

Over time, the Montgomery Park Area Plan (MPAP) is expected to result in the creation of thousands of new jobs and housing units in a vital new mixed-use district. New residents and workers would benefit from the development of publicly accessible open spaces or parks to help provide opportunities for outdoor relaxation and activities. The plan calls for regulatory measures such as outdoor area incentives and non-regulatory measures, such as a benefits agreement, to help facilitate the creation of these spaces. Of these areas, a significant green space or park of roughly one acre is envisioned for the plan area. To support this aspiration, the urban design framework identifies the potential location for this major open space serving the district. This public greenspace or park is envisioned as a “green park block” space of roughly 40,000 square feet, developed with pervious surfaces and programmed to provide generally passive recreation opportunities for those in the district.

Because the land uses in the plan area are currently non-residential, the area is not currently identified as parks deficient on Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) analysis maps. PP&R generally prioritizes new park investments in areas currently identified as underserved (beyond a 10-15 minute walk, or ½ mile, to a park). However, since the plan proposes the creation of a significant residential and mixed-use neighborhood, a park will be needed based on current PP&R metrics. Parks in the general vicinity, such as The Fields Park, Wallace Park, and Couch Park, are well beyond the ½ mile target proximity, and all three are already heavily used and at capacity for serving existing residents living closer to those parks. To meet the park needs of the new community being created by the MPAP, a greenspace is envisioned to be developed in a private-public partnership with property owners who could benefit from financial and regulatory offsets through the creation of this public space.

### *Envisioning a Future Public Park*

During outreach and engagement efforts for the MPAP, community members expressed their desires for and ideas on what a future public park should incorporate. Much of the feedback suggested that more space is needed to accommodate children and families in the area. Commenters requested that a future park include both flexible space, such as large open green spaces, with grass and trees, as well as programmed spaces for recreation and community gardens. Other ideas included incorporating micro-forested areas, along with water features, to reference the area’s proximity to Forest Park, encourage wildlife to the area, and help reduce the area’s urban heat island impact.

### **Precedents for Park/Open Space Size and Programming**

Since the plan envisions a one-acre site, or “green park block” for this future public park, it’s important to visualize how this space could be activated. This section offers

two precedents to explore ways to maximize a one-block site within an urban environment, as well as a visualization of ideas for programming this space which were offered by the community.

### *Size*

A one-acre site could accommodate several different programmed elements, allowing for both passive and active engagement. Tanner Springs Park (images below), a one-block park in Northwest Portland, is comparable in size to this future open space and offers an array of amenities.

### *Features and Programming*

In terms of park features and programming, community feedback referenced that the new park is like that of the North & South Park Blocks (images below). Commenters like the combination of the park's flexible open spaces, trees, seating, and programmed areas, such as playgrounds and markets. PP&R can help or lead a community design process to finalize the type and features that would be included in the park.