

# Meeting Summary

<b>Owner:</b> City of Richland Parks and Recreation	
<b>Project:</b> Leslie Groves Master Plan	<b>Date:</b> September 27, 2023, 5-7:00pm
	<b>Location:</b> Community Center
<b>Meeting:</b> Public Workshop #3	<b>MTLA Project No:</b> 23-012

The following meeting summary expresses our understanding of the items discussed. Please provide any corrections, additions, changes, or questions to MT-LA in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of this document. A clarification or revised document will be issued.

Summary:

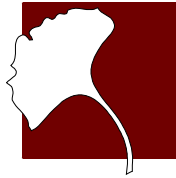
## Summary of Comments on Boards

**SECTION 1:** River Road access to parking lot – just south of Newcomer Street: includes separated pathways, pollinator and native American demonstration and education area and trail, educational signage, bike speed/safety signage, Columbia basin arboretum, update fitness equipment, grass amphitheater for learning and events, bollards to limit vehicular traffic.

Comments sorted by Category:

### NATURE, NATIVE/INVASIVE SPECIES

1. *Arboretum should help provide habitat*
2. *I like the vegetation management. Would make using trails more pleasant*
3. *Please please please remove Russian olive trees and keep them gone*
4. *Would be hard to have too much info RE: native plants*
5. *Please remove all the Russian olive trees here.*
6. *Will the arboretum be low growing plants? Worried about our river view! ("yes" added to sticky note)*
7. *Demos or 1-2 hour workshops so we can learn about native plants and their care*
8. *Love arboretum idea!*
9. *No new pockets of shade trees – priority needs to be on getting rid of Russian olive (sycamores too)*
10. *Arboretum should NOT block homeowner's views of river*
11. *Planting arboretum where residents are paying for extremely high property taxes may need to be rethought. The location for arboretum would be better placed where residents don't have views already!*



12. Arboretum – please recognize homes along river pay (in cost of home and property tax) for view of river. Planting a few trees ok but to create an arboretum is not my choice. Also what is an “adapted species”? Russian olive is a WEED and needs to be eradicated before it takes over ALL river property

#### TRAILS

1. *Please resurface the bike trails for a more pleasant ride*
2. *Decrease number of social trails between bike and ped trails*
3. *More crossing paths between bike and walking paths – neighbors need access to river too!*
4. *Having some shade on trails most wonderful in summer. Otherwise, renders trail unusable in summer sun*

#### PARKING

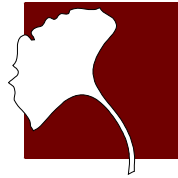
1. *Parking at Haines entrance appears adequate. Would not extend road and parking spaces further into park beyond current spaces*

#### SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

1. *Please take care of what you already have. Improve that like the tennis courts and basketball. Start there.*
2. *Clear by River Road parking lot there is small access for kayaks and paddleboards – clear vegetation so wider. Put in (illegible)*

#### OTHER

1. Grass amphitheater – not needed – already present in John Dam plaza
2. *Are the tribes part of this area? I like it, just want to ensure tribes are engaged*
3. Fitness equipment being installed in Howard Amon – don’t need to duplicate



**SECTION 2:** Newcomer Street to Saint Street: Includes Non-motorized watercraft access and beach, bike skills course, native plants, bicycle repair station, bike speed/safety signage, informational/educational signage

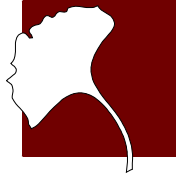
Comments sorted by Category:

#### SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

1. *What other locations could be chosen for the bicycle skills course? South of Howard Amon? Triton Sail Park?*
2. *Consider some other part in the city for this bike park idea*
3. *Do not clog the large open fields with soccer goals*
4. *Would like to see a small, natural pump track type bike course. Not built up for people to tag and break*
5. *Keep up the good work in caring for the grass in the large open fields – these spaces are used by many different groups*
6. *Proposed bike skills course should be somewhere else*
7. *No bike course – adds to noise, dust, traffic. Put in less used park of park. Not necessary to be along river!*
8. *Bike park will become a nuisance...tripping hazard for walkers and runners*
9. *No bike course! Will result in racing, noise, dust, and injuries. Not compatible with wildlife*
10. *No bicycle skills court – city will get sued if kids get hurt – too much liability*
11. *Advise against bike skills course. There is enough “organized” play structures (playgrounds/tennis/volleyball) that you don’t have to commercialize use of park. Let people use it without extra development.*

#### WATER ACTIVITIES

1. *Beach is well loved. Agree something needs to happen to increase capacity*
2. *Boat launch a good idea*
3. *Like the kayak access. Would like to see it kept small and quiet rather than another large, busy beach. Quiet access for non motorized recreation should be priority*
4. *How will the non motorized boat access handle the highly and rapidly changing fluctuating river stages*
5. *Boat launch can be put at an already existing dock in the park.*
6. *Non-motorized boat launch this is a great idea!*
7. *I like the accessible boat ramp. Great idea!*
8. *Put non motorized boat launch at end of Port of Benton Road: Eliminates conflict with motorized boats, paddlers want to go upstream, safer*
9. *Extend swimming beach from volleyball courts down to Newcomer*
10. *No new beach. Please preserve this natural habitat. Deer, fox, badgers, raccoons, porcupines, and beavers.*
11. *No need for boat ramp here (fishing dock) that is existing fishing dock and is well used*



#### NATURE, NATIVE/INVASIVE SPECIES

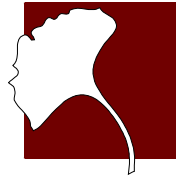
1. *Replace dead birch trees*
2. *Increase visual access to river good*
3. *Shade trees welcome. I love hearing birds in this section of park*
4. *Need to keep the natural areas for wildlife. Trim a little in front of benches for views*
5. *Is “vegetation management” really doing nothing – or will USACE let city remove Russian Olive.*
6. *Explain “vegetation management”*

#### PARKING/TRAFFIC

1. *We need a speed bump on Park street entrance to slow traffic in and out of the park. Cars are zipping in and out way too fast*
2. *Improve access on Park street – sidewalk on south side for many pedestrians. This is a safety issue. Add speed bump to slow down traffic. No parking along park – pedestrians are forced to walk in street and there are many speeding cars*
3. *More parking at Newcomer to allow better parking for volleyball players*
4. *No additional parking off of Park street – this area is too busy already! Who wants cars in their back yards?*
5. *Install speed bumps at the entrance of the park at the park street entrance. Too much speeding as cars exit*
6. *Increase parking at Newcomer to accommodate the volleyball players*
7. *The world is heating up. No new parking lots*
8. *Additional parking is not needed. Preserve the natural plants and animal habitat*
9. *No New parking! Parking lots only full 10 days per year. Plenty of parking along Harris for overflow parking*
10. *Please add bollards to prevent driving on trails*
11. *Add bollards and new curbs at Newcomer parking lot to deter motorized traffic from using trails*

#### TRAILS

1. *Improve signage for which is walking path and which is bike path*



**SECTION 3:** Saint Street to Native Plant Area. Includes Snyder Boat Ramp, nature education space, enhanced wayfinding and signage, bollards to limit vehicular traffic, basketball courts, pickleball courts, bike speed/safety signage, bicycle repair station

Comments sorted by Category:

#### NATURE, NATIVE/INVASIVE SPECIES

1. *There are a number of dead trees in this area. Please replant!*
2. *Appreciate the native plants. Please enhance this*
3. *More info and interaction with native plant area would be great*
4. *Occasional workshops about the plants in the native garden area. We want to learn about them!*

#### TRAILS

1. *Gravel (or similar) path through the native plant demo area so we can learn about the plants*  
*Appreciate the nature education space. I want to attract more children/youth to the area and help educate them to steward it*

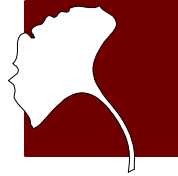
#### SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

1. *I like the pickleball courts*
2. *Yes pickleball fantastic!*
3. *Keeping the old tennis courts?*
4. *I think one basketball court (existing) is plenty (from my observation of its use)*

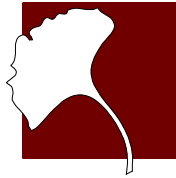
#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. *Appreciate the nature education space. I want to attract more children/youth to the area and help educate them to steward it*
2. *No educational nature space. Waste of money – blocks views, breaks up space used for soccer, bike polo, etc. Bad idea!*
3. *No! Do not social industrialize north Harris park 2200-2500 with new building, courts, etc. Want Park! Save our park!*
4. *No educational nature space. Waste of money – blocks views, breaks up space used for soccer, bike polo, etc. Bad idea!*
5. *Please preserve this natural landscape there is absolutely no need to build in this area.*
6. *I like the nature education space*
7. *I thought we already had “the reach” for demonstration. Do we need this building in the park? Please...no. Who will staff it. No, no no.*
8. *Like the native plant demonstration area and signage. Nature education space isn’t necessary. Agree with other notes that the REACH is covering this need for the area*

#### OTHER



1. *Know the Richland code on critical areas and shoreline regulations or you may find they severely impact your proposals*
2. *Please clean up the homeless camp in this area.*
3. *Cleanup of trash left by kids or homeless in wooded area. Snyder to Ferry*



## Additional Comment Board, Sorted by Category

### SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

1. *Volleyball and bike polo field across from the tennis court on Saint Street has a lot of undulations. So, please move the grass field plane and even by removing the undulations. Thanks!*
2. *Park should engage people at all ages – bike skills court needed*

### WATER ACTIVITIES

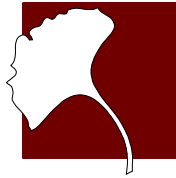
1. *Yes to dog swim beach!*
2. *Save the fishing dock without killing the beavers*
3. *Don't forget about how much the boat ramp is used*

### NATURE, NATIVE/INVASIVE SPECIES

1. *Keep it natural. Get rid of cheatgrass. Develop pollinator gardens. Designate a dog "swim beach"*
2. *Please keep good environment for birds and wildlife*
3. *Am concerned about apparent increase in loss of shade trees*
4. *Need to minimize impact to native birds and animals that live along the riverfront*
5. *Not many trees in an arboretum. Don't want to block river view*
6. *Need to provide more details as to what "manage vegetation" along the riverfront as well as "improved access" entails*
7. *I'm glad to see your plans include maintaining natural native plant areas, and encourage you to continue preserving and increasing native plants over weeds and non-native species, working within the shoreline protection and critical area requirements.*
8. *Please plant new trees to replace trees that have died or are clearly ill.*
9. *Cleanup of wooded area along river N of Snyder*
10. *Add/trim a few windows through trees where you can't see river*
11. *Will these plans still let wildlife use our shoreline as a corridor?*
12. *More shade, existing benches have to shade from summer sun*
13. *Would prefer the Leslie beach area remain pristine the brush area north and south of the park should remain untouched and preserve the natural habitat there are a multitude of animals to protect*

### PARKING/ TRAFFIC

1. *To discourage speeding install speedbumps at Park street and Newcomer. Makes it safer for bikers and pedestrians*
2. *Speed bumps at park and on Harris*
3. *Can a vacant lot be purchased to provide parking nearby Leslie Parks? More parking is needed! On sign at Park street: Lot full, go to Snyder*
4. *Simply saying no to new parking not a solution – need to find way to address public's love for this park*
5. *We need speedbumps at Newcomer and Park st*



6. *We need a speed bump at the Park st entrance (talk to people living there regarding placement of speed bump)*
7. *Please put speed bump on park st entrance! Also, newcomer!*
8. *No new parking at Leslie Groves. Leads to more litter-trash. Over parking area.*
9. *Too much Loud speeding down Harris in summer! And Newcomer*
10. *Parking way grading*

#### TRAILS

1. *Please limit the e-bike as it can go 22mph and dangerous on Park trail. Sawyer reservoir park in Bay area limit the speed at trail 5 mph, that's safety.*
2. *Improve the pavement in park trail. Also take care the weeds and overgrown as season goes for fire safety and human safety*
3. *No electric bikes, skateboards, scooters on walking paths*
4. *Please no electric bikes, scooters, etc. skateboards etc.*

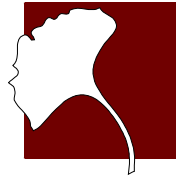
#### SIGNAGE

1. *E-bike management – speeds*
2. *Signage – bike and ped*
3. *Post signage separating the biking and walking paths. Include bike speed limits.*
4. *More good signage for parking on Harris on the west side, no new parking lot*

#### OTHER

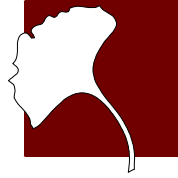
1. *Overall good job. Balancing multiple uses/needs for our park*
2. *Please make improvements to what you already have. Such as better and updated play equipment by the restrooms.*
3. *Bicycle parking stands, more recycling containers*
4. *Parks and Rec commission: anytime you clear vegetation from the shore you are dealing with losing the function of the shoreline and you have code and regulations that you must mitigate for that loss. State Law.*
5. *Recycling bins in the park*
6. *Garbage bins we need more in summer*
7. *We need more water fountains for dogs.*
8. *Need to increase garbage pickup in high use areas in Leslie groves*
9. *Some of these ideas negatively impact residents on Harris. Why do you want to cram so much into this narrow park with poor access? Share the load and develop in parks in other parts of the city. Improve paths and leave*
10. *No educational center! Will be underused and over tagged. Go to the Reach.*
11. *Make some benches a “talking bench” where people can talk with strangers*
12. *Would be nice to see specific timelines attached to the plan 5-10-15 years. Goals.*





## Emailed Comments

1. Section 1 - 1) Fitness equipment is being installed in Howard Amon Park - no need to duplicate 2) Arboretum - Please recognize homeowners along the river pay ( in cost of home and in property taxes) for river view. Planting a few tree is OK but to create an arboretum is not my choice. Also, what is an "adapted species?" Russian olive is a WEED and needs to be eradicated before it takes over all river property. 3) Grass amphitheater - not needed. Both John Dam plaza and Howard Amon already have large public theatres.  
Section 2 - 1) Advise against bike skills course. There are enough "organized" play opportunities (playgrounds, tennis, volleyball, basketball, pickle ball, soccer, etc.) that you don't have to commercialize use of the park. Let people use it without extra development. 2) explain "vegetation management" - the area between the walking and bike paths, as well as the area between the bike path and the homes needs vegetation management. This is especially important for preventing fires. 3) No need for boat ramp here - this is the existing fishing dock and is well used.  
Section 3- 1) I think one basketball court is enough. I assume the existing court will remain. Based on my observation, it is rarely used.
2. I would like to express my concern about the placement of new pickleball courts next to the tennis courts in the Leslie Groves Park. Tennis is usually a game played quietly so that the players can concentrate and strategize – think of Wimbledon. Even the crowds are quiet while the players play the game. Pickleball on the other hand is a very noisy game – think of being inside your house when it is being re-roofed. The tapping of that plastic ball is loud and annoying. The noise from the pickleball courts will negatively impact the tennis players if it is located so close to the tennis courts.  
The neighboring houses will also be inundated with that noise. If such a noise nuisance is installed in Leslie Groves Park, it could unfavorably impact the property values of the surrounding homes. In other areas that have been impacted by the noise of the pickleball courts they have erected 6-8 foot solid fences to make it quieter for the neighbors. I don't think this neighborhood would appreciate new 6-8 foot fence in the park. And if it is necessary to mitigate the noise by building fences, is there really any sense in locating these courts in a park where they block the river view?  
I believe the best place to locate new pickleball courts is in the Columbia Point Park. There are no houses near the park that would be bothered by the noise. The infrastructure already exists there – adequate parking, bathrooms, drinking water. None of that is currently available at the located proposed in Leslie Groves Park. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the plans for Leslie Groves park and for your consideration.
3. Look forward to the improvements at L.G park! • suggest improved & increased trash receptacles • hope AED's will be part of the planned improvements Thank you



#### Emailed Comments

1. I believe it is very important to keep wild natural areas along the river. It is not necessary to develop all the land in Leslie Groves park. Additional volley ball, pickle ball, basketball, tennis and soccer are better placed away from the river. Being able to walk through a wild area to enjoy hearing and seeing the birds, along with sighting of deer, beavers, foxes and raccoons is very special. The area south of the newcomer parking lot has a lot of milkweed which is necessary for Monarch Butterfly survival. Keep the natural spaces that we have!

End of Summary