



**North Park Blocks Extension Briefing – Preferred Concept  
Briefing Date: March 20, 2025**

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**PURPOSE:**

To provide an update on the North Park Blocks Extension project community preferred concept design and to request feedback and support for the design.

**BACKGROUND:**

Portland Parks & Recreation contracted with PLACE Studio late summer 2023 for the design and construction of the North Park Blocks Extension.

This project continues the North Park Blocks onto the three partially developed blocks situated north of NW Glisan Street and within the 2019 Broadway Corridor Masterplan development area. The three blocks are divided into two sites for this project.

**Site 1, Block 112**, immediately adjacent to Willamette University – Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA), is an approximately 30,000 square foot parcel extending from NW Glisan St. north to NW Hoyt Street, east of NW Park Ave. Currently the site is asphalt paved and is leased to PNCA for parking and event space. The proposed design is intended to be urban plaza and support the first section of Green Loop in the North Park Blocks. Site 1 will be designed, permitted, bid, and constructed as part of this project.

**Site 2, the Broadway Corridor Park Parcels**, is a 2-acre site spanning two full blocks from NW Hoyt to NW Johnson Street. This site is owned by Prosper Portland and will support the future development of the Broadway Corridor neighborhood and Green Loop. In accordance with the 2019 Broadway Corridor Masterplan, Portland Parks & Recreation will develop a 30% completeness design and engineering package for the park parcel, including a two-block section of the Green Loop which will ascend 18-feet above NW Johnson St at Parcel 2 before continuing north to the Broadway Bridge.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

This Project is engaging the community in a transparent and equitable Consultant-led community engagement process with oversight from PP&R's Community Engagement team. All meetings have been held virtually and in-person. For all in-person meetings, an on-line engagement opportunity has been provided to collect input from all.

To date the project has completed:

- 4 of 5 Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings
- 2 of 3 Community Events
- 134 people submitted surveys in-person or online surveys for community event 2 – three concepts

Community Event surveys identified the preference for Scheme B – Table. Stating highest in terms of:

- Safety, flexibility, and community connectivity
- Positive overall visitor experience and catalyst for change in this area of the city contributing to the vibrancy and beauty of Portland





- Positive respondent's comments favored the meandering paths and looping sloped Green Loop and over switchbacks

The preferred concept received very positive feedback during recent PAC reviews and all members agreed that they support the preferred concept for presentation to the broader community.

In addition to the ongoing community engagement work, the project has held four of seven Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings with PP&R subject matter experts and project partners at PNCA, PBOT, and Prosper Portland.

The TAC supports the preferred concept and has identified the following priorities and concerns:

- Priorities: ease of maintenance, durability and simplicity of products, and access.
- Concerns: quantity of plants/planting beds, and number of canopy trees – leaf removal.

Two of five planned work sessions with PBOT planners and engineers have been held to discuss Green Loop alignment and future reconfiguration of the vehicle, bike, and parking lanes on NW Hoyt and NW Park Avenue. Topics also included review and coordination with several PBOT area plans that have conflicting future conditions.

Outcomes of PBOT work sessions:

- Increasing the width of the ascent to NW Johnson through the park from 18-ft to 24-ft, accommodating 'fast' and 'larger' bikes, including E-bikes
- Focus on pedestrian and bike interactions at intersections
- Agreement on alignment of the Green Loop and sidewalk within the right of way and park.

### **PROJECT INFORMATION:**

Using PP&R staff and community input the design team refined the three design concepts into a single preferred design that demonstrates the preferred qualities of the design concepts to achieve the project goals. The preferred design focuses on community priorities of safety, connection, green space, and flexibility.

Design concept B – the Table" was the community preferred concept design. This design concept features:

- An alternative to the traditional park blocks layout and embraces the connection to PNCA building and main entry at site 1 and future Broadway Corridor development through site 2
- Lines of trees along the edges tying the new development to the existing park blocks
- Directional but meandering paths of travel
- Separated, planted buffered pedestrian zone along Green Loop
- Large community flexible use table and social seating opportunities
- Shade structure (not currently in program scope of work or funded but highly requested by public)
- Plaza spaces for markets, arts programming, and small events or PNCA ceremonies
- Flexible greenspace
- Structured, elevated Green Loop ascent connection to NW Johnson which creates additional useable plaza space within
- An increase in tree canopy cover to >35%





**TIMELINE:**

- Spring 2025 - Fall 2026 – Design Development (30%), Construction Documents, Permitting and Contracting
- Winter 2026 – Winter 2027 - Construction of Site 1 PNCA Block
- Spring 2028 - Anticipated Opening Date

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Support the preferred concept and provide additional comments or guidance to further develop the design.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Briefing Presentation pdf

**LINKS:**

- PP&R project website: <https://www.portland.gov/parks/construction/north-parks-blocks-extension>
- Broadway Corridor website: <https://www.broadwaycorridorpx.com/>
- 2019 Broadway Corridor Masterplan: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/49ugz8c4pidfhff/USPS%20Master%20Plan.pdf?dl=0>

