus Groups	63%	38%	

What activities are most preferred for the pavilion use?

	Live art/music performance	Fitness classes	Special events	Art exhibits	Group picnics	Dance performance	Other
PAC	X	0	X	X	0	n/a	n/a
Focus Groups	41%	35%	17%	7%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Online Survey	61%	42%	21%	23%	46%	11%	7%

How do you want to be able to use the reduced open green space at the park?

	Picnicking	Pick-up recreation	Walking	Relaxing	Fitness Activities	Playground Use
PAC	14%	57%	14%	0%	0%	n/a
Focus Groups	33%	30%	19%	11%	4%	4%

Which site concept do you like best?

	# of Participants	Concept 1 Heart of the Park	Concept 2 Meet Me at Geneva	Concept 3 Beacon in the Park
PAC	7	57%	29%	14%
Focus Groups	26	38%	38%	23%
Online Survey	787	56%	24%	14%