



Coulter Grove Neighborhood Park

Key Takeaways from the third round of public outreach *(April 2026)*

This 3.17-acre site will provide a new neighborhood park for surrounding residents. In the last round of outreach, we learned more about the features and amenities residents would like to see. We used the feedback we received to inform three conceptual designs for the park.

The outreach consisted of an online survey and three open house meetings. The survey was open from April 3-17, 2026, and received 75 responses. It was emailed directly to HOA and community managers, the Southern Crossing and Southwest Bend Neighborhood Associations and to individuals on the project information list. It was also available on the project website. An open house was held at the district office on April 8, and there were two attendees. An onsite open house took place April 12; there were 14 attendees. An open house was held at Eagle Landing on April 14; there were three attendees.

Below are summaries of the three initial concept designs and the responses received from the survey. This feedback was used to inform the development of the preferred concept design.



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Option 1 - The Clearing

Inspired by the Coulter Family's connection to nature and their history of observing wildlife from the homestead, the design concept thoughtfully balances ecological restoration with vibrant park programming.

Soft-surface trails meander through restored native woodland and grassland habitats, immersing visitors in the natural landscape. Active recreation amenities—including a play area, picnic area, and flexible seating elements—are organized along the primary park pathway, framing a central, adaptable lawn designed to support a variety of community activities. Seating is distributed throughout the site to provide places of respite, while imaginative play features are carefully integrated within the woodland, fostering exploration and discovery. A sound wall provides a visual and auditory buffer between the park and US 97.



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Option 2 - The Grove

The design concept is rooted in the existing grove of mature trees, preserving and celebrating this defining natural feature of the site. Primary park pathways guide visitors toward the heart of the park, where nature play, a covered picnic area, and hammocks are thoughtfully nestled within existing clearings among the trees.

The picnic area and hammocks are intentionally located near the former site of the Coulter family home, honoring the history of the property as a place of gathering and connection. Along the perimeter loop path, active recreation elements—including a flexible lawn, bike feature, and half-court basketball—create energy at the park's edges while maintaining a calm, shaded core. A solid fence along US 97 establishes a visual buffer, enhancing comfort and reinforcing a sense of enclosure within the park.



Option 3 - The Yard

Inspired by the site's history as a homestead and neighborhood gathering place, "The Yard" imagines the park as a community backyard—an inviting and flexible space where recreation is balanced with history and nature.

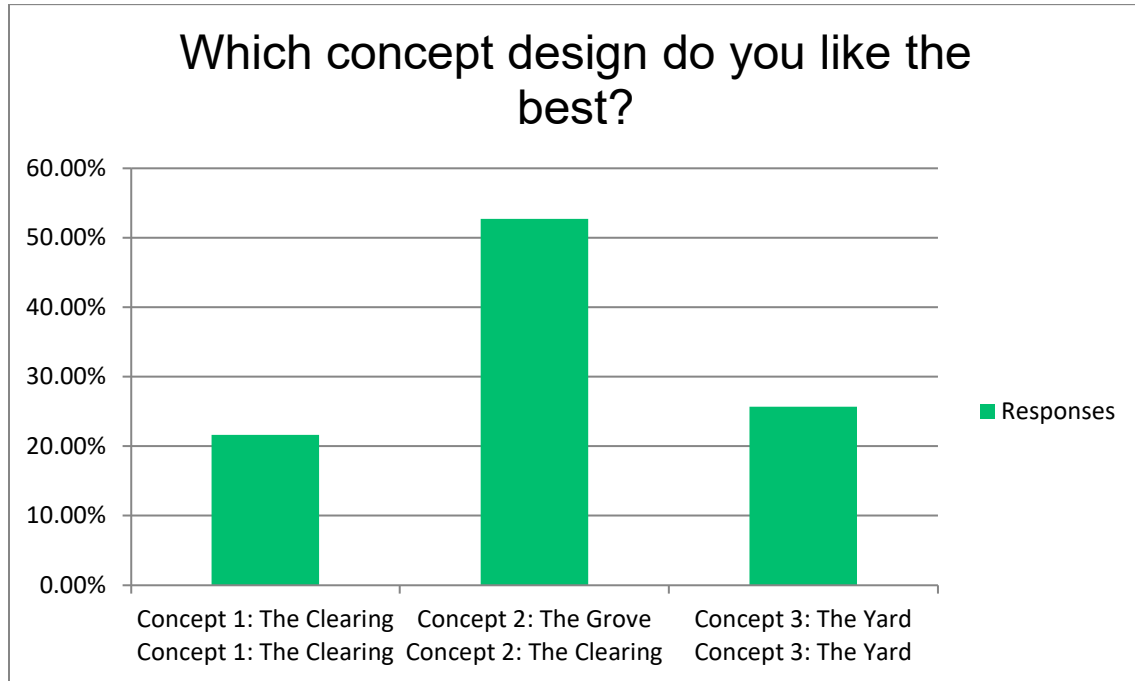
Located in the existing clearing, the play area, half-court basketball court, exercise stations, and bocce court are clustered to form an active center. An ornamental garden frames the bocce court, honoring the site's history. A flexible lawn, covered picnic area, and swings surround the active park center and provide spaces for informal recreation and community gathering.

Along US 97, a berm planted with native vegetation establishes a natural visual buffer, while the existing chain-link fence remains as a physical barrier, enhancing safety and comfort along the park's edge.



Survey Responses

Question 1



Answer Choices		Responses	
Concept 1: The Clearing		21.62%	16
Concept 2: The Grove		52.70%	39
Concept 3: The Yard		25.68%	19
Answered			74
Skipped			1



Question 2: Briefly describe what you like about your preferred option.

Option 1: The Clearing

Chose this option because of the sound barrier, which I think is essential. Also like the idea of a soft trail looping around the park.
I like the inclusion of the soft-surface trail. I also like the sound wall. It also seems to be the design that leaves the park in its most natural state, which I like. There is already a nearby park on Brookswood that has a basketball court, so it seems a nice contrast to leave this park more nature-oriented.
It is the most in line with the beautiful nature that we already have and are losing due to different construction throughout Bend as it grows. We don't need another manufactured looking park. I love the soft surface trails and nature inspired imaginative play features
I prefer the sound wall over the other barrier options (with the solid wall being a close second). For the second option, I have some concerns about the hammocks and how they may be used.
The sound wall is a must.
I love the idea of extending the sound wall. I think that will make the park experience more enjoyable and calm from a traffic noise perspective. In there future, amenities could be added or changed regardless, but I'm guess the wall or fence will not be revisited anytime soon.
Maintains existing trees, soft surface trail, play and picnic areas outside of trees
The meandering soft trails, quiet core area, integrated play areas and the sound wall blocking 97
Trails and seating
Retains the most natural space— with solid dirt trail that minimizes impact on the space.
I really enjoy the idea of having a soft surface dirt trail rather than all paved trails through the park that also fits the natural features that already exist. The sound wall makes sense to reduce noise, and the concept would invite the neighborhood to use the multipurpose space!
Soft surface trail rather than paved trails. More natural setting without the basketball court, and the bouce ball.
play area, lawn, and more walking paths
I chose #1 because I think a sound wall should be a top priority. I cannot imagine doing any of the activities in the park with the constant hum of traffic which is 24/7. I also like keeping the existing trees and the sense of nature it provides.
It looks more cooler
Lots of natural areas for wildlife, birds to enjoy while letting people enjoy the area as well

Option 2: The Grove

Prioritizing natural land and trees, while adding a play/exercise equipment and a basketball court
Seems the most age appropriate for my child
Seems like the grove has the least amount of pavement
Nature play and basketball
I love the nature playground and the bouldering wall, I think the half basketball court would fit a need in the neighborhood, and the layout just seems to utilize and respect the natural elements of the space the best. I really like the perimeter trail.
The picnic area will be great in the summer and I really like the hammocks and rock wall



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I love the hammock area and rock climbing feature
I really like the climbing area and the hammocks.
I believe it is a good combination of both activity and relaxation. The climbing boulder is a personal favorite of mine.
I like the long walking path loop around the park, not just paths to the amenities.
The overall layout of the park. The placement of the basketball court in comparison to nature play area. Also the hammock concept is really cool.
I like the long trail around the park and the other, wider paths that meander through. I like that the basketball court and bathrooms are situated closer to the parkway than to our homes.
Basketball court near the louder area, more nature near the quieter area. Something for everyone.
The basketball and climbing
climbing boulder, hopefully it will be large enough for adults and not just kids. I love the hammocks.
I like maintaining the homestead area- hammock area, the pathway flow feels nice for families to enjoy the different areas of the park, a basketball court- feels like family time, and play nestled in the trees.
I like the hammocks and climbing boulder
I like the grove because you feel surrounded by the trees. I would like to still see an ornamental garden in this option too!
Wide variety
The larger lawn allows for more sport practice space, lengthy dog runs for fetch, and community gatherings.
Personally, I just enjoy the idea of being surrounded by brush and trees in a playground. It gives it a very nice nature aesthetic that will hopefully block out the surrounding buildings and rural life
Kids are already playing basketball in the circle, I think it's nice to give them a real spot to do it. Hammocks and nature play and climbing boulder are all great uses.
I think it makes sense to put the basketball (louder use) closer to 97 and really like the nature play elements. I appreciate that the design embraces existing site opportunities and constraints
It would be perfect for my family of young kids!
The different amenities offered. Love the idea of a boulder. Lawn seems nice.
Love the climbing boulder! And the more natural option
Covered picnic, basketball court that is hidden. More natural looking features.
The climbing wall and exercise room equipment
The nature setting is a great place to congregate with neighbors
Keeps park the most natural to preserve Bend's beauty.
Need some climbing in the area.
The climbing boulder
I like the nature play, the climbing boulder, and the basketball court.
Best layout and blend of nature, recreation, and open space. LOVE the climbing wall and hammocks!
In the second example i like were the park includes amenities like the play area and basketball court,
I like how it invites you to the trees instead of keeping you on the fringes. Good balance of nature and recreation. I like the court near the parkway.
I like the loop trail and the play spaces being mixed under the mature trees that give it a forest feeling. I also like that it offers basketball as an additional activity space.



B ball court near the highway. Hammocks. Keeping the woodsy feel.

Option 3: The Yard

I like the swings And the cover picnic area.

I like everything about concept 3

Minimal unnatural colors used. Usable amenities. Clean looking space.

Retains the forested feeling of the space and integrates play, rest, and activity spaces

Lots of raw nature kept. Lots of activities to do.

Larger area of woodlands, play area, basketball court and exercise stations are a great bonus.

I really like the Ornamental Gardens

We like the exercise area

It's more for teenagers and kids.

Basketball court and exercise area and play area

I really like how there is a trail to walk around the park in the first option, however it seems a bit plain in the front with only simply having a play area, and a flexible seating. Therefore, I think option 3 is the best because it comes with diversity of choices around the park, and especially the swing sweats, but one small thing I slightly dislike is that I doesn't have a small trail around the park to walk.

It has a basketball court

Everything is together

Installing exercise stations in parks is a highly regarded amenity that offers numerous physical, social, and mental health benefits to the community. These outdoor fitness zones act as free, accessible, and versatile, open-air gyms, transforming ordinary parks into holistic, multi-generational wellness spaces

The yard offers a diverse amount of activities for wide variety of park users.

It combines nature and recreation. If people just want nature jump on the river trail. Kids need a place to play with actual activities.

Where's the robot?

It's more colorful and had a basketball court

It has the most appealing features for me. It also puts them furthest from the highway.



**Question 3: Is there anything you do not like in your preferred concept design?
If so, please describe.**

Option 1: The Clearing

Would like the play area and associated seating to be located as in Option 2.
No.
The sound wall is expensive and manufactured looking maybe there could be more done within the park by saving money and using the chain-link fence with natural growth which is more appealing driving by from the highway, also maintains the whole aspect of nature
N/A
No basketball, or older kid recreation option
Would like to see some kind of bike area for kids either a pump track or even the trail area if was a connected loop for kids to use
It would be nice to have trees and vegetation planted near the wall to keep the nature theme in the park. Would a wall invite graffiti?
Not a lot of seating, maybe another picnic table in the middle of the park— different style of seating would be appreciated
Instead of just flexible seating, providing a mix of the swing seats or hammocks like in designs 2 & 3.
I'm not sure why number one is called the clearing and number two is called the Grove. I don't want any of the Pondo's taken out.
I would love if there were a small enclosed dog park area
I have some concerns about street parking, wondering how that will affect homeowners driving in and out of their neighborhood.
Way bigger playground for kids
more seating in the interior would be good

Option 2: The Grove

The solid fence along the parkway. Chain link with shrubs/trees is nicer
Public hammocks, this just seems like a bad idea. If all is well it seems like a sanitarty concern. Then the city is basically providing beds for homeless.
I don't think hammocks are necessary, people can hang their own
I'd prefer the soft surface trail
I question the hammocks from a germaphobe perspective. I probably wouldn't choose to lay down in them myself. I also wonder if they would attract people to sleep in them overnight.
Nope
The fence type was not optimal.
N/A
Not having a sound wall. The sound of the parkway for the overall park will make it noisy.
I don't like the perimeter fencing. Fences are inherently divisive and there's no need for a fence on the north, south, or west sides.
It doesn't have a fenced area for dogs. This park is too close to the highway for off-leash dog play without a fence. There are a lot of dogs in this neighborhood.



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I worry about the misuse of the hammocks and if they will be sustainable.
No
I wish it had more space for native plants
Please put the climbing boulder closer to the rest of the play space so parents can see more than one child if one goes to the boulder.
Maybe if the playground was a little bit bigger that would be nice
I don't think it needs a bathroom as a neighborhood park. I also don't think the trail should be paved, but should be soft/natural. See below.
can we put the sound wall in this concept? I'm sure it's expensive, but a good long term investment.
I think any of the options should include the sound wall as seen in concept 1. Minimizing noise, visual, and pollution from the parkway should be a huge priority as things like pollution have a documented negative impact on health. Keep as many trees as possible.
Maybe something other than hammocks?
The hammocks
The hammocks just because we would prefer not to have overnight visitors
Hammocks as flexible seating. May invite homeless to sleep behind my house and would not be safe for my toddlers.
Paved trails.
I would prefer that not all trails are paved. A combination would be nice.
No
One concept design that i had in mind was the first image where the area that holds the playground could be arranged in different way in order to make room for amenities like benches and shade or buildings of sorts.
Perhaps missing some seating around the edges of the lawn, more in the sun.
I think only two hammocks are needed for this size park. And maybe with less hammocks, another type of swing could be added in the space, like a nest swing or bench swing, so people that options for lying and looking up through the trees. Kids and teens also love swings!
Concerned about stolen and or vandalized hammocks.

Option 3: The Yard

From this point of view it looks like the play area does not have that much to play on so you can add like a treehouse thing and stuff like that.
It would be really nice to have a little pump track please
Can we move the hiway to Nevada?
Prefer a sound wall to a solid or chain link wall
I like the idea of the solid wall along 97, not a chain link fence (just asking for kids to climb that). I also think if it's a "restored area" in a park people are just going to walk and trample through it.
Please make the play area accessible and enjoyable for all ages. Avoid "modern" concepts like the play area at Juniper, it's lame.
No
The basketball court is only half court
There is nothing that I dint like.
Bocce ball, because at place of bocce ball we should put hammock over there



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Not having a small trail around the park.
It's only one basketball hoop instead do two
No i like it
No
Could there be low 3ft sectional wall between the woodland and grassland areas to keep younger kids corralled before they reach the chain link fence, no real distraction from the parkway.
More grass would be nice for kids to play sports. A 1/2 soccer field would suffice.
i see no robot?
A lot of land since its a small place it should have a bigger play ground
It would be nice if the restroom was closer to both parking areas.

Question 4: If there are aspects of the other two options you would like to incorporate into your preferred option, please describe.

Option 1: The Clearing

Would like a small covered picnic area as in Options 2 and 3.
I think the inclusion of hammocks would be nice.
Maintain the mature trees as much as possible, and incorporate them like in number two
It would be great if a basketball or bocce ball court was still possible but I also understand there may be budget constraints with either of those plus a sound wall. And in that instance, I'd much prefer the sound wall.
Option two might be a solid option, but worry about noise even with a solid wall, and do not like the idea of hammocks. Do not think people would use them for leisure, and would more likely end up being a source of frustration.
Love the climbing and bouldering areas and swings
Add additional trees on east side like concept 3, add the concept 2 climbing boulder somewhere south of the play area or toward the southwest corner.
I like the hammocks idea. Plus as stated above Mabel using plantings to bring more of a nature feel/hide the wall.
Outdoor fitness equipment!! And retaining a piece of the ornamental garden
I think having exercise stations incorporated into this design would be a massive hit! It provides both adult activity and play areas for younger individuals. I also like the idea of incorporating the garden or bocce court to honor the parks history.
Number two retains the rock outcropping. I want that kept in number one. Number three seems to have more trees. Please keep all the Pondo trees.
Things I like about #2 and would love to see it added to #1; the rock climbing boulder, the nature play area, and I would be ok with a 1/2 basketball court if on the east side of the park. I like the exercise area of #3! I think a blend of natural tones and a few colorful ones would be cool.
No
I think the half court basketball near the cul-de-sac would be good as it's being used that way now



Option 2: The Grove

I'd include more playground equipment for kids, especially the younger ones
Immaginative play area, flexible seating
Soft surface trail
The swings from the yard option might be a good replacement for the hammocks, they seem fun. People might also enjoy the exercise area from the Yard. I see people take exercise equipment down to "the ruins" on the canal trail. I also like the soft trail option from clearing for the option of doing intervals as a trail runner, but it's not essential.
I like the sound wall over the solid fence
Sound wall
I liked the imaginative play area and swing seats.
I do really enjoy the visual appeal of the Ornamental gardens.
Sound wall is needed. Swinging seats would be cool as well and the Bocce Ball court would be a unique addition.
Rock wall. Dog park.
exercise stations
I like the flexible seating in the first concept, and simplicity. Fitness equipment is fun and useful for many- and we don't have parks with this feature.
Exercise stations and more seating/picnic tables, and bocce court
I like the outdoor gym of option 3, I think that would be awesome too add to the "grove"
Exercise stations in #3
The sound wall, though expensive, is nice. Exercise station near NE corner with hope that a trail will eventually connect to the COID trail via ODOT ROW. A softer running trail is better. Seating next to the play area is preferred for caregivers.
N/A
Sound wall from option #1 for sure. Parkway is loud, and if you're going to put something up it might as well be the sound wall. I see no reason to do anything else. Soft surface trails as well. Pavement cracks and looks bad, ruins the natural feel. Also, I'd love a little ornamental garden! Native flowers can be so pretty.
Sound wall.
Noise wall.
I would like the bocce balls, swing seats, and fitness added to the second design. The sound wall should be on all the designs.
Picnic tables
Picnic tables or flexible seating in place of hammock
The soft trails in the clearing option.
I like the Sound Wall in option 1
one would be including areas for activates such as, open fields for practice of some sort like soccer or football were its a good area another would be basketball move to the edges as it could be benifital for spaces and benches.
I like the flower idea in the 3rd option, so maybe it could be included by native or low-water wildflower that could be intermixed to the grassland area. That would be very pretty and I don't think any other BPRD parks have something like that right now.
Swings are nice to have.



Option 3: The Yard

The climbing bolder and the flexible seats.
Add the Bocce court!!
Yes. The hammocks within the trees seem amazing. I'd love to read a book in them. And a walking trail that would extend from the covered picnic area and create a semi - circle to the east side through the native grasslands and reconnect on the north/central walkway. Would be nice to create a small walking loop and encourage people to use that space of the park but still helping preserve trampling of the restored native area.
Hammocks and an additional imaginative nature play area in the woodland section.
No
The hammocks and different seating. Are these cleaned regularly?
no everything is good
I only like third and second because on second I only like hammock that's it
Maybe add something more engaging in option 1, for example the exercise stations in option 3, or a sand volleyball field. And, option 2 has a basketball court in front of a highway.
nothing
Non
No
A winding trail from concept 1
Nope
if you add a robot, it would make it 10x better
The bathroom locations in the other two options are in better locations, in my opinion.

Question 5: Is there anything you feel is missing from the concepts? If so, please describe.

Lots of great ideas in these concepts...it's going to be a wonderful new asset for the neighborhood. Thanks for developing these thoughtful concepts and listening to neighborhood feedback.
Pet waste stations. There are so many dogs living around here and so these will be so important to keeping the park clean.
Nope
Nope
N/A
Picnic tables in the grass areas as well.
Would really love a highly visible crosswalk across Reed lane for kids on that side of the road to be able to navigate to the park more safely.
n/a
Pump truck
Slide
What is shown is sufficient given the size of the area.
fenced dog area

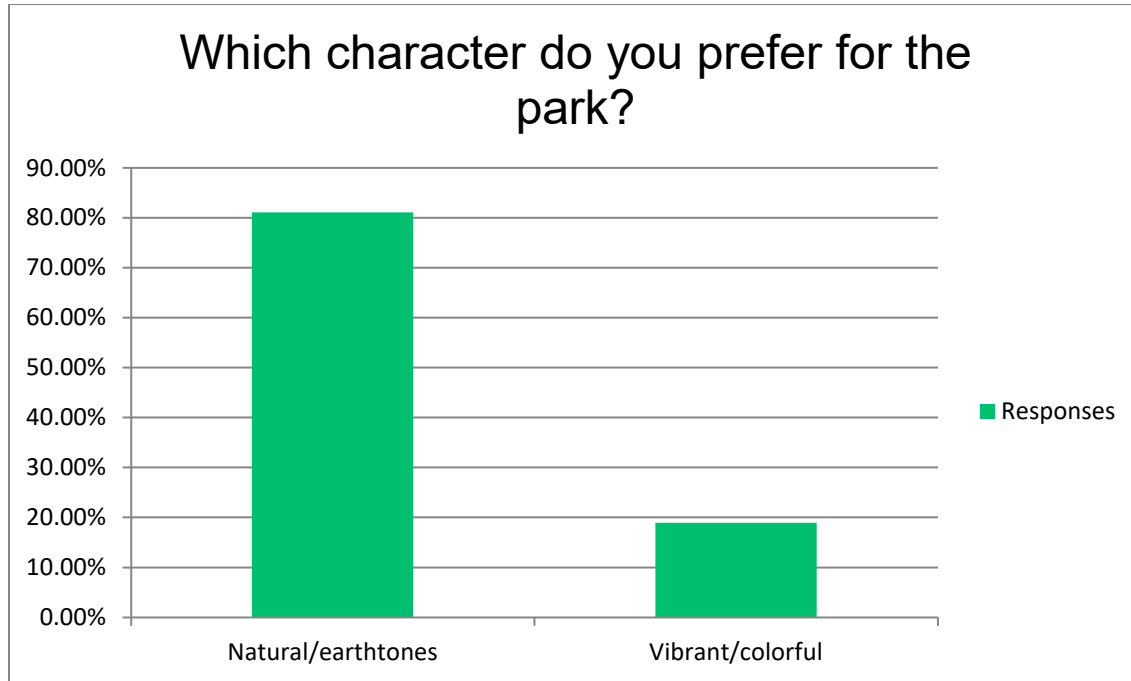


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NA
No
I think they are great!!
The lawn area doesn't look like it has much shade for lounging in summer. Fenced area for dogs?
A more solid barrier between the street and lawn is preferable for errant practice balls, dogs, and small children. A sign that outlines some neighborhood jogging routes, ending in the park, with mileage.
Dog poop bag stations. Water stations.
I think a small pond would be nice
I feel like if there isn't a fenced off-leash dog area, then the whole park just becomes an off-leash dog area. Though perhaps not, since it's so close to the highway. Kinda just thinking out loud.
Maybe lots of trees
Sand volleyball, or grass volleyball
nothing missing
N/A
i think soccer nets are missing
No
No
What happened to the idea of exploring the bike skills area (this is Rachel :) I'm ok with that, but wonder if the school district found an option on district property or is focused on the Core Area? It would be a nice amenity to have, ideally on district property.
A complete nonscalable fence around the entire park. Have the park open daylight to dusk or slightly beyond and then lock it up so the homeless don't take over.
A possible water spray feature.
No
Dog park area
A sauna 😊
NA, prefer as much natural park as possible
Dog park.
No
More over safety? On the edges of the road where it feels safe.
the robot playset with eyes that glow at night where people can go inside the head and press buttons and the arms act like slides, it would make it unique and stand out as a playground.
It being more high school appropriate not as much land we have many other parks with land its small so more play area
Make a huge playground add a full court basketball have kids interact more
The only thing I can think of is an off-leash dog area but the space may not be large enough for that.



Question 6



Answer Choices	Responses	
Natural/earthtones	81.08%	60
Vibrant/colorful	18.92%	14
Answered		74
Skipped		1

Question 7: Rank the unique amenities shown in the concepts in order from most to least preferred.

1. Climbing boulder
2. Imaginative nature play
3. Flexible seating
4. Exercise stations
5. Shelter
6. Half-court basketball
7. Ornamental garden
8. Swing seats
9. Hammocks
10. Bocce court



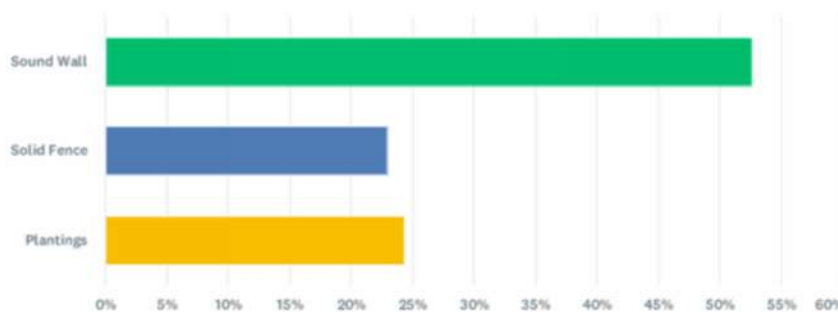
Question 8: Rank potential play types in order from most to least preferred.

1. Climbing
2. Swinging
3. Balancing
4. Sliding
5. Monkey bars
6. Seesaw
7. Musical instruments

Question 9

Q9 The proposed options to buffer Highway 97 from the park have different associated costs. The sound wall is most expensive; the plantings are least expensive, and the solid fence is in between. Allocating more money for the buffer will result in less budget for the other park amenities. Considering the tradeoffs, which is your preferred type of buffer between the park and the highway?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 1



Post-outreach note: Based on survey responses, the district evaluated the feasibility of constructing a sound wall. With concept-level estimates ranging from \$250,00 - \$500,000 it was found to be cost prohibitive to build a sound wall as part of the park project. It is not included in the preferred concept design.



Question 10: Please share any additional comments.

In regards to the parkway noise, I live in the apartments near the space. The highway noise really is very loud. Some of the residents facing the new park space can't leave their balcony doors open because the noise drowns out conversation IN the apartment. Also, we're so excited this space is going to be a park. It's a beautiful area and we love walking around the perimeter of the grounds in the morning. Thank you for preserving the trees and being thoughtful of how to maintain the "essence" of the space.
I would like nature to be integrated throughout park.
N/A
I like having a park where I can use the walking paths to walk my dog and enjoy shaded nature.
Make sure it's ADA friendly
I'm a 17 year resident on the south side of this parcel and the open space is something I've always loved about it, even back when it had the old dilapidated shack on it. I'd love to see the space remain as open as it is. My garage door faces the south side of the space and I'd hate for there to be a fence erected there. Fences, particularly when they're not actually necessary, are divisive and uninviting. Please don't do that to the neighborhood.
Everything about concept 3 is good it just needs a pump track a lot of people and kids like to ride bicycles and it's really fun on a pump track i think it would be really popular
Excited!!
Would be nice to have some idea of how much sound reduction would be provide by sound wall vs. solid fence, and difference in cost.
I love what you are doing! Thank you
If there is an option for fundraising for additional amenities please inform the local areas
The sound wall would be the best, but if it's significantly more money, a solid fence that's 8' tall would help with the sound quite a bit. Plants will take a long time to be effective.
Honestly, I think it would be a great addition if this park was more nature focused. And personally, I would really love if there was a saucer swing to go with the swing set
Thanks for doing this! I'm excited to see how it all turns out. Sound wall for sure :)
No.
We like the diversity for all the age groups
Non
this park has everything also has a diversity for all the different age groups
this is a tough one. Having nice amenities is so important, but the proximity of the park to 97 has noise and AQ impacts that are expensive/hard to mitigate.
Sound wall and boulder please!
Please leave the park as natural as possible, and do not cut down any Pondos!!!
Planting would be large trees which could also absorb some pollution and sound.
With the crosswalk there and current opening to HWY 97 I am concerned that homeless will try and set up in the park. Good security and monitoring will be necessary to keep our children safe and keep the park a family friendly neighborhood asset.
I think whatever you guys do will be great for our neighborhood! We really would love a more natural look



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Recognizing the sound wall is the most expensive, but wonder if park amenities could be added in the future?
Please install bathrooms as far away from houses on Merriewood Ln as possible.
I think the addition of the climbing wall is HUGE! I know there are several families in the area that climb, it promotes the healthy active lifestyle Bend is all about, it appeals to a wide age range, encourages social interaction and community bonding, and is a cost effective and low maintenance structure. We are all very much looking forward to a nearby, safe, and free climbing option! Thanks!
For a park near houses we should include many things for all.
Add the robot
Add a huge playground
Thank you for reaching out to the community as you proceed with the design and build. It's been great to see.
Flowers please!

For questions and comments, please contact the project manager, Bronwen Mastro, (541) 706-6152, bronwenm@bendparksandrec.org