

February 25, 2025

Ronan Park Community Meeting #1

PRESENT: Kezia Ofiesh, My'Kel McMillen, Cathy Baker-Eclipse, Anthony Nguyen, Kaki Martin, Jennifer Ng, Melita Schmeckpeper, Dora Mugerwa, and Community Members

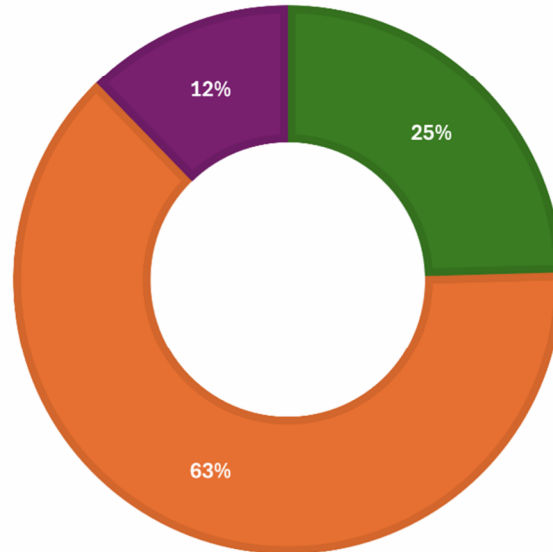
- Kezia Ofiesh introduced the project team at the start of the meeting, reviewed the community meeting protocols and evening agenda.
- Cathy Baker-Eclipse presented information on wall repairs in Ronan Park, including the location, details of what the repair entails, possible impact on neighboring trees, and wall restoration plans.
- Kezia Ofiesh presented the Ronan Park project overview, including schedule, budget, park goals and priorities.
- Jennifer Ng presented the project's community and neighborhood context.
- Kaki Martin presented the design team's site analysis. The meeting concluded with a discussion with community members, including input and questions about the project.

At the start of the community meeting, the audience was asked to share their favorite things to do at Ronan Park, a thread that continued throughout the meeting. The charts and lists below summarize what was shared by community members, questions and comments that were brought up, and insight gained from the discussion.

FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN UPPER RONAN PARK

THIS GRAPH INCLUDES REPEATED COMMENTS AND LIKE EMOJIS

■ ACTIVE/RECREATIONAL ■ RELAXING/PASSIVE ■ EVENTS



LEGEND:

***Marks community comments with contrasting input

(+ #) represents the number of community members that agreed with the comment

The following categories (Active/Recreational; Relaxing/Passive; Events) list community members' responses to the question:

"What's your favorite thing to do at Ronan Park?"

- **ACTIVE/RECREATIONAL**
 - Yoga classes (+1)
 - Dance classes
 - Exercise classes
 - Play basketball
 - Children's sports camps
 - Kids love climbing trees (+3)
 - Play with kids in the park
 - Kids love the splash pad
 - Kids love biking around in the summer
 - Walking

- RELAXING/PASSIVE
 - Enjoy the view (sunset, sunrise, ocean) (+10)
 - Sit under the trees
 - Dog walking (+2)
 - Sit in the park (+2)
 - Watch people play basketball (+1)
 - Meet people while walking my dog
 - Run into neighbors
 - Observe nature (butterflies, hawks and kestrels in trees) (+5)
 - Art walks
 - Meditation
 - The view (sunset, sunrise, ocean)
 - The big trees (+3)
 - The large grassy areas to play with dog

- EVENTS
 - Festivals
 - Youth fairs
 - Markets
 - Live music (+1)
 - Summer events
 - Community get togethers

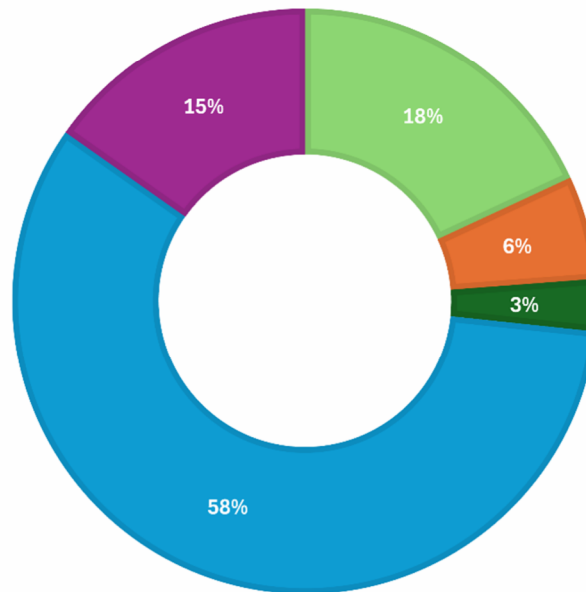
Current challenges in the park:

- The snow gets very icy on the paths and it's difficult for elders to travel through the park (+6)
- Conditions at the swings aren't great when it rains
- Concrete splash pad is cracked
- Issue with mopeds cutting through the park from Adams Street entrance and existing on the Mt Ida side of the park (+3)
- Trees on the hill block the view

WISHES FOR UPPER RONAN PARK

THIS DATA INCLUDES REPEATED COMMENTS AND LIKE EMOJIS

■ PLAYGROUND + RECREATION ■ PROGRAMMING + EVENTS ■ OVERALL PARK DESIGN
■ MAINTENANCE + PARK ESSENTIALS ■ NATURE + PLANTING + TREES



LEGEND:

***Marks community comments with contrasting input

(+ #) represents the number of community members that agreed with the comment

The following categories (Playground + Recreation; Programming + Events, Overall Park Design; Maintenance + Park Essentials; and Nature + Planting + Trees) list community members' responses to the question:

"What's your wish for Ronan Park?"

- **PLAYGROUND + RECREATION**
 - Reinforced hoops (+1)
 - Protect sledding hill (+2)
 - Age-appropriate zoning in the playground (defined areas for toddlers, preschoolers, and older children) (+3)
 - Natural materials/colors
 - Gentle slopes, mounds, natural features
 - Variety of swings

- Natural shade from trees + shade sails/pergolas over play area and seating
 - Modern play surfacing
 - Imaginative natural play elements
- Outdoor fitness equipment (+2)
- Permanent table tennis tables
- Remove poison ivy in basketball court area
- Leveling grade in basketball court
- Multiuse courts (+3)***
- PROGRAMMING + EVENTS
 - Electric hook-up in park for programming
 - Connecting the project programming to Saigon community programming (their night market) (+4)
- OVERALL PARK DESIGN
 - More park features that senior community members can use (+1)
 - Design that reduces risk of robberies
- MAINTENANCE + PARK ESSENTIALS
 - Improved drainage everywhere, especially down to Linden and Adams (+3)
 - Flooding control on paths
 - Shade around the flagpole and bench area (+1)
 - Comfortable and inviting seating
 - No hostile architecture to make park friendly to unhoused community (+2)***
 - Unhoused community should get the support they need, but benches should not be conducive to sleeping***
 - Informational sign about the park, the ocean view, etc. (like what McLaughlin Park in Mission Hill has) (+4)
 - More covered trash bins (and recycling bins) (+7)
 - Path lights that can be on in the fall/winter as it gets dark earlier (+2)***
 - There are ecological benefits to maintaining darkness at night (+1)***
 - At the flagpole, a map/plaque showing landmarks in the distance (+4)
 - Community message board (+3)
 - More seating (+3)
 - (multiple comments listed here reflect the same sentiment, but are described differently)

- Checker/chess board tables (+4)
 - An area for drop off/pick up (+1)
 - Connecting the upper park walking path system to the lower park walking path
 - Benches, picnic tables, trellis (like in Dana Park in Cambridgeport) (+1)
 - An ADA path to lower park from upper park stairs at end of Percival (+2)
 - A ramp at street entrance at Mt Ida and Homes St (+1)
 - Electric hook-up in park for programming
 - “You are Here” signs
 - Incorporate something that is special to Ronan Park
 - Something connected to the view (tower play structure, mounted binoculars, spyglass by the flagpole)
 - Pavilion for shade with picnic tables in areas that aren’t currently activated
- NATURE + PLANTING + TREES
 - Shade for the playground (+4)
 - Native plants to support butterflies and pollinators (+8)
 - A butterfly garden
 - More trees (+1)

Comments and Questions About the Upper Ronan Park Project from Community Members:

Question:

- Could any trees in poor health be treated rather than removed?

BPRD/Design Team Response: We will see how the tree assessment report guides the decisions about trees in poor condition.

Question:

- There have been robberies in the area. What can be done about this from a design perspective?

BPRD/Design Team Response: Good site lighting can help increase sense of safety in park.

Comment:

- While providing shade, we should be careful to avoid blocking views, both from within the park and the neighbor's views through the park.

BPRD/Design Team Response: We will carefully study tree location and species selection prior to planting the next generation of trees in the park.

Question:

- Are the budget and timeline officially committed to by the city for the park and playground improvements?

BPRD/Design Team Response: The city is thinking of applying for a grant from the state. If we're successful in getting the grant, then we would be tied to a very specific timeline for construction. The grant application for park improvements is due in July and the work that we are doing in advance will feed into the grant application. We would then hear back on the grant application by the end of the year.

General Information and Feedback shared about Upper Ronan Park Project

- Artists for Humanity are making a mural on the basketball court wall, which we should be careful to preserve as it will likely be done before Upper Ronan Park improvements are complete.
- In the sixties there was an old playground in the basketball court area with covered swings. In the seventies, a new playground was built in the Upper Park.
- We had 4 different sections in the playground back in the 70s & 80s
- The peace garden is in memory of John Beresford.
- "For anyone who would like to get involved in activating the park - join Friends of Ronan Park! We are a volunteer run org that puts on events throughout the spring, summer, and fall. We can be found on Facebook and Instagram."