



RASOR PARK

Workshop #1: Summary Results

February 15, 2001

Workshop Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Workshop Location: Kelly Middle School Cafeteria, 850 Howard Avenue
Workshop Facilitators: David Reed, David Reed & Associates; Eran Schlesinger, Schirmer, Schlesinger + Associates; Robin Hostick and Carolyn Weiss
Also Present: Johnny Medlin, John Weber
Number of Participants: 105
Number of Participants Signing-in: 82

Note: This summary represents a compilation of participant's verbal comments that were recorded on index cards taped to the meeting wall. Numbers in parentheses reflect priorities that participants assigned to the wall-cards (each participant was issued six dots to distribute freely among the cards). The wall-cards were organized by categories (see meeting agenda). 61 comment sheets were returned at the end of the meeting and supplement the wall-cards; 19 "Additional Comments" were also recorded (see below).

Question 1: What is important about Razor Park?

PHYSICAL CHARACTER

"Undeveloped open space (17) next to the river with its expansive views (13); a visual oasis having a variety of natural zones (8), wildlife and native vegetation (6); a dark park (no lights) (4); nature's fingerprint (1) that is also grassland buffer to River Road."

BENEFITS AND SATISFACTIONS

"An opportunity to value, respect, and enjoy nature (9), providing

- a calm feeling from uncluttered views (4)*
- a greenway that helps protect water quality (3)*
- importance to bicyclists and commuters (3)*
- education (2)*
- a nightscape from Valley River Center (2)*
- value to the neighborhood (1).*

Also:

"A quiet place for spiritual renewal, stress relief, and day dreaming, providing opportunities for picking berries, exercise, and a place for children to experience open space."

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- 8 Riparian zone too narrow (5), bikepath too close to the river (2), and restore integrity of the greenway (1)**
- 7 Make sure uses are compatible (5) and don't try to be all things to all people (2); limited use - don't attract people**
- 6 Mowing destroys habitat (3); no herbicides and pesticides (2); soil compaction (1)**
- 5 Keep open for public access (1); parks are for people, not wildlife (1); don't draw transient activity (1); police vegetated areas (1); benefit to all users**
- 5 No lights and concrete; no parking**
- 4 Visual and sound buffer to River Road**
- 4 Fire hazard in residential area**
- 3 Keep unchanged**
- 2 No sports complex**
- 1 Cost is a concern**

Also:

- No flat, boring park**
- Lack of benches**
- Shortage of wildlife for people to enjoy**
- Too many trees will restrict views; screening of road will block views into the park**
- No orange fencing to buffer the river**
- Access for emergency purposes**
- Don't tie to revenue stream**
- No bridge**
- Liability to city & consultant if crime increases**

Question 2: What is your vision for Razor Park?

USES AND ACTIVITIES

28 *Passive recreation use such as wildlife viewing and nature enjoyment*

17 *Special and cultural events*

- *special event park for community events (12)*
- *special events that don't impact neighborhood (4)*
- *cultural events (1)*
- *community events w/alternative transportation*

13 *No or limited special events*

- *no events (12)*
- *group activities compatible with wildlife (1)*
- *no planned group activities*

4 *Butterfly-attracting plants with education*

2 *Children's play*

1 *Community gathering space*

1 *Dog walking*

Site Features and Facilities:

7 *Pond; contouring/shaping the park*

5 *Labyrinth*

4 *Construct/plant berms along River Road*

2 *Interpretive facilities for schools*

1 *Community gardens*

1 *Jogging path and grading*

OPPORTUNITIES AND PLANNING GOALS

Dominant Planning Goal:

70 *The natural environment is the top priority (23) including restoration of the oak savanna (20), creating a place of sustainable, biological legacy (17), and re-establishing native vegetation (10).*

Secondary Goals:

12 *Do nothing*

12 *Acquire all vacant private lands around the park*

11 *Minimal construction*

Also:

5 *Safety and security from openness*

4 *Kid-friendly place, compatible with nature*

2 *The park should be unique*

2 *Provide for multi-use*

2 *Low to no impact area*

2 *Develop access to the river*

1 *Refurbish the riparian area*

1 *Provide for maximum and diverse uses; don't preclude anything*

1 *Be cautious - don't let process become the goal; err on side of keeping simple*

1 *Mix of woodland and open space; screening*

- *Uses should be compatible*

- *Sensitivity to ADA*

- *Natural development will enhance nodal development goals*

Infrastructure Goals:

3 *Don't fence the park*

1 *Restrooms*

1 *Need plan for parking; minimum parking*

- *Site furniture needed*

- *No "shelf" furnishings*

- *No site furnishings*

- *Facilitate disposal of dog waste*

MANAGEMENT GOALS

- 5 *Rename the park*
- 4 *Ongoing neighborhood input to management*

Also:

- *Park steward*
- *Park signage*

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- *Provide Greenway permit criteria for this planning process*

Additional Workshop Comments

Note: This is a compilation of the “Additional Comments” from the Comment Sheets that were returned at the end of the workshop.

We need open space, not developed to maximize human impact (i.e. with bathrooms, play structures, parking). Allow the space to be maximized for non-human species.

No bathroom, no paving for basketball, no paving for parking, parking bay on River Road; no defined sports field - go to Maurie Jacobs Park.

Leave it as it is.

Buy up the vacant lot; don't allow a home to be built.

Keep and enhance as much as possible the natural river greenway.

Physical location of the park allows the River Road Community to come together.

This should be a passive park; let re-plantings and wildlife make this a park for birding, resting, and meditating.

There are two safety issues: safety from dangerous people, and river safety issues (kids swimming or falling in the river).

As a neighbor, I see a lot happening in the park. Something that really bothers me is when I see people drive into the park and park their cars or trucks. This happens a lot, especially after a car show.

Staff could be better prepared for this type of process and accommodating such a large group.

As a homeowner in the area, I would say that the Cruise-in has been a major irritation since it began. When it happens, there is street racing on my street (Park Ave) all night long, beer cans thrown in my yard, and people parking in residents' yards, with no concern about the residents along the street.

It's close to home, and an easy place to get the whole family out of the house and into a natural setting.

This area could be developed for the native plants and birds, etc. and man could certainly learn from this. Trails, signs, benches, educational tools for all to utilize. We need a native meadow park with close proximity to pedestrian traffic.

I fully support the Vision and Guiding principles for the future of Razor Park as outlined by the Friends of Razor Park and their recommendations, which are provided in "Razor Park: A Riverside Refuge for People and Wildlife," FORP, Feb. 2001.

Most of all, have it be a Place of Beauty that nature herself emphasizes.

Excellent workshop and process! Thanks!

I am hearing the "open to all activities" people saying "a place to show/park cars on the grass."

Wouldn't it be nice to add a branch library to Razor Ave commercial area as part of the nodal vision.

In the future, at next meeting, please end the evening with "What worked?" "What needs improvement?" regarding how the meeting was conducted.

Workshop Outreach/Advertisement

Advertisement for Workshop #1 included the following:

1. Interviews were conducted with leaders of stakeholder groups including the organizer of the River Road Cruise-in, and a member of the Steering Committee for the Friends of Razor Park.
2. On February 5, approximately 1100 flyers/community surveys were mailed to residents within walking distance of the park.
3. During the week of February 5, approximately 250 postcards were mailed to the membership list of the Friends of Razor Park.
4. During the week of February 5, approximately 400 postcards were mailed to a list of petitioners who signed up at the last River Road Cruise-in, expressing concerns related to future car shows in Razor Park.
5. On February 9, approximately 750 postcards (in Spanish) were delivered to the Centro LatinoAmericano for distribution to area churches.
6. On February 8, approximately 200 postcards were delivered to River Road Elementary School, and 25 postcards in Spanish, for children to take home.
7. Advertisements were purchased in local newspapers.
8. Staff conducted a number of interviews on radio and television stations.

9. On the day of the workshop, KLCC ran a special nature piece on Rasor Park, including an invitation to attend the workshop.
10. On February 10, the Register-Guard included a piece on the front page of the City and Region section, "Workshop to open dialogue on park."
11. Several copies of the preliminary Rasor Park Technical Report #1 were made available the week of February 5 at the Reference Desk, Main Library Downtown, and at the Public Works Maintenance Building on Roosevelt Blvd.