PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION℠

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

# North Portland Aquatic Center (NPAC)

## Community Workshop #3 Outreach and Engagement Summary

**May 2023**

# Community Workshop #3 Summary

This robust community engagement process, beginning in March of 2022, has been built on that PP&R goal of addressing historic gaps in service and access to aquatics in North Portland. This gap is most clear and obvious when we look at one startling statistic… Black children in the U.S. are the victims of drownings at a rate 3 times higher than their white peers. This statistic tells an all-too-clear story about the lack of access and opportunity that black and brown children have to life-saving water safety skills and swim lessons.

With that as our foundation the community-driven criteria, centric to the North Portland Aquatic Center site selection process, has become clear since beginning community engagement in the Spring of 2022. That criteria is as follows:

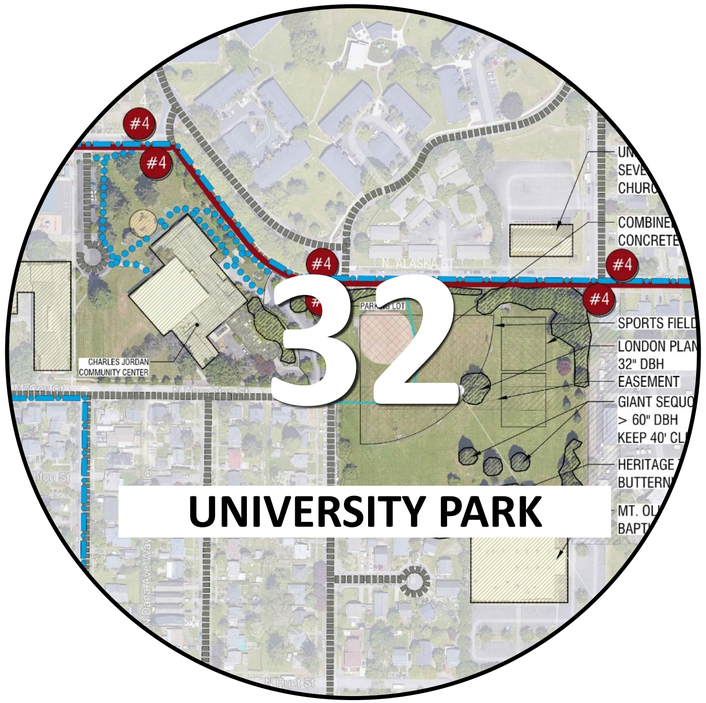
- Ensure that the facility is easily accessible for pedestrians and cyclists
- Ensure easy access on rapid-transit Tri-Met bus lines
- Ensure that the facility is near community resources doing amazing work with vulnerable populations (schools, community-based organizations, federally subsidized housing, community centers, etc)
- Ensure that we are minimizing any harmful neighborhood and ecological effects of the project on the site (tree loss, traffic impacts, etc.)
- And, in all of the above, do so in a dense neighborhood where Portlanders living with lower incomes have the easiest access to the facility

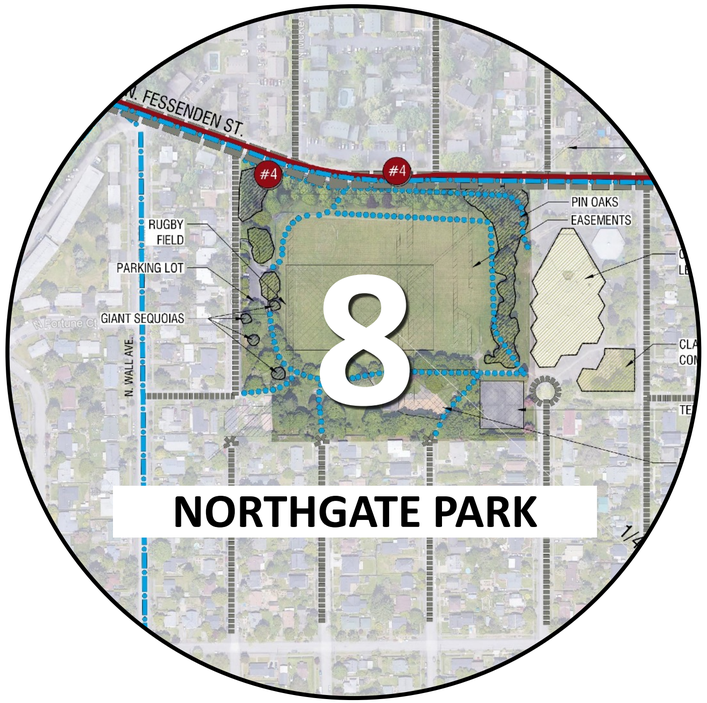
The following is a summary of the data, key themes, and takeaways from the Community Workshop #3 phase.

# Community Workshop #3 Event - Table Discussions

On April 27, 2023 PP&R hosted a NPAC Community Workshop #3 event, in partnership with the Cesar Chavez School PTA, at Cesar Chavez School. Community Workshop attendees were introduced to the proposed schematic design concepts for each our three sites. Attendees then participated in group discussions with community members, led by a project team member, to discuss the site criteria and their preferred site of the North Portland Aquatic Center.

Each participant was then invited to vote in a live poll of attendees. They were asked to identify their preferred site. The live poll results, of April 27 attendees, is as follows:



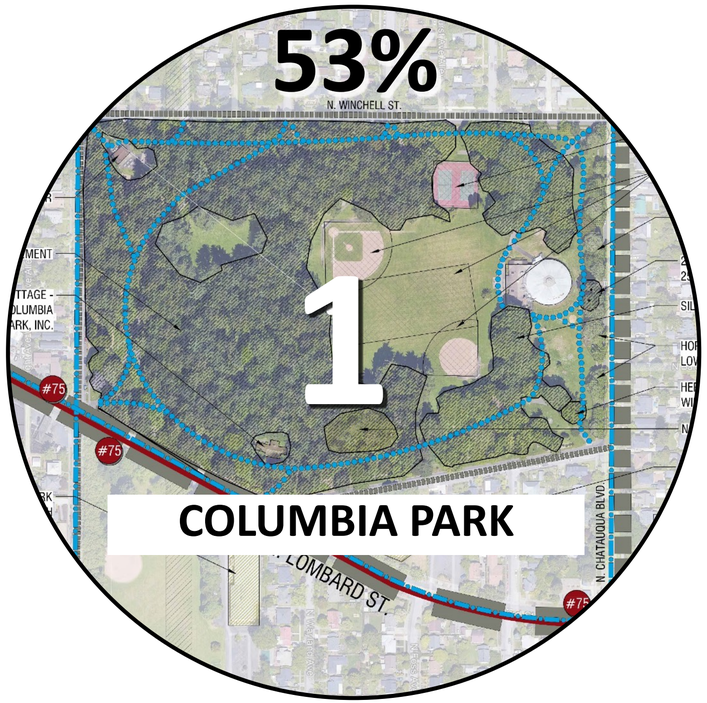




**Important to note: While we had a robust attendance of over 100 participants throughout the evening, the vote occurred at the end of the 2-hour session. Some attendees were not able to stay for the entire session.*

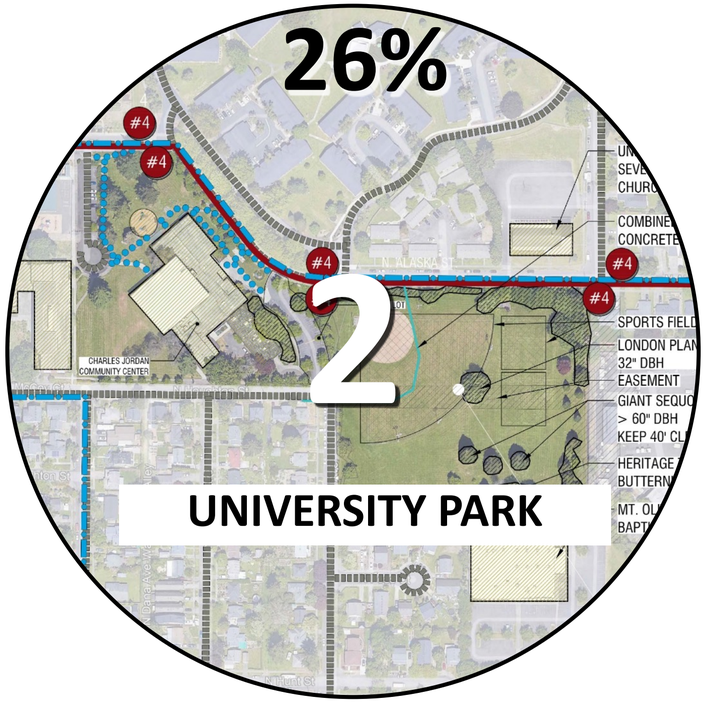
# Community Workshop #3 - Survey Summary

## All Respondents
**(1,111)**

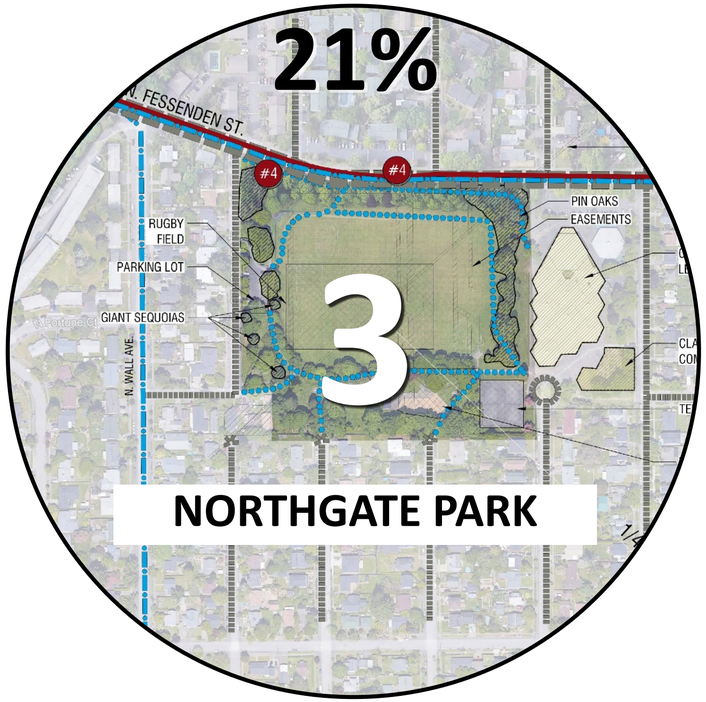
A companion survey was launched on April 27, 2023 and remained open until May 11, 2023. Community members were invited to select there most preferred site based on our site selection criteria (equity, access, and park impact). Total responses and primary criteria are below:




- Accessibility/Proximity to Lombard
- Familiarity of Site (site of the now closed Columbia Indoor Pool)
- Fewer total number of trees lost
- Benefit of a solution for the removal of the Columbia Indoor Pool building




- Access for Portlanders with Low Incomes
- Proximity to Charles Jordan Community Center
- Proximity to Schools/Community-based Organizations/Low Income Housing



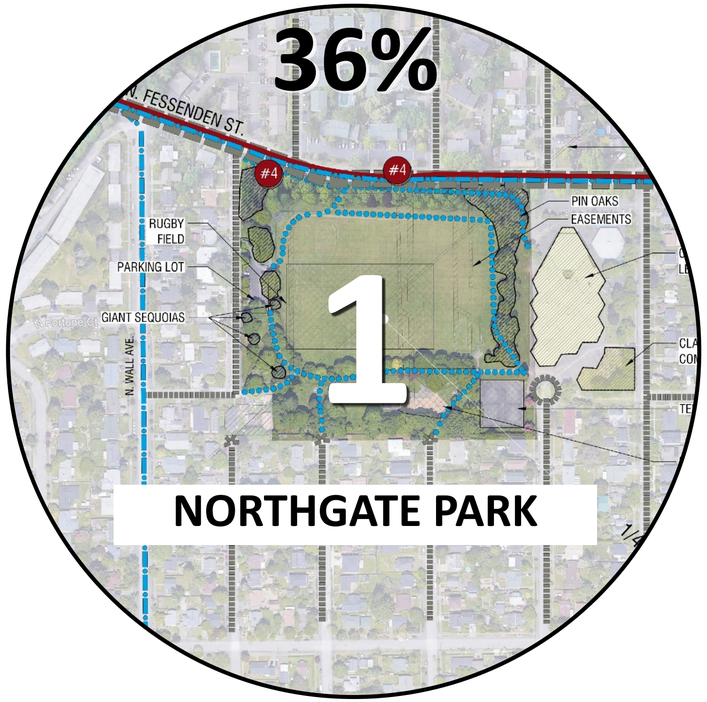

- Access for Portlanders with Low Incomes
- Proximity to Roosevelt High School
- Most Transformative for the Neighborhood

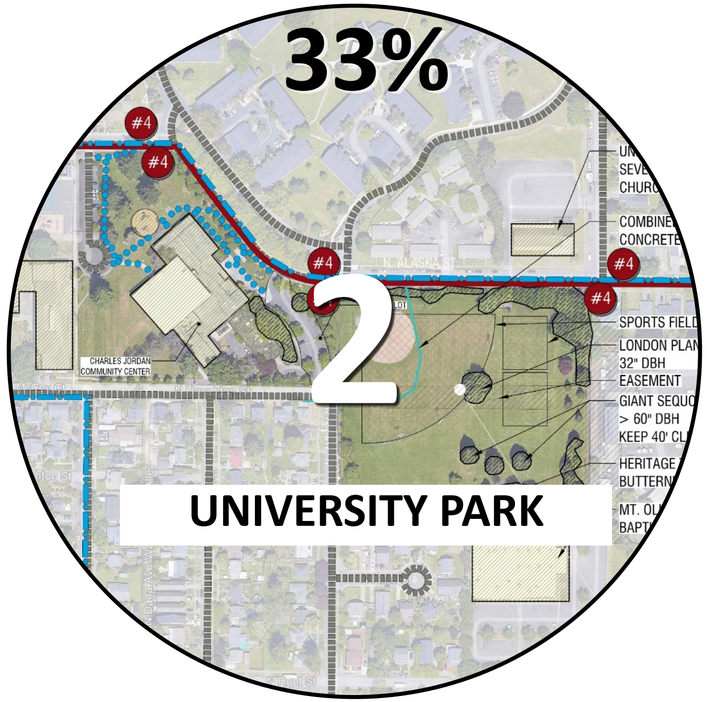
# Community Workshop #3 - Survey Summary

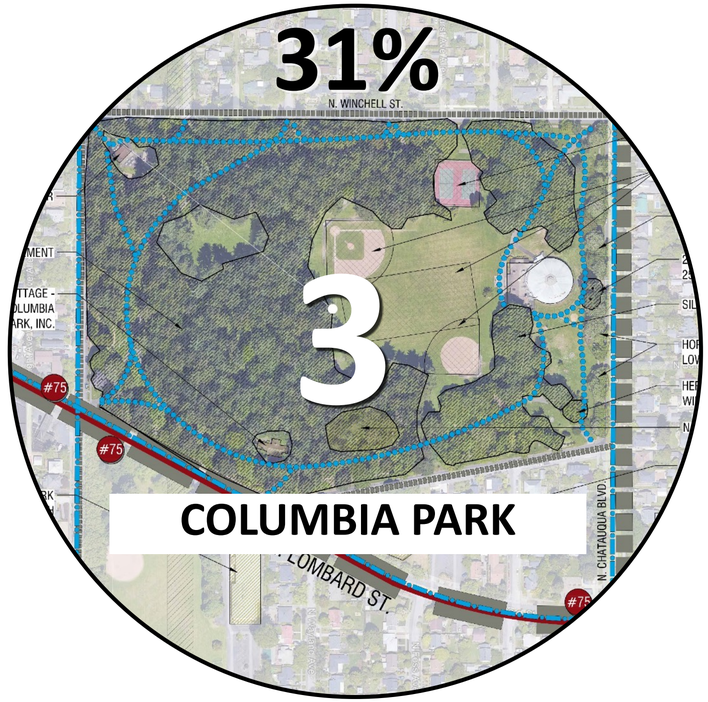
**Working to close the gap in service to aquatic amenities and life-saving water safety, to Communities of Colors, Youth, Seniors, People with low-income, and People/Families with disabilities.**

## Communities of Color

Of our 1,111 survey respondents, 762 self-identified their race/ethnicity. Of that 762, 39% (295) selected a race/ethnicity other than White. Of those 295 respondents, they represent household totals of 1,008 individuals. The total responses, from these respondents, are below:



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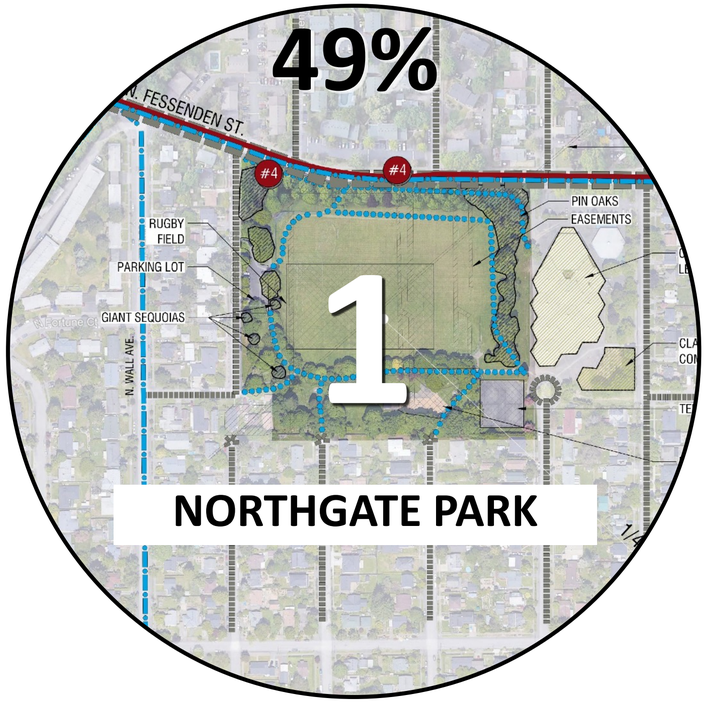
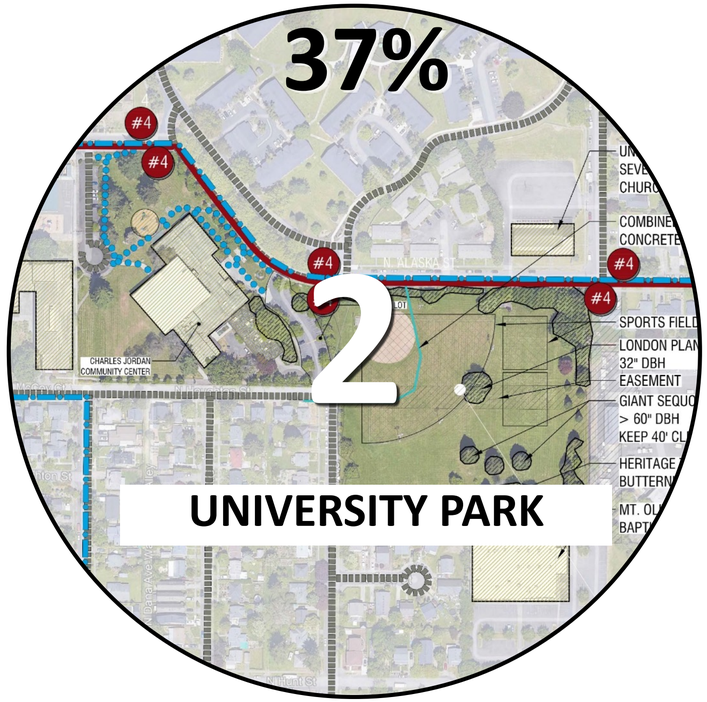
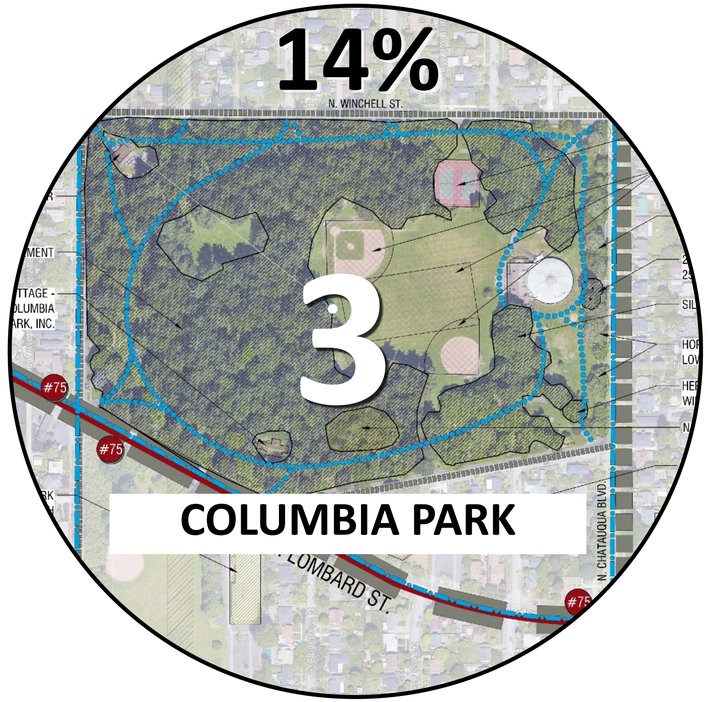
## Youth/Portland Public Schools

Of our 1,111 survey respondents, 186 (17%) responded to a unique survey link that was only shared with Portland Public Schools in North Portland. Of those 186 respondents, they represent household totals of 558 individuals. The total responses from these respondents, are below:



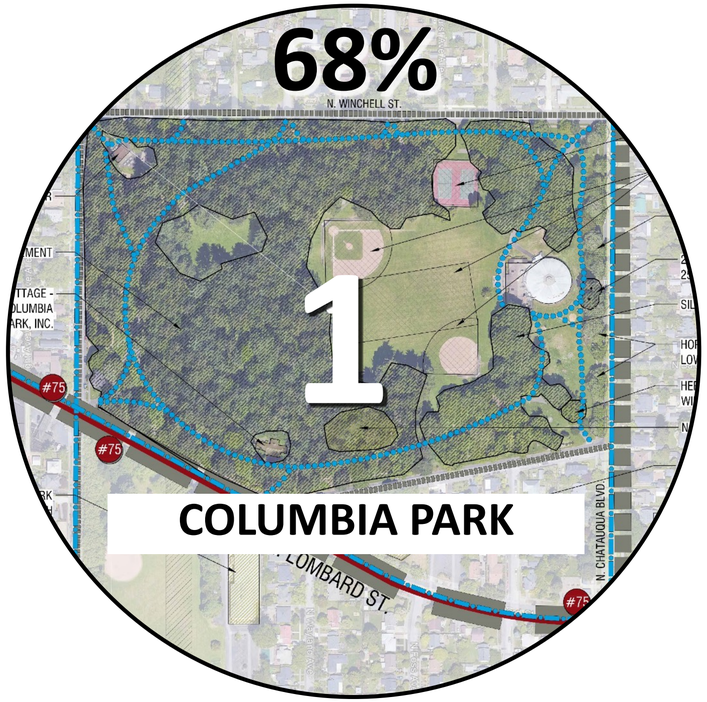



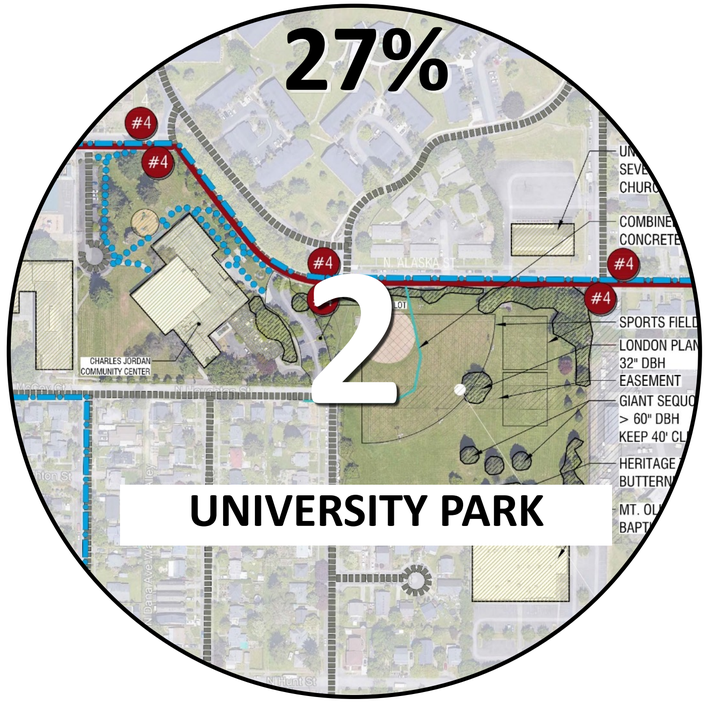
# Community Workshop #3 - Survey Summary

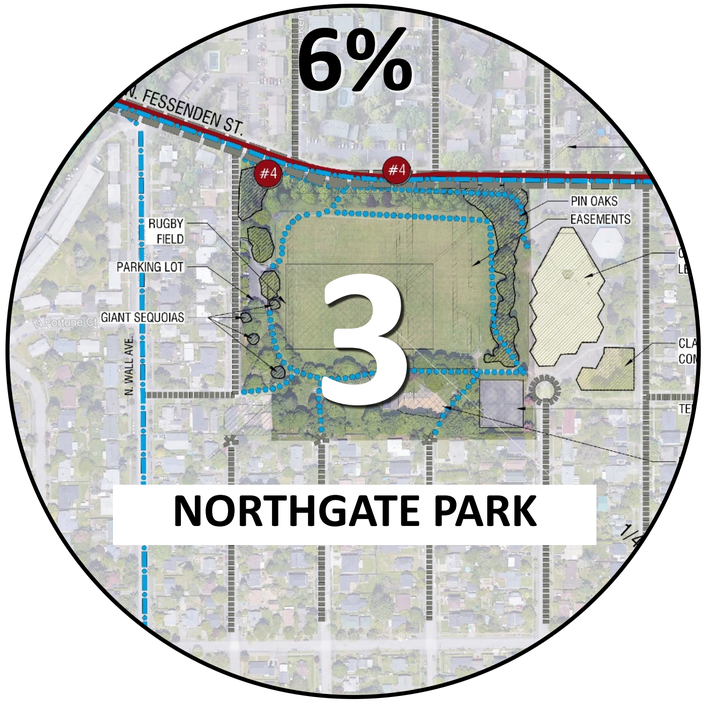
**Working to close the gap in service to aquatic amenities and life-saving water safety, to Communities of Colors, Youth, Seniors, People with low-income, and People/Families with disabilities.**

## Seniors

Of our 1,111 survey respondents, 111 (10%) self-identified their age as 65 or over. Of those 111 respondents, they represent household totals of 205 individuals. The total responses, from these respondents, are below:



# Community Workshop #3 - Survey Summary

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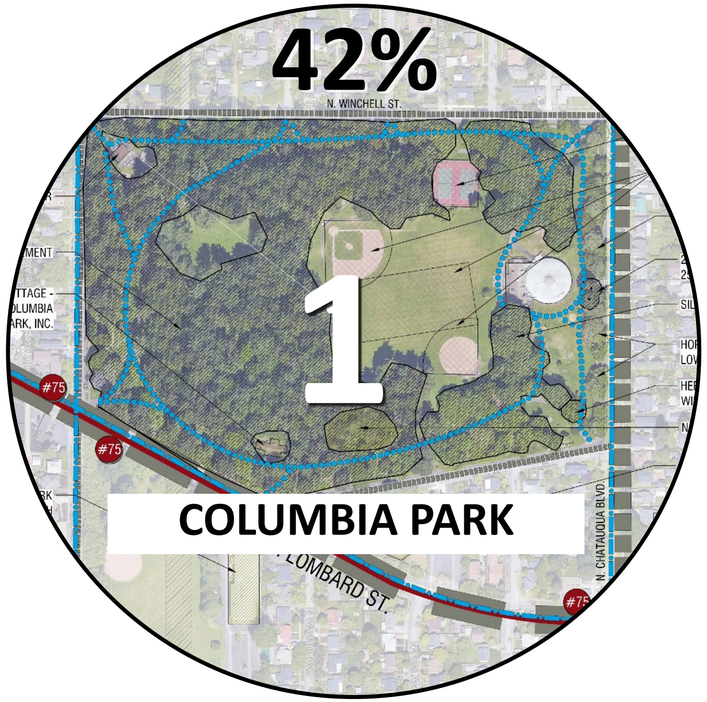
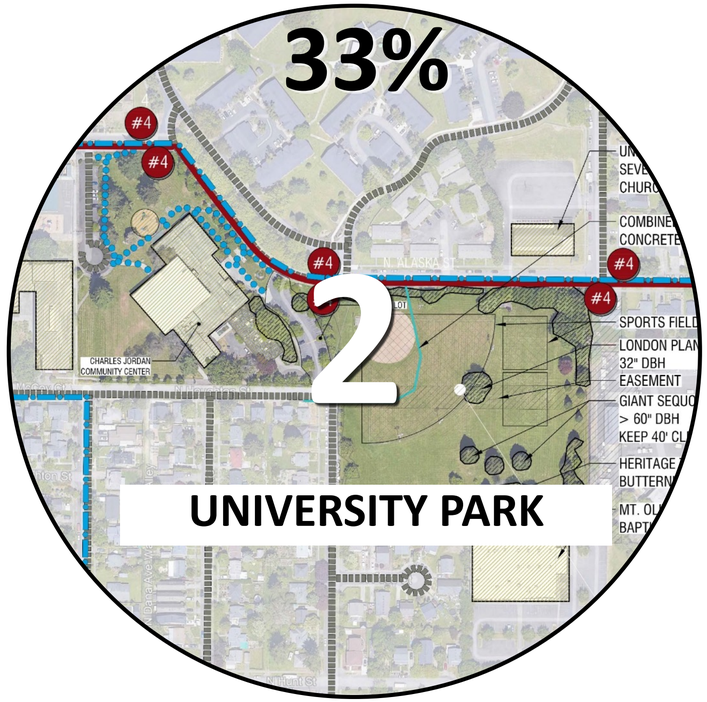
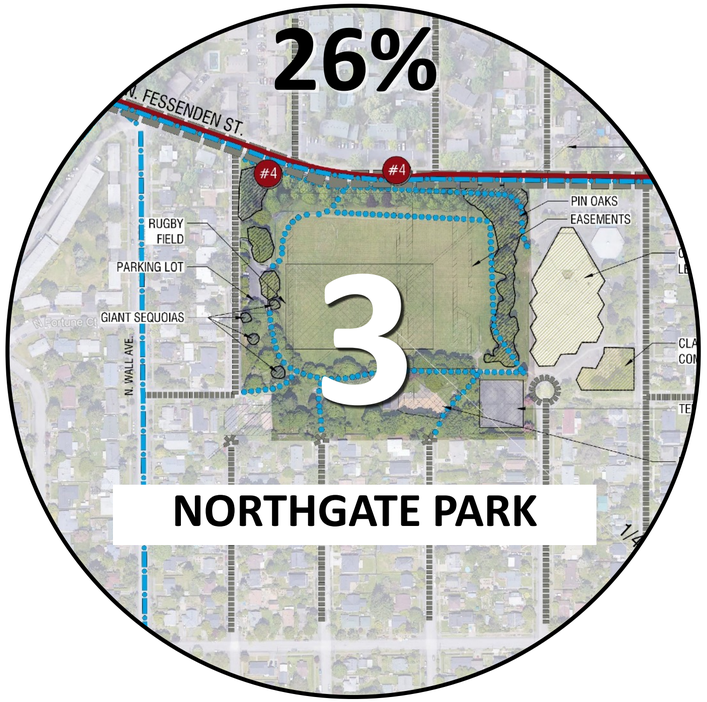
## People/Families with Disabilities

Of our 1,111 survey respondents, 225 self-identified a person or family with a disability. Of those 225 respondents, they represent household totals of 707 individuals. The total responses, from these respondents, are below:



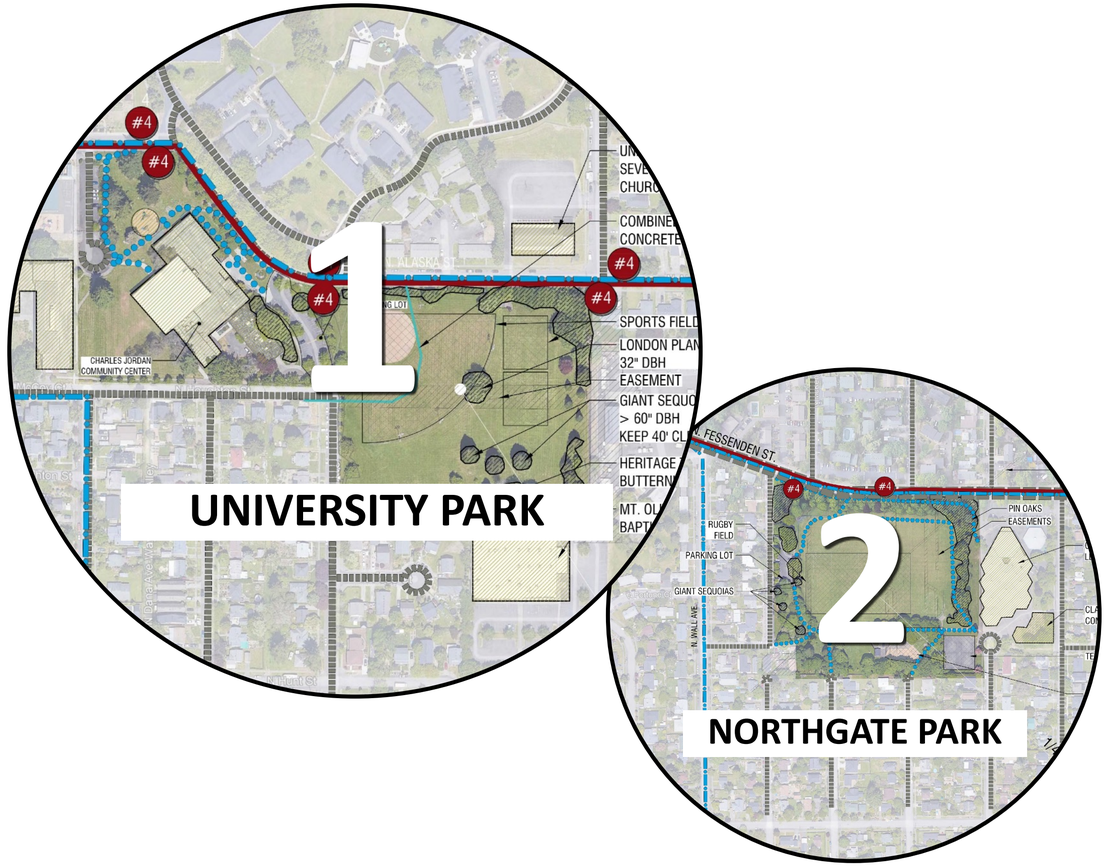
# NPAC Project Advisory Committee Recommendation

**After careful consideration of the equity, access, and site impact criteria, over the course of six months, four Project Advisory Committee meetings, and three Community Workshop events, the North Portland Aquatic Center (NPAC) Project Advisory Committee (PAC) has arrived at a preferred site for the new facility.**

## The NPAC Project Advisory Committee Recommends University Park

*"The 16 member North Portland Aquatic Center Project Advisory Committee recommends University Park as the site for the new North Portland aquatic facility. While all three sites have benefits and no site would be unwelcome, the PAC consensus is that University Park has a number of advantages that the other sites do not. In particular, the presence of the Charles Jordan Community Center as an adjacent facility with complementary services for the public is a strong benefit."*

The PAC also noted that *"Northgate Park was a great second choice with a lot of benefits, including being on Safe Route to school and closer to Roosevelt High School and other schools in the neighborhood."*



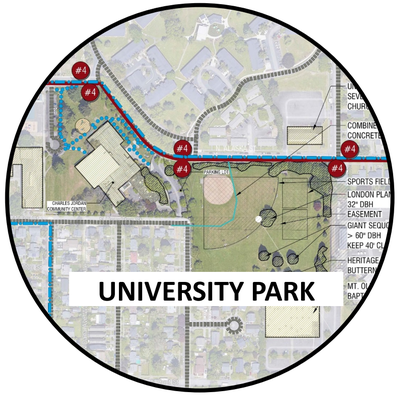
# NPAC Focus Group Conversations

North Portland Aquatic Center Focus Group conversations were convened the week of May 1-5, 2023. These conversations were an opportunity for in-depth conversations, with prioritized community groups, to discuss site selection and aquatic programming element priorities.

## Seniors/People with Disabilities Focus Group

**Vote Totals:**
**Columbia Park: 6**
**University Park: 1**
**Northgate Park: 0**

## Youth & Competitive Swim Focus Group

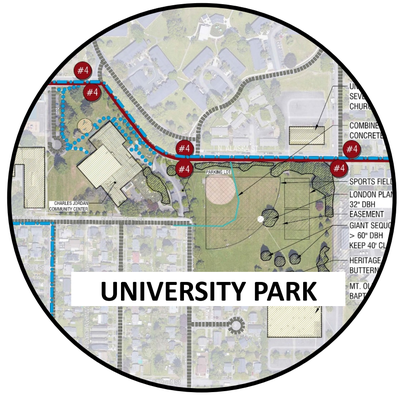



**Vote Totals:**
**University Park: 5**
**Columbia Park: 0**
**Northgate Park: 0**

## LGBTQIA+ Focus Group

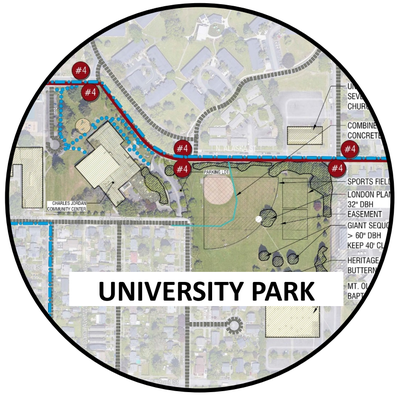
**Vote Totals:**
**Northgate Park: 7**
**Columbia Park: 1**
**University Park: 0**

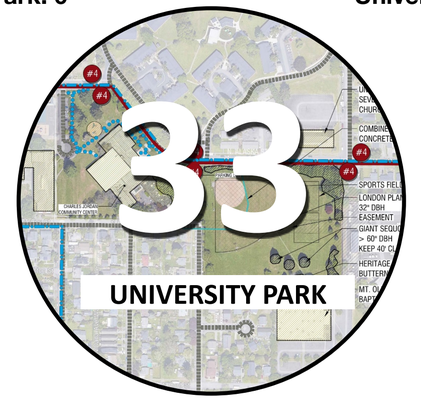
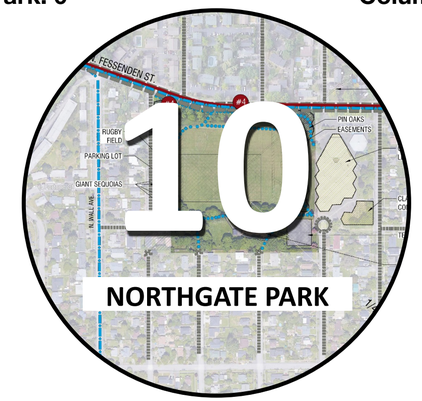
## Black and People of Color Focus Group




**Vote Totals:**
**University Park: 7**
**Northgate Park: 1**
**Columbia Park: 0**

## Low Income & Immigrants/Refugees Focus Group




**Vote Totals:**
**University Park: 3**
**Northgate Park: 2**
**Columbia Park: 0**

## Focus Group Vote Totals: