



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Redmond PARCC Plan Update  
**Project No.:** Proj-# 21-142PLN  
**Location:** Zoom Video Conference  
**Interview Date:** May 6, 2022  
**Time:** 12:00 pm  
**Notes by:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix  
**Participant:** Sue Smith, Linda Clark, Dorie Lysa, Christi Thomas, Stefanie Nelson, Praveer Jain, Jesse Judah-Bram, Mary Ellis, Teresa Wong, Steven Crandell, China Helwig, Heather Uberti, Teresa Peters, Caroline Chapman, Redmond Parks & Recreation, Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

**Subject: Recreation Group Stakeholder Discussion**

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### PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs addressing recreation program and facility interests. The meeting took place on May 6, 2022, via a Zoom video conference from 12:00 – 1:30 pm.

### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PARCC Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about local recreation needs and interests.

#### Opening Comments & What is Valued about Redmond Parks & Recreation

- Sense of community and building a better community together
- Intergenerational activities to take care of parks and open space, and activities like tree plantings with RYPAC
- Community is linked to having roots here and why we are here; we are not just here to exist, but to be part of the larger community
- Localize and belonging — provide a pathway to find meaning by inspiring people to get involved in the place one lives
- Downtown is built up, so where can people go other than Downtown Park? Expand outward and spread out. The downtown is overdeveloped, and there are no woods in the core.

## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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- Heron Park has a scary vibe in some areas; don't know what is in there until too late. Can this park be fixed to be more inviting?
- Downtown apartment residents might not be able to get out to Farrel-McWhirter or Grass Lawn Park. Transit or transportation availability/access might be barriers
- Consider how people can access parks without cars
- Design of spaces is part of the equation. How do we accommodate all people who use this space/amenity?
- Walking safely – need more patrols, and people following basic trail etiquette. There are too many people on the trails, and no one is using appropriate lanes. There are ped/bike conflicts.
- Pathway interactions require more etiquette, such as bells, 'on left', stay on your side considerations. Signs are needed. The city/county used to have them. (Clarification: Sammamish River Trail is owned by King County; additional signage requires coordination with county.)
- Spaces between buildings in downtown can be good connectors if maintained and people are made aware of connections

### **Making Memories about Parks & Recreation**

- Community events and activities are huge for creating lasting memories
- Taking kids to Derby Days, holiday lights and other big events
- Big truck day at Farrel-McWhirter
- Daughter in preschool camp at Farrel-McWhirter. Great sense of community, get to hang out around afterward with friends and see the animals.
- Natural play area with fairy houses, logs, etc.

### **What Recreation is Missing or Should be Expanded?**

- Connecting to nature – play outside
- Need more sheltered play space (out of the rain and where you can stay dry)
- Lacking a central community center that has sport courts, play pools, lap pool, fitness for all ages. Build more centers in the center (central location)
- How do we get people to these amazing places – get around and connect. Do we need a shuttle or bus service to parks and centers? The Metro B line bus does full fare for round trip. How about a local access pass for residents? Transportation is a challenge and getting there. Shuttle service between facilities for kids.
- Indoor space and swim center – extend the pool at Marymoor for indoor swimming
- View through the art of the possible – the old basketball court at the Old Redmond School is underused and a great asset. Re-purpose spaces that are already in good locations.
- Pickleball – more are needed in the city. Find locations at existing parks
- Geocaching – re-establish the 'secret box' with a take 1-leave 1 model
- Farrel-McWhirter – orienteering course for parents, kids and whole family
- More basketball hoops and portable nets for volleyball and badminton
- Hope Link donates food from Juel Park community garden. Teens learn to garden. Need more structured volunteer days, such as clean ups, plantings, stewardship programs, ways to build ambassadors/leaders
- Teens – frisbee, basketball, disc golf, hang out space like the Old Firehouse Teen Center and music studio, great to hang out.
- More outdoor and indoor opportunities in general

## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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### **Marketing & Communications**

- City website has great ways to search for information and shows lists, but it needs more pictures of what one can do at the parks and center, maps and other information to let people know what they can do at each site.
- Include information about what is accessible, what areas have paved routes, etc.
- Expand info to include trail length, ease, loops

### **Opportunities to Enhance Inclusion**

- Path surfaces need to be stable and wide enough for wheelchairs. Signs, lights and elevators
- In north Redmond where the Sears used to be, there are a lot of new apartments going in, and there needs to be a community center up there
- Love the adaptive recreation programs – specific classes for the adaptive community and is inclusive to program parents and volunteers
- All inclusive playground at Idylwood Park. Add spinners, swings and full-harness apparatus. Miners Corner Park in Bothell is an example
- ADA Transition Plan was prepared for parks. Where are we on implementing it
- Like the multilingual nature in Redmond Lights and public art with alternative languages (other than English).
- Cultural festivals – draw interest from others in the community and cross pollinate experiences
- Seniors – challenge getting to Senior Center; many don't drive and have to call a shuttle. Transportation as a barrier.

### **Recreation Program Ideas**

- Camps are designed for all week, full day. Would like to see partial day or additional hours
- Camps for teens; they age out at 12-13 years old. It would be good to have teen programs with alternative hours
- Consider low commitment activities for teens to drop by and 'dip toe in' to try new activities. Classes (i.e. archery) skills to try out new activity, not a full camp, exploratory
- Fitness – jazzercise. When we lost the Old Redmond Schoolhouse, we lost a large space that offered a daycare option
- Need ability to have daycare option with recreation programming. It makes you feel like you're part of the community
- Provide large group classes to let people 'find their people'
- Options for working parents, great programs mid-week to attend is not an option. Balance out weekend and weekday program
- Need more workout / fitness options
- Program notification thru email is great
- Volunteers and teens could help with staffing and weekend program support

## Interview Notes (continued)

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### Investments for the Next 5 Years

- Expand Juel Park garden
- Overlake area developing heavily now. Need more options for Overlook other than going to Microsoft campus
- Pool, close in, accessible to all and not on a hill – maybe like Lynnwood (zero entry with shallow play and lazy river)
- Plazas are OK in urban areas, but need more softscape. Hardscapes equate to harsh acoustics. Need transportation to go to other areas of the city to experience different parks and open space
- New construction needs dedicated 'green' space, courtyards

### Other Feedback via Zoom Chat:

- Yes! Sheltered play and gathering areas are key!
- Even just some shelter for the tables/chairs at the downtown park
- Old Redmond Schoolhouse is really underused. Agreed.
- Lake Washington School District owns the Old Redmond Schoolhouse and is renovating it for preschool and I'm not sure what else. The city should definitely see if they can use the gym again, just like they use other school gyms for the basketball program.
- Badminton would probably be used, too

-- End of Notes --

## **Interview Notes (continued)**

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