



Tukwila Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Community Workshop

May 22, 2013

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The City of Tukwila is updating its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan to guide the future of the City's parks and recreation system. The Community Workshop is an open public meeting in the situation assessment phase of the project. The meeting design supports community conversation on:

- Issues related to the City's parks, recreation programming, facilities, and open space.
- Which parks and facilities attendees use and how they use them.
- Barriers to accessing and/or using parks, recreation and open space amenities (including geographic, pedestrian access, transit, cultural or other material or perceived obstacles)
- The activities people would like to do in parks.
- The desired role of the City's parks, recreation, and open space amenities in the future of the community.

This document presents a summary of the Community Workshop event and resulting community input. The Community Workshop was held at the Tukwila Community Center on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, from 6 to 8 pm. The Workshop was open to the entire community, and attendees were invited to drop in for as much or little time as they wanted.

6:00 PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE AND SIGN IN

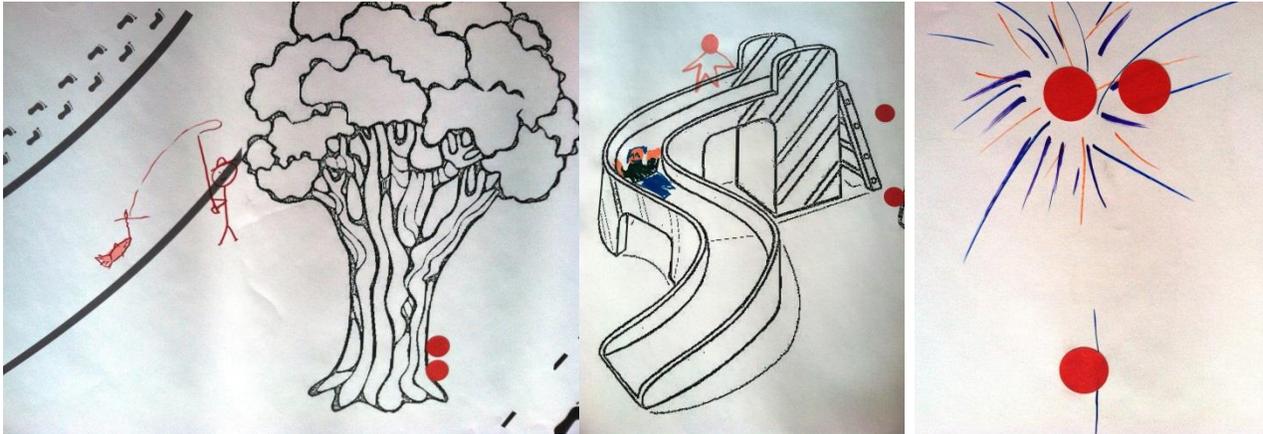
As participants arrived and signed in, they were directed to participate in some interactive activities, including interacting with a "graffiti board" on which they could illustrate their favorite parks, recreation, and open space activities.

6:10 OPENING AND WELCOME

Dave Johnson, City of Tukwila Parks and Recreation, greeted attendees and thanked them for attending. Dave also provided background on the PROS Planning process and schedule.

6:15 OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP PLAN

Dawn Couch, BERK, provided an overview of the workshop plan, reminding participants of the interactive activities available (dotting a map of their favorite Tukwila parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces and a “graffiti board” where they could illustrate or dot their favorite activities to do in Tukwila’s parks, recreation facilities, and open space). Dawn then explained the small group discussion portion of the workshop.



6:20 SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Dawn Couch broke the group into three small groups of between four and six. Each group selected a volunteer reporter/recorder, charged with leading the group discussion and recording the main points of the discussion.

What do you like most about the City’s parks, recreation amenities, and open space?

- **Tukwila has a variety of parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces throughout the city.**
 - We have good quality and many parks and open spaces.
 - There are parks of all sizes and uses.
 - The parks we have are dispersed throughout the city.
- **Parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces are clean, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing.**
 - Our parks are clean and well maintained.
 - The parks and facilities are beautiful.
 - The Tukwila Community Center is beautiful, well maintained, and has a lot of amenities.
 - Our parks and facilities are well kept and clean.

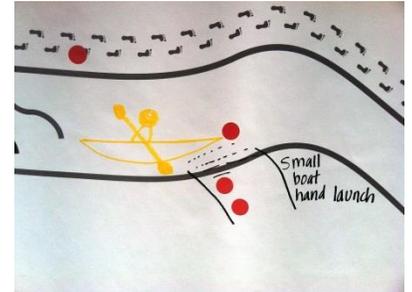
- **Various park amenities allow for a variety of uses that suite all audiences.**
 - The spray park is really a cool amenity and very well used and loved.
 - There are a wide variety of activities at our parks.
 - We provide a lot of options—and try to have something for everyone. If we realize that there is a population that isn't being served, then we try to find a way to serve them.
 - The River Trail is a unique resource and really fun!
- The easy access, from all directions, of the golf course makes it a great resource.
- People feel safe in our parks and they contribute to improving public safety, because people have something to do.



What barriers do you and other members of the community face in accessing and using these City amenities?

- **Mobility of Tukwila's community members and the lack accessibility of parks and other facilities is a challenge.**
 - There is limited public transportation to, from, and near many of our parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces.
 - We need our facilities to be more accessible; new transit routes and pedestrian/bike access would help with this.
- **Income and ability to pay for fee-for-service programs is a barrier for many communities.**
 - The need of the Parks Department to maintain revenue generation limits opportunities for some, especially the low income.
 - Many of our services are costly, which limits how many slots for each the department can provide and who can access those slots.
 - We have limited funds for providing scholarships to people, so some low-income people are underserved by our fee based programs.
- **Some community members do not feel comfortable with or aren't interested in program offerings.**
 - We need to explore the community to find accessible instructional class topics for diverse communities that do not feel comfortable with or aren't interested in/served by current class topics.
 - We need to make more community members comfortable taking classes through the Parks and Recreation Department; right now many community members are barred from participating because they don't feel comfortable or feel they don't have the skills to take a class.
 - There are a lot of cultural barriers to exercise and valuing physical activity that we don't know enough about yet.
- **There is a lack of information about parks and recreational offerings, in some communities.**
 - Some community members, especially new ones, don't know where our parks are.

- The Recreation brochure is primarily sent to residents and not delivered to many businesses.
- Park signage is only written in English.
- **There is a lack of access to the water and water-related programming.**
 - There is limited access to the river—we need more hand launches for kayaks and small boats. We also need to maintain the river's edge, to limit blackberry bush growth.
 - We need to provide better access to swim lessons—particularly adult ones.
- We need to embrace the nontraditional sports that are becoming more popular in this area—lacrosse comes to mind.
- The functions of the Community Center are limited, even though the facility is suited for and could be serving broader purposes.



What roles do the City's parks, recreation programming, and facilities play in the Tukwila Community? What role should they play?

- **Parks are community centers.**
 - The parks we have are organizing centers for the community.
 - Many of our parks and recreation facilities accommodate parties and things, making them a celebration area.
 - Our facilities are community gathering places.
 - The parks and community center build a sense of community and are the most visible representation of our community—specifically communicating our City's values and commitments.
 - Our community facilities provide the social interaction that keeps our neighborhoods strong and healthy.
- **Parks Department facilities are a nexus between the City and its staff, and community members.**
- The Parks Department also builds relationships within the city—especially between community members and City staff and the City as an institution.
- Our parks should provide opportunities for community engagement with the City and City staff.
- **Parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces directly serve our most vulnerable and highest need populations.**
 - Parks and other facilities are often a safe haven for the vulnerable in our community—especially kids, seniors, and the homeless. This includes care services that provide structure and safety for people who might not have that at home.
 - We need to provide more free and low cost programming—the City should make a commitment to not letting money be a barrier to access to Parks and Recreation programs.
- **The Parks and Recreation Department serves public health functions, and brings health and wellness services to our communities.**

- The Parks and Recreation Department should involve the community in health and wellness activities, taking a role in improving the community's health.
- Parks should play a role in dealing with the current health and obesity crisis and making our community a healthier place.
- **Parks and Recreation's services are often educational and provide exposure to topics outside of the common core.**
 - Our open spaces allow for nature exploration, environmental education, and stewardship in an otherwise urban environment.
 - Our Arts Commission should promote the Parks and Recreation department's arts activities.
 - The Parks Department provides a lot of skill building and educational programming.
- The Parks and Recreation department is a great place to centralize disaster recovery efforts—its facilities definitely are the first place people would go in case of emergency.

6:45 SHARE BACK

Led by their group appointed reporter/recorder, each of the three groups shared a summary of the key points from their group discussion.

Group One

- Our community members value that we have great amenities that are clean, safe, well-maintained, and varied. They also like that these options are open and never too crowded.
- We think some key barriers are in communication and public knowledge of all of our facilities and programs.
- There is limited access to water resources like the river but we need more water safety if we open those opportunities up.
- It is important to note that Parks facilities are safe, structured resources for our most vulnerable (children, seniors, and low-income) and that in this way, the Parks and Recreation Department serves human services and community needs for these groups. This (human services) might be an opportunity to partner.

Group Two

- There is a new for community awareness of parks and recreation facilities and services.
- We should make an effort to fill voids (like in the Riverton area and on Cascade Hill) in the park system
- We should continue to make our facilities more accessible and work with transportation officials to provide more transportation options to and from them.

Group Three

- We wanted to note that we have great parks that are a source of community pride.
- We could make our parks more effective for serving the community if we provided more translated signage and advertising. This would also help us bring in some of the groups we are trying to target.

- We need to help provide community voice to our leaders, not just about the value of parks and recreation facilities and services, but also about the needs of the communities that we interact with—most of whom do not have an established voice with community leaders.

7:15 THANK YOU

As the meeting adjourned, Dawn Couch reminded attendees to add to the interactive activities on their way out. She also provided opportunities to address specific questions and feedback to her and the meeting team.