

Timestamp	1.Repurpose the Maintenance Yard	2.Incorporate Nature Play	3.Improve Ashland Creek Health	4.Treat Stormwater	5.Remove or Drain the Dam	6.Tame Winburn Way	Indicate which concepts your comments apply to by checking the appropriate boxes.	Write in your comments below	Do you have any other comments about the Lithia Park Master Plan?	If you would like to receive updates on the project as it progresses, please provide an email address in the space below.
7/10/2018 10:23:25	Maybe	No	Yes	No	No	No	McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces		Don't change it	
7/10/2018 10:48:15	No	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation		We need more parking, not less.	
7/10/2018 10:48:29	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces, Three Speeds: Circulation, Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation	1.) I love the idea of modifying Winburn Way beyond either Nutley or the Bandshell to accommodate pedestrian and bike traffic, ADA access and special events. 2.) Please design more nature play into the park - this is a perfect location and opportunity to incorporate these kinds of activities and help our children integrate with nature while playing. 3.) I love the idea of developing some of the trails in the East Forest Slope into a gentle bike trail. I think we need to embrace the mountain bike community - most of these folks are very considerate. 4.) Dogs in the Park- I think there should be at least a couple of trails that people can walk their dogs on leash. Pioneer Road trail has been a great success in this regard.	I am impressed with what has been discussed so far. Thank you.	
7/10/2018 10:58:26	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe		Generally, I would not be in favor of taking away existing parking (although it could certainly be treated differently) or of adding any new vehicular circulation routes in what are now natural areas. I would try to improve riparian/habitat functions while retaining the park for non-impacting recreational use, and would like to see more done to make the "duck ponds" back into functional ecosystems that might someday be favorable to ducks on some level again.	Lithia Park is a jewel. I would hope that the plan would try to polish it without scratching it or removing any facets...	
7/10/2018 19:44:34	Maybe	No	No	Maybe	Yes	Yes			The creek is the unique jewel of the park and should always get top priority and absolutely be kept as natural and wild as possible despite the heavy human footprint on all the grounds. Maybe update the lithia water area that is inside the park and make it a better feature.	
7/10/2018 20:17:53	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lithia Park's Legacy: The Cultural Landscape		Please upgrade the restrooms near the playground. They are horrible, and an embarrassment. Tourists who come to Ashland deserve better. And allot money to keep them clean. post more signs telling people no dogs/animals.	Vanya@mind.net
7/11/2018 4:56:13	Maybe	No	No	No	No	No	Lithia Park's Legacy: The Cultural Landscape, McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces, Three Speeds: Circulation, Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation	The concepts presented do not represent any of my interests. The park deserves to concentrate on maintaining what exists.	The city deserves a park where fogs are not welcome.	
7/11/2018 10:48:38	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes				
7/11/2018 11:34:39	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lithia Park's Legacy: The Cultural Landscape, McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces, Three Speeds: Circulation, Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation	Restoring riparian and natural functions should be a high priority. Remove the dam! Don't be exclusive to Mtn bikers and dog users. Find ways to integrate while improving safetu		dcollay17@gmail.com
7/11/2018 16:47:58	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	No	Maybe		Is there any focus being given to the restoration of Parozzi Fountain? It is has been a great focus and a jewel of the park, but needs restoration.		
7/11/2018 17:31:42	Yes	No	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe				akweiner@gmail.com
7/11/2018 22:18:43	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces		The master plan needs to take into account ongoing maintenance overhead costs and the Department's resources in severely PERS-constrained budget cycles through 2030 or so. By the same token, the design needs to incorporate high-quality rentable spaces, particularly for weddings, that provide the ability to generate revenue to offset maintenance costs. The bandshell should be refurbished, expanded and designed to provide a venue for revenue-generating events. - Rich Rosenthal	
7/12/2018 18:20:51	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	No	Yes			Bring back Lincoln statue and rehabilitate fountain	
7/12/2018 19:01:52	No	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes				
7/16/2018 8:30:44	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe				
7/17/2018 17:04:55	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	No				
7/18/2018 22:36:49	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe				Independentjeweler@gmail.com
7/18/2018 23:45:01	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

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7/19/2018 6:11:12	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Lithia Park's Legacy: The Cultural Landscape, McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces	Some of the diagrams are hard to follow. I like idea of nature play and should be integrated. I like riparian and dam removal plans but, want to see a hydrologist report and collaboration to make it restored to previous state before dam, manmade structures were in place. I am completely against removal of any large trees to accomodate the plan unless they are ornamental (non-native), sick/dieing or a hazard. One of the most special parts of the dog walk above the park is that you can take a forest walk and it feels like you are not in town. I don't want the park to lose it's feeling of 'oldness' or that nature is not allowed to exist without human intervention, we need natural spaces. Retaining old growth trees (anything over 30') is the most important part of any plan and truely what makes Lithia Park special. Removal of big old native trees to accomodate the plan is something I am completely against.	Thank you for all the hard work in planning and communicating with the community. I support parts of each plan and would like to be signed up for volunteer events that could be organized as part if this project. Really would like to see the community have many opportunities to learn and connect with nature with volunteer work events.	sarabreaiones@gmail.com
7/19/2018 13:57:03	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation	Healthy river, healthy fish, happy people		
7/19/2018 14:23:03	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes				
7/20/2018 5:41:58	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe				
7/20/2018 6:33:16	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes				
7/20/2018 9:54:40	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes				
7/20/2018 17:56:28	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Lithia Park's Legacy: The Cultural Landscape	This concept really reflects the heritage of the park.	Parking and environmental concerns are also important.	
7/21/2018 11:40:38	Maybe	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces		No	Wcd@drdonlon.com
7/22/2018 20:49:55	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Three Speeds: Circulation, Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation			
7/22/2018 23:31:08	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Lithia Park's Legacy: The Cultural Landscape, McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces, Three Speeds: Circulation, Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation	Creating more distinct zones is good idea, but existing ornamental trees give our park its special character and could be kept unless particularly problematic. I love the idea of opening fish passage, but also think that human wading is very important and should be restored throughout the park, except for any sensitive riparian areas that are established. Three speed separation sounds good, but closing many parking areas and shutting down traffic through Winburn past the bandshell would probably lead to a traffic and parking overload on lower to middle Granite St. (whereas currently parking is well distributed throughout the park.)	I like the mild to moderate changes proposed as a good shift in a progressive direction. I think that the extreme proposals are too risky to jump into. Be patient and slow; make small adjustments and then observe the impact over 10 or more years.	grunde.ben@gmail.com
7/22/2018 23:47:56	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Maybe				
7/23/2018 8:01:35	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces, Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation	please keep the varied areas - ponds, Japanese Gardens, etc.	Maintain the space as dog-free, too much interface with wild animals and too much poop! Add bear-proof garbage cans	
7/27/2018 11:26:17	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Lithia Park's Legacy: The Cultural Landscape, McLaren's Meander: Overall Park Spaces, Creek to Canopy: Ashland Creek, Water Resources and Vegetation	I would like the park to retain its historic features and traditions it has now. For example, the Perozzi Fountain has had Ashland High School faculty and graduates process around it at Commencement for decades. I go by the fountain and its retro globe lights on my daily walking loop and look forward to seeing it fully restored. It would please me to see our cultural events continue, such as the Feast of Will, the Easter egg hunt, and the summer band concerts on Thursday evenings. I would love more accessibility on the creek path closest to the road so our elders could be taken in wheelchairs. However, I myself delight in walking on the natural trail with cedar chips. I hope the other side of the creek trail will remain as it is now. At the end of the lower Creek Trail, the path curves uphill to a higher trail that comes out at the reservoir. While I don't need that upper trail to be widened (erosion concerns), I would appreciate poison oak eradication in the future. I don't feel comfortable using that trail for at least half the year. It would be great to have a longer natural loop for my walks. If it's appropriate for them, I'd enjoy seeing swans on the lower duck pond, using our historic swan house. Perhaps John Alexander at the Klamath Bird Observatory can be consulted about feasibility. Thank you.		
7/27/2018 15:17:42	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	No				
7/28/2018 0:57:49	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe				
								Thank you for inviting Ashland residents to comment on Lithia Park as it faces its next 100 years. What I love most about the park -- what, in fact, inspired my family to move to Ashland -- is its proximity to nature. This includes the natural duck pond, the creek, the woods and the trails, and especially the presence of deer, wild turkeys, birds, bears, squirrels, and so many more wild inhabitants. What I want for the next 100 years is to be able to visit the park and enjoy the natural spaces and the creatures who wander through them. Because of this, my only recommendation would be: PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW DOGS INTO THE PARK. I love all domestic animals as much as their wild cousins, but the presence of dogs in Lithia Park would create conflict between dogs and the wild animals that currently visit Lithia Park as one of very few safe spaces to roam without being confronted (or, worse, chased) by dogs. (Unfortunately, leash ordinances are not often obeyed in Ashland, and this causes a lot of stress for animals such as deer, and has led to unnecessary panic among dog walkers.) Again, thank you for listening to those who know and enjoy Lithia Park as the plan evolves for its future.		
								I have been participating in the planning process as an interested and concerned Lithia Park user. I've spent over 40 of my adult years using the park and observing the various management eras (successes and failures) and many projects completed over the years. The design week events were helpful, and at the end of that week, I took a self tour of the park perimeter as a way of integrating the planning discussions, questionnaires, and concerns for the future with what is actually on the ground right now. This was a very helpful exercise, and I wanted to share my conclusions: 1. Lithia Park is a very functional and appropriate sized city park not needing any significant upgrading or expansion. 2. The current diversity of access points, materials, bathrooms, etc, more than meet the needs of every sort of visitor to the park from babies, families, mobility challenged folks, etc. to the seasonal influx of tourists. 3. The park provides more than enough "special" places, nooks, crannies, etc to meet the needs of all of us with the possible exception of not having a functional, safe wading pool. 4. The existing "Japanese Garden" is not truly what it's called, but that doesn't mean we need to invest millions to make it so. How about a "Peace/Memorial Garden" with a modest expansion to the south allowing more folks to be in the garden at one time. 5. What we need for long term viability of the park is a good maintenance plan and a sustainable way to finance that plan including addressing illegal campers, etc. 6.The dam and reservoir are really beyond the scope of the Parks Commission and should be tackled by a consortium of Ashland and regional water quality organizations.		

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								<p>I am glad to learn from articles in the Tidings that Lithia Park is NOT going to be re-designed, since it was brilliantly and successfully designed when it was first built. I hope that most of the changes proposed will be subtle and will strengthen the park's structure without significantly changing the overall atmosphere. The beauty is in the peaceful tone, the large old trees, and the diversity of micro-environments that one can choose depending on the day, the mood, or one's temperament. Here are a couple of suggestions: 1) I'm not entirely sure the Butler-Perozzi fountain deserves being restored. This is something that could use some careful thought. 2) The park is not as accessible to people in wheelchairs as it easily could be with a few minor and unobtrusive changes. I would NOT like to see the dirt and wood-chip paths replaced by concrete! Oh no! Perhaps some areas simply won't accommodate wheelchairs, and that's OK. In many cases though, simply having a curb cut would make the difference in where a wheelchair person can go. The stairway just below Upper Duck Pond doesn't work for wheelchairs and there are really no alternative routes provided to proceed toward the tennis courts. It would be lovely if somehow one could get into the Japanese Garden. There is a very nice paved path along the Granite Street edge near the bandshell, but it takes a sudden drop toward the north end and the angle is too steep to be safely negotiated in a wheelchair. I'm sure a thorough review of these issues (my disabled friend and I would be glad to help!) and a few minor changes would make a great deal of difference to those who are wheelchair-bound, enabling a broader experience of this beautiful park.</p>		
								<p>However, I have a strong vision of what a portion of Lithia Park should morph into over the next 25 years: bigger and better by inclusion of west side bike and hiking trails. The south end of the park can become a parking and information center for mountain biking and near city walking/hiking. The following are my thoughts to improve Lithia Park by inclusion of city property and bike and hiking trails on the west side of Ashland Creek. The first is unrelated but is a quick and long over due fix. First, fix the fountain. Don't spend millions of dollars to fix it, use local contractors to re-plaster and re tile (pool contractors). Doesn't have to be imported Italian tile, just fix it. Second, plan big for the long term. The eastern side of the park has wonderful southern exposure of manzanita, ponderosa and oak woodland trails. The western side has the potential to have an incredible northern exposure of large Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine trails. We must connect either Ditch Road / TID trail or Hitt Rd trail to the upper quarry at the southern tip of Lithia Park. The preference would be the Ditch Road / TID trail because it would be significant less elevation gain and would be assessable to more people. Several undeveloped Trails/old single-track roads exist through this area. The Ditch Road / TID trail crosses private lands and a city easement will have to be established to tie the trail. It is unfortunate the city missed the opportunity in the late 90's to guarantee trail access above Ashland Creek Dr. However, the city is now in possession of several key properties below "Fell on Knee Trail" and the continuation of the southern end of the TID trail above or across Winter Dr (above Ashland Creek Drive). A connecting loop from Upper Lithia Park to the existing Ditch Road / TID trail and back to the Park via Strawberry Dr or the city property along Piedmont Dr. will provide a "Best in Nation", small city hiking loop. It would be an incredible addition to Lithia Park and could be marketed to young and old visitors to our city. In fact, the quarry area could serve as a parking and information center of the trail systems. Aa overgrown trail runs northward above the Quarry and could be tied to the Ditch Road / TID trail. I realize, that this is an old and contentious issue. However, Lithia Park with this connected trail system in 2030 or 2040 would be unique to this city. The term "eminent domain" is brought to mind. In the second half of the 1900's costal cities in Hawaii, California and Oregon used the process to ensure costal beach access through existing property lines. We in Oregon can see such access along some of our northern and central coast. Why not forest access. Third. And maybe this is not so much a Lithia park issue as a city issue. I am getting tired of being run off my west side hiking trail by nearly out of control down hill mountain bikers. The east side has some clearly marked bike vs hiker trails. It is a free for all on the west side (ok not that bad, but it is deteriorating and by 2020 or 2025 it will be bad). Bikers are coming down off Black Diamond "Time Warp" (top Mt. Ashland) and ending up on Upper Hitt /Lower Hitt road, then "shortcutting" to Lithia Park parking via Hitt Rd/un named trail/Ditch Rd/Nature or Granite trail. (Nature is supposed to be closed to bikers but that is not working). This same group of bikers will access NW Ashland via Ditch Road (service road) but ride not on the dirt ditch road but ride on the small walking trail because "it's more technical". On the west side, it appears the more secluded "wilderness" type trails that are below 3600' (Fell on Knee, and others) are being discovered and added to the downhill express from Mt. Ashland for a last gasp of "Black Diamond" type runs. The city needs to develop a plan to accommodate world class mountain biking terrain and local and visitor "wilderness" seekers who hike these trails below 4000' and within easy reach of Lithia Park. Further the city needs to act now to ensure the Bike traffic today does not destroy the "wilderness" feel of these trails to</p>		
								<p>We focus our time in the Feast of Will lawn, the large grassy area between the lower duck pond and the playground. The trees that line that area, and the grassy space between there and the creek, are the key parts of the park to us. We would feel that Ashland had died if anything were to change in that area, and why should it? It would be nice to have the swans back, as they were an iconic part of Ashland. But they are also territorial and somewhat aggressive, so maybe not. NO DOGS! One of the best parts about Lithia Park is being able to plop down on any part of the lawns and not worry about feces left behind by an inattentive dog owner. Yes, there's always the risk of droppings from a feral animal, but that can't be controlled--pet animals can. There are other dog parks in the city where non-dog owners are probably allowed, but why would they go there, so they are effectively the private domain of dog owners. Having a dog is a choice; part of that choice comes with requirements about maintaining them and accepting restrictions on where they could be taken. We used to have a dog, and loved him a lot, but we prefer to be away from dogs now, and having the main city park be dog-free seems a reasonable restriction on dog owners.</p>		
								<p>My wife and I have lived in our present residence, a few blocks from Lithia Park, since 1999. I don't keep a record of our visits to the park but I'd guess we've walked along Ashland Creek in the park maybe two to five times per week. We've met hundreds of people. When we talk at any length with people visiting Ashland, and they learn that we live so close to the park, they exclaim how lucky we are, and tell us how much they love it, agreeing with Laurie Matthews' assessment, that it has a "spirit of place". The floating hydraulic piping and turbid water in the Upper Duck Pond's water are embarrassingly at odds with the rest of the park. I suspect that John McLaren would be puzzled if not infuriated to see it. Some 15 years ago I discussed (in four or five emails) with the Parks department ways that it could clean up both the upper and lower duck pond. Many methods have been tried before and since then. So I know I'm not alone in seeing this as an important issue. But the Upper Duck Pond seems to have been forgotten for the last 4 or 5 years. Other city parks manage to keep their ponds clean. Can you include in the Master Plan something like "Establish Secchi disk &gt; 5 ft for upper and lower duck ponds by June 2020, and sustain indefinitely"?</p>		
								<p>We love dogs but to allow them into Lithia Park would destroy the park we love. It would threaten the deer, ducks, turkeys and lead to dangerous wildlife encounters. And it would also change the character of the park — not to mention make it quite a bit messier. I'm not sure you'd see the number of people enjoying the grass if dogs were allowed free roaming.</p>		

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								<p>I have had a home in Ashland for 37 years and have spent many hours in Lithia Park over those years both as a Parks Department employee for 25 years (1981-2006) as a ordinary citizen, and as volunteer on a citizen science study of American Dippers along Ashland Creek. Lithia Park is a unique place that is special to many people for many reasons as the Master Plan survey has revealed. I personally enjoy walking, birding, sitting, spending time with friends. I enjoy it in all seasons, but fall is my favorite. Lithia Park has much beauty, some natural and also much that was designed in going back to the initial works of John McLaren. In the 1980s and 90s during the revitalization of Lithia Park many plantings were added to enhance the beauty that now add to the specialness of the park. And of course Ashland Creek is a central part of that specialness of Lithia Park. The past few years I have travelled extensively throughout the United States and a park like Lithia Park in a town or city is a unique asset for a community. Unfortunately I have been unable to attend any of the Master Plan meetings but I do have a few thoughts about the Lithia Park Master Plan. While I understand that the landscape of Lithia Park is dynamic and will change over time due to natural tree attrition and forces of nature, the overall design is wonderful should not change substantially. Trees and shrubs can be planted to replace those that die out or augment existing plantings. Parks staff should include a knowledgeable and experienced horticulturalist to over see the unique landscape that Lithia Park is. Maintenance funding and staffing needs to be sufficient to keep Lithia Park the jewel that it is. In recent years I have observed a distinct lessening of quality of maintenance in Lithia Park and a degradation of the appearance of the park. Plantings (post '97 flood) along the creek have been allowed to die, the Japanese style garden has had dead plant material that seems to go unnoticed. The duck ponds, a huge attractant for people are embarrassingly dirty which past efforts to clean up have failed. Other plantings such shrub beds near the Bandshell (under the Sycamore Grove) have died out and not been replaced. Grass areas are not mowed frequently enough and allowed to get quite shaggy, concrete walkways are covered in dirt and leaf debris. While some annual beds have been removed, the rose garden has died out but still remains, and the entrance flower bed has been allowed to become weed covered. Last spring I encountered a recently retired parks employee who was so embarrassed by the condition of the entrance flower bed that he volunteered to come in and clean it up. I am not sure whether this deterioration in the appearance of Lithia Park is due to inadequate staffing, or funding, or priority setting. I believe Lithia Park should be a priority of the Parks Department because it is an important part of our community. A couple other thoughts related to comments mentioned from people attending meetings on the master plan. I would oppose allowing dogs in Lithia Park. There are many places in the community that people and their dogs can be together, including special dog parks. Dogs detract from the Lithia Park experience and create distasteful maintenance issues. Also, swans should not be brought back. During my parks employment I was responsible for attending to the swans. First the Mute Swans, which are no longer allowed in Oregon, and then the Trumpeter Swans. Though they are beautiful the park has history with them it is not a good environment for swans. The ponds are too small and there is constant contact and pressure on them from the presence of people.</p>		
								<p>Just don't goof it up. The Park is practically perfect now. Especially, do not commercialize it. Here are a few suggestions: Some added added hours of oversight would help. This might reduce the chipping away at stones on top of stone walls and chipping away at the fountain. Angry young men are taking hammer and chisel to stone works and defacing them. We all loved the swans on the lower duck pond. Don't know if it is feasible to bring them back. Paving the path from the playground to the first bridge near the bandstand wouldn't hurt anything. Sometimes this path is muddy and it isn't good. This is the most used portion of the path along the creek. In fact more wood chips at times on all sections of the path is a good idea. It isn't much fun walking on a muddy path. I'm not a deer lover in the City and the Park. Efforts to reduce the deer herd are a good idea. The deer eat roses, so it is hard to keep up a rose garden in the Park. On the whole the Parks and Rec. dept. does a great job of keeping Lithia Park in wonderful shape. Don't mess it up.</p>		
								<p>I have some ideas on improving the park for handicap visitors.                      1. We need level handicap parking spaces (most on Winburn Wy. are too steep for a manual wheelchair user .)                      2. Smoother concrete pathways--The area on the main path from lower duck pond to main bridge by playground has larger rock aggregate that causes my feet to be bounced off my footplate.                      3. An all access surface so wheelchairs could get on playground and picnic tables.                      4. Many cracks along trails need constant attention/grinding to avoid tripping hazard.</p>		
								<p>So these two pictures are of a trail called Jabberwocky. It is mostly machine built on a fairly steep side hill. It was built by a local landscaper named Jake Contreras, who has a bit of a passio.This trail ends at the rock quarry at the head of Lithia Park. It was built to replace a trail that had less than sustainable attributes, known also as jabberwocky. It gets tons of traffic and has held up very well through two winters. It brings lots of smiles, in its two miles</p>		
								<p>Lithia Park is one of the many reasons my husband, daughter and I decided to live in Ashland in 1989. I had come to SOO for a three week summer class the year before and soon learned that Ashland was where we would settle when we returned to the USA from Kobe, Japan where we were teaching. A bicycle was my source of transport that summer and I often rode to Lithia Park and marveled at its beauty and expansiveness, the activities the park provided, and the special spots along Ashland Creek to sit and observe, put my feet in and be in blissful solitude. It may have been that summer, or one soon after, that I took a walking tour of the park with volunteer Vern Crawford. I was in love with the park and a town that would have nearly 100 acres of nature right downtown. While teaching at Lincoln school for 15 years, Lithia Park was an outdoor classroom, a place for class picnics, a place to come and walk in and get inspired by nature and think about activities and projects to do in and out of my primary classroom. Now, as an Audubon member and volunteer teacher, I enjoy leading bird walks in Lithia Park (as well as North Mountain Park). I particularly like finding secondary pathways where a small group of students can walk, almost sneaking around, being quiet and looking for signs of birds and observing their behavior. Maintaining or creating trails that lead to openings where one (or a small group) can sit contemplatively is extremely important. Away from heavily-trafficked areas, visitors are provided a place to observe, paint, draw, write about, or simply enjoy the daily habits of wildlife: foraging for and storing food, bathing in shallow water, gathering nesting material in the spring, etc. Native plants are important for birds and other wildlife throughout the park. Attracting the hummingbirds, solitary bees, butterflies and moths, etc., is creating areas where people in nature can coexist with wildlife. In addition, there need to be protected spots where birds can live and nest in relative peace. The American Dippers in Ashland Creek are successfully nesting and raising their young in the Creek. That is a much traveled area by people and wildlife. The water is keeping them there! Dippers need clean, colder, moving water rich in aquatic life. Their vocalizations can be heard over the sounds of the flowing water. Quiet observers, some photographing and collecting data to share with others, continue to visit. Informed humans can create recreation areas and wonderful learning opportunities AND give the wildlife ample space, in both busier and more isolated areas of the park. EBird data can readily inform interested people on the distribution and abundance of both resident and migratory birds in Lithia Park throughout the year. Birds that depend on the natural systems for food, for living, breeding and nesting for just a few months or for the entire year are our responsibility as good stewards. Awareness of wildlife and their needs by planners and city employees will result in a more natural and engaging park. Already the park has no bikes wizzing by, no dogs sniffing around, and hopefully no domestic cats catching lizards or birds-just people doing what they do in a beautiful park in the midst of life living parallel to them. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on the Lithia Park that will continue to evolve with a plan!</p>		

Timestamp	1.Repurpose the Maintenance Yard	2.Incorporate Nature Play	3.Improve Ashland Creek Health	4.Treat Stormwater	5.Remove or Drain the Dam	6.Tame Winburn Way	Indicate which concepts your comments apply to by checking the appropriate boxes.	Write in your comments below	Do you have any other comments about the Lithia Park Master Plan?	If you would like to receive updates on the project as it progresses, please provide an email address in the space below.
								<p>I would like to submit some ideas for the plans for Lithia Park. I completed an online survey but have a couple of additional ideas, with photos to illustrate (attached). 1) A place to "smell the roses"! Problem: There is no place in Ashland we can go to enjoy the types of flowers the deer love to eat! Rather than build a tall, deer-proof fence around my own garden to enjoy my own flowers in private, I would prefer to be able to enjoy &amp; share flowers with others in a public garden. Idea: Create a garden space in the park where we can sit, children can play, and all can enjoy the beauty &amp; fragrance of flowers. E.g. create a "room" surrounded by a tall fence, hidden behind a tall boxwood hedge. Possible themes for the space: a Renaissance/Shakespeare garden, "a secret garden," or "literary gardens" that would tie in with OSF: Compare NY Central Park's Shakespeare Garden: <a href="https://www.centralpark.com/things-to-do/attractions/shakespeare-garden/">https://www.centralpark.com/things-to-do/attractions/shakespeare-garden/</a> An article with other ideas for "literary gardens": 11 famous literary gardens <a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/gardens-to-visit/11-famous-literary-gardens/capulets-garden/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/gardens-to-visit/11-famous-literary-gardens/capulets-garden/</a></p> <p>2) Additional nature-art features for tourists and residents. Problem: I often encounter tourists at the upper end of the park, wondering which way to go or where the reservoir is. I'm sure they must feel disappointed, as I do, that the upper end of the park isn't very different from National Forest land outside the park i.e. it's more wilderness than park. The water tank and dust from the unpaved roads add to the sense that the scenic part of the park ends somewhere around the upper duck pond. Ideas:</p> <p>a) Turn the water tower into a feature/destination by e.g. adding murals to it (a possible annual high school/SOU art project?)</p> <p>b) Add "living sculptures" of the kind on display at Atlanta's Botanical Gardens. See: <a href="http://atlantabg.org/visit/events/imaginary-worlds">http://atlantabg.org/visit/events/imaginary-worlds</a></p> <p>See also attached photos of a book, a mermaid &amp; a shaggy dog made from (deer-resistant!) ornamental grass. Book sculptures &amp; fictional figures would again tie in with OSF. Note: Adding garden space or nature/art features could enhance the park for children as well as adults. One of the joys of Lithia Park is seeing &amp; hearing children at play not just in the playground but around the rest of the park. Interesting garden spaces &amp; nature/art features could add to children's enjoyment of the park as much as the existing play structures. E.g. I once saw a group of children playing hide &amp; seek around the upper duck pond &amp; overheard one whispering to another "Let's go into the bamboo forest!" - a clump of bamboo was all it took to inspire their play.</p>		