Public Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT
30 July 2020 - 16 April 2022

PROJECT NAME:
Lorraine Ellis Park Playground
SURVEY QUESTIONS
The final selection may include features from one or more of the options shown. Review each option and select the one with ...

**Question options**
- Option A - Burke - Preschool Ages
- Option B - Allplay - School Ages
- Option C - Allplay - Preschool Ages
- Option D - Playworld - School Ages
- Option E - Playworld - Preschool Ages
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (94 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question
Q2 Which age group do you think will use the playground more?

- 2-5 year old (preschool ages): 65 (69.9%)
- 5-12 year old (school ages): 18 (19.4%)
- 10 (10.8%)
- 18 (19.4%)
- Other (please specify)

Question options

Optional question (93 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question
**Q3 | Please add any other playground design comments here.**

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 02:49 PM  
I live on the Park, we see who uses it. Even those a block over, don't see what we see.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 03:45 PM  
I like a combination of Option D or Option E

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 03:46 PM  
Always include swings!!! My kids, ages 4 and 9, love swings and climbing more than anything else.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 03:47 PM  
All kind of boring. Are you sure the immediate neighbors want a playground?

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 04:08 PM  
Please have swings for babies/toddlers and bigger kids. Also one big slide and one small slide.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 04:16 PM  
Remembering when I was a child, singular options meant less crowding. I like the innovative ideas.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 04:33 PM  
My school age kids play at this park frequently with other school age children. I would love to see a park that appeals to them.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 05:01 PM  
Include swings in any design.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 06:36 PM  
I like the material/color from E, but the design of D.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 09:27 PM  
With question 2 I think that ages 2-12 will use the playground. Also, I liked option A for the playground design as well but thought that swings should be added :) Will there be a bathroom put in?

**Screen Name Redacted**  
3/25/2022 10:10 PM  
I voted for D because I liked the more unique equipment. My kids visit a lot of playgrounds and, while fun, most seem similar to A and B anymore.
| Screen Name Redacted | 3/26/2022 07:12 AM | Option B is my preferred option of the five choices. However, I also love the climbing equipment at Shuksan Meadows Park and would love to see that here. Also, an accessible route to the play area from the street parking, and a safer surface that the pea gravel currently. A picnic table or two would be nice as well. Thanks for considering public ideas! |
| Screen Name Redacted | 3/26/2022 07:34 AM | When the new sidewalks are constructed on Illinois, this park will be much more accessible and I think you'll see more younger kids there if there are toys for toddlers, because it will be safer to walk to. But, please don't make this just a tot lot, include toys are older kids as well. |
| Screen Name Redacted | 3/26/2022 08:34 AM | It seems all the parks and school playgrounds across town are ending up with similar structures as they are being rebuilt or upgraded. Our kids have enjoyed going to specific parks due to unique equipment - it would be great to see that interest in variety be considered when refreshing the park equipment. Thanks! |
| Screen Name Redacted | 3/26/2022 09:18 AM | no small pebbles |
| Screen Name Redacted | 3/26/2022 10:50 AM | Would enjoy having swings and a bench for parents to sit and watch kids play |
| Screen Name Redacted | 3/26/2022 11:57 AM | I place a high priority on unique play equipment. Bellingham has a density of parks that allow us to choose which one we go to, even if we are walking. Making the play equipment distinct makes the choice more meaningful. The log jam slide (opt. E), the spring boards (opt. E), the pinnacle of logs on end (opt. E), and the large poly climber (opt. D) seemed like the most interesting elements to my kids (ages 3 & 10) and I. My ten year old stresses that there isn't a lot of play equipment that provides challenging open-ended play for her age group. The current play structure at Lorraine-Ellis is one of the few play structures that does work well for her and her peers. The proposed play elements I picked out seems like the would work well for both my kids. |
| Screen Name Redacted | 3/26/2022 03:53 PM | I would love if the survey showed a picture of the playgrounds that they are considering, not just the brand name. I don't know much about each brand - they each have many options. |
Swings are always a big hit but all of the other local parks with swings
have dirt/woodchip under them and it results in a huge hole being
made by the swinging kids that inevitably results in the seat being so
higher above the ground that a lot of kids can't get in them without
help. This is really a problem at Squalicum Park. If you could please
ensure some side of durable soft-fall surface below the swings it
would make them more accessible to all.

Please include a swing set

With my 4-year-old, we have visited many playgrounds in the last few
years. I have to lament that they are all same (due to the safety
standard?). How children should act is pre-determined in many of the
new structures, which takes the fun away. A good example is the
rope structure in Shuksan Meadows Park, compared to the rope
structure in West Woodland Park Playground in Seattle. The size isn't
that different but how much entertainment my child gets is immensely
different.

We will miss the TALLLLL slide. Swings would be a nice addition.

Swings! Everyone wants swings! A couple of picnic tables would be
great for the park as well.

Please include options for all ages that live nearby and like to
walk/bike/scooter to a close playground.

A picnic table would be awesome!

I think the existing playground is fun and interesting for kids because
it includes a long and fast slide and because the smooth gravel
surface is unique and great for sensory seeking kids. If the
playground is replaced, please consider donating the existing
equipment to a low income area that cannot afford to have new
playground equipment.

We would love a see-saw
Screen Name Redacted  
3/29/2022 08:19 AM  
We will greatly miss the heights and unique options on the current structure! Many of the older elementary kids make daily use of the current structure. There are many younger/preschool age available parks in Columbia already (Carl Lobe, Columbia elementary, Squalicum) and it would be very disappointing to replace Lorraine Ellis’s current middle elementary/older child structure with only preschool level use.

Screen Name Redacted  
3/29/2022 10:34 AM  
If you chose to go with a younger age group as your focus please Keep as much of the grass as possible to support older youth play.

Screen Name Redacted  
3/29/2022 12:30 PM  
I really like the current playground, especially the tall tunnel slide. I hope you can make the new one similar but up to current safety standards. Most of the kids that play in this park are from the neighborhood school and are ages 5-12

Screen Name Redacted  
3/29/2022 01:08 PM  
As a part of a toddler and school aged child in the neighborhood, I believe strongly that the park will be used by both age groups, especially the 5-12 age range. Carl Lobe Park is a toddler park in the neighborhood already and barely gets used.

Screen Name Redacted  
3/29/2022 03:10 PM  
I chose D because the elements are spread out and can accommodate both age groups, and features creative play. I am not sure what the feature with the roof adds to the play elements, other than a covered place to play, which can be a plus in our rainy environment.

Screen Name Redacted  
3/29/2022 06:55 PM  
We live across the street from the park and would love a good all ages swing set!

Screen Name Redacted  
3/30/2022 11:28 AM  
Bike racks at the park should be included. Many of our neighborhood families would ride to and from the park.

Screen Name Redacted  
3/30/2022 05:07 PM  
some guy in park said u shuved this thru. just like city

Screen Name Redacted  
3/30/2022 05:57 PM  
Saw a poster in a driveway. No way am I walking my kids back to Columbia,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screen Name Redacted</th>
<th>Some guy let me use his device, heck he’s got a line of people. Maybe you should listen to what people want. Not voting for greenways anymore where the signs, what’s a share shack.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screen Name Redacted</td>
<td>Hope that it will include an infant swing and big kid swing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Name Redacted</td>
<td>I like e &amp; d bc they are different than other equipment in the surrounding parks and schools. More open for free play. Option e might end up with homeless under the covered bench area. Not might, it will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Name Redacted</td>
<td>Please develop a plan along with this to keep homeless squatters from taking over the park as they have all over Bellingham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Name Redacted</td>
<td>Without a fenced in area, or very observant parents or guardians, preschoolers would not be safe here. Illinois is busy. I live near here, and have seen little ones run into the street at this park, even with the playground well set back from the street. Look at Star Park in Ferndale, for a good example, although we do not have as much room. You've GOT to add an ADA parking slot or two, for kids with disabilities, and grandparents who take care of kids and have mobility issues and state issued disability parking permits. I assume, from reading, that some of these play areas are ada accessible,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Name Redacted</td>
<td>I live across from this park &amp; see daily how it is used. I also have 2 kids: a preschooler &amp; a 4th grader. My concern is that preschool playgrounds tend to get boring even for the toddlers. While I see &amp; personally experience how toddlers happily engage in play on school aged equipment for years &amp; years without boredom! Thanks for the survey!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Name Redacted</td>
<td>First off, you’re not asking the children who will be playing what they would like. They should be consulted, it would be instructive and inclusive. And what about community gardening space, additional landscaping including successional trees, and a crosswalk across Illinois? What about traffic calming infrastructure to lower closing speeds in the area? Based on all the new concrete on Illinois, it looks like there's plenty of money to add pedestrian safety infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Name Redacted</td>
<td>The design is important to me because I'm looking at buying a house over there $550k and I would be dissatisfied if it was turned into a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
preschool playground because I would want to send my kids over there.

I have heard through the grapevine that there may be some very vocal opposition to including ADA accessibility in the renovation of this park. As with my response on age groups, although members of my family currently have mobility challenges, I strongly support accessibility for the whole community in our parks and public spaces.

Options A and D are my favorites! It would be great to have something for preschool and school age children. I am excited to see the new park!

I like the idea of having a park for pre school aged kids in this area (and more parks geared for that age around town!).

It would be great to incorporate a water feature like a splash zone. (Cornwall park has one) maybe Loraine Ellis could be smaller. There are no parks within walking distance for Columbia children. Back in the day there was a pool area in Elizabeth Park. But that was many years ago. Thank you for consideration.

I find the aesthetics of option E preferable, and the uniqueness and imaginative appeal of option D for older kids worth considering—perhaps a hybrid of both for a wider age range? Recycled materials, if available, would be a plus, as well. Thanks for asking!

Swings

water splash area for summer fun

It's very hard to understand what play structures might be built from the various random drawings you provided. My kids (7&9) love this park and we can walk to it. So I am hopeful this park will transform into something that school age kids can still enjoy. We agree that it needs the be inclusive. But older kids need awesome places to play too, not just the little kids. Big slides, hanging bars, balancing objects (we love just walking/balancing on the existing wooden barrier). Water feature would be fun. More/better use of the space could
definitely happen.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
*4/05/2022 03:37 PM*

We are choosing this age group because school age children live in the household and want to access the playground and have an alternative to the school.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
*4/06/2022 04:19 AM*

The old structure needs to go! It’s so unsafe. Please choose a design that allows multiple ages to continue to play here. This is a wonderful community gathering space for the kids, there are multiple groups of kids living nearby who play here all the time. It’s their hangout spot! Kids and adults also use the grass to play soccer games, kickball and catch. The trees are lovely for shade and hide and seek. The sign is fine. Although the kids will sit and/or stand on it at times.

**Screen Name Redacted**  
*4/09/2022 12:27 PM*

Please make sure that this is an all ages park. We live across from the park and kids of all ages play there daily. Please make the ground material a natural material and not foam or rubber. This is more eco friendly and blends in with the natural environment. No need for parking. This is a pedestrian friendly to park and should stay that way.

**Optional question**  
*(55 response(s), 39 skipped)*

**Question type:** Essay Question

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**Public Survey:** Survey Report for 30 July 2020 to 16 April 2022