

Written Comment

Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

April 8, 2021

1. David Fridenmaker, Manager, Planning and Property Services, Salem-Keizer School District

RE: Woodmansee Park Draft Master Plan

1.a Email response to Mr. Fridenmaker's comments from Toni Whitler, Parks Planner, City of Salem

2. Erin Donnithorne, Citizen, Email comments



DAVID FRIDENMAKER, Manager
Planning & Property Services
3630 State Street • Salem, Oregon 97301-5316
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Christy Perry, Superintendent

March 18, 2021

Patricia Farrell, Parks & Natural Resources Planning Manager
City of Salem
555 Liberty St. SE
Salem OR 97301-3513

RE: Woodmansee Park Master Plan Update

Upon reviewing the information in the Woodmansee Park Draft Master Plan Update, the Salem-Keizer School District has a few comments as follows:

1. The District does not need the proposed trail connection from the school property to the park property shown toward the northeast corner of the Judson Middle School property. It is necessary to limit traffic on our properties to provide a safe teaching and learning environment, so we want to discourage public access to the Park across school property. We request that this connection from the school to the park be removed from the plan.
2. The proposed trail connection from the school property to the park property toward the south could serve students wanting to access the park before and after school.
3. The walking path that exists from that southern park access point along the eastern Judson Middle School property line and connecting to Jones Rd. SE is wholly on School District property. We are not aware of any public access easement in that area and currently do not support access through that area. A public access easement would need to be created for this and the plan revised to include safety and security measures for public use during school hours. The District is open to exploring this option with the City.

Please let me know if there are any questions and if you would like to explore the public access easement.
Thank you,

Salem-Keizer Public Schools

David Fridenmaker

Manager | Planning & Property Services

c: Mike Wolfe, Chief Operations Officer, David Hughes, Director – Custodial, Property and Auxiliary Services

Toni Whitler

From: Toni Whitler
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:14 PM
To: David Fridenmaker (fridenmaker_david@salkeiz.k12.or.us)
Cc: HUGHES_DAVID@salkeiz.k12.or.us; WOLFE_MICHAEL@salkeiz.k12.or.us; Patricia Farrell; Jennifer Kellar
Subject: RE: Woodmansee Park Master Plan comments
Attachments: SKSD_2021-03-18_Woodmansee MP_comments.pdf

Hi David,

Thank you for your letter, I am responding to your requests and comments as numbered in your letter, which I have attached.

1. There is a path identified in the Salem Transportation System Plan that has point of entry/exit at the northwest corner of Woodmansee Park boundary with the intention of having a pedestrian connection to Jones Road SE along the Public Works easement. The point of entry/exit will remain on the draft park master plan and we will include in the report that negotiations with the Salem-Keizer School District for an access easement will be necessary for a connection to Jones Road.
2. The City agrees that this proposed trail connection could serve as a connection for students who wish to access the park before or after school or for an outdoor educational class during school.
3. The current draft master plan is showing a soft trail on the school property. This will be adjusted to show on the City's side of the park property. Prior to the property swap, this was SKSD property and a trail has been well developed by use from students. The City is also open to exploring the option of an access easement and, as noted in item 1., will be included in the report as a future negotiation with the school district.

Dave, this is the master plan and improvements will not be made for some time. I hope that over the course of time the City and SKSD can work out an agreement that will allow the neighborhood and students, to access the park and adjoining neighborhoods in a family friendly way.

Sincerely,

Toni Whitler
Park Planner II
City of Salem / Public Works Department
555 Liberty Street SE, Suite 325, Salem OR 97301-3513
twhitler@cityofsalem.net / 503-588-6211

From: Patricia Farrell <PFarrell@cityofsalem.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Toni Whitler <Twhitler@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: FW: Woodmansee Park Master Plan comments

From: David Fridenmaker <FRIDENMAKER_DAVID@salkeiz.k12.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:06 AM

To: Patricia Farrell <PFarrell@cityofsalem.net>

Cc: David Hughes <HUGHES_DAVID@salkeiz.k12.or.us>; Michael Wolfe <WOLFE_MICHAEL@salkeiz.k12.or.us>

Subject: Woodmansee Park Master Plan comments

Hi Patricia,

Please find attached comments from the School District related to the latest version of the Draft Woodmansee Park Master Plan. I will mail the original letter for your use. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

David Fridenmaker

Manager | Facilities and Planning Department

[Salem-Keizer Public Schools](#)

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Our Vision: All students graduate and are prepared for a successful life

Good morning Erin,

Thank you for the detailed comments. I will include them in the information going to Salem Parks and Recreation Board on Thursday. You are welcome to attend the meeting and present your comments as well. Let me know if you would like to and I can be sure to send you the zoom link.

As a master plan for a Community Park the Woodmansee Park plan intentionally shows a lot of features, as the master plan covers 20 years of potential development. It is highly unlikely that all will be developed, even over 20-years, due to the cost. We did hear certainly about the desire to have paths and maintain trees and open space. The shelters are standard 20 x 30 foot shelters. There is no splash pad proposed. Instead we propose a future nature play area that would include a water feature. The community garden is located to be out of the main traffic flow but still allow access for people to unload materials such as wood chips. We did check to make sure there is still room for the disc golf hole nearby.

I hope that helps alleviate some of your concerns. We certainly want to keep the feel of the beautiful park while allowing for more opportunities for people to walk, play, and gather.

Patricia Farrell

Patricia Farrell

Parks & Natural Resources Planning Manager

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From: ERIN DONNITHORNE <erindonnithorne@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 6:15 PM

To: Patricia Farrell <PFarrell@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: RE: Woodmansee park

Thanks, Patricia. Here are my comments:

The current proposal for Woodmansee park appears to be a quantity over quality situation. It feels like the city is trying to do too much in too small of a space. I use this park nearly everyday and it has been a wonderful retreat for me and my family during COVID. When I walked the park today, I had the map with the proposed revisions up as I walked to try and visualize the changes. Here are my observations:

The proposed changes significantly infringe on the best quality of this park, which is its gorgeous green spaces. Lots of people use this park for its green space, including disc golfers, Pokémon players, picnickers, and dog walkers. Keep the green space. I don't want another park that feels like riverfront, which has lost its beautiful green space feel. While that makes sense there, since it's used for events, I don't want my neighborhood park to have a crowded feel without green space in the common area. The current proposal primarily keeps green space in the back, where the disc golf course is. I strongly support keeping the disc golf course, but also have to say that is not a good space for walkers due to the frisbees flying around.

I'm concerned there is not enough space for the community garden in its current spot. It feels cramped with the paved pathway and the disc golf course, plus it will eliminate the practice hole, which is widely used. Additionally, the existing space is too sloped which will require significant landscaping to make it fit. I think it is better to put it where the multi-use field or volleyball court is, and eliminate one of those.

Get rid of the splash pads. I don't see how those, a playground, additional parking, and an outdoor classroom will all fit. The playground is more important because it can be used year round. People can go elsewhere for splash pads. Removing the splash pads also allows more space for a bigger picnic pavilion, which I think is a better investment. Pavilions are very popular and have the added bonus of making money for the city.

Speaking of the pavilion, the new picnic shelters seem very small. I support adding another shelter (or maybe two?), but I think it makes more sense to remove the volleyball court and make a bigger pavilion there or (preferred) ditch the splash pads as previously mentioned. The pavilion up front is used ALL the time and again, provides income for the city.

I support additional parking, but do not see how there is space to have additional parking along the road while also adding a multi use field and volleyball court. That is too much in one place. Simplify it to allow more space for walkers. I strongly think the community garden would be better suited in the proposed spot for the multi-use field.

Finally, I am concerned regarding walking path maintenance. The proposal includes increased "natural" paths but the existing paths have not been maintained in over a year, closer to 18-months. I am concerned that additional pathing won't be maintained.

When I provided feedback during revision #2, I did support more paved paths in order to make the park more accessible, which I think is very important. However, it is also relevant to note that paved paths are not great for dog walkers during the summer

months. There are SO many dog walkers at Woodmansee, so having natural space to walk the pups is important.

I would also like to note that the proposed map does not appear to be to scale. I would be interested in seeing a more detailed map with sizes.

My biggest takeaways are thus:

Preserve the green space and don't try to cram everything together. It is better to do a few things well than many things that will not be well utilized because they are too close together. I (and many of my friends who also use this park regularly) do NOT like the splash pads, and would like to see them removed. Finally, make the community garden bigger and in better space. I think it would be better placed where the multi-use field is.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Erin Donnithorne
503-551-6502