

Meeting Summary

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

8/12/19-9/11/19

Introduction

The City of Renton is committed to involving a diverse representation of Renton community members in the Renton Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas planning process. Through the Inclusive Engagement effort, Renton Community Services recruited five members of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force to serve as Community Conversation leaders and conduct outreach with traditionally underrepresented communities. Two rounds of community conversations took place during the planning process, with the first round occurring in April 2019.

The second round of community conversations included 8 meetings during August and September 2019. The meetings involved a total of 98 community members who are culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse and span a range of ages.

The five community conversation leaders convened the sessions and facilitated group discussions, using worksheets available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese languages.

The second round of conversations focused on two key questions:

1. What are the two types of events you enjoy the most?
2. Please allocate \$10 to types of projects or actions that are likely to be included in the updated plan, based on input from the first round of outreach.

Community Conversation Leaders

- Hamdi Abdulle
- Violet C. Aesquivel
- Julio Amador
- Rupinder Kaur
- Monique Taylor-Swan

Discussion Themes

Drawing from across the eight community conversations, themes from the discussions are summarized on the next page. These themes represent important take-aways from the participants. Documentation of results for each question follows, with detailed results provided in Appendix A.

- Engagement participants selected citywide events and events focused on culture and arts as the types of events they enjoy the most. Reasons participants enjoy events include:
 - Opportunity to bring community members, especially multiple generations, together;
 - Opportunity to share and learn food, culture, and traditions; and
 - Activities during school breaks, especially in summer.
- Participants emphasized investing in existing parks and facilities as their top priority, but also mentioned the importance of continued investment in new parks, facilities and trails to sustain Renton’s quality of life.
- Multiple participants mentioned the need for year-round indoor recreation opportunities, particularly all-weather fields.
- There are more languages spoken in Renton, and some participants expressed a need for materials or signs in additional languages such as Ukrainian and Chinese.

Group Exercises

During the Inclusive Engagement Activities, participants completed two worksheets and discussed their responses with their group. Participants were asked to use their worksheets to mark their responses to two questions:

1. What are the two types of events you enjoy the most?
2. Please allocate \$10 to types of projects or actions that are likely to be included in the updated plan, based on input from the first round of outreach.

Open ended responses and discussion notes are listed in Appendix A.

Question 1: What are the two types of events you enjoy the most?

Participants supported all four types of events, but had the most support for citywide events and culture and arts events. In the discussions, participants mentioned their interest in bringing the community together through events. This was a major reason for the level of support for citywide events, but was also an important facet of why participants are interested in neighborhood events. During the group discussions, participants mentioned the scale of neighborhood events as allowing neighbors to connect and build relationships.

CITY WIDE EVENTS

Examples include Renton River Days and Clam Lights

48

CULTURE AND ARTS

Examples include Food Truck Night and art fairs

41



NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

Examples include Neighborhood Movie Nights and Community Potluck Barbecues

35

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Examples include Bike Rodeo & Family Safety Fair and the Pooch Plunge

30



Question #2: Please allocate \$10 to types of projects or actions that are likely to be included in the updated plan, based on input from the first round of outreach.

Participants each allocated their \$10 budget according to their individual preferences, and then discussed their budget allocations with the group. The budgets submitted by each participant were tallied and averaged, with the average budget for each type of improvement shown on the next page.

While improving existing parks and acquiring new land received the highest average budgets, the discussions emphasized the interest in closing trail gaps and providing year-round recreation facilities, especially indoor facilities and all-weather fields.

See Appendix A for more discussion notes.

TYPE OF IMPROVEMENT	AVERAGE BUDGET
Improving existing parks (examples: new playground, adding benches, restrooms, or picnic tables)	\$6
Acquiring new land for parks, recreation opportunities or natural areas	\$5
Developing a unique new facility such as an environmental education center or all-weather turf fields	\$4
Extend existing trails to close gaps in the trail system	\$3
Providing trails in natural areas in Renton where they are not currently available	\$3



Appendix A

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

8/12/19-9/11/19

The discussion notes provided by the community conversation leaders are included in this appendix.

Question 1: What are the two types of events you enjoy the most?

Other Responses

- Improvement in prime city areas to enhance Renton's reputation. there are numerous tracks of land close to downtown area which remain eyesores -- heavy equipment parking, sketchy apartment buildings, main streets outdated structures needing facelifts; focus on more visibility for drivers on crosswalks near the schools. Let us not wait for our children to get hurt.
- Expansion of Soos Creek Trail to Renton Park. It's been overdue.
- I like to meet new people and I have dogs.
- Wishing we can have more languages like Ukraine and Chinese

Notes from Question 1 Discussions

- Most people like culture and community events people wants splash pads at cascade park and more parking. One Polish neighbor side the bathroom may attract homeless.
- The participants were very enthusiastic to see the improvements to be made on the existing parks and to have more trails in Renton's natural areas where they are not currently available.
- There are concerns for more motivation for residents to join the neighborhood events and ensure their safety by encouraging residents to have a Neighborhood Watch Program implemented in each neighborhood. Neighborhood Cleanliness is also another concern, especially the outside of the house and the streets as well.
- River day is great but the weather has been hot making it challenge to go to. Don't hear about the events unless I am looking for it other than River day, which is easy to spot.
- I am disappointed that dogs are not allowed in this park. Other parks do not have this restriction. This park should not be different.
- I chose selected picture number one as it reflects how I chose to spend time with my family.
- I selected picture number two, as I think it is important to know about other cultures
- neighborhood events are important to my family. We haven't been to Bike Rodeo, but are interested to attend next time

- I selected City Wide events as I enjoy the activities for all ages
- I like Community Events as I enjoy the gathering and activities
- Neighborhood events because it brings community together (that are close) and it doesn't feel overwhelming
- I love City events as well as art and culture
- I love art and food, so for me is picture number 3 my first priority and I also enjoy City wide events since I love to meet new people
- I selected picture number one as I love to meet new people and cultures. For this same reason I selected picture number four
- I love to try food from different countries and I also enjoy meeting new people
- United States from Vietnam.
- Neighborhood events are important for me so my son. My son can have fun at the same time and can meet other people and we can all learn how to live together
- I would like the city to clean this part of the park so all of us can go and swim. I watched the news the other day and learned that the park is currently contaminated
- We enjoy community events and culture
- we love art and culture events
- I love community events such as Pooch Plunge. I also love to come to the Renton River Days each year
- it is important that children can have a place to ride their bicycle
- There was a time when I had a dog and I was very appreciative that the city provided everything I need to take my dog for a walk
- I chose number one since I like to spend time with my family in an outdoors environment. We only have very few sunny days in this area
- I love to learn about cultures and traditions from other countries
- I chose picture number one since I love movies and picture number three because I love to paint
- The reason I chose picture number three culture and art as my number one choice is due to the fact that I can share with the community and at the same time learn art and culture
- I selected neighborhood events as my number one choice because I love to meet with my family and friends at the park and eat all kinds of food
- I have been to Clam Lights and I love it
- The arts festival and the Renton River Days are interesting. I know my daughter would love the art festival
- I love Renton River Days and all the truck food that come along as well as meeting other people
- Participants were mostly interested in summer activities for their families while school is out of session.

Question 2: Please allocate \$10 to types of projects or actions that are likely to be included in the updated plan, based on input from the first round of outreach.

Notes from Question 2 Discussions

- Another potential improvement that the participants are also interested seeing is to build a bridge or trail between the Cedar River Trail Park (by Boeing Plant) and the Gene Coulon park. Parking is a very big concern in Coulon Park and that this needs to be addressed immediately and seriously.
- While "Improving existing parks" is got the No. 2 rank in the Type of Improvement, much was discussed about the parking problem in Gene Coulon Park. With the increasing number of the city's population and the people going to the park, parking is always and has been the No. 1 problem. There might be a need to sacrifice some trees and land being there for many years to give way to a big and necessary parking lot. A park for Seniors & Disabled is another major concern. There is also a growing seniors & disabled population that deserves to have a safer place for them to stroll or rest and relax peacefully, especially on a nice sunny day.
- It is important that we have a facility that we can use all year long as oppose to just the summer
- I would like to spend half of my ten dollars improving the existing trails and the other half building an all-weather facility where our children can play all year long
- It is important that we have a facility that all of us can use all year long with all-weather turf fields.
- I think is important to spend money improving the facilities we already have. The restrooms should be open all the time and may be adding new benches is also a good idea
- I would spend half of my ten dollars building a new facility with all-weather turf fields and secondly I will spend three dollars improving the parks we already have. I would use two dollars building new trails to our city. Nothing wrong with the trails we have, they are wonderful, but I have not seen anything new in years...
- I would spend half of my ten dollars remodeling the existing parks and the other half extending the trails we already have
- I want half of my budget use in building a new facility such as an environment education center and \$3.00 invested in remodeling existing parks. I would use \$2.00 in creating new trails in areas where we don't have anything available.
- It is important to re-invest money in the parks we already have, so I am allocating \$3.00 dollars to this purpose. I am allocating another \$3.00 in a project to build new trails and \$2.00 will go for the current trails. \$1.00 goes to creating a new all-weather facility and \$1.00 for new lands and natural areas

- It is important that we have a facility that our children can use all year long. I am allocating \$4.00 for this project. I would use \$3.00 for the restoration of the parks that we already have and \$2.00 for building new trails.
- I want \$3.00 allocated to improve the parks we already have, \$3.00 in creating a facility with all-weather turf fields and \$2.00 to acquire new land for parks, \$1.00 to improve the trails we already have (may be adding restrooms) and \$1 to build new trails in our city
- I want \$2.00 invested in the parks we have, \$3.00 in building a new all-weather indoor facility, \$2.00 in creating new trails and \$1.00 to acquire new land for parks and \$1.00 to extend the existing trails
- I want \$5.00 allocated to acquire new land for parks or natural areas and \$5.00 allocated to build new trails in our city
- I want to allocate \$3.00 towards the remodeling of the existing parks, \$3.00 for new lands and natural areas, \$2.00 to build an all-weather facility where our children can play all year long and \$1.00 for the existing trails as well as to build new trails in our city
- I would want to allocate \$5.00 in building a new facility with an all-weather turf fields so our children can play and exercise all year long
- I would like to allocate half of my budget to the improving of the parks we already have. \$2.00 to build an all-weather turf fields and \$1.00 to acquire new land for parks, \$1.00 to the existing trails and to build restrooms along the side of the Cedar River Trail and \$1.00 to create new trails in our city
- I want \$8.00 of my \$10.00 budget allocated to the parks we already have. They need remodeling, painting, and new playgrounds. The other \$2.00 I want allocated to acquire new lands for parks
- I want \$4.00 allocated to remodel the parks we already have. I want new and modern playgrounds the way other cities have them. I want \$3.00 allocated to the building an all-weather turf fields and \$2.00 to acquire new land for parks
- I want \$5.00 allocated to build an indoor facility where our children can play all year long
- it is important that we invest our money in remodeling the parks we already have. The playgrounds are too old and I am concern about the safety of our children
- I would love to allocate \$3.00 to create new trails and \$7.00 to remodel the parks we already have as well as to start an anti-vandalism campaign. The restroom should be always open during the park's hours
- I want \$2.00 allocated towards the existing parks and \$8.00 to the acquisition of new land for parks as our city is growing so quickly
- I want to spend \$3.00 in building an all-weather indoor facility where my grandchildren can play and exercise all year long
- Most participants want to improve existing parks and develop new facilities.
- Graffiti on wall and on the basketball court in downtown Renton.

- A safe haven where people of all ages, culture, ethnicity, background, race, color, beliefs, etc. gather together with their families, relatives, friends, groups, etc. and where people from neighboring towns or cities and out-of-state visitors are excited to see or go to and spend time leisurely and comfortably. There is an urgent need for improvements and developments, even in acquiring new lands where necessary. Let us make Renton and its residents (and visitors as well) enjoy our parks, recreation and natural areas and be happy, thankful and proud of this city.
- Renton was voted as one of the "Most Livable Cities in the U.S." (range of 100K population). It is not only the economic growth that is one of the major factors that contributed to its being a livable city. The living condition which also includes leisure, rest and relaxation (indoor and outdoor) is a factor to be considered. Our parks, recreation and natural areas are outdoor places that we want to enjoy. Livability in this city is also reflected in these places where major improvements, developments and safety should be given utmost importance.
- Parks that are easy to access, clear, good lighting, safe, access to water. Beaches that have an area to rinse off. Covered so can play in the winter also.
- Improve conditions of parks and recreational areas, and natural areas to remain undisturbed