



Mill Park – Community Gathering #3 – May 2022

The third and final Community Gathering for the development of Mill Park was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the covered basketball court area at Mill Park Elementary School and in Mill Park. Design boards shared information about what was previously heard from the community and how the final design reflects that. Paper and online surveys were available at the event in English and Spanish. The online survey and presentation materials were also posted on the project webpage for ten days.

Information was printed on the boards in English, Arabic, Karen, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Community outreach staff from the Division Midway Alliance provided interpretation in Arabic, Karen, Spanish, and Vietnamese at the event and helped community members complete surveys.

Outreach for the community gathering was done via emails to the project list, posts on social media, posts on the project webpage, yard signs in the park, flyers to nearby park neighbors and Mill Park Elementary families, and direct outreach done by the community liaisons with Division Midway Alliance.

A total of 67 comments were received through the survey, and the community gathering was attended by over 60 community members.

It should be noted that this report reflects the opinions of those who chose to participate. It is not necessarily representative of the broader community. This information, in addition to information provided by Parks staff, will be used to inform the design process for Mill Park. All input will be shared with the design team and Project Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY OF 67 COMMENTS RECEIVED: COMBINED RESULTS FROM PAPER + ELECTRONIC, ENGLISH + SPANISH)

1. What is your general reaction to the final design for Mill Park?

- Love it **76%**
- Like it **16%**
- Neutral **8%**
- Dislike **0%**
- Strongly dislike **0%**

2. The design creates a space that will create joy and pride for everyone and connect to the broader Mill Park community.

- Strongly agree **67%**
- Agree **31%**
- No opinion/don't know **2%**
- Disagree **0%**
- Strongly disagree **0%**

3. All ages, ability levels, and cultures will come together in this space to create community.

- Strongly agree **67%**
- Agree **30%**
- No opinion/don't know **3%**
- Disagree **0%**
- Strongly disagree **0%**

4. Flexible space is provided in the park's design for a wide range of activities, including birthday parties, sports like Chin-lone and soccer, places of serenity, places of respite, relief from nature's elements, music, and community festivals.

- Strongly agree **64%**
- Agree **33%**
- No opinion/don't know **0%**
- Disagree **3%**
- Strongly disagree **0%**

5. The park's design connects the community to nature, gardening, art, and play.

- Strongly agree **58%**
- Agree **37%**
- No opinion/don't know **2%**
- Disagree **3%**
- Strongly disagree **0%**

6. The park's design removes barriers to the park's use by ensuring safety, accessibility, and inclusion.

- Strongly agree **58%**
- Agree **34%**
- No opinion/don't know **4%**
- Disagree **3%**
- Strongly disagree **0%**

7. IF within the current project budget, Portland Parks & Recreation is not able to include every feature shown in the draft design, what are the THREE MOST IMPORTANT proposed elements in the design to include?

- Restroom **55%**
- Community garden **53%**
- Playground **45%**
- Chinlone/volleyball **35%**
- Fitness area **32%**
- Picnic shelter **28%**
- Spray play / water feature **24%**
- Other **5%:**
 - Big trees for shade and clean air
 - Safety
 - Safe walking path

8. Which color palette do you prefer for play equipment and other elements at Mill Park?

- Vibrant colors **58%**
- Natural colors **42%**

9. Community input was incorporated into the overall design concept.

- Strongly agree **60%**
- Agree **36%**
- No opinion/don't know **1%**
- Disagree **3%**
- Strongly disagree **0%**

10. The public process was open, inclusive, and transparent.

- Strongly agree **64%**
- Agree **33%**
- No opinion/don't know **1.5%**
- Disagree **1.5%**
- Strongly disagree **0%**

11. Thank you for participating in the design of your park. Your comments and experiences have helped shaped the design. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

- Add more security fences for children safety
- I have concerns about the safety of the playground area, and I don't think there is enough "accessible" play equipment for kids with disabilities or younger kids, or kids that don't like climbing. It would be great to have a drinking fountain in the fitness area. I really don't like the proposed artwork, especially if the colors that get chosen are the "natural colors." It wouldn't match well with that color-wise, but also, I would much rather see animals or flowers or something more natural than a bunch of random human faces. The faces seem creepy to me. And the other ideas, like food, seem overly specific. I would love a stage for concerts and performances. Thank you!
- Thank you for giving this community something beautiful. Beauty is necessary for wellbeing, and we often feel like the city doesn't think we need or deserve beautiful spaces out here.
- I hope that Portland Parks & Rec finds the money to fund the full amount of features for this park and doesn't scrimp on an important park for the out East side. They should be finding contingencies, such as partnering with other entities, to make sure the funds are there! The park's design is wonderful! It will be a boon to the neighborhood and give the many apartment dwellers that are on two sides of the park respite and access to the community garden. Hooray!!
- Wonderful proposal for the new park. I feel like my input was heard, and many of the suggestions for improvements I had were integrated into the final design. The final proposed design would be a tremendously positive addition to my community, and I want to extend my thanks to the team who put this together.
- It's still unclear to me where native and non-native ornamental plants fit into the park plans. Heavy emphasis on human use is fine, but you seem to be deprioritizing or even ignoring native or even non-resident wildlife, which find very disappointing given how fragmented green spaces and patch habitat is in East Portland.
- So glad to see there will be a Loo. I missed the community meeting but art ideas sound very intriguing. Also, like the way the promenade leads people in from 122nd Ave. In some ways this design reminds me of the one thing I like most about Gateway Discovery Park, where the arrangement of the activity centers makes it possible for many different activities to be going on simultaneously without the park feeling overly crowded. If I could pick a 4th feature to keep in case of budget shortfall, it would be the picnic shelter. I'm hoping that the seating shown in that space won't make it difficult to use the space for larger gatherings and presentations (which has turned out to be a bit of a problem at Luuwit View Park).
- I desire a space where community can perform and not repeat the mistake of Luuwit View Park where benches are in the way. I hope as many trees remain as possible, noting that it will take 5-10 year before we can get shade back from newly planted trees.
- Alex Chiu did an excellent job keeping the local community aware of the project. I think many of us would not have been as engaged or aware of the process without his involvement.
- It would be better if there were two or more restrooms.
- Very excited for this!
- Thank you for helping the community getting bigger and the kids to have safe play area.
- I'm really glad you located the community garden in the SE corner where residents of that apartment complex tend to smoke. While the community garden isn't ideally next to smokers, a playground or exercise area really shouldn't be anywhere nearby. I wish there was a "nature area" with a feeling of isolation, rocks to sit on, and more trees or a sundial, like

there is at the top of Powell Butte. I also wish there was a place to set up for slacklining (where it would be allowed, I've been stopped by parks people at other parks). I'm really excited for the playground and the exercise areas, and think the picnic areas will be well used by the community. I love how many trees are part of the plan, and that a seating area was included by the chinlone court. I think this design is great and the only other thing I wish it included would be the art work and park signs incorporate some sort of icon unique to Mill Park to help give Mill Park more of an identity. In fact, I wish all the parks in Portland had an icon.

- I do not need a community garden plot, but I think priority access should be given to residents of the apartment buildings bordering the park

Please tell us about yourself:

I am age:

- under 16 years **8%**
- 16-24 years **17%**
- 25-34 years **15%**
- 35-44 years **18%**
- 45-59 years **29%**
- 60-79 years **12%**
- 80 & over **2%**

I identify as:

- female **64%**
- male **33%**
- genderqueer / androgynous **3%**
- transgender male **0%**
- transgender female **0%**

I identify as: (check all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native **2%**
- Asian **41%**
- Black or African American **7%**
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x **11%**
- Middle Eastern/North African **19%**
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander **0%**
- Slavic/Eastern European **0%**
- White **22%**
- Decline/don't want to answer **2%**
- Prefer to describe **0%**

What language(s) do you speak at home (check all that apply)

- Arabic **20%**
- Burmese or Karen **26%**
- English **46%**
- Nepali **4%**
- Somali **4%**
- Spanish **11%**
- Vietnamese **7%**
- Other **11%**
 - Kahegah
 - Russian

Do you or a family member live with a disability or identify as a disabled person?

- Yes **27%**
- No **73%**

If yes, please describe the nature of you and/or your family member's disability. Please check all that apply.

- Mobility (e.g. walking, climbing stairs) **56%**
- Deaf or hard-of-hearing **25%**
- Prefer not to disclose **25%**
- Mental health (e.g. anxiety, PTSD) **19%**
- Visual (e.g. blind, low vision) **13%**
- Cognitive (e.g. traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities) **6%**
- Invisible (e.g. diabetes, HIV, cancer) **6%**
- Intellectual or developmental (e.g. Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome) **0%**
- Prefer to describe **0%**

How far do you live from Mill Park? (pick one)

- Five blocks or less **32%**
- Less than one mile **36%**
- More than one mile **32%**

How often do you visit Mill Park? (pick one)

- Every day or every other day **15%**
- Once or twice a week **24%**
- Once or twice a month **15%**
- A few times a year **45%**
- Never **0%**

How many children under age 18 live with you?

- 0 **42%**
- 1-2 **36%**
- 3-4 **19%**
- 5 or more **3%**

What are their ages? (check all that apply):

- 0-2 years **36%**
- 3-6 years **22%**
- 7-10 years **31%**
- 11-14 years **47%**
- 15-18 years **39%**

How did you hear about this?

- Friend / neighbor / family member **43%**
- Division Midway Alliance **25%**
- Email **9%**
- Facebook **8%**
- Nextdoor.com **6%**
- Flyer **6%**
- Mill Park Elementary School **6%**
- Yard sign in park **2%**
- Other **11%**
 - Mill Park PAC
 - Alex Chiu
 - East Portland Parks Coalition
 - Lorena with DMA
 - Mill Park Neighborhood Association