



**Date:** May 15, 2023

**To:** Adena Long, PP&R Director

**Cc:** Dan Ryan, PP&R Commissioner, Ken Rumbaugh, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, Robin Johnson Criag, Capital Project Manager

**From:** North Portland Aquatic Center (NPAC) Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

**Subject:** NPAC Final Site Recommendations

**Recommendation:**

The 16 member North Portland Aquatic Center Project Advisory Committee recommends University Park as the site for the new North Portland aquatic facility.

**Background:**

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 NPAC PAC has arrived at a preferred site for the new facility.

While all three sites have much to recommend them and no site would be unwelcome, we feel that the University Park site 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.

**Administration**

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Commissioner Dan Ryan  
Director Adena Long



One member summed up several comments of others, saying:

***“I prefer the University Park site adjacent to the Charles Jordan Community Center, I think it comes with the most upsides and the fewest downsides. I like how the site ties the two assets together to create a public ‘campus’ of sorts.”***

University Park satisfies the criteria with which our Advisory Committee was tasked.

**Equity:**

- University Park has good proximity to underserved communities.
- University is close to a good number of schools.
- University Park scored well as an equitable site regarding access for those with disabilities.

**Access:**

- University Park has excellent access via Columbia Boulevard, Lombard, and I-5.
- University Park is close to the 35 and 4 Tri-Met bus lines, with the 75 a number of blocks to the south. The 4 and 75 are high frequency buses.
- University Park is close to bike boulevards as defined by Portland Bureau of Transportation and is very walkable, being in a residential area.
- University Park has good access to pre-existing services offered by Charles Jordan CC, and within the New Columbia development.

**Site Impact:**

- That the University Park baseball diamond will need to be moved and will lose its lighting is regrettable, but the impact on the community and the ecology of the park itself would be minimal and possibly less than other sites. It seems that with regard to the aesthetic of University Park, the addition of a new building in that space fits well. The loss of the lit baseball field could be mitigated by lighting one of the other fields in the neighborhood.

It should be 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.

**Issues to consider as the process moves forward:**

- Tri-Met routes may need to be rebalanced. Proximal drop-off sites may be needed for better access for disabled folks and kids. A well-lit bus stop may be needed, particularly for the winter months.
- There is an opportunity to tie the new aquatic facility into the community more by sourcing construction and hiring locally. Creating stakeholders in the community would be greatly enhanced by hiring from the community.
- In the wake of this decision, we recognize there is still great concern among the community about the old Columbia Pool site that needs to be addressed.
- There is the possibility of a future use for the underutilized Army Guard depot which sits adjacent to University Park.

Thank you for working with us on this,

Derrell Wheeler, Morgan Spriggs, Millie Haley, and Daniel Smith  
*Members of the North Portland Aquatic Center Project Advisory Committee*