

# Scobert Gardens Park Renovations

## Survey #1 – Executive Summary

### Background

The City of Eugene Parks and Open Space department has initiated a process of renovating Scobert Gardens Park in the Whiteaker neighborhood. This process will include a series of public meetings and online polls to provide opportunities for input from community members throughout the process.

Parks and Open Space hosted an initial input meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and followed up with an online survey to gain an initial round of community input regarding the project. A second meeting will be held to review this information and discuss the findings before starting into the development of design proposals for the site.

### Questions

The first five questions were established demographic information about people who took the survey. This included where they lived, how they heard about the meeting, their age, etc.

The remaining questions asked about people's likes and dislikes of the current conditions of the park along with their hopes for and concerns about renovations to the park. The survey also asked users to respond to a variety of potential park improvements and provided an opportunity for people to provide any other information or ideas they wanted to share.

### Results

The following is a summary of the results from the online polling for questions related to user demographics and opinions about the existing park uses. All of the detailed survey results are available and attached to this document. These poll results will be used as a tool for the project discussions at the second public workshop.

#### Who took the survey?

190 people took the survey, although most questions were answered by 90-95 people. Approximately half of the respondents were from the Whiteaker area, with a slight majority living within a half mile of the park.

#### When you visit Scobert Gardens Park, what do you do and what areas do you use most often?

In general respondents appreciate the open grassy areas, having a place to play with kids and attend events. The proximity of the park to their homes was an important component of being able to use the park.

#### What do you think the GOALS of the park renovation should be?

The resounding answer to this question was to address the current problems and make the park a safer place for people to enjoy. Survey respondents also desired:

- A welcoming place for gatherings,
- A safe place for children,
- A more visible area close to the street
- An active area for public events
- More natural areas
- More programmed activities to bring people to the park

**Which of the following park amenities do you think would be viable and/or desirable at Scobert Gardens Park? (check all that apply)**

Of the amenity choices provided the highest rated were:

- Park lighting
- A gathering place for neighbors, friends and family
- Park furniture - benches, tables and trash receptacles
- Play areas with playground equipment
- A place to enjoy nature
- Community gardens
- A public plaza for food cart

In the open ended response portion of this question a variety of ideas were mentioned with some of the most common being a stage with an area for performances and gatherings, gardening areas, a dog park and restrooms

**What EXISTING FEATURES OR ASPECTS of the park do you like the most, or feel are most important to preserve?**

Three features of the park were the dominant responses to this question. People appreciate the open space including lawn and trees, the playground area for kids and that the park is in the heart of the neighborhood close to their homes.

**What do you feel needs to be IMPROVED OR CHANGED the most?**

The responses to this question clearly indicated that the lack of safety and comfort in the park due to illicit activity and drug use is the number one concern. Neighbors also made recommendations for lighting and better cleanup of the resulting litter and hazards left in the park.

**What would be your BEST OUTCOME of renovations at Scobert Gardens Park?**

The most frequently identified Best Outcomes were a safe, clean park where kids can play and community members can gather comfortably without the concerns associated with the existing park conditions.

**What is your BIGGEST FEAR or WORST OUTCOME of renovations at Scobert Gardens Park?**

The most consistent answer to this question by a large margin was a fear that the park would be renovated and the same homelessness and drug use problems would reoccur. An additional concern was that the problem would be considered unsolvable and the property closed or sold.

## **Conclusion**

The survey results proved useful in identifying areas and issues that neighbors and community members believe to be important areas in planning for this project. Staff will take this information to assist in directing the discussion process for Public Input Session #2.

Full survey results follow this Executive Summary. If you have questions about this document or any of the information herein, please contact Rex Redmon at [rex.e.redmon@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:rex.e.redmon@ci.eugene.or.us)