



LITHIA PARK

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Design Week

Public Engagement Summary

Overview

During “Design Week,” centered on June 12-15, 2018, the Lithia Park Master Plan team (APRC and consultants) developed concepts and alternatives in an open studio at the Ashland Community Center. Throughout the week, the project team facilitated a variety of formal and informal opportunities that were focused on vision and concept development for the Lithia Park Master Plan.

The public was invited to attend any events scheduled as part of Design Week (see attached schedule) with formal input activities scheduled for the evenings including:

- **Public Visioning Event** (facilitated interactive public workshop focused on vision and visitor experience)
- **Listening Post** (pinup of preliminary concepts for informal drop-in review)
- **Public Workshop** (facilitated workshop for public review of concepts)

In addition, community members could drop in during the open studio for a chance to join consultant team members and APRC staff for discussions about the park and master plan project, express concerns, and share project ideas. For those who could not attend any of the Design Week events or for those who wanted to share additional thoughts, the conceptual designs were available online for feedback. For more details about the Design Week events, see the schedule in the appendix.

Community Feedback

Below are summaries of the Public Visioning Event held on Tuesday, June 12; the Listening Post, held on Wednesday, June 13; the Public Workshop held on Thursday, June 14; and the Online Concept Review, which was available during the month of July.

PUBLIC VISIONING EVENT

The public vision event kicked off Design Week. Community members joined small groups discussions facilitated by project team members. They talked about what the heart of the park is to them, which experiences they enjoy and/or dislike, and which values they feel the master plan should address. These smaller conversations were reported back to and discussed with the assembled group of participants to end the evening.



LITHIA PARK

THE NEXT
100
YEARS

Through that, the public voiced support for *sustaining*:

- Ecology (invasive management, wildlife/habitat, climate change resilience)
- Park and infrastructure maintenance
- Diverse usership
- Open spaces for gathering and play
- Historic character (seasonal color)
- Park policies

Values that members of the community would like Lithia Park to retain include:

- Celebrating history and traditions
- Access to the park
- Expanding creek health
- Solitude
- Enjoying nature/wild areas

Experiences that members of the community would like Lithia Park to retain include:

- Water
- Sounds
- Walking
- Creek
- Tree Canopy
- Nature



Public Visioning Event small group discussion (left) and large group discussion (right)



LITHIA PARK

THE NEXT
100
YEARS

LISTENING POST



Members of the Ashland community dropped in to participate in design discussions on Wednesday, June 13, which were shared later that evening at the Listening Post.

During the day on Wednesday, the design team developed concepts for three primary topics that arose out of the Public Visioning Event: overall park spaces and character, circulation, and creek/forest health and sustainability. On Wednesday evening, in-process design ideas and concepts developed earlier that day were pinned up at the Lithia Park Bandshell to prompt discussions with community members.

Community feedback during the Listening Post covered many diverse topics:

- Continue to offer Lithia water
- Concern about invasive plant species
- Desire for sitting areas along creek
- Successional planting strategies
- Ashland Creek and pond health
- Safety
- Dog policy
- Signage
- Circulation conflicts and methods of mitigating those conflicts between vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians
- How to celebrate the Ashland Women's Association
- Recognize full history of park (American Indians)
- Desire for more drinking fountains



LITHIA PARK

THE NEXT
100
YEARS

- Restore Perozzi Fountain/Abraham Lincoln statue
- Turn gravel pit into mountain bike pump track and bouldering wall
- Access and accessibility
- Fire/Flood Risks
- Neighborhood connections



Community members spoke with the design team about in-process concepts and ideas.

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES REFINEMENT

Feedback that was received at the Listening Post was used to refine concepts on Thursday. Members of the community continued to drop in and see how design concepts were progressing and offer their feedback. They also provided feedback on other issues or topics of concern. These comments were used to refine ideas which were then presented to the community at the workshop that evening.



LITHIA PARK

THE NEXT
100
YEARS



The project team refines concepts for the Design Alternatives Workshop

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES WORKSHOP/ONLINE WORKSHOP

The culmination of the week's design development and community input gathering sessions was presented to the community for their input on Thursday, June 14. The Lithia Park Master Plan team asked for feedback on:

- Lithia Park Legacy Guiding Principles
- Guidance on the future character of Lithia Park
- Ideas and issues that have been raised by the community
- Design Alternative Concepts

Some of the in-person workshop activities were replicated in an online format, that was available for two weeks to provide additional opportunities for input.

Lithia Park Legacy Guiding Principles

The guiding principles were developed in response to the strong community feedback about love for the park and its legacy. The team presented eight Legacy principles, crafted to help retain Lithia Park's character yet allow it to adapt over time. Public feedback indicated that the principles captured ideas that were generally acceptable, but that more refinement and detail was needed for people to be able to evaluate them.

- Honor the legacy, adapt for today
- Orchestrate movement into and through the park
- Provide a diverse sequence of spaces and experiences
- Emphasize places for solitude and gathering
- Provide access for all
- Prioritize restorative connections to nature
- Regenerate healthy habitats
- Build to last

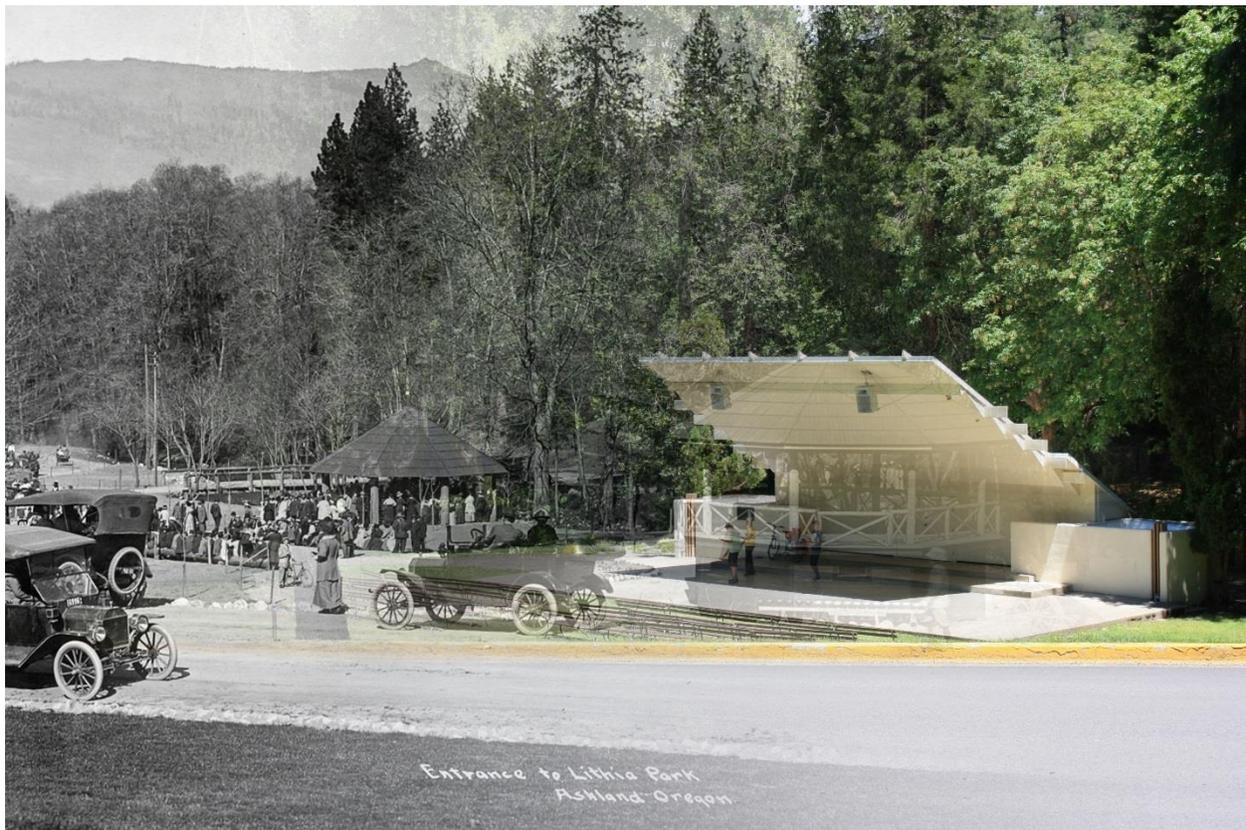


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THE NEXT
100
YEARS



Composite photographs of historic and contemporary images of the Lower Duck Pond (left) and Atkinson Bridge (right)



Composite photograph of historic and contemporary images of the Bandshell

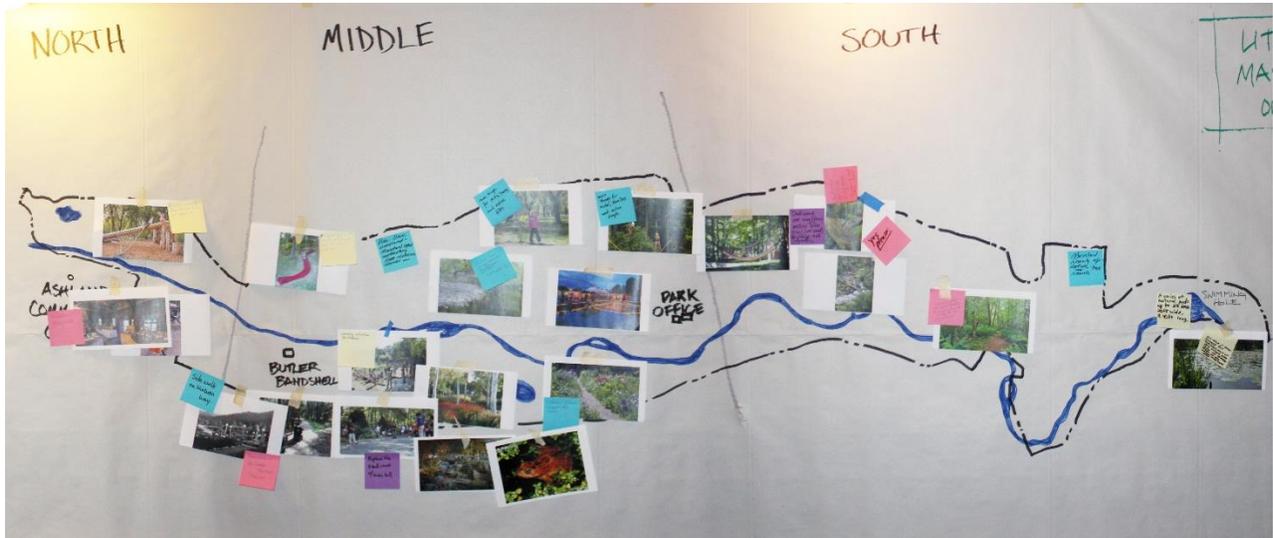


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THE NEXT
100
YEARS

Mood Board: What is the future character of Lithia Park?

Community members were asked to post images on an outline of Lithia Park at the workshop that matched their wishes for the park's future character. A photograph of that activity from the workshop is included along with a collage of the images that were chosen to give a sense of the feedback received.

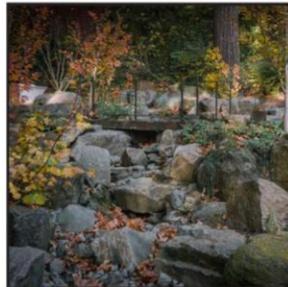
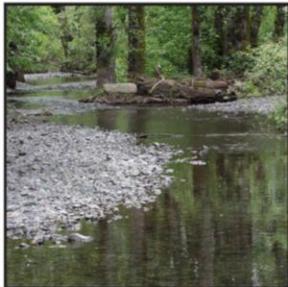


Mood Board from the Design Alternatives Workshop



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THE NEXT
100
YEARS



Images from the Mood Board

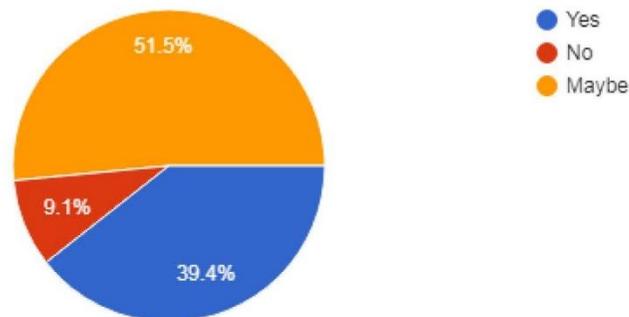


Do You Want to See These Ideas and Issues Addressed in the Master Plan?

A series of questions was asked of workshop attendees who indicated preferences by a show of hands. These questions were repeated in the online format. This section presents graphs showing the online responses, with comments on how the in-person Design Week feedback compared. Overall, responses between both audiences aligned and the community expressed support for pursuing solutions related to these issues and ideas.

1. Repurpose the Maintenance Yard

33 responses



Majority responses received during design week were for yes.

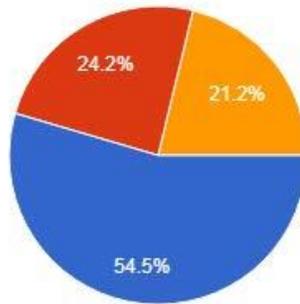


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THE NEXT
100
YEARS

2. Incorporate Nature Play

33 responses



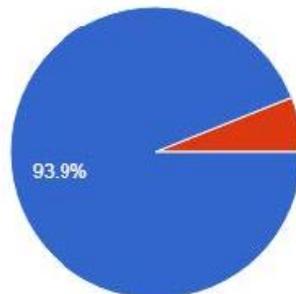
- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comments received during Design Week:

- Consider, but keep quiet zones
- Would like play leaders
- Education for all ages → nature center

3. Improve Ashland Creek Health

33 responses



- Yes
- No
- Maybe

These generally follow responses received during design week.

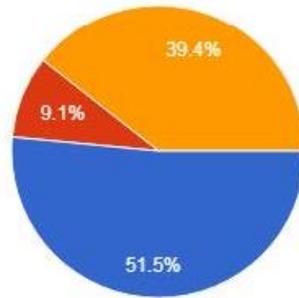


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THE NEXT
100
YEARS

4. Treat Stormwater

33 responses



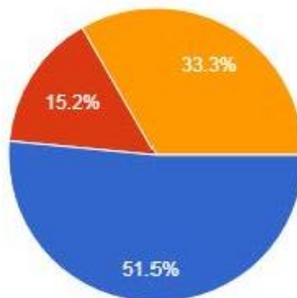
- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comments received during Design Week:

- Size and context
- Location

5. Remove or Drain the Dam

33 responses



- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comments received during Design Week:

- Mixed response
- Current swimming hole is not a good experience
- Financial concerns
- Would it provide enough habitat benefit for the cost?
- Eliminate TID water?

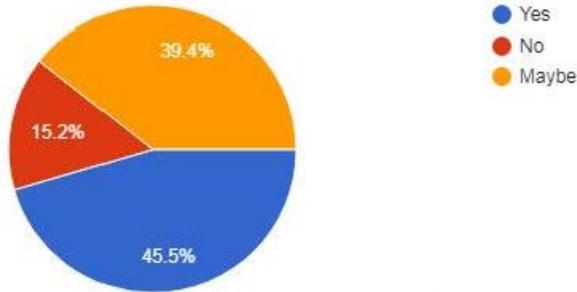


LITHIA PARK

THE NEXT
100
YEARS

6. Tame Winburn Way

33 responses



These generally follow responses received during design week

Design Concept Alternatives

Design concepts were developed throughout the week by members of the project team with a great deal of support and input from the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission and staff, and from members of the Ashland community. That feedback went into refining the concepts that were presented for additional feedback during the workshop and later during an online review. Feedback from both activities is summarized here.

The concepts revolved around four themes:

- Circulation,
- Cultural Legacy,
- McLaren’s Meander (park open spaces), and
- Ashland Creek and Canopy.

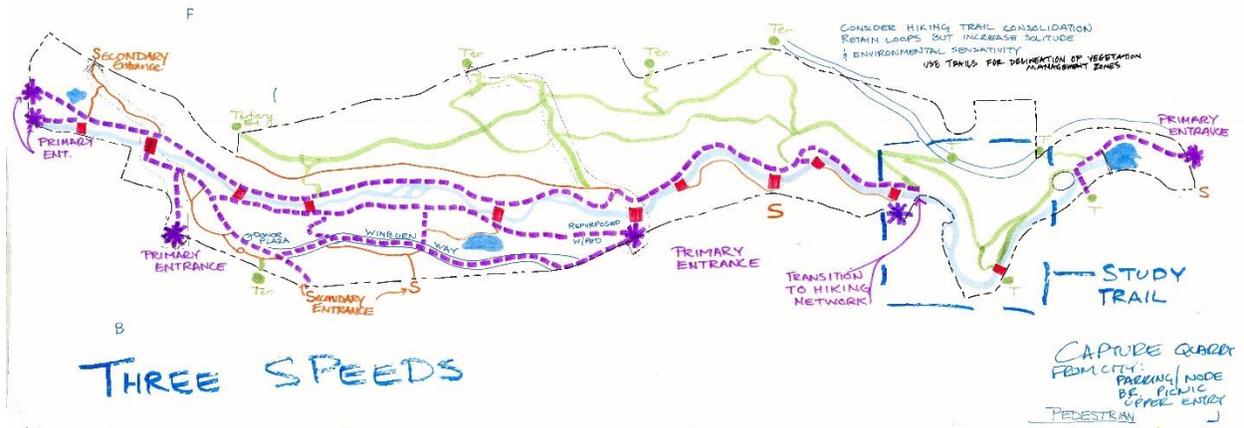
The concepts are provided below with a summary of comments received by the community during the workshop and online concept review.



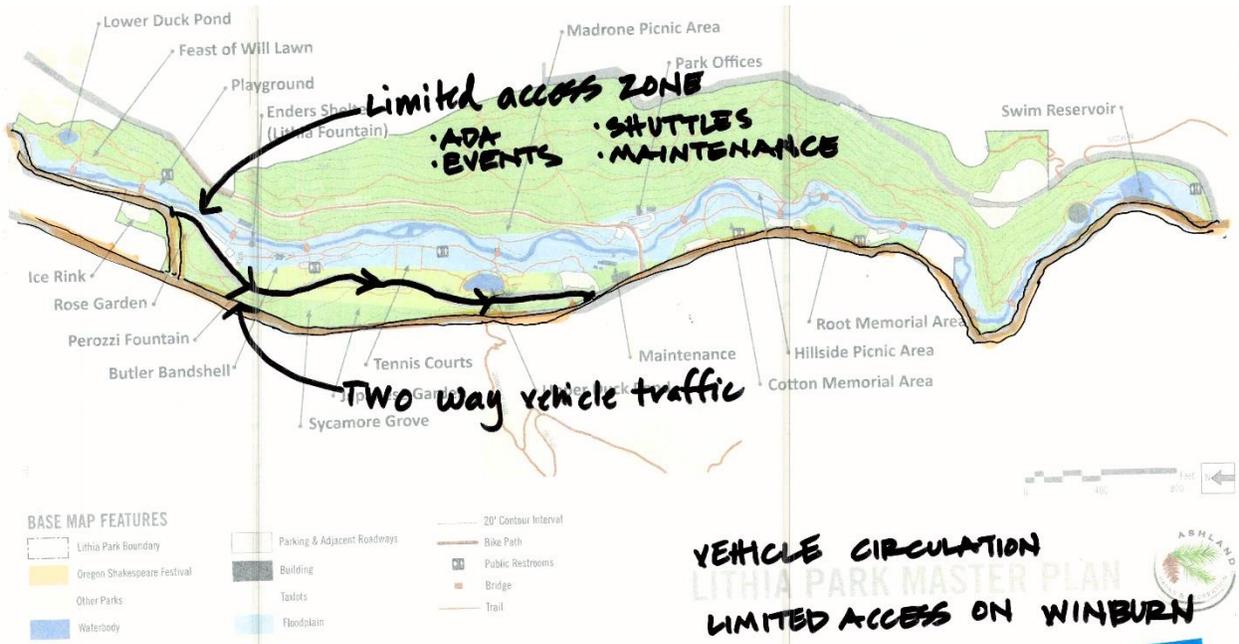
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THE NEXT 100 YEARS

CIRCULATION CONCEPTS



Circulation: Three Speeds Concept

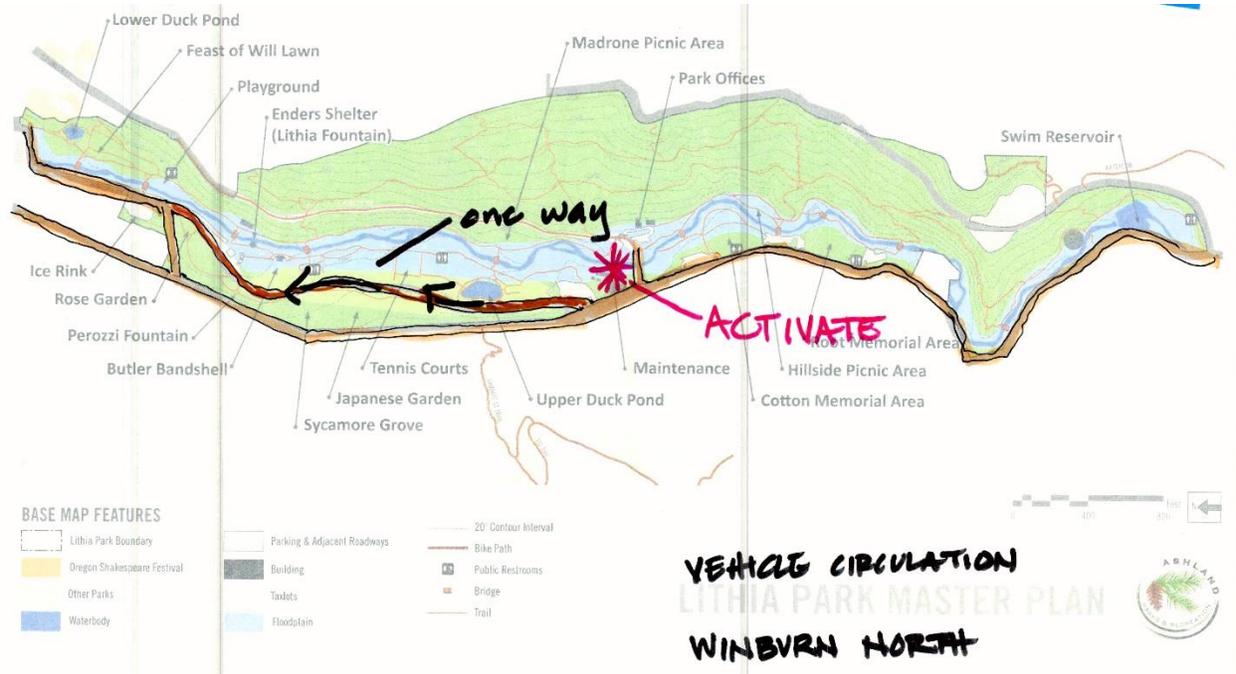


Circulation: Option 1



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THE NEXT
100
YEARS

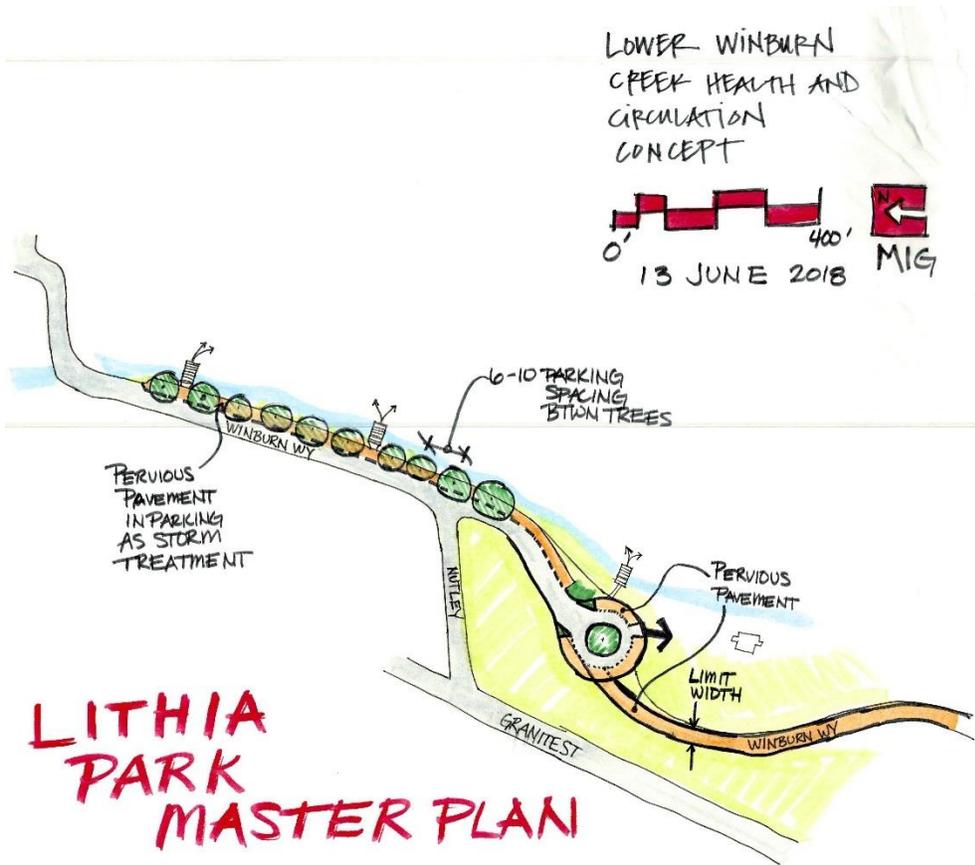


Circulation: Option 2



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THE NEXT
100
YEARS



Circulation: Concept for Winburn Way

Public Feedback on the Circulation Concepts

- Want to modify Winburn Way to accommodate pedestrians and bikes and improve safety in park, while keeping access open for those with limited mobility and special events
- Like the “three speeds” concept, but concern that closing Winburn Way will create traffic congestion in other places
- Develop some trails in east forest slope for use by mountain bikers, but don’t provide exclusive use. Mountain biking trail should be designed with an easier (less steep) grade so families and kids can use it
- Limit or don’t allow biking in park due to concerns for conflicts with pedestrians and hillside erosion
- Keep Pioneer Road as a trail where people can walk their dogs on leashes, but limit dog access in other areas of park
- Don’t allow dogs in the park due to concerns about impacts to wildlife

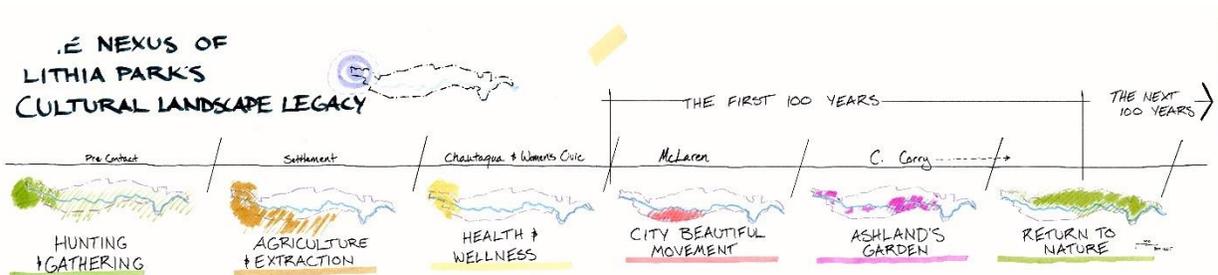


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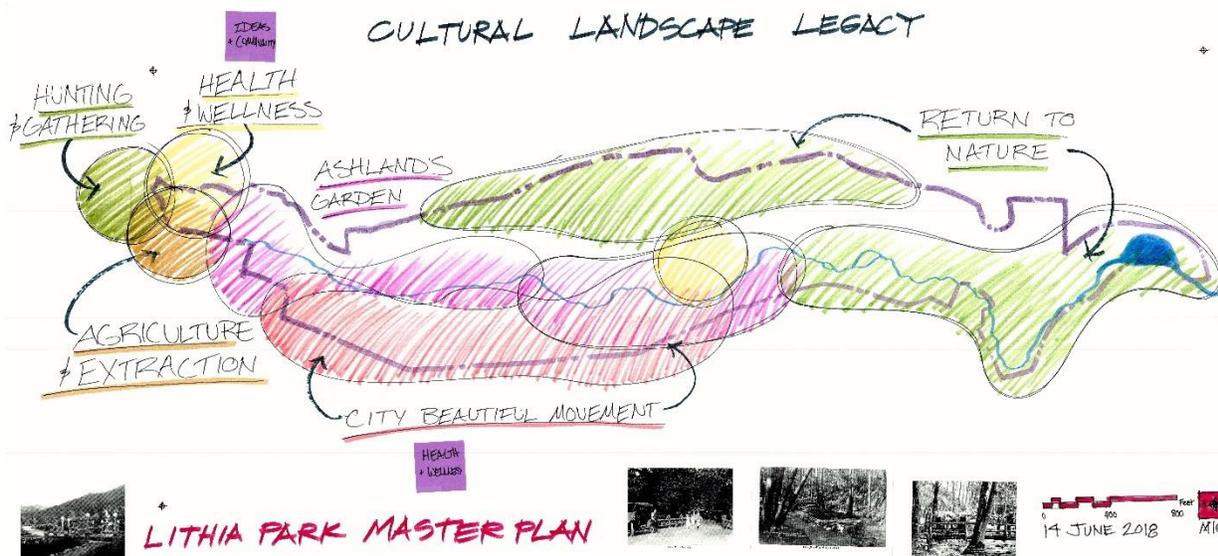
THE NEXT
100
YEARS

- Keep secondary trails that allow individuals or small groups to access quiet places in the park where can view wildlife or enjoy moments of contemplation
- Maintain existing levels of parking with some expressing concern that there isn't enough
- Don't add new vehicular routes in natural areas
- Improve accessibility without adding paving materials
- Consider paving path from playground to the bridge near the Bandshell, and not using large aggregate/stones in accessible pathways, and improving accessibility in playground

CULTURAL LEGACY CONCEPTS



Cultural Legacy: Timeline



Cultural Legacy: Story Locations



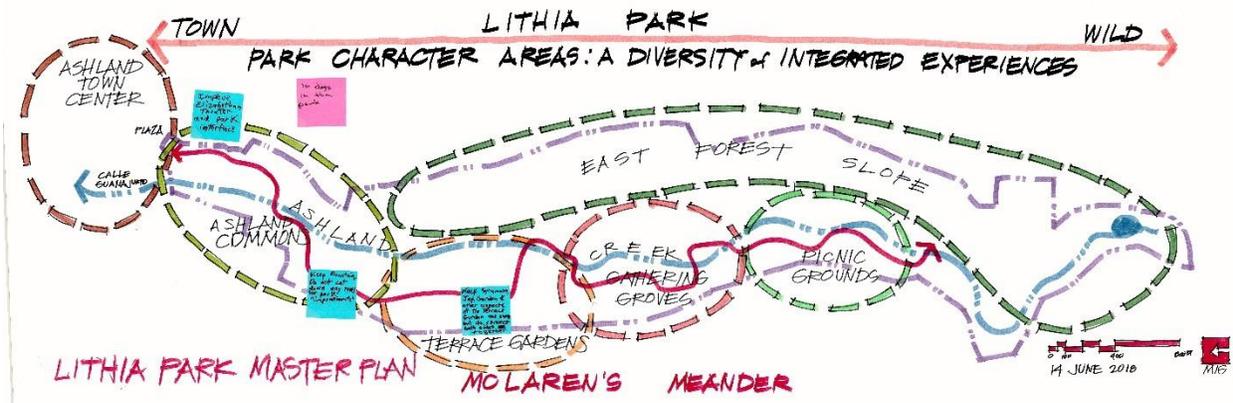
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THE NEXT
100
YEARS

Public Feedback on the Cultural Legacy Concepts

- Maintain heritage of park and what exists, don't want any changes except those that will strengthen park's character and maintain its spirit of place
- Restore Perozzi Fountain and Abraham Lincoln statue, though some express concern over costs for restoration
- Maintain character of vegetation, from tree canopy to shrubs to ornamental gardens, though concern about deer effects on vegetation
- Maintain natural spaces in the city
- Maintain historic cultural events
- Rehabilitate Bandshell and bathrooms
- Keep the sycamore grove

MCLAREN'S MEANDER CONCEPTS



McLaren's Meander: Park Character Areas



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THE NEXT
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YEARS



McLaren's Meander: Conceptual Design

Public Feedback on the McLaren's Meander Concepts

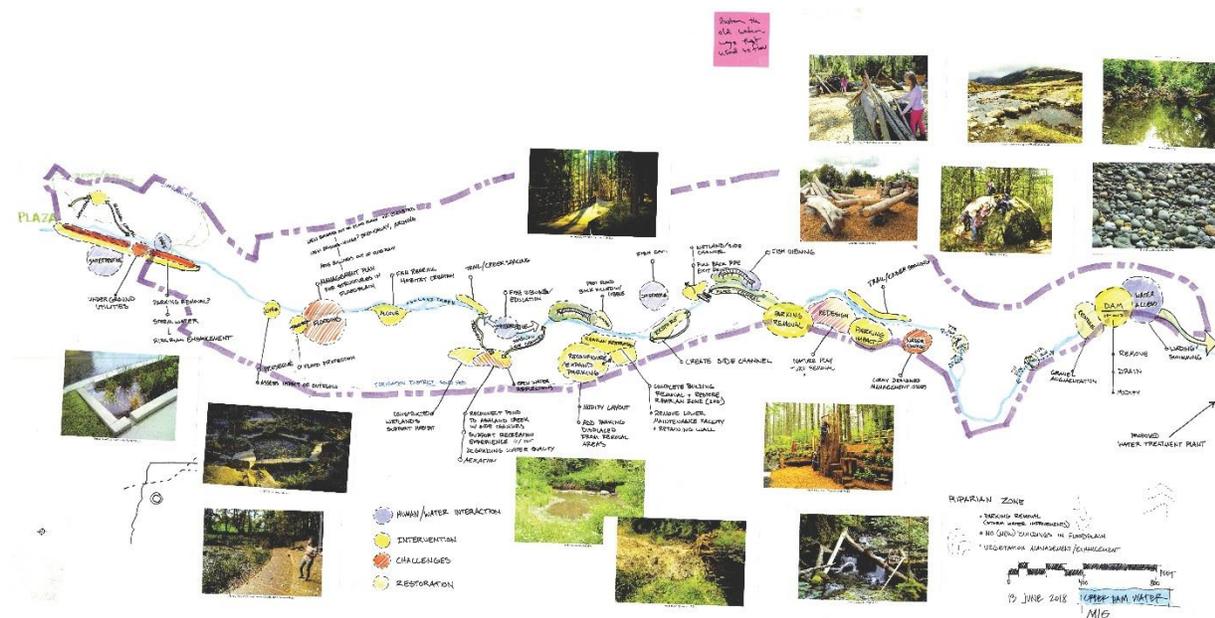
- Incorporate nature play into the park
- Maintain the variety of spaces and experiences in the park
- Consider modest expansion of Japanese Garden as a Peace/Memorial Garden that wouldn't require as big of an investment
- Maintain large open grass areas, like the Feast of Will lawn
- Create "secret garden" that is fenced off where roses and other ornamentals can grow and not be eaten by deer, could tie into Shakespeare/literary aspects of Ashland
- Create more revenue-generating rental spaces for wedding type events
- Improve connection between Oregon Shakespeare Festival theater and park
- Desire for bouldering wall in quarry



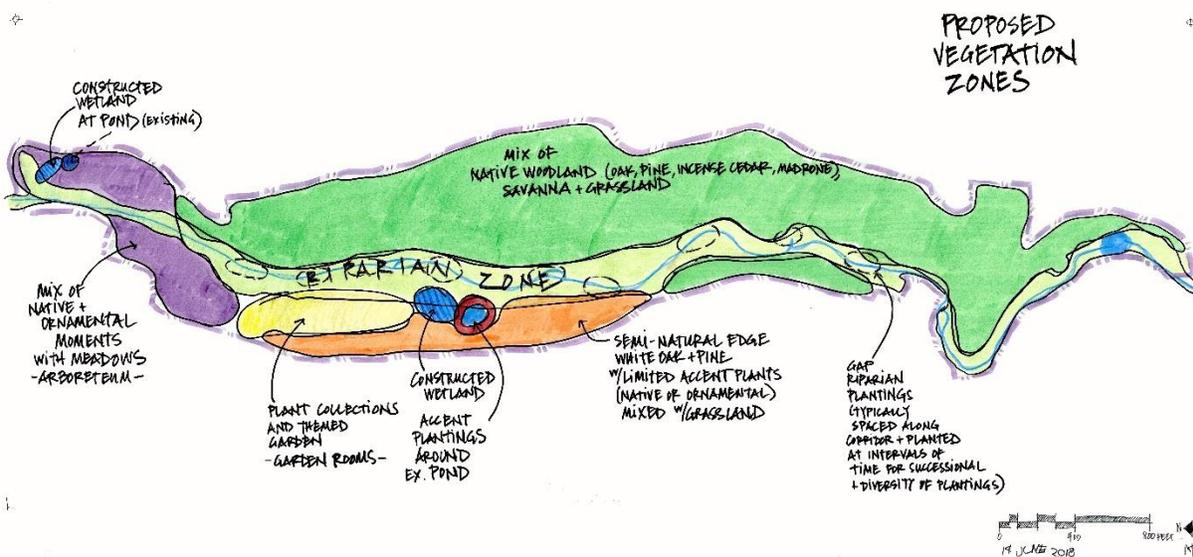
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THE NEXT 100 YEARS

ASHLAND CREEK AND CANOPY CONCEPTS



Ashland Creek: Conceptual Design



Lithia Park Canopy: Conceptual Design



WATER DAM CREEK INTERVENTION SCALE

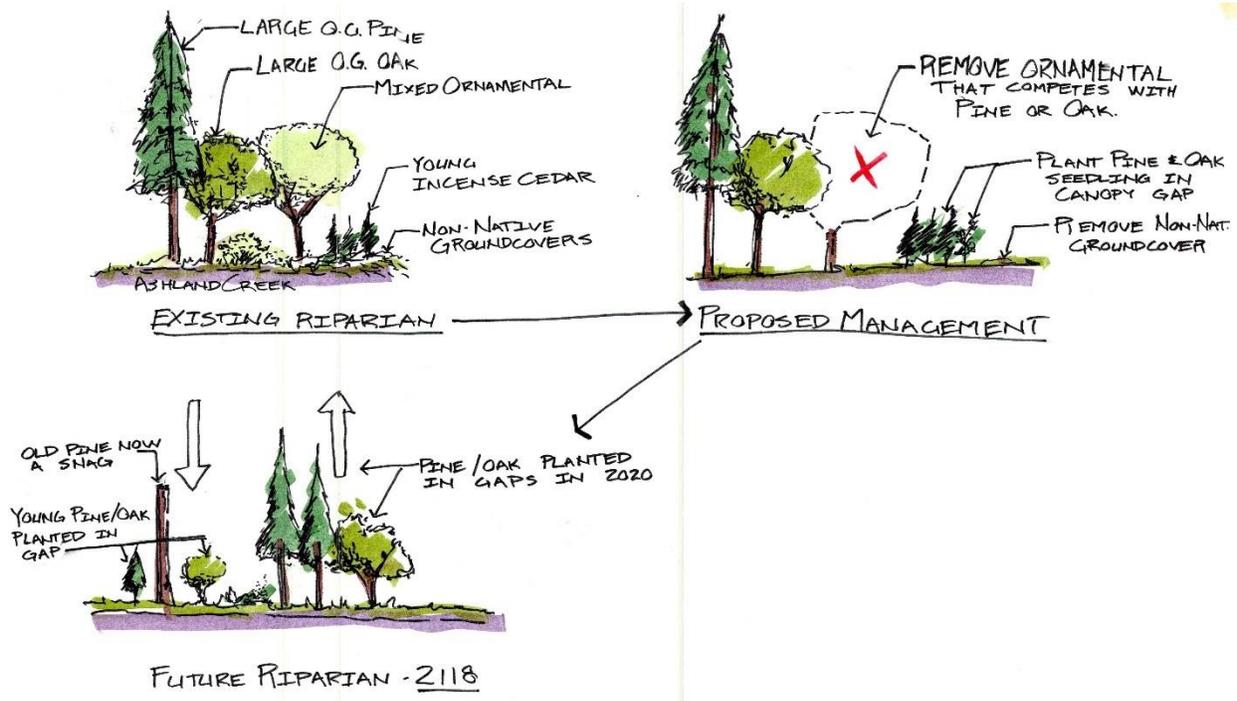
DAM	BOLD REMOVE	MODERATE DRAIN	LIGHT MODIFY
PARKING REMOVAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WINBURN @ PIONEER HALL GRANITE @ HILLSIDE PICNIC GRANITE @ ROOT MEM. AREA 	ROADSIDE/PKG STORM-WATER FACILITIES	PARKING RECONFIGURATION @ MAINT. BLDG
MAINT. YARD	BLDG REMOVAL + CREEK/RIPARIAN CREATION/REST.	REMOVE CREEKSIDE BLDGS + RET. WALL, IMPROVE CREEK CORRIDOR	
FLOOD RESILIENCY	SIDE CHANNEL CREATION / INCREASED FLOOD CAPACITY w/ ENLARGED RIP. CORRID.		
CREEK HEALTH		LOG DAM POOL / FISH HAB. ALCOVE CREATION	GRAVEL AUGMENT RIP. VEG MGMT RIP. TREE CANOPY
BACK PONDS	CONNECT BOTH w/ SEASONAL CHANNELS	CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS	
CROSSINGS		WHEN M/NCE NEEDED, EVAL. ALT. CONSTRUCTION + LOCATION APPROPRIATENESS FOR RESILIENCY	
HUMAN WATER INTERACTION	NEW REPAIRMENT FOR SWIM RESERVOIR TRAIL/CREEK SPACING	FISH CAM	INTERP. FEATURES FISH VIEWING AREAS BOULDER CROSSING CITIZEN SCIENTISTS



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THE NEXT
100
YEARS

Ashland Creek: Conceptual Design Table



Lithia Park Canopy: Vegetation Succession Diagram

Public Feedback on the Ashland Creek and Canopy Concepts

- Improve riparian habitat and functionality while retaining recreational use – “healthy creek, healthy fish, happy people”
- Make duck ponds into functional ecosystems that can support waterfowl while hiding the infrastructure that may be needed to keep the ponds healthy
- Remove the dam, though concerns about its cost and that this is beyond the purview of this project
- Maintain large tree canopy, only remove trees that are hazards
- Restore waterways that used to flow
- Concerned about impacts of parked cars on environment
- Improve creek health for bird habitat, including the American dippers
- Maintain wading opportunities for the public while avoiding sensitive areas
- Eradicate invasives including poison oak



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Consultant Project Team Members

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Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission and Staff

Michael Black, Director; Mike Gardiner, Commissioner; Joel Heller, Commissioner; Rick Landt, Commissioner and Lithia Park Master Plan Committee; Jim Lewis, Commissioner; Matt Miller, Commissioner and Lithia Park Master Plan Committee; Jeffrey McFarland, Interim Parks Superintendent; Betsy Harshman, Administrative Analyst; Susan Dyssegard, Executive Assistant; Bill Miller, Western Division/Irrigation Supervisor; and Joe Hyde, Park Tech II.