

City of Redmond PARCC Plan

Public meeting summary

Date: 6/01/2022

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Webinar

The virtual public meeting was held using Zoom with 22 public attendees:

Community Members	Client & Consultant Team
Robert B	Angela Birney, Mayor of Redmond
Shelly Bowman	
Jesse Judah Bram	Redmond Parks and Recreation
Amanda Deml	Jeff Aken, Senior Parks Planner
Vincent Denis-Laroque	Caroline Chapman, Senior Planner
Gregg Gottgetreu	Loreen Hamilton, Director
Stuart Hargreaves	
Lizette Hedberg	
Zach Houvner	Consultant Team
Eric J	Scott Burns, PRR, Inc.
Jasmine Keaton	Morgan Calder, PRR, Inc.
Vanessa Kritzer	Tammy Leigh DeMent, PRR, Inc.
Pam Madison	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
Lorraine Masse	Yiran Huang, Mandarin Language Interpreter, PRR, Inc.
Lisa Mischley	Daniel Ruiz, Spanish Language Interpreter, PRR, Inc.
Linda Seltzer	Evgeniia Zdravaia, Russian Language Interpreter, PRR, Inc.
Dave Tuchek	
Kristina Wayland	
Chris Weber	
Anthony	
Glenn	
Justin	

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to engage the public on the Redmond Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation (PARCC) Plan. This meeting is focused on gathering thoughts from the community on future investments to Redmond's parks and recreation system to ensure it continues to adapt to the changing needs of the community. The project team provided attendees with a project overview and then asked the group for feedback through a series of polls and Q&A sessions. This meeting included live interpretation for members of the Chinese-, Russian-, and Spanish-speaking communities. The webinar ended with information about how to stay involved in the project.

Introductions

Tammy Leigh DeMent, PRR, started the meeting by introducing the project, welcoming attendees, and providing instructions regarding the meeting's question and answers, and live language interpretation options.

Angela Birney, Mayor of Redmond, welcomed the attendees and provided some context to the PARCC Plan project. Mayor Birney shared that after the last PARCC Plan update, the City made several upgrades to existing Parks and Recreation infrastructure and opened a new public facility. The feedback received tonight will help inform the next PARCC Plan updates.

Loreen Hamilton, Director of Redmond Parks and Recreation, introduced the Redmond Parks and Recreation's staff vision of building community through the parks, arts, recreation and conservation offerings. Loreen provided examples of the department's vision such as events like Derby Days, pivoting to online classes or curbside senior lunches during COVID, and using eco-friendly best practices in park maintenance to support sustainability. Loreen ended by welcoming the attendees to share their ideas to add more value to Redmond's community spaces.

Project Overview

Caroline Chapman, Redmond Parks and Recreation Senior Planner, led a presentation on the PARCC Plan project.

What is the PARCC Plan?

The PARCC Plan is a 6-year guide for helping the City of Redmond manage and improve its parks, programs, and other recreation experiences. The PARCC Plan will update the City's parks and open spaces, trails, and community centers, and will inform recreation programs, arts and culture, and community events. At the core, the PARCC Plan is guided by a few basic questions:

- What are the City's strengths and key areas for improvement?
- How will the City meet the community's recreation needs now and in the future?
- What should the city focus on?

The PARCC Plan was previously updated in 2017, and included the renovation of Westside Park, the completion of the Redmond Community Center, the development of Downtown Park, and the completion of the second phase of the Redmond Central Connector. Planning for the future requires consideration of how increasing density will put more pressure on existing parks and natural areas, and the City will need to pay attention to maintenance and land stewardship. Going forward, the City also needs to make sure that the park system and recreation programs are welcoming for all users, whether that is through inclusive play areas or providing access in other languages.

How are people already using the park and recreation system?

- The current Parks and Recreation system includes over 1,300 acres of parkland and 47 city-operated parks with a variety of places to explore, like woods, playgrounds and sport courts, picnic areas, places to garden, and places to jump into the lake.
- The system includes nearly 60 miles of trails and paths that cross the city and extend into parks and natural areas.
- The City's four community centers see over 20,000 hours of usage in a typical year, bringing people of all ages together for indoor recreation, classes, and social time. The new Senior & Community Center will open in 2024.

- Over 50,000 attendees take part in city events in a typical year, and the city hosts hundreds of summer camps and sport teams each year. Unique programming also includes the animal farm, horse arena, camps, and other activities at Farrel-McWhirter Park.
- The City works to expand opportunities for art and culture through public art installations, performances, poetry and art studio spaces.

Q&A Session 1

- Are you planning to add lights in Downtown Park? It is extremely dark at night. Also, could we get more flowers? We have a lot of green but not much color. Could you get some inspiration from “The Village at Totem Lake” to improve downtown park (lights, flowers, firepits, fountain etc.)?
 - Response- Thanks for that feedback, Vincent. We'll have to look at that Totem Lake example! At this time, there are no plans for additional lights at the Downtown Park but it's some feedback we can add.

Community Survey Results

Steve Duh, Project Consultant, presented information on the results from a community survey the City recently conducted to help inform the PARCC Plan. The survey was available in four languages and collected 1200 responses from community members. Some of the results include:

- Park usage is strong, with 88% of people saying they visit parks at least a couple times per month.
- Nearly three-quarters of respondents said the condition of the City’s parks and trails are excellent or good.
- Overall, 90% are satisfied with the city’s parks and trails.
- The top reasons people visit Redmond’s parks is for the trails, walking, running and biking, and for relaxation.
- Visiting for playgrounds, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and public art installations or events are also popular activities.
- Some priorities so far include improving trail connections and adding off-leash dog areas and community gardens. Other high-need amenities include a pool or swim beach, more pickleball courts, and additional public art, performances, and events.
- Top priorities for improvements include maintaining existing parks and making sure existing park amenities last longer, expanding trail opportunities and improving trail connections, and upgrading existing parks and amenities to provide more choices for recreation.
- As Redmond grows, the City will need to pay attention to the growth in the urban centers and balance the overall community’s needs for active park spaces with the conservation of open space.

Poll Question 1

Balancing the recreation needs of a growing city may require trade-offs. What features do you think are the most important to consider when building and expanding our park system? Pick two.

(13 participants voted in this poll)

- 46% (6 participants) - Conserve land as natural areas
- 31% (4 participants) - Flexible outdoor space such as lawns
- 23% (3 participants) - Urban plazas in Downtown and Overlake
- 23% (3 participants) - Space for artistic performances or art
- 23% (3 participants) - Covered areas for picnics or recreation
- 23% (3 participants) - Indoor recreation spaces (community centers)
- 15% (2 participants) - Areas for sports fields and courts
- 8% (1 participant) - Places for exercise

Q&A Session 2

- Separate walkers (going slowly) from high-speed bicycles. Have places for walking only.
- Enforce speed limits on bike paths.
- More protected bike lanes connecting the trail to primary destinations would be nice.
- The senior center could have 3-wheel, low-height bicycles available for people to use for a half hour or so.
- It is working well. There is good balance of nature trails and developed trails.
- Many areas are taken over by invasive species like yellow iris and English ivy, species which King County has listed as harmful to the environment. Plans to keep this more under control would be beneficial.
 - Response – Thank you! We will work to incorporate this in our conservation priorities.
- More connections, more interim trails until final development funds available. More protected bike lanes and sidewalk.
- I love set-aside places behind City Hall with intermittent tables/benches.
- Why is there not a bike lane on Redmond Way?
 - Response – We will need to check with our traffic team to answer this question.
- Recognize and improve the trail system between Nike Park and Perrigo Heights on Education Hill.
- Are you drawing inspiration from any other cities/countries for improving walkability and bikeability?
 - Response – Linking our parks via trails is very important. Olmstead park in Seattle is a good example of how we can use boulevards and connections between parks.
- Walkers walk single file and predictable ways on congested trail areas.
- Walking Trail on city campus is kind of frightening with walkers. There are bicycles and skateboards, and it reminds me of early Green Lake Seattle congestion. Trail is narrow for all.
- Continue connection to other trails, wayfinding, historical information relative to Redmond's history, fun facts, post trail rules on the website, steel ping pong table, have walkers walk single file on the trail and anticipate the various traffic coming.
- What's the plan for ongoing maintenance at the Redmond bike park?

Community Survey Results Part 2

Steve Duh explained more about the community survey results to lead into the next poll question:

- When asked about recreation program and activity needs, there was a strong interest for additional pool programs, including swim lessons, family swim time, and lap swimming.
- Other areas of need include expanding community gardens and additional adult programs, classes, and activities.
- A majority of the 1200 survey respondents said that they are not aware of the recreation program options offered by the city.

Poll Question 2

From the community survey, over 51% of respondents said they were not aware of City programs, events, or parks. How would you prefer to learn about Redmond's programs, events, or parks, so the city can better communicate with you?

(Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to capture the exact number of participants who voted in this poll)

23% - City e-news or direct e-mail

15% - City website

15% - Direct mail

15% - Other

- Texts
- QR codes posted around town

7% - Focus on Redmond quarterly newsletter
7% - Recreation Activity Guide
7% - Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram
7% - Program posters/flyers
0% - Redmond Reporter

Poll Question 3

What events would you be interested in seeing City of Redmond's Parks and Recreation department produce more of?

(14 participants voted in this poll)

43% (6 participants) - Small events and activities at neighborhood parks
29% (4 participants) - Performances (music, theater, comedy, dance, etc.) in outdoor spaces and parks
21% (3 participants) - City-wide festivals (like Derby Days or Redmond Lights)
7% (1 participant) - Community block parties
0% (0 participants) - Other

Poll Question 4

What would you like to see more of from our Cultural Arts Program?

(10 participants voted in this poll)

30% (3 participants) - Temporary Visual Arts (art installations that are seasonal or for an event)
20% (2 participants) - Permanent Visual Arts (sculptures, murals, mosaics)
20% (2 participants) - Artist Resources (training programs, info sharing, maker-space)
10% (1 participant) - Performing Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre)
10% (1 participant) - Literary Arts (poetry readings, creative writing workshops, zine fairs)
10% (1 participant) - Hands-on activities (workshops, classes)
0% (0 participants) - Film Screenings

Q&A Session 3

- Some events are being used for political purposes, specifically with respect to controversial foreign policy topics. Also, some cultures are being centered while others are ignored. In addition, on this question, I would like to see less politicization of arts events for foreign policy advocacy.
- Shout out to a first-time event this past Saturday
- Movie night either Grass lawn or Perrigo Park. Maybe rotate the movies to neighborhood gathering spaces too.

Poll Question 5

Redmond will be opening a new Senior and Community Center, in addition to our current Old Firehouse Teen Center, Redmond Pool, and Marymoor Village Community Center. What types of programs would you like to see at these spaces? Select 2.

(14 participants voted in this poll)

50% (7 participants) - Hobby, music, and art space
36% (5 participants) - Community events and entertainment performances
29% (5 participants) - Drop-in times for games or sports
29% (4 participants) - Get to know neighbor events
29% (4 participants) - Lectures and educational meetings
21% (3 participants) - Organized Sports for Youth/Adults
14% (2 participants) - Exercise classes

7% (1 participant) - Nutrition and cooking or health resources

0% (0 participants) - Community rental spaces

Q&A Session 4

- That's cool! (in reference to Caroline sharing new drop-in class openings)
- One concern is that the Marymoor membership dues are unaffordable for many seniors and others. Low cost is important so that people aren't excluded.
 - Response – This is something our team has been concerned with as well, so thanks for noting that!

Q&A Session 5

Tammy Leigh DeMent asked for more feedback from the group, welcoming any suggestions for the Redmond parks and recreation system that may not have been addressed in the poll questions.

- More trees along the bare areas along the Sammamish River Trail.
- Heated walking and therapy pool for seniors and persons with disabilities – similar to Bellevue Aquatic Ctr.
 - Response – We have heard more desire for therapeutic pools and zero entry pools, thank you for this suggestion.
- Less politics in the arts commission.
- A designated center for the display of visual and performative arts, similar to the Bellevue Arts Museum.
- Undeveloped Sammamish Valley Park along RCC III would be an opportune place to develop a Pickleball complex.
- Large ADA fully accessible tree house that could accommodate nature classes and camps out in the trees!
- More connections, more interim trails until final development funds available. More protected bike lanes and sidewalk. More diversity of amenities for adults and young adults. Clustered pickleball courts with lights. Shakespeare in the park and other free performances at parks.
- An annual event where local armature artists can show their creations like a street fair
- Yes on more Shakespeare in the parks!
- Music night at Grasslawn, dome lights would be helpful for the Grasslawn dome, bird watching and Nature Identification walk/talk. Maybe partner with local Audubon society. Pickleball nets at the other tennis parks.
- Hand rails on the stairs even though a few stairs, safety. Downtown Park specifically.
- Yes on Audubon programs! Consider issues of people improperly feeding the animals (ducks at the lake)
- Dog parks needed and urban gardens.
- I am relatively new to Redmond and getting to know the various Parks, I think they are awesome.
- Yes to Shakespeare in the park. Maybe partner with local school theater group to do their plays in the park and to involve youth.
- New event idea: Bring an X-Games exhibition to Derby Days including skateboard giant half pipe, BMX big air, etc.

Next Steps

- If participants have more specific questions, they can email the Redmond team - ckchapman@redmond.gov
- There will be another community meeting in the fall, where the City will share the draft PARCC Plan. Please check the website and keep an eye on social media for the meeting date.
- After this webinar closes, participants will be rerouted to the project website (www.LetsConnectRedmond.com/parcc) for more information on how to get involved in the PARCC Plan.
- Participants can sign up for the Redmond city e-news newsletter for regular updates.
- Participants are invited to provide feedback for the upcoming Redmond Comprehensive Plan project: Redmond 2050. <https://www.redmond.gov/1427/Redmond-2050>