



Date: February 13, 2023

To: Adena Long, PP&R Director

CC: Ken Rumbaugh, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator and Robin Johnson Criag, Capital Project Manager

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

Subject: NPAC Site Recommendations / Phase II

Recommendation:

The 16 member North Portland Aquatic Center Project Advisory Committee recommends advancing the following three sites for further consideration for the future North Portland Aquatic Center facility:

- **University Park**
- **Northgate Park**
- **Columbia Park**

Background:

After careful consideration of the EQUITY, ACCESS, and SITE IMPACT criteria, over the course of three months, three Project Advisory Committee meetings, and two Community Workshop events, the NPAC PAC has arrived at a clear top three sites to move forward in the project.

The collective scoring for each site (based upon the Survey Monkey scoring system when ranking all five sites) is as follows:

- 1. University Park: 11.47 points**
- 2. Northgate Park: 10.07 points**
- 3. Columbia Park 9.67 points**
4. Columbia Park Annex: 8.2 points
5. St. Johns Park: 5.6 points

Administration

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 858
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-823-PLAY (7529) | Fax 503-823-6007

PORTLANDPARKS.ORG
Commissioner Dan Ryan
Director Adena Long



St. Johns Park had a lot of troubles, including parking and traffic issues, a heavily impacted green space for a new building and wasn't sited well for equity considerations. Columbia Park Annex also suffered in the equity considerations, access, and significant loss of existing ballparks.

Issues to consider as the process moves forward:

At this time, there is a general sense of ease with all three of the final sites being recommended. While there may be favorites for one reason or another, there is agreement that any of the three remaining sites would be suitable.

Each of the sites offers various advantages. For example, University Park has Charles Jordan Community Center right next to it, creating a nice synergy for community activities. Columbia Park has momentum as a place with an aquatic facility, given the history of Columbia Pool, and allows us to do something with the currently unused space, minimizing impact on the greenspace. And Northgate Park is very close to numerous schools, well suited to address equity concerns, and has some existing parking already.

Now that we've narrowed it down to three, people have noted some other issues to consider as we move forward. We anticipate that careful consideration will need to be given to impacts (positive and negative) on nearby businesses, housing, and traffic. We hope that inquiries will be made into shared parking with nearby businesses, community organizations, and existing Portland Parks parking lots. It is also possible we could make this pool a destination for other residents of Portland, drawing people into the area as visitors.

Regarding the weight of the decision, one member noted:

“At the last community meeting, it was remarked that this is a 100-year decision. We are choosing where to put a dynamic foundation configurable to meet our needs now and into the future. This site is also the physical manifestation of the city’s commitment to the community.”

Thank you for helping to bring robust aquatics programming to North Portland!

Derrell Wheeler,
North Portland Resident, OHSU RN, Roosevelt High School Head Swimming Coach, and member of the North Portland Aquatic Center Project Advisory Committee