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Friends of Lents Park Commentary on Lents Park Master Plan Report

Endorsed by FLP membership, April 6, 2011

Procedural Background: The Lents Park Master Plan that City Council will consider on April 13 consists of a map, which was approved by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) with input from the community; and explanatory text, which was prepared by City contractor Walker Macy with no public input.

Friends of Lents Park takes issue with the accuracy of Walker Macy's text and wishes to place this Commentary in the record of the Council decision. We appreciate the opportunity to review the document prior to Council adoption, and particularly thank Commissioner Fish for assuring that sufficient time was allowed for public review.

A Master Plan is, above all, a historical record of a process in which a community has collectively expressed their desires. It is important for the language of the plan to be as accurate as possible.

Specific Comments on Plan Language:

- p. vi **Executive Summary:** Significantly misstates the overall tone of public comment through statements like, "Residents felt that Lents Park in its current condition lacks the necessary elements to make it a diverse space for a variety of users." In fact, the majority of public comments have expressed great affection and pride in the park and a desire to "not mess with it too much." (See Appendix C at pp. 95-96 and 99-101.) Throughout the process, most of the proposals that would have made significant changes to the park's layout have been rejected by the public. The exceptions have been proposals to increase botanical plantings and opportunities for passive recreation, particularly in the park's central section, which have been endorsed by the public as a way to make a great park even better. (See Appendix C at p. 111 for some "parting comments" on this theme.)
- p. 13 **The Planning Process:** The process is summarized inaccurately here in several respects:
- Public input was not "the main generator of ideas" in this process, although it was eventually listened to in most respects.

- Materials were translated into Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian only in the first stage of public involvement, after which the Vietnamese and Russian were dropped without input from the PAC.
- “Initial feedback from the public comment process” had very little to do with the development of the first three concept plans. For example, initial survey respondents listed “trees” as one of their favorite things about the park (see Appendix C at p. 75), yet all three concept plans proposed significant tree removal.

p. 29 **Desired Future Park Amenities:** Public comment showed support for a number of improvements to the park, some of which are stated accurately here. FLP takes issue with the accuracy of the following points:

- “Limit removal of existing trees” is not a strong enough statement of the public's sentiments. This section should state the actual language endorsed by the public: “preserve as many existing trees as possible” (favored more than two to one; see Appendix C at p. 93, plus general “save the trees” comments throughout this round of public comment, pp. 83-101).
- The park *already has* a “central open lawn gathering space for the community,” which the initial survey showed was one of the public's three favorite things (see Appendix C at p. 75). This should not be listed as a future amenity.
- The condition of “without reducing sports field availability” was not endorsed by the public, but was imposed by PP&R as a non-negotiable constraint on the process. FLP does not necessarily oppose this condition, but wishes to note here that the public was never permitted to discuss the issue under the auspices of the City-sponsored public involvement process.
- Public support for moving the gazebo to an alternate location was equivocal at best (see public comment results, Appendix C at p. 89). In fact, the final Site Concept Plan moves the gazebo *not* because the public specifically *wanted* this, but to make room for the new synthetic soccer field, a fact which is accurately stated further down in the Master Plan (see p. 38).

pp. 33-34 **Vision and Guiding Principles:** It is not accurate to say that the City's team and consultants “worked with the community...to define a vision statement for Lents Park.” In fact, the community's role was limited to commenting on a generic vision statement that was presented to them (see Appendix C at p. 75). The PAC played a more active role in customizing this document, along with the “guiding principles.” However, the PAC was given no input into how the Vision and Guiding Principles would be *used*. Ultimately they were used in the final round of public comment as a rubric for evaluation of the final site plan, *in place of* quantifiable evaluation of the specifics of the plan. (See Appendix C at pp. 109-110.) This was widely regarded as undemocratic by the public. (See FLP written testimony.)

p. 36 **Existing and new trees:** Walker Macy's text states, “The preservation of trees should be prioritized, especially mature trees, while also allowing for exceptions to

implement the 25-year Master Plan.” This is a weaker version of the language adopted by the PAC, which was unanimously adopted on the understanding that it would be used in the Master Plan: “As much as possible, avoid the removal of trees. If tree removal is necessary, prioritize the preservation of mature trees.” (See Minutes of PAC meeting 10/19/10, Appendix B, p. 69.)

p. 38 **Central Field:** Walker Macy's text states that a new synthetic soccer field will be installed, and that “[i]n order to minimize tree removal...it will be located adjacent to Walker Stadium.” This text is highly inaccurate. In fact, the PAC voted for this soccer field location to maximize the continuity of the new botanical plantings, *in spite of* the fact that it will require removal of 6 trees. (See Minutes of PAC meeting 10/19/10: “This may necessitate some tree removal,” Appendix B at p. 68. Previous iterations of the map gave the figure of 6 trees, although the final maps on pp. 40-42 omit this information.)

p. 38 **Gazebo:** Walker Macy's text accurately states that the gazebo will be relocated in response to the new synthetic soccer field, a point which is misstated above.

The text then states the gazebo move will create “a more desirable orientation for performers and audiences alike.” There is no scientific, technical or even common-sense support for this statement. In fact, sun in performers' eyes is an identified issue with the current location of the gazebo. The current location works just fine for audiences, which are facing the other way. The relocation would flip the gazebo's orientation, running the risk of reversing the problem (i.e., performers would be fine, but the sun would be in the audience's eyes). Advocates for moving the gazebo have assured the public that audiences will be fine in the new location, but have produced no evidence for this other than “eyeballing it.” There is no evidence that Walker Macy's site assessment produced any hard data on this issue (see p. 25).

The text states the gazebo will receive “any acoustic upgrades.” Although this is probably just a typographical error, it is vague language. In fact, the neighborhood has demanded that any redesign of the gazebo should have as a paramount goal the reduction of noise impacts on surrounding residences. The text should say this but does not.

The final sentence of this section, stating that “PP&R will work with the neighborhood to manage any noise impacts...” sounds nice but is vague. In fact, neighbors have repeatedly sought help from PP&R on this issue and have “gotten the run-around.” (See FLP's Listening Session notes on “Community Spaces.”) The intent of the PAC's final decision on this issue was for neighbors to have something to rely on other than vague promises. (See discussion and decision language in 12/16/10 Minutes, Appendix B, p. 72.)

p. 39 **Skate Spot:** Walker Macy's text accurately reflects the decision of the PAC that the skate spot should be located next to Walker Stadium and should serve younger, less

advanced users. Unfortunately, it omits an equally important part of the PAC's decision, that every effort should be made to avoid tree loss in the placement of the skate spot. (The minutes of the final PAC meeting misstate this decision – see discussion below of inaccurate minutes.)

- p. 39 **Wall Ball:** The text states, “Wall ball will be removed. However, PP&R will look for other opportunities for a community mural in the park.” The text does not state what will be done with the existing mural on the wall's back side, which was painted by neighborhood youth. The public was never asked about this, but there is clear community support for making sure the mural is not destroyed. (See, for example, public comments at the 7/12/10 PAC meeting, Appendix B at p. 59.)
- p. 48 **Overview & Synthesis:** It is misleading to state, “A Stakeholder Advisory committee was formed....” Stakeholder groups were interviewed separately and never met as a committee.

Inaccuracies in Meeting Minutes: FLP has identified multiple instances of inaccuracy or incompleteness in minutes taken by City staff during the Master Plan process.

Minutes of meetings of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) were approved by the PAC at the following meeting; however, this vote sometimes happened without meaningful opportunity for review beforehand. In these instances, FLP's representative to the PAC “yellow-carded” the minutes, indicating “reservations.” The minutes from the PAC's final meeting on 12/16/10 were never reviewed or approved by the PAC prior to inclusion in the final Master Plan Report.

- p. 69 **Minutes of 10/19/10 PAC Meeting:** Misstates the agreement reached by the PAC regarding the Skatespot. In forwarding a map on for the next round of public comment, the minutes state the PAC's decision was, “Leave the skatespot in the location indicated in the draft design.” In fact, almost nobody from the PAC really liked this location. The minutes leave out the second part of the proposal being voted on, which was to include on the comment form an option for the public to suggest alternate locations for the Skatespot. The City, which had already drafted the comment form as of this meeting, refused to modify it.
- p. 71 **Minutes of 12/16/10 PAC Meeting:** The comments of FLP's representative are misstated. Regarding minutes of the previous meeting, she did not state that “she felt some items could have been phrased differently.” She stated that she felt previous minutes had been inaccurate, but did not feel the very limited time of this meeting would allow for going over this in detail.

Under “Public Comment,” the minutes state inaccurately that one person “Like[s] the gazebo as it is shown....” In fact, none of the three members of the public who commented liked the location of the gazebo as it was shown on the then-current Site Concept Plan.

p. 72 The final decision of the PAC regarding the skatespot is stated as follows: “Move the skatespot southeast of Walker Stadium (between the Stadium and the parking area on 92nd), *with the understanding that some trees may need to be removed.*” In fact, the PAC voted to endorse moving the skatespot, *on the condition that tree removal be minimized.* There was some discussion of the fact that moving the skatespot *might* necessitate tree removal, with Walker Macy sharing their views that tree removal would be necessary and FLP members opining that it would not. This discussion has been left out of the minutes, and the PAC's final decision has been misstated in a way that could open the door to tree removal on a scale not supported by the neighborhood.

pp.

114-115 **Listening Session Notes:** The Listening Sessions were intended to be opportunities for the community to talk in depth about the park, with the results to be shared with the PAC, the design team, and the public. However, the City's notes (the only vehicle for “results to be shared”) are highly abbreviated and leave out much of the detail of these discussions. Many bullet points are written in technical language that suggests City staff are paraphrasing their own statements to the public, rather than recording what the public had to say. (For example, read the point beginning, “How does this MP fit in with plans for upgrades to Walker Stadium?”)

These abbreviated notes especially underplay the concern expressed by the community about moving the gazebo. This is reduced to one bullet point: “Concerns about noise projection from the gazebo – discussion of opportunities for better managing the gazebo and from a design standpoint, adding an acoustic band shell to help direct noise appropriately.” These notes do not reflect that attendees at this “Community Spaces” session were almost unanimous in their opposition to moving the gazebo, that they gave at least four different reasons why moving the gazebo was a bad idea, and that they expressed skepticism that the “acoustic band shell” would work as promised.

This incompleteness is especially problematic in light of the fact that most PAC members did not attend most of the Listening Sessions, making the incomplete data from the City the only data they saw before taking their final vote.

The notes taken by FLP's representative to the PAC, who attended all three Listening Sessions, are more detailed than the “official” ones. Originally published on FLP's blog, these notes are attached here as an exhibit.

Conclusion: Although the Master Plan Report as written contains multiple inaccuracies, some worrisome in their implications, Friends of Lents Park does not seek a comprehensive revision of the document. It is unclear what a fair public process for such a revision would be, since the PAC has been disbanded, and we doubt many in the neighborhood have the energy for another round of “process.” We are disappointed that the PAC was given no role in the drafting of this document, which we believed would be the case when our representative joined the committee.

We believe it is important for the historical record of the Master Planning process to be as complete as possible, and we appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments.

Friends of Lents Park

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Wednesday, November 17, 2010

"Active Recreation" Listening Session, Oct. 25

These are Kathleen's personal notes. I have tried to group similar topics together, but otherwise have followed the order in which the conversation happened.

The topic of this listening session was "Active Recreation," which included the soccer fields, Walker Stadium, the football field, and the proposed new skate park.

About half the Project Advisory Committee was present, and a total of 21 members of the public participated at various times. The public participation was pretty evenly divided between "sports" people and "neighborhood" people, and included representatives of virtually all the different "sports" constituencies that use the park. There was a representative from the baseball players who use Walker Stadium, from the Spanish-speaking soccer players who use the central fields, and from Lents Little League. There were also several local skaters who had a background in skate park design.

More sports in the park?

Neighbors present talked about their desire for the park not to be turned into a "sports complex." This was an interesting perception, since the skate park is the only new sports feature proposed to be added. Neither of the maps currently under consideration would add MORE soccer, football or baseball, and both would restrict some areas available for pickup sports such as volleyball.

So we talked some about the perception that the park is being targeted for lots more sports to be added. This is coming primarily from the proposal to go to synthetic turf in Walker Stadium and for one soccer field in Map A. Neighbors pointed out that synthetic turf means fewer rainouts, which means more games actually get played, even if the scheduling is the same on paper. Synthetic fields are also lighted, which means play can continue until later in the night. Restricting permitted hours could help. Walker Stadium is currently permitted until 11 pm. The synthetic central field could be restricted to 10 pm.

Parking

One of the biggest issues for neighbors with sports in the park was

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**"Sustainability" Listening
Session, Oct. 30**

**"Community Spaces"
Listening Session, Oct. 28**

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needs — a president who believes
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take a stand...

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associated parking impacts. One neighbor said that moving Lents Little League to the park had really affected parking on the west side. Some ideas were shared to get sports participants to take transit instead of drive. Maybe offer some incentives for coming on MAX? This is more feasible for soccer than baseball, where people are hauling a lot of gear.

One participant had an idea to increase parking: along the SW side of the park, take out the concrete barrier and convert parallel parking spots to angle parking.

Another participant suggested turning the north side football field into a parking lot. (OK, that one's unlikely to fly, but we were brainstorming!)

"Skate spot"

A lot of the discussion about the skate spot centered on its location. Much of the concerns about liveability involve how close the skate spot would be to residences.

In both maps, the skate spot would be located along Holgate, next to the northmost of the Lents Little League fields. From the last round of public comment, this was the location that was most favored by respondents out of the choices given, all of which were on the park's outer edge. But this location wasn't favored by a huge margin, indicating there is no clear neighborhood consensus in favor of this spot.

Some said the Holgate location would be best, because Holgate street is already loud. Others pointed out the danger of fly balls going into the skate spot.

Other possible location discussed for the skate spot. (Note, none of these were on the previous maps, so weren't included in the previous round of public comments. If you like these ideas, say so on your comment form!)

* In the SE bowl area, next to the playground.

* On map "A," to the immediate right of the synthetic soccer field, curving around existing trees.

* In the concrete area between the south edge of Walker Stadium and the jogging path (might require removal of 2 or 3 trees to be feasible)

Generally, the idea of moving the skate spot more towards the middle of the park was popular. But there are safety concerns with this. A more central location is harder to monitor and may be more

Portland Mercury

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likely to be used inappropriately.

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The participants who have experience designing and building skate parks had some interesting perspectives to add. According to them, it is quite feasible to design a skate park around existing trees. The skate spot should be designed and constructed properly, or it won't get used. Good design will do a lot to minimize other uses the neighborhood might not want. A lot can be done to mitigate sound. Trees help. Concrete is the best material for mitigating sound - wood is much louder. They recommend covering the skate spot because of rain, but this would be a budgetary consideration.

Soccer fields

The treatment of the central soccer fields is the big difference between maps A and B. For purposes of this conversation, we tried to focus just on the "sports" aspects of this issue, although other matters are inextricably linked, such as location of the gazebo.

Overall, the idea of re-programming one central field from soccer to natural plantings (as shown in map A) was very popular. A majority of participants, including the soccer player representative, really liked this idea.

It was pointed out that map B doesn't really cut down to one soccer field. The open space that is available "first come first served" will probably also get used for soccer.

The soccer and baseball representatives don't like synthetic turf a whole lot for playing on, but didn't argue strongly against it.

There was some support for the idea of exploring if soccer can be moved from the park to the fields at the former Marshall High School. Portland Parks doesn't control this site, and this master plan can't mandate this change.

Another idea was whether soccer can be played on the outfields of the baseball fields. (I think the reference here was to the Lents Little League fields.)

There was clarification as to when soccer gets played. Primary season is August through November, which overlaps with baseball season. All grass fields are closed down December, January and beginning of February. In late February we have lacrosse and rugby, then the soccer secondary season starts around April.

Other sports issues

With the basketball court being moved in both maps, some are concerned there is not enough capacity for volleyball.


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The plans to improve Walker Stadium are already done. Once a master plan map is finalized, the Project Advisory Committee will prioritize how the work gets done.

Posted by Friends of Lents Park at 9:02 AM

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Friends of Lents Park

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Wednesday, November 17, 2010

"Community Spaces" Listening Session, Oct. 28

These are Kathleen's personal notes. I've tried to group similar topics together, but otherwise have followed the order in which the conversation happened.

Four members of the Project Advisory Committee were present, along with 9 members of the public. We were joined by Allie, the manager for the City's dog off-leash program, and Bob Downing, central services manager for the parks (he was at all of the sessions, along with Elizabeth and Sarah from Parks).

Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA)

Some feeling that the dog park isn't big enough to accommodate training of dogs.

Proposed expansion of the community garden to the east doesn't affect the dog park. BUT, the east side is where the DOLA boundary is not clear. East side of the community garden is often thought to be, or used as, part of the dog park.

Why can't the DOLA have a bags dispenser for doggie waste? There was a lot of discussion - people want this. This is a budgeting issue. To provide this for the entire parks system would be \$100,000 a year. People bring "bags of bags" (reused grocery, newspaper, etc. bags) but this is a problem, because they come loose, blow around and turn into trash. Maybe there could be a better "stash spot" for the bags of bags.

"Doggie septic tank" was brought up as an idea. There are issues of technical feasibility with this.

Dogs run across 88th Ave. This is especially an issue with 88th slated to become a "bike boulevard."

Regarding fencing, participants in this discussion liked best the idea of a partial fence, along the streets only. One participant suggested a 20-foot "hook" inward from the street.

Gazebo

Again, it was hard to keep this conversation completely separate

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from the question of what we do with the soccer fields, but we tried to focus on the "community space" aspect of the question.

Overall, participants expressed strong concerns with moving the gazebo. Current location is close to parking and to proposed new restrooms and picnic area. Proposed new location in map A is less convenient. With new location, there is concern that noise will come "down the hill" to residences to the south of the park (although band shell may mitigate this). Wheelchair access will be better in current location. New location will be worse for sun in the eyes of audience.

Majority of participants rejected the idea that "we will move the gazebo, but keep it as close to parking, restrooms, etc. as possible," which was proposed as a compromise position. They did not favor moving the gazebo at all. One participant said moving the gazebo would "just be a waste."


There were also some concerns about how the scenario in map A will accommodate concerts. The symphony uses soccer fields. How would it work for them to play on the synthetic field? You wouldn't be able to bring food. One participant said, "synthetic fields are for sports, not for the people."

The conversation about the gazebo repeatedly veered into areas that have more to do with park management than design. Noise control in the park is a huge issue for neighbors, especially on the quieter 88th Avenue side. One neighbor described some noise levels as "unbearable." One neighbor sometimes hears events in the park from his house on 86th Ave. People at the bottom of the park say they hear "everything." The Revolution Church event over Labor Day is hugely unpopular - people do not like sitting in their homes and hearing they are going to go to hell. People understood (reluctantly, after much debate) that the City cannot discriminate against park users based on content.

Trying to report noise violations means you get the runaround. Portland Parks & Rec issues permits, but BDS enforces noise violations. There is only one noise control officer for the entire city. Try to report a violation, and each bureau refers you to the other. (Perhaps there are some ideas here for future areas of organization and advocacy for Friends of Lents Park.)

Participants were generally open to the idea of improvements to the gazebo that might result in better noise control. Maybe there could also be rule changes that put limits on amplified music, not eliminate it entirely.

"Grand Entrance"

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A few long-term residents weighed in on the idea to put in a grand staircase at the SE corner. There were stairs before, by the tennis courts. They were taken out because there were too many problems. Bikers and skaters used the stairs for tricks, grinding, etc.

Keep the evergreen trees at the SE corner.

Some participants did not like the choice of the SE corner for the "grand entrance." (This was the location favored by respondents to the previous round of public involvement.) Some think the Holgate side is a more natural choice. One participant asked, so is this a done deal because of the previous responses? (Probably, but say what you think on your comment form! If the PAC gets overwhelming input to revisit this decision, it may happen.)

Kids' Play Area

Some participants favored putting the covered picnic area next to the play area, for birthday parties.

Participants were generally OK with the idea of a kids' basketball court going in next to the play area.

One participant said speed limits should be lowered around the park because of children playing. While this is outside the scope of this master plan, it has been done before, for example, in Spokane. The state controls speed limits, so you can write your legislator. There are other people in the neighborhood concerned about this issue - check out the "i love lents" listserve on Yahooogroups.

Synthetic Turf for Fields

While not formally part of the agenda for this discussion, the subject of the synthetic fields came up and some important information was shared.

Cost to put in a synthetic field is around \$800,000. Yearly maintenance costs then go down to almost nothing, because synthetic turf doesn't need much maintenance. Maintenance fees for grass fields: at Delta park (high-intensity use) can run about \$25,000 a year; here in Lents Park it runs around \$7,000 a year. Over the long run (according to Bob Downing) synthetic fields are cheaper.

One participant asked why the City can afford \$800,000 for a synthetic field, but can't afford a bag dispenser for the dog park.

One participant said his sons had played on synthetic turf and didn't like the feel of it. Playground improvements are more

important than the money it would take to put in a synthetic field.

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It was acknowledged that synthetic materials have improved a lot over the past few years and are now much more "natural" feeling.

Miscellaneous

One participant with 51 years in the neighborhood and multiple past service on committees said that this master plan is "the first positive thing the City has ever done for Lents Park." There are lots of promises, but the City never follows through.

Posted by Friends of Lents Park at 11:11 AM

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Wednesday, November 17, 2010

"Sustainability" Listening Session, Oct. 30

These are Kathleen's personal notes. I have tried to group similar topics together, but otherwise have followed the order in which the conversation happened.

I came in late to this session, so these notes may not be complete.

Two members of the Project Advisory Committee were present. We started off with 6 members of the public, but another 5 came in towards the end and participated actively. Besides Elizabeth and Sarah from Parks, and Bob from Central Services, we were joined by Leslie from the City's Community Garden program.

Community Garden

According to Leslie from the City, there is a waiting list for the Community Garden. This has been a bad gardening year, and there have been some drop-outs. (This may explain people's perception that there are actually lots of spaces available.)

When the community garden folks requested an expansion to the garden, they had envisioned this happening to the west side, not to the east. (Both maps currently show expansion to the east.) To the east you run into trees, and it's hard to grow under trees.

Some support was expressed for expanding the community garden to the west. Of course, this runs into the Dog Off-leash Area (DOLA). Maybe the garden could be "squeezed down" to make up for loss to the DOLA. We could also reconfigure so that the proposed new shelter for the garden also serves the DOLA. (Currently it is shown inside the garden's fence and would not serve both.)

Dog park hill is an important location for sledding when it snows.

Trees, Habitat, Pollinators

Trees are important for air quality mitigation plus a sound barrier from the freeway.

City Bureau of Environmental Services prefers map A for habitat issues, because of the additional trees. Birds will go back and forth

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between Lents & Bloomington Park.

BES wants to encourage moth-type pollinators. Bees are an issue for some path users because of bee sting allergies.

City wants to look into perennials and native plants that aren't such high maintenance. At Gabriel Park there is a perennial pollinator "mound" that has been successful so far.

Could there be volunteer maintenance? City currently has a "pesticide free parks" program that relies on volunteers.

Orchards work best as part of a community garden. If fallen fruit doesn't get picked up right away, it attracts yellow jackets. Could we maybe have nut trees instead of fruit? Leslie says there has been a lot of loss of nut trees in private yards recently, because they take up space.

One participant (FLP member Debbie) pointed out a tree to west of Community Garden. This was planted in memory of her late mother. Leslie says comm. gardens in various park contain memorial trees.

Open Space


Map A would add approximately 60 new trees (although this is not an exact number - details would be filled in at the schematic stage). One participant says "the more trees the better!" But overall, the majority of participants were concerned about the loss of open space that this would involve. This neighborhood loves its trees, but perhaps we don't need THIS many new ones. One participant said we do not want the park to become so full that we lose natural light. Another participant (with a nursery background) said 60 new trees is very ambitious, and we need to think of maintenance cost.

From a maintenance perspective, open swaths are easier to mow. New trees should be grouped into "groves."

Swales and Stormwater

There was a lot of discussion of how to better direct stormwater. Swales are old technology at this point. There is a lot of exciting stuff being done with permeable barriers.

One participant would have liked the proposal to terrace the community garden because of drainage issues. Regardless, the final plan will have better drainage for that hill in the SE corner. Drainage will be looked at in the schematic stage, along with details like lighting, benches, water fountains, etc.

 **Portland Mercury**
Tonight in Music: Lightning Bolt, Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears, The Hooded Hags, and more - *LIGHTNING BOLT, FLEXIONS, THE GREYS, DJ YETI* (Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison) At its best (which is pretty much all the time), Lightning Bolt's music repr...
8 hours ago

i love lents - the Lents Neighborhood Association Web Log
For the record -- LNA letter on Walmart - Per a request from a neighborhood association member, attached is the letter from the Lents Neighborhood Association Walmart Task Force to Walmart regard...
3 days ago

Willamette Week | Friday, May 29th, 2009
14993.jpg -
2 months ago

About Me

Friends of Lents Park

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Restrooms

3 6 8 5 5

New restrooms are great, but will they ever be open? This will depend on maintenance budget. But new, more open-style restrooms are expected to be less prone to vandalism which leads to closing.

The plan is to get rid of the port-a-potties that are now in the park. One participant said port-a-potties are not sustainable, since they require servicing by truck.

Maintenance Costs

While not formally part of this discussion, some important information was shared.

The City estimates approximately \$6 million for development of the entire Master Plan, which includes approx. \$800,000 for the synthetic field. There is currently no money in the budget for any of this; it would have to come from future bond issues. But without a Master Plan in place, we cannot get in line for any funds that may become available in the future.

Both maps A and B would be more expensive to maintain than what we have in the park now, because of the additional pathways. The synthetic turf needs much less maintenance than grass (would wash out over the lifetime of the field, when you factor in how much it costs to install).

The water for the proposed new spray feature would potentially be a high cost. (Spray feature has been popular among all respondents, and would replace the wading pool that has had to be eliminated due to new state law.)

As park improvements go, this Master Plan would not be TOO expensive, because there is not a lot of paving or new structures.

Miscellaneous

One participant described the SE bowl area currently as "wasted space." There is nothing going on there, no beauty.

Posted by Friends of Lents Park at 12:07 PM

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3 6855

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FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT For Council Action Items

36855

(Deliver original to Financial Planning Division. Retain copy.)

1. Name of Initiator Sarah Coates Huggins		2. Telephone No. 503.823.3385	3. Bureau/Office/Dept. PP&R
4a. To be filed (date) March 3, 2011	4b. Calendar (Check One) Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5ths <input type="checkbox"/>		5. Date Submitted to FPD Budget Analyst: March 3, 2011

1) Legislation Title:

Accept the 2011 Master Plan for Lents Park as a guide for future development of the park.

2) Purpose of the Proposed Legislation:

Lents Park master plan and final report serve as guiding documents for future development of the park.

3) Revenue:

Will this legislation generate or reduce current or future revenue coming to the City? If so, by how much? If new revenue is generated please identify the source.

No impact from the Master Plan

4) Expense:

What are the costs to the City as a result of this legislation? What is the source of funding for the expense? (Please include costs in the current fiscal year as well as costs in future years) (If the action is related to a grant or contract please include the local contribution or match required)

No impact from the Master Plan

Staffing Requirements:

5) Will any positions be created, eliminated or re-classified in the current year as a result of this legislation? (If new positions are created please include whether they will be part-time, full-time, limited term or permanent positions. If the position is limited term please indicate the end of the term.)

No impact from the Master Plan

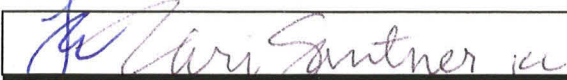
6) Will positions be created or eliminated in future years as a result of this legislation?

No impact from the Master Plan

Complete the following section only if an amendment to the budget is proposed.

7) Change in Appropriations (If the accompanying ordinance amends the budget please reflect the dollar amount to be appropriated by this legislation. Include the appropriate center codes and accounts that are to be loaded by accounting. Indicate "new" in Center Code column if new center needs to be created. Use additional space if needed.)

Fund	Center Code	Account	Amount	Project Fund	Project No.



APPROPRIATION UNIT HEAD