

Meeting Summary

Owner: City of Richland Parks and Recreation	
Project: Leslie Groves Master Plan	Date: July 26, 2023, 5-7:00pm
	Location: Leslie Groves Park Shelter #1
Meeting: Public Workshop #2	MTLA Project No: 23-012

Summary of Comments on Boards

SECTION 1: River Road access to parking lot – just south of Newcomer Street: includes separated pathways, parking lot, restroom,

Option A Votes: 22

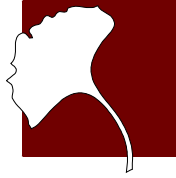
Option A Comments

- *kayak/paddleboard access at the small beach on south end (River Rd) near the bathroom*
- *make better area to launch paddleboards and kayaks. Many people launch from here*
- *Expand beach and similar to current beach area off of Park St*
- *I support replacement of invasive species with native trees and plants*
- *additional signage is great, especially for more cautious biking (ebiking)*
- *Remove bollards option and add the info signage to option A*
- *Would like Option A with the additional signage*
- *Keep pedestrian trail next to river and bicycle/multiuse where it is along the whole park*
- *Do not remove healthy sycamore or locust until either shade trees are present. More shade cottonwood/oak (Climate (heat) resilient species*
- *in either plan, remove old sycamores, replace with more appealing trees*
- *be realistic about getting rid of Russian olives. May just have to learn to live with them and keep them pruned back from path*

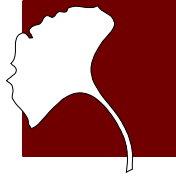
Option B Votes: 42

Option B Comments

- *Shade trees along the trails*
- *Remove “shrubs” all the way south to Vangrison rest rooms*
- *no “pockets” of trees. You will block views. Focus instead on low native grasses, plants, and shrubs*
- *Add grass. Bike trails all to Hains Ave*



- *Remove all Russian Olive trees*
- *add parking*
- *Consider a theater shape for Shakespeare or lectures on South LG*
- *Arboretum! Great idea, walking through a grove of trees is something Richland needs. Removing invasive species. More visibility in S Area*



SECTION 2: Newcomer Street to Saint Street: Includes Sand Volleyball, Playground, Shelters, Beach, Baseball Field

Option A Votes: 17

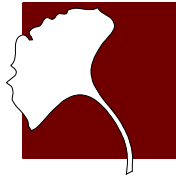
Option A Comments:

- *Pickleball*
- *Pickleball*
- *I like the additional water access for person powered watercraft from B*
- *Bike path crossing by the playground is dangerous if the bikes or ebikes don't slow down*
- *controlled stair access down to river to fight erosion of bluff/cliff*
- *Option A then add second beach*
- *updated fitness equipment is needed*
- *#1 priority should be installation of walking on Park St from Harris Ave to park. Current situation is VERY hazardous*
- *No additional parking on Newcomer. Yes bike course*
- *Handicap wheelchair beach entry would be so wonderful!*
- *Bike repair station is a good idea*
- *Expand swimming beach off newcomer*
- *Fun bike skills idea would be wonderful for kids who can't go to Chamna or bmx course*
- *I like all of these. Add the non-motorized watercraft access*
- *Park is already over used on weekends with inadequate parking. Prefer Option 2A = more parking*
- *No additional parking (drugs/RVs), no new buildings, don't cut down established trees, ban ebikes or limit them, shore up eroding bluff near river, plant more shade trees south of volleyball, maintain trees*

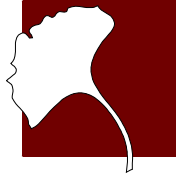
Option B Votes: 47

Option B Comments

- *Bigger buoys for non motorized zone*
- *Trying to put too much in aa small space. No bike skills course. Pickleball courses are noisy! Put in area most removed from homes.*
- *Don't remove trees*
- *Move pickleball courts to near the existing tennis courts*
- *no more parking needed at newcomer*
- *no parking lots*
- *I like option B but strongly favor the bike repair station from A*
- *Option B, Keep onvasive species and add bivycle repair*
- *Add sidewalk at newcomer. No new parking*
- *Add parking*



- *Expand beach, put pickleball near boatdock, yess accessible.*
- *Would like to see bike repair stations over visual access to river. No new parking lots*
- *I vote for section option but I feel strongly that we need to build up the bike community, so I like the repair station and signage proposed in #1*
- *The current tennis courts can be used for pickleball. No new courts. No bike skills course. Leave the park as it is*
- *Pickleball is too loud to be so close to picknickers, swimmers and homes*
- *Remove all Russian olive trees*
- *new parking should be seasonal*
- *like the sports equipment but not pickleball*
- *no bike skills course. Yess accessible non motorized watercraft access*
- *No bike skills course (they can go a few miles away to the BMX course off of 240Vantage), Yes pickleball, but put near the tennis courts (or instead of?)*
- *Pickleball courts should be placed in spot furthest from houses for noise*



SECTION 3: Saint Street to Native Plant Area. Includes Snyder Boat Ramp

Option A Votes: 29

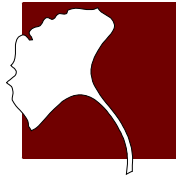
Option A Comments

- *Instead of volleyball, use space for pickleball court*
- *put educational center in natural park area in the midst of native plants*
- *native plant education kiosk near native plant area*
- *Keep the grass. The space is great as is.*
- *don't put anything there. Keep the grass*
- *replace sand in children's area with same sand as volleyball court*
- *Pickleball here instead. Far enough away from housing to avoid sound pollution*
- *be realistic about getting rid of Russian olives. May just have to learn to live with them and keep them pruned back from path*
- *No new buildings. Don't destroy wildlife.*
- *Keep sport courts together near volleyball. Pickleball there too. No buildings at the park*

Option B Votes: 36

Option B Comments

- *Do not build any new buildings between Snyder and Saint*
- *an all season nature center that could be used for many purposes (reunions, receptions, etc)*
- *Enlarge boat ramp*
- *no new pavement*
- *nature education space is a great idea*
- *no education space, no new buildings*
- *invasive species may be misleading as no trees were here. The Russian olives provide habitat for birds*
- *more recreation in native plants demo area. Is a ** for homeowners on Harris*
- *Like the nature education space*
- *Cottonwood is regionally native. Oak may be able to stand climate change*
- *Please do NOT build ANY new buildings in this part of the park. It would occlude the views of the houses on Harris and crowd an already heavily used area of the park. It needs to stay an open green space used by bikers, joggers, picknickers, etc.*



Additional Comments Sorted by Category:

PARKING, TRAFFIC

1. *Add more parking and clean the restrooms*
2. *Traffic retaining on River Rd*
3. *I support bollards or other means of restricting vehicle access*
4. *Not enough parking to hold any more added attractions. More parking lots would take away green space. Other spaces in Richland have the needed space for these recreational attractions*
5. *Perhaps consider charging stations for EVs + Ebikes in each parking lot*
6. *Add parking*
7. *Do street calming on Newcomer, Saint, Snyder. Narrower lanes. Protected bike lane. Add shade so folks can safely come to the park on foot or by bike*

BIKES, SPORTING

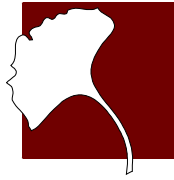
1. *Places for people skateboard/BMX/scooter/rollerblading – tasteful objects*
2. *Speed limit signs. Some ebikes go too fast for mixed use*
3. *Please add kids pump track!*
4. *Please do not put a bike skills track. This park enjoys being a peaceful place for everyone who uses it and lives on it. Thank you.*

PATHWAYS

1. *On trail marking for safety*
2. *Rather than cut roots out of trails, use recycled material and build up a more gentle slope and pave over*
3. *Repaint the ½ mile markers*
4. *If pave the bike path with a proper foundation so roots don't bump it up. You can do it for streets, so do it for bike paths!*
5. *Repaint bike and walking lane to help people stay on correct paths*
6. *Sidewalk on Newcomer entrance*
7. *Repave walk path for greater safety Too many cracks*
8. *Please keep the walking path closer to the river :)*

NATURE

1. *Please consider partnerships with local NGOs/non profits to help engage community care and citizen involvement in the care and growth of the park. Example: Tri Cities Beautiful community improvement org now in development. Evan Jones 509-987-5166*
2. *Save all trees that can be saved. Have a master plan for replacement. Advertise a fund for citizens to donate for trees*
3. *Keep all current green and tree lined spaces as they are. No education center building, no new building that would be in the homeowners' view please.*
4. *Trees are more important than pavement – protect trees – replace pavement. Don't cut trees out to protect pavement*



5. *NO "pockets of shade trees...spread out." Do not block river views*
6. *Only native plants. No taking down of trees*
7. *The point of LG is the river and the beauty of nature. The shrub steppe is teeming with life. We do not need more. If people are looking for more, there might be amenities down river that they would be interested in.*

BEACH/WATER SPORTS

1. *Me and my friend love swimming in the river*
2. *Rowing boat house*
3. *More beach and parking. Sidewalk on Snyder boat launch entry to meet trails.*
4. *More beach/water front space—gets too crowded*
5. *Enforcement of nonmotorized/swimming area. I'm tired of fighting brats/jet skis & motorcycles*

-Yes

6. *Big buoys for non motorized zone*

INVASIVE SPECIES

1. *Remove invasive blackberry bushes*
 2. *If Russian olives are removed, replace with native food trees for wildlife*
 3. *Remove all Russian olive trees*
 4. *Maybe leave but shape, eg "limb up" some Russian olives*
 5. *Remove Russian olives. Don't plant additional shade trees. Open up river to see and enjoy!*
- Thank you*

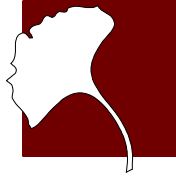
COURTS

1. *Pickleball courts beyond tennis courts*
2. *Pickleball noise pollution is a major problem. Ther will always be constant pop-pop-pop around the clock!*

-Disagree

-NYT Article re Pickleball noise, June 30

3. *Pickleball courts with shade trees near existing volleyball pits*
4. *No pickleball please*
5. *Convert tennis courts to pickleball or ADD pickleball*
6. *No noisy pickleball*
7. *A Note: Pickleball is noisy – NYT piece "Shattered nerves, sleepless nights. Pickleball noise is driving everyone crazy" June 30.*

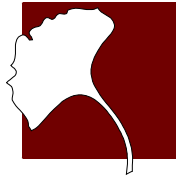


COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. *Hey North Richland Residents, you didn't fight to protect South Richland views—a nature center would be great and could be low profile*
2. *There are plenty of other places in Richland that are disused that could be developed for a bike skills track or education center. What about the part of Howard Amon that is east of the old Shilo inn along the golf course? What about the new green area at the entrance to town where the hotel was? Its near Lee and River access. What about doing something with the old Albertsons lot? Couldn't that be a bike course/rec center?*
3. *In the Snyder part of the park, please do not put a new building in! There is already a big parking lot, bathroom, boat launch, tennis courts, and basketball courts in this area. We don't need more!*
4. *Do not develop between Saint and Snyder. Please leave that portion of the park as it is. We own a home there on Harris and enjoy our views and watching the park used as is. Thank you.*
5. *No additional buildings, parking, or sports courts. No new pavement!*

OTHER

8. *Add Rock climbing wall to Leslie Groves Playground*
9. *New/more lighting—low elevation but solar powered not hard wired*
10. *Dog space and water access for dogs, more beach access for non motorized watercraft, open water swim lessons, native American first foods garden!*
11. *The grassy areas of the park between Snyder and Park is well used as is. No new concrete or buildings please. No pickleball courts please*
12. *More drinking fountains. More geocaching*
13. *Humanity and humor in signage eg Wenatchee*
14. *Community garden!*
15. *Add grass, bike trails to Hains Ave*
16. *Open up river views! All along*
17. *Leslie Groves sand volleyball courts area: No motorized watercraft in the river here. Sand pollution + not good for swimmers/paddlers/kayakers*
18. *Restrict music w/ harmful messages or harmful words (bad or inappropriate etc)*
19. *Take care of beautiful parks we have. Replace trees. Repair bike paths—Dike is DANGEROUS! Add sidewalk to Park St. entering park and don't allow parking on side of Park St. Pain signs on paths to delineate bikes and walking. Leslie groves at beach and volleyball courts is over utilized. Don't overpack park with too much!*
20. *I've never seen a baseball game in the park in 19 years. Remove single use infrastructure that is not used*
21. *We appreciate the educational signage along the river and more would be nice. We enjoy the native spaces*
22. *Fine the cat feeders (make it illegal to feed feral cats)*



Comment Cards

Comment Card #1

I see way too much development on all these plans.

In the last few (10 years) new amenities have been added and the upkeep has NOT kept up. More and more users and more and more garbage, bad drivers, and illegal activity by residents. These are housed individuals that visit Leslie Groves. I don't want more parking lots or more ability for people to drive in the park. There is so much garbage and lack of maintenance.

I don't want native planted areas touched at all. The area between Haines and volleyball courts should be planted with native plants.

No more parking lots and no more paths.

The park ranger doesn't have the ability or power to stop all the residents committing crimes. I see people driving on the bike paths everyday and lots of illegal drinking. Then people leave the park and drive way too fast through my neighborhood. I don't care about any non-motorized use or ebikes. There is no enforcement anyway with the speeding on the streets.

Comment Card #2:

- 1. Parking, especially on the summer weekends, is problematic. Implement a strategy to better manage where people park. If all the parking slots are filled, cars get parked in areas that are not designated as parking, and also over flower out on to the streets. Perhaps, clearly post non-parking areas and enforce towing.*
- 2. To generate revenue for maintaining the park, consider charging for parking (meters, or require a Discovery pass)*
- 3. Richland parks are well maintained. Thanks for the great job.*

Emailed Comment:

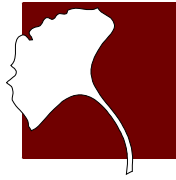
Ms. Jackson-Piper:

It was so good meeting you yesterday. Yes, I finally was able to render the video I had prepared for our chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Bear in mind, this video was meant to be seen well before the meeting by members of the club so that we could discuss the ideas in it to bring to the meeting.

The ideas are mine and are not necessarily backed by the CCL. This video was only to inform and to help generate ideas and discussions.

The video is "Unlisted" on our YouTube channel so only people with the link can view the video. Remember, anyone viewing should know that the suggestions are not necessarily backed by the CCL and only represent (so far) my suggestions. I hope you like this 14 minute video.

https://youtu.be/0_IZhUGJ6M



Emailed Comment:

Unfortunately I cannot attend tonight's meeting. I hope this letter carries as much weight as a chat.

I live near Leslie Groves park and use it daily. We walk and bike the river path, birdwatch, use the playground, enjoy the beach, paddle within the paddle zone, and play sports on the fields.

I would like to experience more shade trees. Particularly on the SW side of the playground, along the walking path and biking path within the developed park, and south of the volleyball courts in the natural area; as well as along the beach. Trees provide both shade and habitat.

I would like a simple pump track appropriate for children south of Newcomer between the biking & walking path. This would be a nice amenity for neighborhood children.

The city might consider developing the park north of Newcomer to provide additional shaded lawn & beach.

I worry that the city would consider additional car parking which would be a poor use of public land. Instead consider limiting on street parking within a block of entrances and additional secure bike parking.

The city ought to discourage drivers on the walking & biking paths with barriers at trail heads. Consider also the width of cargo bikes & bicycle trailers.

Please consider the impact that park improvements have on the popularity of the park. It is a splendid neighborhood park that recently gained regional attention. Please focus beach improvements on Columbia Marina park and increasing the size of Howard Amon by developing the road & parking area between Newton and the Fingernail as park space. The new beach is not that great.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Emailed Comment:

Leslie Groves long range plan: unfortunately I cannot attend tonight's meeting. I would like to stress the need for more shade trees - particularly at the beach and on the SW side of the playground, but also in the open lawn west of the biking trail path and volleyball courts. I would love to see a simple pump for track for small children south of Newcomer, between the walking & biking paths for neighborhood children. I worry that additional parking may be considered. I would propose eliminating on street parking within one block of park entrances and increasing bicycle parking within the park as a land use alternative.

End of Summary