

Hillside Park

Public Comments received via email May 2022

RE: Conceptual Design

Thanks for providing more information. The drainage info along with potential wetland mitigation pathway does seem to be missing. I am hoping that the play improvements are not the main focus of this meeting.

Thanks for following up on this project - I know it's stirred up some folks that have lived here a long time so I appreciate all the work you have done. I think some of the additions will greatly enhance the park so am excited for the project to continue. That said, I do think it is important to ensure the privacy for the residents that border the park, so am a little concerned about the path that meanders through from the entrance to the proposed toddler exploratory area. There is so much space it does seem like it should be very do-able to keep areas where people will be congregating or hanging out - well away from any neighboring yards and ensuring that there is plenty of space, trees, buffer etc between those areas and the houses/yards. I think that would go a long way to ensuring residents are supportive. It seems like that area gets fairly close to the house(s) that are by that area. I might suggest making sure that is clear where the boundaries are for the upcoming meeting.

Also one thing I was thinking might be a good addition was an indiscreet, storage locker-y box thing (no lock needed)- in order to keep some community/shared gear/toys at park might be cool- things like bases, T-balls, collapsible soccer goals- a few balls (baseballs, softballs, soccerballs, kickballs, etc) Not things that need to be supplied by the city, but things community members are willing to share and keep there for folks to use. Easier than dragging back and forth if there was a well designed, low profile, indiscreet storage box or something? --Just a thought. I have 3 kids (ages 4-9)we play soccer, baseball, frisbee and could see using the field a bit more frequently for those things if the equipment etc was already up there. I'd be happy to add to it.

ok one more thing-- maybe a bulletin board to encourage postings for community events, local businesses etc encourages feeling of community. I always enjoy seeing postings of neighborhood kids looking to earn a few bucks baby sitting or dogwalking etc, or local businesses to do handy work. maybe with the updated entrance, signage space for that kind of thing would be a good addition.

Thanks,
(Neighbor next to Hillside park)

Thank you for the news.

It looks like all the elements discussed have been de eloped in the most sensible way. We may not be on the meeting, but totally approve of the plans shown in the attachments.

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Since we don't live right around the park and don't have youngsters anymore, I'm feeling the strongest input/agreement should come from those closer by.

Overall this looks like a better plan. My only comment is some of the play equipment is very ugly plastic especially the orange slide and the yellow whatever that swing is. I am assuming the trail to Mt. Hood/Jupiter will remain. I am glad for the sound barrier for the cemetery and the path around so people have an alternative to sneaking through the cemetery with their dogs.

I did notice that the city has put down tamped gravel or paved the lane from the lower cemetery to below the Mt. Hood water tank. I truly hope the city buys the undeveloped and undevelopable lot at the end of Mt. Everest and connects that trail. Looking at the slope from Mt. Fury top curve down to that lot I noted that the bank is very unstable and could be a candidate for landslide, therefore a liability to allow anything to be built on that site. Just a thought for future projects. I cannot attend the meeting and due to digital divide issues not free to connect. These comments need not be included, just my take on the improved project.

Thank you for the update.

I attended yesterday's meeting in the park. There many comments about not making any changes. I live on Mt Kenya Dr. My kids are all grown and the play areas are of no benefit to me. However many of my neighbors do have young children. I think my neighbors with kids 'who didn't attend' would appreciate the play areas. As long as there isn't any on street parking, I have no objection to the proposed changes.

My only concern is the trail connecting the park to the cemetery. I would prefer not needing to walk close to anyone's back yard.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the way all of you have been handling this process.

I was late to the meeting on Tuesday because I was in a ditch repairing a curtain drain I had installed over 35 years ago. The one proposed for Hillside will work great to dry the field area up. One concern I have is how much water gets dumped on the site from the street end at McKinley. With all the tree roots in this area it would be hard to connect the street end to the drain. I was on the site during a wet week in heavy rain and there was much water coming from the road. There were a number of puddles and surface flows but they may dry up pretty quick for when the park would normally be visited.

Given how squishy wet the western edge of the upper Cemetery is a curtain drain just east of the 50 foot buffer may be needed there.

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Back to the park drain. Where it will infiltrate the significant water it collects will really need some careful study.

The direction this process is heading is overall really nice and the public interest is amazing. We could use that energy on few more efforts in Issaquah.

I wasn't able to attend the May 17th meeting about the park. I went to the park website to follow up on it, but it looks like the link that says "video" is just a second link to the "Poll summary" data. Is there a video recording of that session?

Also it looks like there was a typo for the date of the meeting it's listed as May 17 2021 instead of May 17 2022

I also heard from a neighbor that there was a lot of push back about changes overall. As a parent that lives a hundred feet from the park I'm extremely excited about the proposed changes. The slide and steppers on the slope, the additional seating that blends with the natural environment, and the log jam climbing all stood out as great additions!

I hope the lack of enthusiastic parents at the meeting doesn't hamper progress on the park improvements. It's so tough to make it to meetings with kids running around :)

I'd like to add my thoughts on the Hillside Park renovations.

Since I walk through the park several times a day, I've stopped and thought about these plans multiple times as well as talking to neighbors and just watching the traffic through the park.

Overall I think the plan is solid. The trail improvements will be great and putting a connector trail along the side of the cemetery will be great. And of course, the drainage problem needs to be addressed.

As to the play areas, in general I like the plan but strongly feel 3 separate play areas is too disruptive to the nature of the park. Whatever changes we make will be there for at least a lifetime, and the "feel" of the park, which about 50% of the respondents don't want changed at all, is important to maintain. I suggest combining the toddler and bigger kid play areas, maybe near the proposed slide. This keeps kids of all ages in the same area (imagine a parent with multiple aged kids needing to watch them in 3 different areas), and allows more space in the "front" of the park for those that use it most, that being walkers and dog owners. It really makes no sense to me to have a stand alone toddler area. BTW, its great we have a doggie bag dispenser and trash can, they absolutely need to be maintained.

In place of the toddler stand alone area, I'd suggest a second area with picnic tables for the community to sit and chat. We need to think about enhancing and supporting adult gatherings, not just making it a better place for kids to play.

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As to the backstop, if it's going to stay, then there needs to be an improvement to at least the "home plate" area and pitcher mound. What use is the backstop if the field isn't maintained somewhat for a pitcher and batter?!

Having said all that, if all we did was fix the drainage and put in the trails, I'd be quite happy. Kids have found joy playing there for many years without the need for playground equipment and there's plenty of playgrounds with great play structures nearby.

Thanks so much for all you do to herd these cats.

Hope the holiday weekend is fun and relaxing,

Hope you're well! We've recently bought a house on a road adjacent to Hillside Park and I just wanted to let you know that we're so excited about this new development and all the new play features.

We have two young children and my sister also lives within walking distance with two young children and we think it's going to be such a great enhancement to the park.

The embankment slide looks fantastic!

Anyway I just wanted to send you a note in case you were still taking on any feedback about the play spaces.

Thanks,

My name is XXX and my sister XXX found out a park/playground update is going to happen at Hillside Park! We are also new to the neighborhood in the last few months and have young children who will be thrilled about the play structures. It will definitely make it more of a destination on our neighborhood walks!

I saw the design ideas online and they look beautiful. We love the idea of incorporating natural elements. The slide and swing will be a massive hit too!

Just wanted to say how excited we are about it!

Best wishes!
Wildwood Blvd SW