

NORTH BEND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

June 28, 2023, 6:30pm

PLEASE NOTE:

This is an in-person meeting only and online participation will not be available. As the meeting will be a tour on-site at various parks, the below locations include approximate times that the Parks Commission is anticipated to be at each particular location. To know specifically where the Parks Commission is meeting at any point in time during the meeting to be able to join the meeting in person, contact Principal Planner Mike McCarty at (425) 606-1534

AGENDA: (6:30 pm, starting at North Bend City Hall, 411 Main Ave. S)

1. Call to order, opportunity for public comments.
2. Minutes of May 24, 2023 Parks Commission meeting
3. Coordination with resident Terry Pottmeyer on Arbor Day recognition activities for 2024 Arbor Day at EJ Roberts Park.
 - a. See attached email for details. At May 24 Parks Commission meeting, Commission requested meeting with Terry Pottmeyer to further consider event planning.
4. Discussion on Senior Center Survey results applicable to potential future Gardiner Weeks Park improvements
 - a. See attached email from Senior Center director Susan Kingsbury-Comeau
5. Update on Park Planning for William H. Taylor Park and Riverfront Park
 - a. Summary of site analysis and alternatives development by Site Workshop for each park
 - b. Next public meetings to be scheduled soon for consideration of alternative concepts
6. Part 2 of Annual Park Tour –
 - a. purpose includes the following:
 - i. Review current conditions of park against previous maintenance recommendations to determine accomplishments, remaining, and new items.
 - ii. Recommendations for maintenance tasks for use of annual and banked parks maintenance budget funds.
 - iii. Recommendations for future improvements (not just maintenance), updates to Capital Improvement Plan
 - iv. Ideas for Small Park Improvements Budget for 2023.
 - v. Ideas for Adopt-a-Park program project suggestions for volunteer groups.
 - vi. Consider park directional signage at and between parks, as requested by Parks Commission in 2023 work plan.
 - b. visit the following destinations:

Agenda sent to: Parks Commissioners, Mayor, City Administrator, City Clerk, CED Director, Senior Planner, Public Works Parks Lead

i. **Torguson Park – approximately 7:00, at the plaza area**

- Future plaza and playground improvements
- Small repairs/improvements
- Ideas for adopt-a-park / volunteer projects?

ii. **Dahlgren Family Park – approximately 7:30 at the parking lot**

- Planned improvements to park, and adjacent improvements to King County Tanner Landing Park
- Potential location for dog park

ii. **Tollgate Farm Park – approximately 7:50 at the new farmstead parking lot off Bendigo Blvd.**

- Potential future improvements per Tollgate Farm Master Plan
- Tollgate to Downtown Trail
- Potential location for future pickleball courts at other end of park?
- Ideas for adopt-a-park / volunteer projects?

7. **Adjournment, approximately 8:00 PM**

Minutes of the North Bend Parks Commission Meeting of May 24, 2023
Minutes are draft until approved at the following Parks Commission Meeting

Attendance:

- Parks Commissioners in attendance: Minna Rudd, Tim Talevich, Brian Duncan, Kyle Braun
- Commissioners absent: Mark Correira, Eric Thompson, Paige Robbins.
- Staff in attendance: Principal Planner Mike McCarty.

No members of the general public participated in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at Gardiner Weeks Park, 411 Main Ave. S.

Minutes of the April 19, 2023 joint Parks Commission/Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Braun made a motion to approve the minutes as provided. Commissioner Duncan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tollgate Farm Farmstead Improvements Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Minna Rudd noted that the ribbon cutting for the barn and new parking lot at the Tollgate Farmstead will be on June 14 at 5pm. Parks Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

Park Planning for William H. Taylor Park and Riverfront Park

Mike McCarty noted that there will be a public workshop hosted by the City's consultant Site Workshop on the park planning for William H. Taylor Park and Riverfront Park at City Hall on June 13 at 5pm for the purpose of presenting alternative concepts that Site Workshop developed for the parks based on earlier public feedback received and analysis of the sites.

Oaktober Celebration idea from resident

Mike McCarty noted that a local resident, Terry Pottmeyer, is interested to host an Oaktober Celebration at EJ Roberts Park promoting the value of trees and the large oaks growing within that park. Mike asked the Parks Commissioners if they wished to meet with Ms. Pottmeyer to discuss further to determine if Ms. Pottmeyer's efforts could be incorporated into the City's Arbor Day recognition this year. The Commissioners wished to meet with Ms. Pottmeyer at their June meeting to discuss further.

Annual Park Tour

The Parks Commission commenced their park tour to evaluate needs within the parks for maintenance, to update the Parks Maintenance list for consideration by City staff for use of the annual \$10,000 parks maintenance budget. Parks Commissioners reviewed the parks against the prior maintenance recommendations they provided to the City in 2021. The Parks Commission decided to visit Gardiner Weeks Park, Si View Neighborhood Park and EJ Roberts Park at this meeting, and will continue their tour to visit additional parks at their meeting next month. The Parks Commissioners are not visiting William H. Taylor Park or Riverfront Park this year as those parks already have planning processes underway for considering future improvements. The following is a summary of items noted at the parks visited at this meeting:

Gardiner Weeks Park

- Many of the site corrections requested on the Parks Commissions list from their 2021 park tour had been completed, including principally the paving safety corrections along the pathways.
- The gazebo remains in poor condition. Parks Commissioners recommend either removing it and placing a pad and picnic table there, or providing a major renovation of it, depending on input from the Senior Center on how they use it or wish to see it used.
- The trees around the gazebo should be extensively limbed up to open up this area more for greater visibility through the park and make it less dark.
- The ivy around the gazebo should be removed, as well as the ivy at the base of the trees near the river.
- Dying birch tree in the middle of the lawn area between the Senior Center and Bendigo Boulevard should be removed and its stump and stump from previous dead fir tree should be ground.
- Add 2-3 picnic tables to the park.
- Paved pathway improvements should be constructed between the Senior Center, parking lot, and the Snoqualmie Valley History Museum, as the way to get to the museum is currently just across grass lawn.
- There may be opportunities for outdoor museum displays that could also benefit the park. Further coordination with the Museum could inform what this could be.
- Additional signage within the park could be provided to direct people from the parking lot to the museum (that could be coordinated by the Museum).
- Mike McCarty will seek additional input from Senior Center director Susan Kingsbury Comeau and Museum coordinator Christy Lake for park improvements that could benefit these facilities.

Si View Neighborhood Park

- The repairs to the play equipment have been completed, and they look good.
- Playground wood chip borders are significantly deteriorated and need to be replaced.
- A sand volleyball court or other elements requested by the public in the 2022 Parks Survey could be added in the large lawn area behind the pickleball court.
- Parks Commissioners determined that this park is not a good candidate for adding multiple pickleball courts (for tournament play) as there is insufficient parking.

EJ Roberts Park:

- Most of the maintenance needs identified on the 2021 maintenance list have been addressed.
- Within the swale area of EJ Roberts Park south of the tennis courts (within the River Glen neighborhood area), the grass is significantly deteriorated. A pollinator seed mix that is mowed only periodically, or a sand volleyball court might be good in this area.
- Pickleball Court striping should be added to the tennis courts. The Parks Commissioners confirmed they wish to use a part of their 2023 Small Park Improvement funds for this purpose. Mike McCarty noted that Public Works is currently getting an estimate for the work, for completion this summer.
- Anti-slip surfacing should be added to the bridges. Was previously there, but appears to have worn off.
- Fill in multiple small depressions/divits in the lawn area to correct trip hazards and smooth the field.
- Larger project needed is to repave the parking area adjacent to Thrasher Avenue, which is deteriorated, uneven, and full of holes.

Other discussion items

- Parks Commissioners discussed the Parks Commission establishing a Parks Commission webpage where they could post volunteer project ideas for the adopt-a-park program and Eagle Scout Projects, and seek public input for use of the Small Park Improvement fund and maintenance needs.
- Park directional signage should be added at key points along the Tanner Trail providing direction to pedestrians and bikes to Torguson Park, Si View Community Park, and Dahlgren Family Park.

Next Meeting

The Parks Commissioners will continue their tour at their next meeting on June 28, including visiting Torguson Park, Dahlgren Family Park and Tollgate Farm Park.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30pm, and followed the meeting with a social barbecue at EJ Roberts Park.

Minutes prepared by Mike McCarty

From: [Mike McCarty](#)
To: [Parks Commission](#)
Subject: FW: North Bend Park--Two Quick Questions
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 10:44:00 AM

Parks Commissioners,
See below email chain as an idea for a part of our annual Arbor Day recognition (typically done in October or early November). I'll add this to our agenda to discuss at our next regular meeting on May 24 (which will also be our annual park tour).
Mike

Mike McCarty, AICP
Principal Planner
City of North Bend Community and Economic Development
920 SE Cedar Falls Way
North Bend, WA 98045
(425) 888-7649



From: Mike McCarty
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:24 PM
To: pottmeyer@comcast.net
Subject: RE: North Bend Park--Two Quick Questions

Hi Lisa,
Sorry I haven't had a chance to respond yet. I was on vacation on April 10-14 and am still catching up on lots of emails. Let me discuss this idea with our Parks Commission. This could be a good tie-in with our annual Arbor Day celebration. I'll get back to you in the next month or so after our Parks Commission meets again.

Sincerely,
Mike

Mike McCarty, AICP
Principal Planner
City of North Bend Community and Economic Development
920 SE Cedar Falls Way
North Bend, WA 98045
(425) 888-7649



From: pottmeyer@comcast.net <pottmeyer@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 1:21 PM

To: Mike McCarty <MMCCARTY@NORTHBENDWA.GOV>

Subject: RE: North Bend Park--Two Quick Questions

Hi Mike,

Happy Monday.

I wondered if you'd had a chance to think about how, or if, I can reserve the park shelter, and if the City wishes to partner on this idea. If there is someone better for me to talk to, please let me know. You seem to be the contact for a lot of items for the City, so totally understand if you are fully booked.

Thanks for letting me know!

Terry Pottmeyer
206.755.1760

From: pottmeyer@comcast.net <pottmeyer@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:07 PM

To: 'Mike McCarty' <MMCCARTY@NORTHBENDWA.GOV>

Subject: North Bend Park--Two Quick Questions

Good afternoon Mike,

I am writing to ask how two things: how/if I might reserve the shelter at EJ Roberts Park for a community celebration, and if the City is interested in partnering/endorsing the celebration?

I spend a lot of time thinking about how to be a better steward of the earth, for our children and grandchildren. I find climate change stressful and the Anthropocene era frightening, so I seek hopeful things to do. In that spirit, I would like to host an 'Oaktober' celebration at EJ Roberts on Saturday October 7th. Here's an overview of what I'm thinking:

Oaktober Celebration

A day to celebrate, appreciate and propagate Garry Oaks, while learning about how to become better stewards of the environment.

Garry Oaks are our only PNW native oaks, and are a keystone species for our region. Research shows that oak trees support a greater diversity of insects, birds and wildlife than any other tree. Sadly, Garry oaks have lost more than 98% of their habitat. Did you know that EJ Roberts is home to several amazing Garry oaks?

Join us at the park to celebrate these amazing oaks, plant acorns, and learn more about how to heal our earth and support wildlife.

Date	Saturday, October 7, 2023
Location	EJ Roberts Park
Time	9:00-12:00

Activities:

Acorn Hole Toss game

‘Plant an Acorn’ Booth—take home an acorn that you have planted—then plant it in your yard next Spring!

Kids Craft Table -with an Oak theme

Environmental Crafts to Buy—crafts that help us to be better stewards of our environment.

Free coffee—(I would hire a coffee cart)

Native Plant Sale

Free

I have reliably organized community events in the past, and have some folks interested in helping me. But, first I need to see if it is something I can do at EJ Roberts. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

Terry Pottmeyer
She/Her
206.755.1760

Mike McCarty

From: Mike McCarty
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 10:34 AM
To: susan@mtsiseniorcenter.org; Parks Commission
Subject: FW: Gardner Weeks Park - Senior Input
Attachments: Gardner Weeks Park.pdf

Susan,

Thank you – this is very good information. I’m forwarding this to our Parks Commission, and we can discuss it further at our next meeting in June.

Sincerely,
Mike

Mike McCarty, AICP
Principal Planner
City of North Bend Community and Economic Development
920 SE Cedar Falls Way
North Bend, WA 98045
(425) 888-7649



From: Susan Kingsbury-Comeau <susan@mtsiseniorcenter.org>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Mike McCarty <MMCCARTY@NORTHBENDWA.GOV>
Subject: Gardner Weeks Park - Senior Input

Mike – Attached is the input from 47 seniors. Their comments are quite good – especially around the gazebo area. Basically they believe a redesigned gazebo area would create a town “center” space for special events, performances, and an attractive entry into town.

My own vision for that space: A gazebo with a plaza around it would make for a wonderful twilight space for various community events that would benefit from the additional attractive outdoor space (downtown festival, Halloween street, Christmas tree lighting). The parking lot adjacent means you can roll up food trucks for the community events. It also might give you a spot for summer movies in the park. In addition there are other uses: space for markets, plant sales, plein air art exhibitions or paint-ins, and a spot for the little kiddos at the pre-schools to visit. I would think that the downtown foundation might like all the things such a space would have to offer. Smaller trees around the edges of the plaza that could be lit up would make the space more attractive. Such a space might also contribute to a greater “rentability” of city park space. People love weddings and anniversaries that feature a gazebo.

Gardner Weeks Park is one of the first things anyone sees when they venture into North Bend from I-90. **Showing that we are welcoming, community oriented, and fun is a good foot forward.** Creating a park like setting might change the course in the minds of those who want to redevelop the space.

The leveling/grading of the space between the senior center and the hill sloping up to 202 means that more people of any age can use the space.

There is one really cool and very different idea that was thrown into the senior comments: create a floating wharf for kayaks to put into and out of the river.

Cheers!

Susan Kingsbury-Comeau

Executive Director, Mt. Si Senior Center

Email: susan@mtsiseniorcenter.org

Work Phone: 425-888-3434 / Cell Phone: 206-953-4974

Website: www.mtsiseniorcenter.org / [Coming Home Auction](#)

Mailing Address: PO Box 806, North Bend WA 98045

Street Address: 411 Main Ave S, North Bend WA 98045

SAVE THE DATE for the 2023 Coming Home Benefit Auction

May 6th 6.30-8pm at Mt. Si Senior Center

Sponsor / Donate to the Auction / Give

Number of Seniors Surveyed, as of 5/22/2023
47...



2nd?

Pickleball/Badminton, |||||



3

Oversized Chess/Checkers Area |||||



Horseshoe Pits, |||||

lost



5

All Season Ping Pong Table, |||||



2nd?

Park Benches 4 Spectators, |||||



New Park Gazebo/Bandstand, |||||

winner



Bocce Ball Court, |||||

4th

Other Suggestions:

- More Parking for MSSC, Clean Up the Existing Walkway & Add Benches.
- Additional MSSC Parking, Increase Size & Capacity of MSSC, add a Row of Trees 4 Privacy
- More MSSC Parking, Add More Benches, Exiting Path Needs Work
- More MSSC Parking, Work on Existing Pathway
- BBQ Area, Picnic Tables & Chairs
- Picnic Tables
- Community Garden
- -This is the entrance into town, More beautification & More picnic tables
- Beer Garden
- Beer Garden
- Weatherproof Bandstand/Gazebo
- Just Pickleball and Just a Bandstand
- -Could both Pickleball and Bandstand be built so that the audience chairs for Bandstand be located on ½ of Pickleball/badminton Court to save space?
- Renew vegetation and gardens, trim & shape existing trees/shrubs, Provide water for plants
- Add picnic tables
- -This will be a welcoming area for visitors & future visitors to our town and to the Valley. You should be able to see this area when people Google our city. Thank you for asking for our input. Victoria Reeves
- Please consider that each of these amenities is vital for senior's health & social needs
- Musical group performances during the summer
- Install a concrete area for dancing
- More seating
- A floating Wharf for kayaks to put into and out of the river
- -Need a place, (like a town square) where everyone in the community can gather
- Suggest that whatever is installed be built under cover so it could be used year-around
- Suggest trimming back foliage around existing Gazebo and then renovate it
- Tear down old Gazebo, install raised P-Patch Beds
- Restrooms, NOT port-a-potties
- More Picnic Tables
- Especially would like to see a new Bandstand/Gazebo for public music performances
- Pickleball Court Please! Much needed for seniors for our socializing and fitness!
- Locked storage for equipment

← interesting and different

see back for tally of votes