

Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan

Adopted TBD 2017



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Executive Summary

When the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department staff and Advisory Board initiated a system-wide Comprehensive Plan process in 2011, the need for a Master Plan update for North Albany Park was recognized. The facilities within the Park were reaching the end of their useful lifespan and significant residential development adjacent to, and nearby, the Park was taking place. The motivation to move ahead with the Master Plan was the 2016 donation of 10 wooded acres intended to serve as a “natural area” addition to the Park along with 3 wetland acres, by Myles Breadner, MBBH Development, LLC.

While the policy, goals, and vision statements generated through the 2011 Comprehensive Plan were applied to the North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan update, Benton County staff also recognized the above mentioned planning opportunities associated with North Albany Park.

More specifically:

1) It was apparent that, given the pace and extent of recent residential development surrounding North Albany Park, there was extensive local community support for leaving the recently acquired wooded acreage in its natural state as much as possible. A major focus of the Master Plan is to explore how to best incorporate this Natural Area into the existing Park and community.

2) The residential population and its recreational needs have changed significantly since the Park was originally developed. Benton County felt strongly that extensive public outreach and observation of current recreational activity within the Park was necessary in order to plan for appropriate facility modifications and upgrades. Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department partnered with Benton County Health Department’s Healthy Communities staff to accomplish this particular plan objective. Their expertise with surveys and park observation analysis were an important part of this planning process.

3) Benton County staff recognized the opportunity to plan for and provide important trail and pathway connections from immediately adjacent neighborhoods into North Albany Park and the newly acquired wooded acreage at the corner of Valley View Drive and Crocker Lane. A major goal of this plan is to create a family friendly, off-street, network of bicycle /pedestrian trail and pathway opportunities which serve to interconnect North Albany Park & Natural Area with all adjacent neighborhoods.

Other important considerations associated with this plan include: facility and amenity modifications in compliance with the American’s with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines; incorporation of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design concepts; integration of an off-leash dog area; and the need to address drainage and Douglas-fir mortality issues occurring throughout the established Park.

We are grateful to the numerous citizens and officials who contributed toward this Master Plan. Benton County will strive to phase in the identified amenities and facility improvements over the next two to six years.

History and Background

The 22 acre North Albany Park land was purchased by Benton County in 1970 with construction of the Park's original features and amenities taking place over the next few years. At the time, the North Albany area was rural in nature and simply an outlying area of Benton County. The features incorporated into North Albany Park at the time of development were typical of those found in County Parks with the emphasis on preserving open space and providing facilities catering to picnicking, imaginative play, and open play.



North Albany Park is nearly 50 years old.

In the late 1980's and early 90's, North Albany's residential population began to grow, and North Albany was annexed into the City of Albany in 1991. Since annexation, 1,600 new homes have been constructed in North Albany with several dense residential subdivisions constructed immediately adjacent to the Park boundaries. Today North Albany Park is completely surrounded by residences and residential subdivisions.

2016 Park Expansion

In 2013, MBBH Development, LLC began seeking City of Albany approval for Albany Heights Phase 1, a residential development located immediately adjacent to North Albany Park to the west. The northernmost 10 acres of the MBBH property, located at the corner of Valley View Drive and Crocker Lane, is heavily wooded with a mixture of mature Douglas-fir and Oregon White Oak. When the public planning process associated with the proposed Albany Heights development got underway, it became clear to Myles Breadner of MBBH Development, LLC that many residents in the vicinity of the proposed development valued the presence of the 10 acres, and many voiced their desire to keep this acreage in its natural wooded condition. Many residents saw this parcel as one of the last significant remaining remnants of wooded natural acreage in North Albany. Mr. Breadner was sensitive to this public feedback and approached Benton County and its Natural Areas & Parks Department to inquire as to their interest in obtaining the wooded acreage to be managed as an addition to North Albany Park. After lengthy discussions and negotiations involving the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Advisory Board, Benton County Board of Commissioners, Albany City Council, Albany Planning Commission, and City of Albany Public Works and Community Development Departments, Benton County agreed in principle to receive and manage the wooded acreage as part of North Albany Park.

Final details of the transaction involved MBBH Development, LLC donating the 10 wooded acres, plus a separate 3 acre wetland parcel adjacent to the Park, to Benton County. However Benton County agreed to pay its proportionate share of the City of Albany Local Improvement District (LID) charges required as a consequence of the Albany Heights residential development. The LID charges were levied to fund street and street side (sidewalks, curbing, storm water) improvements to Crocker Lane and to a lesser extent Valley View Drive.

During the public discussions associated with the Albany Heights/Benton County proposed land transaction, it again became clear that the vast majority of residents in the vicinity of North Albany Park

and the proposed residential development desired that the 10 wooded acres be kept in its wooded condition. During these meetings Benton County officials consistently stated their intent to maintain the parcel in its current wooded condition as much as possible from the standpoint of public safety and resource health. Additionally, Benton County officials noted the opportunity and benefits associated with using the parcel for outdoor education purposes and the potential for additional connectivity with providing a trail through the parcel.

Benton County acquired title to the MBBH parcels (13 acres total) in May of 2016. The Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department manages this acreage as the North Albany Natural Area as an annex to North Albany Park. The Park & Natural Area will ultimately be connected by a bicycle/pedestrian trail, as detailed further in the Master Plan.

Recent Resource Management Activities

Over the last several years there has been a high incidence of Douglas-fir mortality within established areas of the Park. Soon after the title to the additional Natural Area acreage was obtained in 2016, Benton County took steps to remove dead and dying trees in the Park & Natural Area. The goal was to both improve public safety and improve overall woodland health and vigor, especially in the Natural Area.

Resource management issues associated with drainage and riparian conditions have also been a concern within the Park over recent years. Consequently, one of the major components of the Master Plan is to take actions to remedy the drainage and woodland health issues while at the same time assuring compatibility with the facility and amenity improvements proposed in the Plan.

Further detail about woodland health and drainage/riparian conditions and the 2016 management activities are detailed in the *Existing Natural Features and Conditions* section of the document.



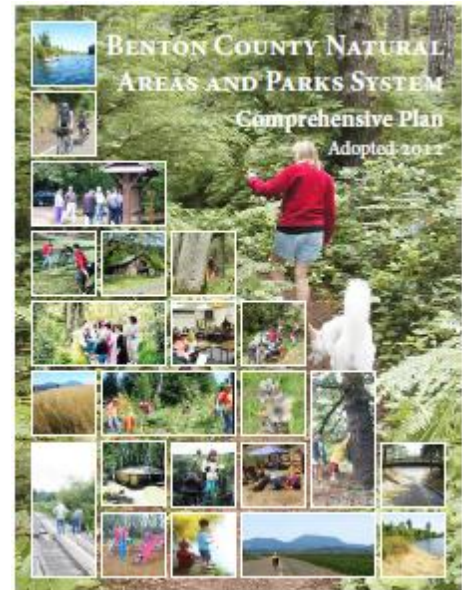
Existing North Albany Park shelter and playground area.

Vision and Goals

The goal for the North Albany Park & Natural Area is to develop a long range Master Plan that will be used to guide the development of the Park & Natural Area in the coming years.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to identify opportunities and constraints of the site and to recommend options for North Albany Park & Natural Area based on the desires of the community and alignment with the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks System Comprehensive Plan (2012).

The North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan is consistent with the vision statements and policy goals of the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks System Comprehensive Plan (2012), clarifying a new vision to shape the future of Benton County's natural resources. As part of the master planning process, input and ideas were sought from stakeholders and the community to produce a plan that meets community needs and maximizes the potential of the existing 22 acre North Albany Park, and the new adjacent 10 acre Natural Area and 3 acre wetland parcel.



Benton County Natural Areas and Parks System Comprehensive Plan, Adopted 2012.

Comprehensive Vision

“Benton County celebrates its steadfast commitment to natural beauty, diverse habitats, and rich history. Our community benefits significantly from outstanding natural areas and parks, connected by a well-established network of greenbelts and trails that provide public access, recreation, renewal, and education for all. We treasure, protect, and enhance these public places for connection to nature, sense of community, and sustained benefits to the economy, health, and social well-being of Benton County.”
- Comprehensive Plan Vision

North Albany Park & Natural Area is designated as a Community Park and is intended to provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for all age groups.

Policy Goals

The following policy goals from the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Comprehensive Plan provide a framework to achieve a preferred future for North Albany Park & Natural Area:

- Assure the highest level of safety and security.
- Develop an integrated, connected, and accessible system.
- Promote health and well-being.
- Promote healthy natural habitats.

Needs Assessment

As a part of the Master Plan process, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department assessed opportunities and needs by examining North Albany's social and physical characteristics, including current community population characteristics and trends, conditions of the existing Park facility, conditions of natural features in the existing Park and Natural Area, and evaluating the current Park to determine design strategies that promote increased safety.

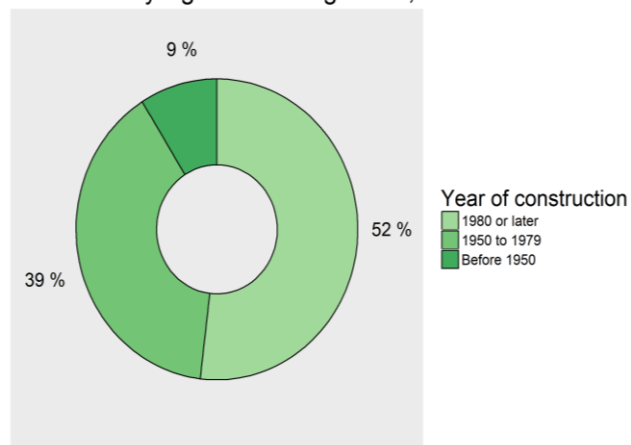
Population Profile & Trends

North Albany's demographic and socioeconomic characteristics are unique in many respects, with many implications for meeting needs for natural areas, parks and open space, and recreation.

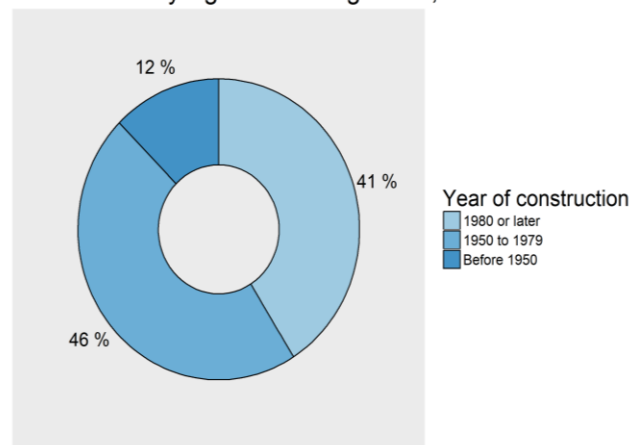
Total Population

Overall, North Albany's population was 8,507 in 2015, containing about 10 percent of the total population of Benton County. However, the population is growing faster than that of the rest of the County. Between 2000 and 2015 the population of North Albany grew by 22 percent while the Benton County population grew by 11 percent. In addition, the rate of new-home construction in North Albany outpaces that of the County. Twenty seven percent of the housing in North Albany was built after 2000, while 15 percent of the housing in the County was built after 2000.

North Albany Age of Housing Stock, 2015



Benton County Age of Housing Stock, 2015

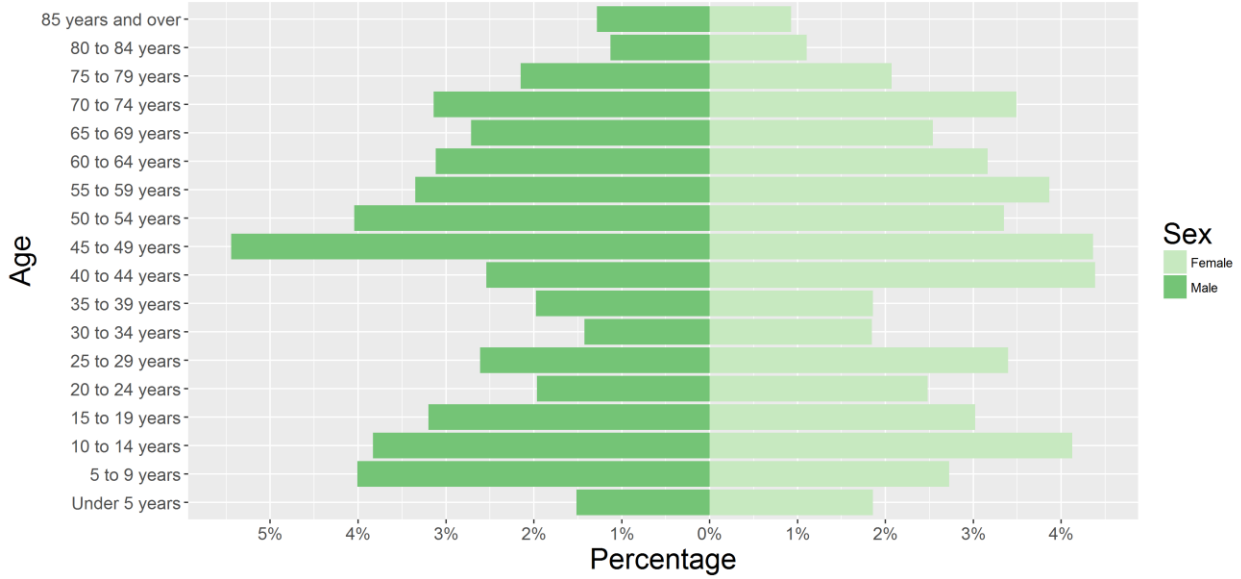


Due to a number of factors, including relative new-home affordability and desirability of living in North Albany, new-home construction and population growth are expected to continue in North Albany.

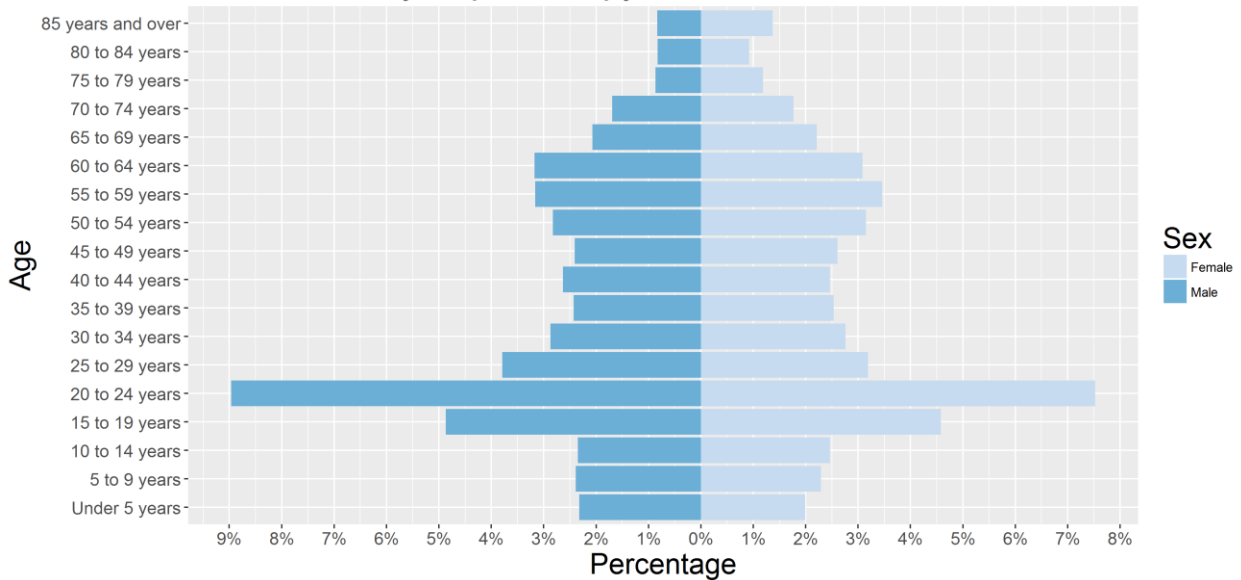
Age

North Albany has a unique demographic within Benton County with regard to age. While Benton County has a large percentage of the population that is between 15-24 years old, North Albany shows almost the opposite with a high percentage of residents between the ages of 5-14 and 45-70 years old.

North Albany Population pyramid, 2015



Benton County Population pyramid, 2015

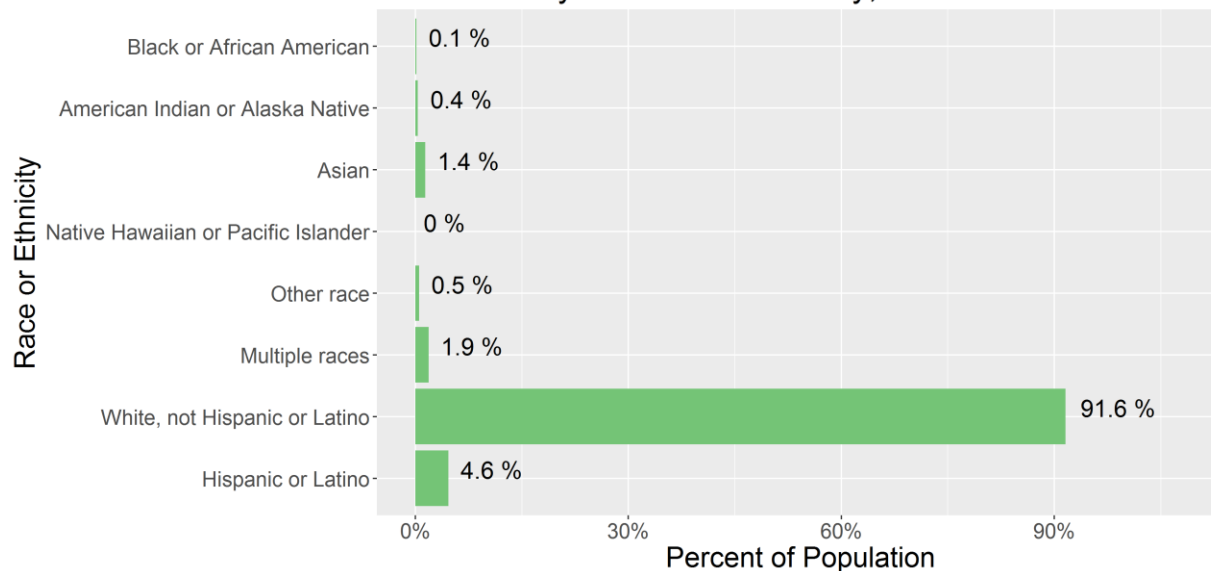


Benton County’s age pyramid is uncharacteristic for Oregon due to its average age (29.8 years). An extraordinary increase in older adults, especially over age 85 will require special attention to mobility and transportation needs.

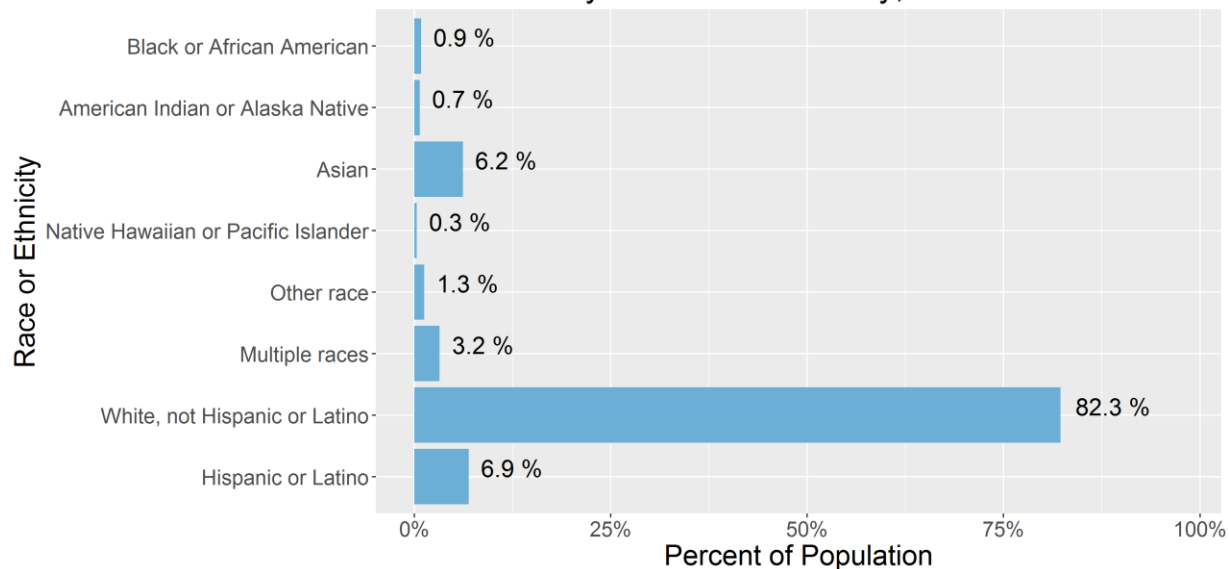
Race and Ethnicity

Overall, the population of North Albany shows a higher percentage of white residents (92 percent) than that of the County as a whole (82 percent).

North Albany Race and Ethnicity, 2015

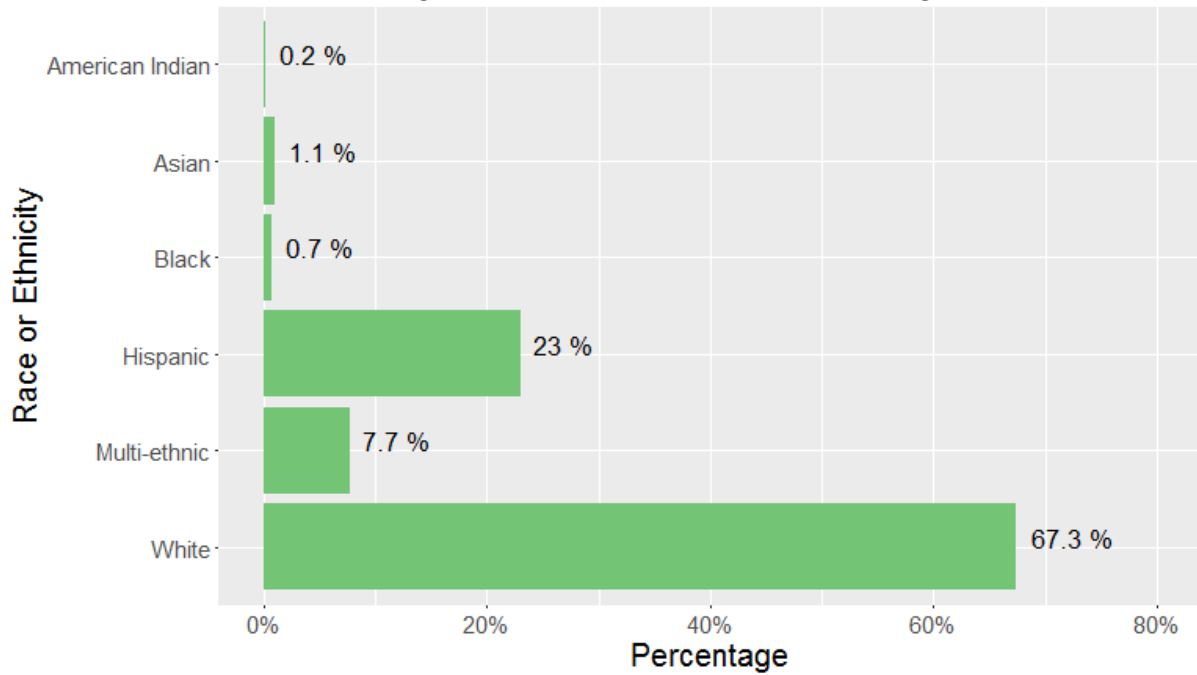


Benton County Race and Ethnicity, 2015



However, when middle-school data is examined, the population of North Albany is just as diverse (67 percent White, 23 percent Latino) as the rest of the County (68 percent White, 15 percent Latino) with a significantly higher percentage of Latino students. While the population of North Albany is currently less diverse than the County’s population, those demographics are quickly changing.

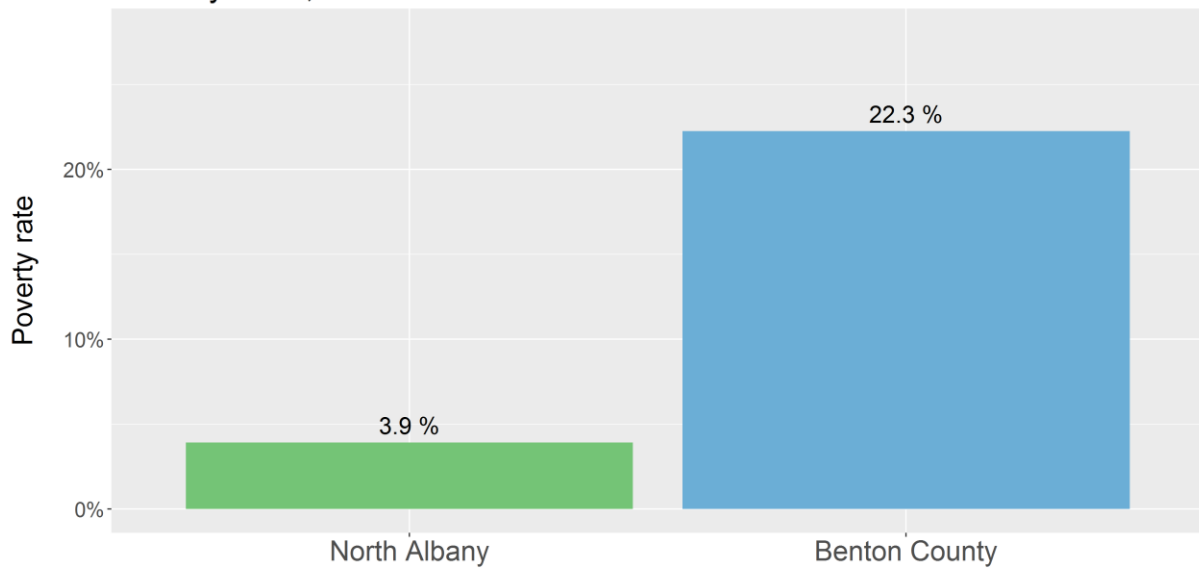
North Albany Middle School Race/Ethnicity, 2016



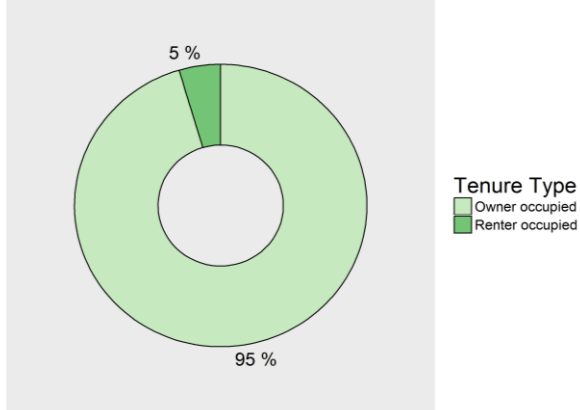
Poverty

The overall poverty rate in North Albany is quite low at 4 percent, and also low in comparison with Benton County which has a 22 percent poverty rate.

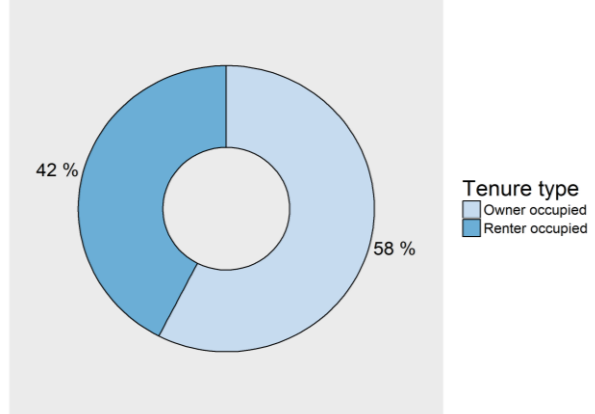
Poverty Rate, 2015



North Albany Housing Tenure Type, 2015



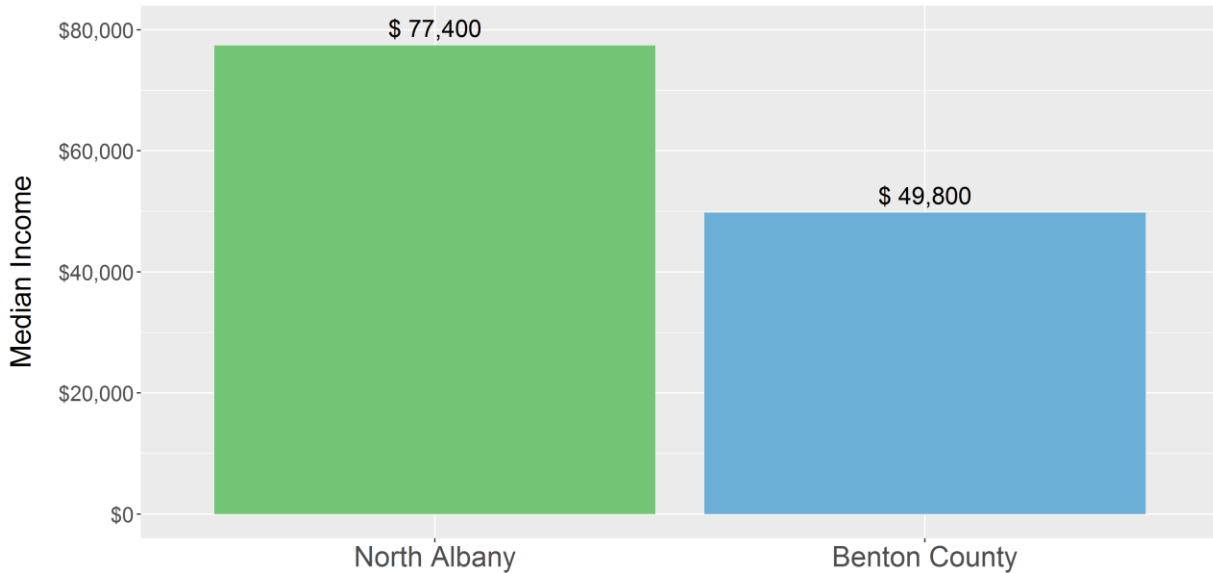
Benton County Housing Tenure Type, 2015



Much of this may be due to the fact that North Albany’s population has a percentage of residents that live in owner-occupied housing (95 percent) which is far higher than that of Benton County (58 percent).

In addition, North Albany families on average are wealthier than the rest of Benton County families: 75 percent of North Albany families have incomes more than three times the federal poverty level, while only 66 percent of all Benton County families have incomes more than three times the federal poverty level. The median household income of North Albany residents is relatively high at \$77,000 per year while Benton County’s median household income is \$50,000, which is close to the national average.

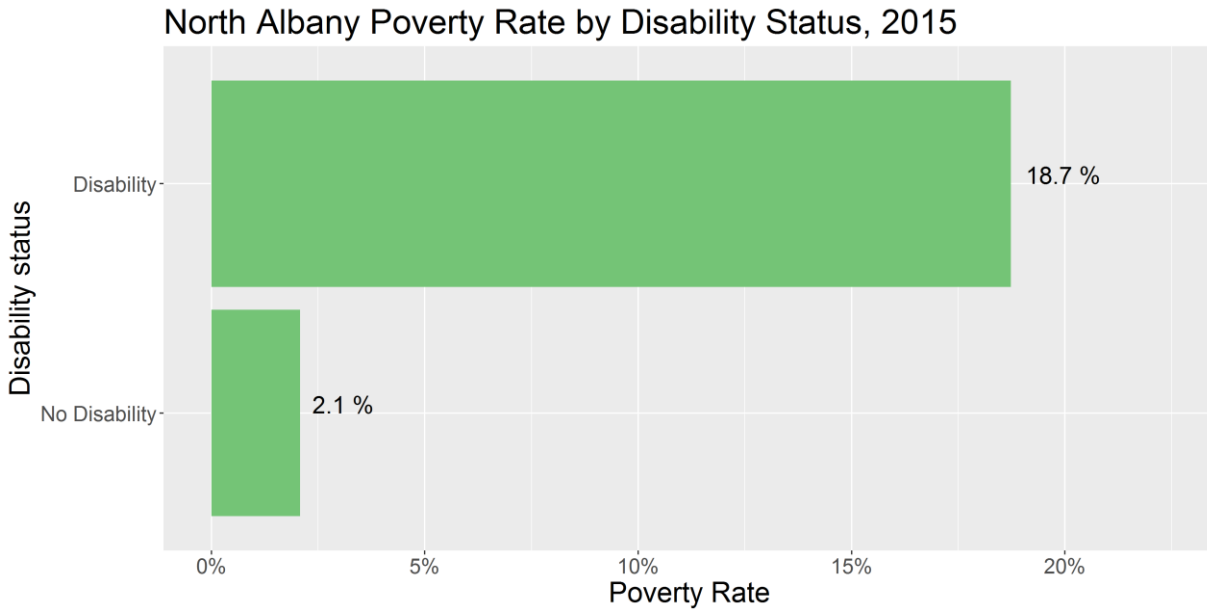
Median Household Income, 2015



Disability Status

The rate of people with disabilities in North Albany is 11 percent, similar to that of Benton County.

North Albany sees a much higher percentage of people with disabilities who live in poverty as compared with the population of the County. Nineteen percent of people with disabilities in North Albany live in poverty while only 2 percent of residents with no disability live in poverty.



Existing Park Facility Inventory and Conditions

Currently within North Albany Park there are extensive open space and play areas, including the following major facilities and amenities:

Major Park Facilities & Amenities	Quantity
Parking Areas (with paved road)	56, 3 ADA
Picnic Shelter (with water and electricity) and associated fixed picnic tables	1 Shelter, 15 fixed tables
Restroom Facility	1
Drinking Fountain	1
Children’s Play Structures	1 monkey bars, 1 boat, 1 tire bumpers, 1 slide, 1 rope net, 1 pole, 6 swings
Horseshoe Courts	2
Baseball/Softball Backstop	1
Sand Volleyball Court	1

All of the facilities and amenities listed above were constructed 30 to 40 years ago (in the first few years subsequent to original Park acquisition). The picnic shelter, flush restrooms, and play structures are all becoming costly in terms of routine and preventative maintenance and are very near or at the end of their useful life cycles. The picnic shelter and play structures will require further structural analysis in order to determine whether or not these can safely and effectively upgraded to meet current needs, including accessibility. For example, Benton County is sensitive to the fact that many park users have expressed their hope that the play boat structure, which has been in place essentially since the Park opened, remain in place. The key factor in determining if the boat structure can be kept in place is public safety.

The main consideration regarding the picnic shelter is accessibility; the terraces in place around the shelter and picnic tables create significant challenges and cost to modify.

The access road and parking areas were resurfaced with the assistance of state grant funding in 2008.

Existing Natural Features and Conditions

North Albany Park & Natural Area contains a range of environmental characteristics. Park & Natural Area management will be guided by priority natural resources information specific to each area.

North Albany Natural Area

The North Albany Natural Area is dominated by a stand of Douglas-fir on the eastern boundary and Oregon White Oak woodland throughout the majority of the site.

The Douglas-fir stand is likely due to historic Christmas tree plantings on the site that naturally seeded throughout the planting area. In addition, various age classes of Douglas-fir trees are scattered throughout the Natural Area within oak woodland dominant areas. Deciduous native shrubs including native Hazel (*Corylus cornuta*), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), and nonnative English Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) occur throughout the site. The understory vegetation contains dense areas of Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) and Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), with common native herbaceous species such as Fringe Cup (*Tellima*), Trillium, Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra Formosa*), and Stream Violet (*Viola glabella*).

A drainage starting at Valley View Drive bisects the area, providing limited riparian habitat. Surface runoff collected above Valley View Drive, drains into a Benton County owned culvert that provides the majority of flow within the natural area drainage. Invasive Reed Canary Grass are restricted within the drainage area, and are unable to expand into the woodland habitat areas.

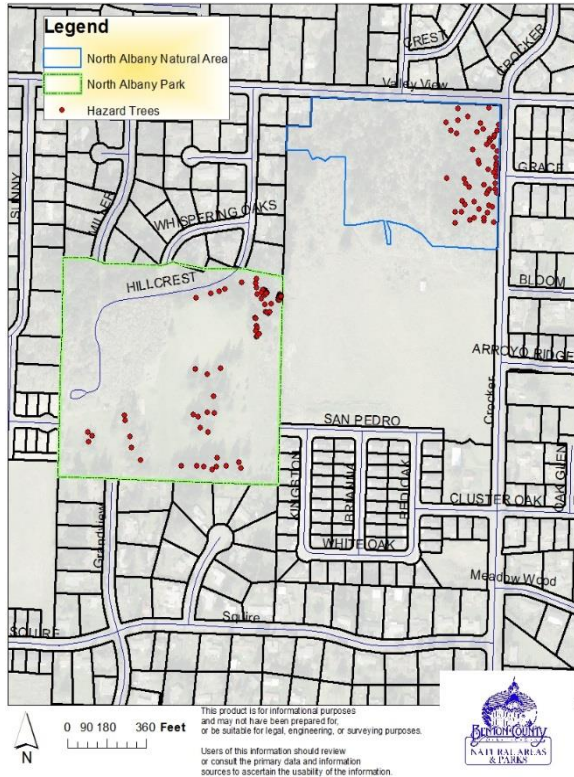
During September 2016, the Douglas-fir stand was thinned resulting in approximately 200 trees harvested from the area. Prior to logging, all trees were determined to be hazardous through the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks hazardous tree assessment. All identified trees posed a significant risk to public safety.



Overview map of North Albany Park & Natural Area with conceptual trail.



Drainage within upper portion of North Albany Natural Area flowing through middle portion of the newly acquired property.



Hazardous tree removal locations within North Albany Park & Natural Area, completed during September 2016.

Trees that were removed displayed these hazardous tree conditions:

- Top and multiple branch die off;
- Ips beetle damage;
- Parasitic fungus (*Phellinus*) rot.

The above hazardous tree characteristics, developed primarily due to recent wet weather year conditions and poor quality soil characteristics for Douglas fir within the originally planted stand. Combined with increased drought stress from recent warmer than average temperatures, Douglas-fir throughout the Willamette Valley and surrounding foot hills, have experienced an increased rate of die off.

Removing trees that develop hazard conditions will occur as needed with replanting using native species that are tolerable of natural area site characteristics.

A high density of non-native blackberry and invasive ivy remains within thinned and remaining stands of Douglas-fir and mixed oak woodland. Ongoing control within priority areas will need to consistently occur for control of these species.

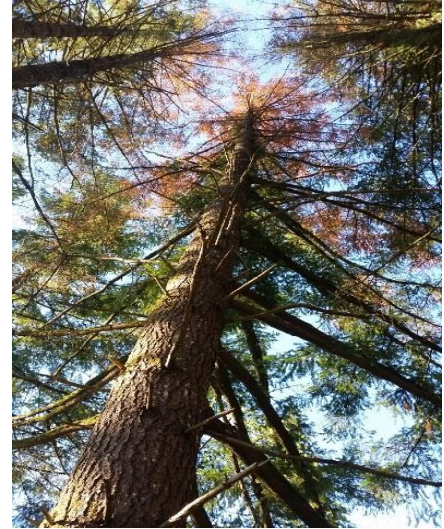
Oak woodland habitat covers the majority of the Natural Area, with many high quality characteristics including:

- Establishment of new Oregon White Oak trees;
- Legacy oak trees; and
- Solitary Douglas-fir tree size class diversity.

Enhancement of the oak woodland is possible through management of the invasive understory while also providing release of legacy oak trees that are overtopped by non-native Hawthorne, and other faster growing tree species. It is vital that release of priority oak trees occurs within the 2-4 years of overtopping, as crown and branch death has been documented to occur rapidly in Oregon White Oak.



Several hundred Douglas-fir trees were experiencing die-off due to over saturation, drought, and poor soils. Thinning work has increased health and quality of the remaining trees for public enjoyment.



High amounts of invasive Ivy and Blackberry occur throughout the Natural Area, with many Oaks requiring current or future release from overtopping Douglas-fir trees that can damage slower growing oaks.

An approximately 3 acre wetland area is located between the eastern boundary of North Albany Park and the neighboring housing development. The wetland area was transferred to the County as part of the Natural Area. The wetland area has been significantly degraded due to upslope development of natural springs, introduction of invasive species, and placement of cleared vegetation/debris within the wetland area during construction of the housing development. Benton County will work to gradually restore the wetland resource through mowing, surface water runoff management, and removal of material placed within the area. The wetland area provides opportunities for future management of surface water runoff from the housing development, and naturally occurring springs within the upslope areas.



Standing water issues within North Albany Park potentially routed to wetland area to restore wetland and reduce park impacts.



Wetland area during March 2017. Note placement of fill material from housing development east of the resource area.

North Albany Park

The Park property contains many resource features, with the majority developed and managed by Benton County. There are distinct areas that have more natural characteristics, these include:

- Oak woodland adjacent to the picnic shelter and north of the access road;
- Riparian corridor south of the picnic shelter;
- Woodland along the northeastern boundary; and
- Wetland area within and adjacent to the Park (large portion recently acquired).

The vegetation around the shelter, picnic area, and east of Hillcrest Street is primarily Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*). Western Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) is found under some of the Oregon White Oak in the picnic area. To the west of Hillcrest Street presents a mixed variety forest of Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Oregon White Oak, Willamette Pine (*Pinus*), and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). There are minimal opportunities to provide release and improving conditions of existing oak trees, due to the lack of overtopping tree species. The understory is lush with Western Sword Fern, Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), and English ivy (*Hedera helix*).

Throughout the Park, hazardous Douglas-fir trees were identified and removed, using identical assessment and harvest techniques described in the North Albany Natural Area resources description section. Several larger Douglas-fir trees were left throughout the park to provide view enhancement; however, many of these remaining trees will need to be removed as die-off is likely to continue.

The riparian corridor contains a moderately incised channel due to upslope surface water runoff. During high rain events, bank full flow can occur within the drainage. This densely vegetated area has two primary canopies. The primary canopy consists of approximately 65 percent coverage from mature coniferous trees, primarily Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with some Douglas-fir. Several of these Douglas-fir were thinned during the 2016 hazard tree removal work. The next canopy contains several 40-50 ft. Cottonwood trees (*Populus trichocarpa*), with understory dominated by invasive Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) and Evergreen Blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*).



Edge of Oregon White Oak woodland near picnic shelter.



Western woodland area of North Albany Park containing dense understory within mixed oak woodland and solitary Douglas-fir trees.



Natural spring within the northeast corner of North Albany Park where extensive removal of hazardous trees and invasive vegetation occurred during 2016.

The wetland area and the majority of the northeast woodland boundary zones are saturated during the majority of the year, primarily due to a natural spring within the top of the northeastern boundary zone area, and provides year round surface flow. Significant clearing of Douglas-fir that suffered die-off due primarily to these saturated conditions was completed as part of hazard tree logging work during 2016. Post-harvest work included cutting and grinding of Douglas-fir stumps, and masticating of all woody debris and the majority of understory vegetation. Currently the area contains minimal remaining vegetation. Due to the drainage issues, the area will likely require additional earthwork. The grading of the surrounding area can be altered so water flows into the wetland area or existing southern boundary ditch line, dependent upon storage capacity and long term surface water management goals.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Evaluation

In September 2016, the City of Albany Police Department, Community Resource Unit provided the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department with park design recommendations based on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) concepts and strategies. CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design.

After conducting a CPTED Evaluation of the North Albany Park & Natural Area, the City of Albany Police Department identified several safety issues to be considered. See Appendix A for the complete CPTED report. The following recommendations were considered in the final Master Plan design.

Recommendations to Increase Safety:

- Include LED, full capped lighting that illuminates for human activity in parking lots, walkways, entrances and exits.
- Consider a new restroom that allows better visibility, so the user can anticipate who is in the restroom. Restrooms should be adjacent to the playground for better visibility of children.
- Create clearance along all trails that are 6 to 8 feet wide and have visibility 30 yards ahead and 30 yards behind the user.
- Be intentional about placing trails and walkways.
- Add way finding system for all Park trails and include Park rules.
- Post Park hours at the entrance.

The Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department will continue to collaborate with the City of Albany Police Department, Community Resource Unit through the phased improvements to North Albany Park & Natural Area to ensure the safety of all users.

Physical Activity Observations

It is one of the goals of the Benton County Parks & Natural Areas Department and Benton County Health Department to maximize the physical activity opportunities within the North Albany Park & Natural Area in an effort to better the overall health and wellbeing of park users. Recent research suggests that modifying the built environment, including community parks, and engaging communities in decision-making are essential in creating healthy, physically-active communities.

Taking this in mind, the Benton County Health Department engaged community volunteers to conduct physical activity observations of the North Albany Park in an effort to better understand how the Park is

currently used and how the Park could be redesigned to increase physical activity. Observations were conducted four times per day (6:30 am, 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm), for three days (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday), during the weeks of July 25 – August 6, 2016.

See Appendix B for physical activity observation tools.

Much of the physical activity observations centered on determining the physical activity level of park users. Of the park users observed during the assessment, 69 percent were engaged in sedentary activities, 28 percent were moderately active, and 3 percent were very active.

Based on the physical activity observation data, and through a literature review of best practices on how to increase activity levels of park users, the Benton County Health Department developed several recommendations for North Albany Park & Natural Area. The following recommendations were considered for the final Master Plan design.

Recommendations to Increase Physical Activity Levels:

- Leave the current playground in place, with minor upgrades to bring in to compliance with modern play structure regulations.
- Include a new playground with physically challenging equipment such as: giant slides and swings, climbing equipment, adventure playgrounds, nature play structures, etc.
- Include a path around the new playground to allow adults to walk or run while observing children on the playground.
- Consider adding a basketball hoop.
- Create a perimeter walking/running trail around the entire Park and connect to the Natural Area.
- Choose a path surface that encourages physical activity in different seasons and weather conditions, especially in Park areas that become “marshy” in winter.
- Place benches with armrests occurring within a regular interval along the perimeter trail for rest between walking.
- Consider adding mile markers on the perimeter trail for encouragement.
- Provide orientation and way finding with large, visible fonts at 54 inches off the ground or lower so people in wheelchairs can see them.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment

Two separate assessments of the North Albany Park regarding accessibility for people with disabilities were conducted by Benton County staff in 2013 and 2016. The reports highlighted a number of accessibility challenges faced by people with disabilities when using the Park and made recommendations that have since been incorporated into the final Master Plan document to ensure increased access for all park users.

The 2013 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessment was completed by Benton County Natural Areas & Parks staff and used the Accessibility Checklist developed by the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center Northwest. The ADA assessment highlighted a number of non-compliance issues largely due to the fact that the park was designed and built in the early 1970’s which was pre-ADA.

In the summer of 2016, the Benton County Health Department conducted a Community Health Inclusion Index (CHII) assessment of the North Albany Park to better understand the needs of people with disabilities at the Park. The results highlighted many of the same physical challenges that were brought out in the 2013 ADA assessment. In addition, the CHII assessment highlighted the health-promoting policies that the Park embraces, including a tobacco-free environment policy.

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility:

- Upgrade the path system to better connect people with disabilities with many of the amenities located throughout the Park.
- Upgrade the picnic shelter facilities to increase accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Upgrade and add new playground equipment that will accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.
- Upgrade and add new signage that will better direct park users to ADA-compliant amenities.
- Increase accessible parking spaces.

Community Outreach & Engagement

Comprehensive public involvement during the North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan process included outreach and engagement of key stakeholders, neighborhood residents, park users, and diverse and under-represented residents through interviews, community meetings, an online survey, and an intercept survey in the Park. These efforts were led by Benton County Health Department staff.

The following is a timeline of key community outreach and engagement activities.

Key Community Outreach & Engagement Activities	Timeline
Established North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan process webpage	April 2016
Stakeholder Interviews	April - June 2016
First Community Meeting (for neighbors living within 300 feet of the Park & Natural Area)	June 2016
Online Survey	June - August 2016
Physical Activity Volunteer Training & Observations	July - August 2016
Intercept Survey in the Park	July 2016
Tree Removal Notice to Neighborhood Residents	September 2016
Second Community Meeting	October 2016

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews were conducted between April and June 2016, in order to understand best methods for engaging the North Albany community in the master planning process and to gather input on future needs and desires for North Albany Park & Natural Area. See Appendix C for a list of stakeholders and interview questions.

Brief Summary of Results:

What do you like best about North Albany Park?

In summary, stakeholders appreciated the current Park attributes and benefits to the community. Several interviewees commented on the desire to maintain the rustic atmosphere and natural elements of the trees, open areas, and trails and appreciated the Park's amenities for all ages and interests.

What would you like to see added to or changed in North Albany Park?

Stakeholders suggested improvements in accessing the Park on foot and bicycle from surrounding neighborhoods. Additional suggestions for improvements to the Park included signage, kiosks, better Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, natural surface trails connecting the Park & Natural Area, invasive species removal, and habitat restoration. Retaining the wooded areas, open spaces, and rural atmosphere of the Park was mentioned as important by several stakeholders.

First Community Meeting

The first community meeting was held at the North Albany Park shelter, and welcomed neighborhood residents living within 300 feet of the Park & Natural Area property, to share information about the master planning process, discuss the upcoming hazard tree removal, and answer questions regarding the acquisition of the new 10 acre Natural Area. See Appendix D for the first community meeting minutes and presentation.



Parks Director addresses the crowd at the first community meeting to share the vision for the Master Plan.



County Natural Resources Coordinator discusses the immediate need for addressing hazard trees within the Park & Natural Area.

Online Survey

In order to gauge community members' perceptions, awareness, and use of the Park, the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department posted an online survey on the North Albany Park & Natural Area master planning process website. Throughout July and August 2016, the online survey was promoted through stakeholder networks, local community groups, several social networking sites, and the City of Albany's e-newsletter.

The online survey was available in English and Spanish, and paper versions were available for those who did not have access to a computer at community meetings and neighborhood events. Staff also used iPads to facilitate in-person online surveys at neighboring Gibson Hill Park during the City of Albany Parks & Recreation's *Fun in the Park* event and at the Albany Farmer's Market.

A total of 400 respondents participated in the online survey. See Appendix E for online survey results.

Brief Summary of Results:

What do you like best about North Albany Park?

Survey respondents appreciated the natural amenities and rural atmosphere of the Park. The respondents highly valued the trees, small woodlands, native plants, and wildlife habitat that the Park provides. Many commented that they valued the rural, rustic open spaces of the Park that gave it a serene and secluded character. Respondents appreciated the shade given from trees and the shelter, along with the large open play area. Over half of the comments relating to dogs expressed a desire to have a designated off-leash area.

What improvements or changes would you like to see in North Albany Park?

The majority of comments were related to facility improvements that included: safer and varied playground equipment; improved and additional picnic areas; better maintained surfaces for recreational activities and sports; and an expanded natural trail system within the existing Park and the new Natural Area. Increasing access to the Park from adjacent neighborhoods by foot and bicycle was cited by several respondents. Survey respondents also requested planting more trees to replace felled hazard trees and vegetative buffers between the Park and housing developments.

Intercept Survey

Intercept surveys were administered at North Albany Park between July 17 and July 23, 2016 to gather current park users' perceptions and use of the Park. Volunteers and Benton County interns and staff operated in shifts at the Park between 6:00 am to 8:00 pm daily to ask survey questions to park visitors with 144 respondents participating. A small number of respondents completed both the online and intercept survey. See Appendix F for intercept survey results.

Brief Summary of Results:

What do you like best about North Albany Park?

Park users surveyed had very positive attitudes of the Park, stating that the natural open character of the Park and shady wooded areas were highly valued. The covered shelter, picnic area, and restrooms were appreciated. The majority of respondents felt that the Park was accessible and in a beautiful location.

What improvements or changes would you like to see in North Albany Park?

Park users surveyed cited several areas of improvement for the Park. Maintenance and restoration of trees, along with vegetative screening from the adjacent neighborhood, was a major theme. Maintaining the open green spaces and expanding a natural surface trail system with connectivity to the neighborhood was cited many times. New updated play equipment appropriate for all ages of children (especially toddlers) was strongly expressed. Improvement to sports fields surface and volleyball court and the addition of a basketball hoop and disc golf pins were expressed. The need for more picnic tables and benches throughout the park was voiced by many surveyed park users. Mitigation of the low land areas saturated with water in winter months was a concern that survey respondents wished to be addressed.

Second Community Meeting

On October 13, 2016, an Open House Forum at North Albany Middle School was hosted with 68 community members in attendance. Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department developed three draft concept plans and options for the Park & Natural Area based on needs assessment activities and input gathered during the community outreach and engagement process.

After being presented with the draft park concept plans and options, community members broke out in to groups to provide feedback on each of the draft plans. Participants' feedback encompassed identifying locations for natural resources protection; desirable locations for recreation activities; places and facilities in need of maintenance; and trail gaps. At the end of the meeting, participants were given

six dots and asked to vote on which concept plan they preferred overall. See Appendix G for community meeting presentation and community member input.

The draft concepts were as follows:

- **Park Concept 1:** Playground to remain in current location; update with all new equipment including nature-play, keep the boat structure, and fence with 4 ft. security fencing. Create new south lawn parking area with 6-8 new parking spots. Dog off-leash area remains in current open lawn location.
- **Park Concept 2:** Move playground to the south lawn; add two new playground areas (1 toddler, 1 youth), relocate boat to new location. No south lawn parking area. Dog off-leash area remains in current open lawn location.
- **Park Concept 3:** Create new playground in south lawn and keep existing location. South lawn will have new equipment, old playground would be slightly updated, and keep the boat structure. No south parking area. Dog off-leash area remains in current open lawn location.
- **Natural Area Concept A:** Natural surface loop trail.
- **Natural Area Concept B:** Natural surface single trail.
- **Natural Area Concept C:** Do nothing.



Community members discussing draft park concepts at the Open House Forum on October 13, 2017.



Community member discussing draft natural area concepts with Benton County Health Department staff at the Open House Form on October 13, 2017.

All draft concepts included the following design features:

- ADA compliant from the shelter parking area to playground, restrooms, and shelter
- 2 new ADA parking spots in front of the restrooms
- 10 new parking spaces around the parking loop
- 1 new parking spot at the shelter
- 2 new spots in the north parking lot
- New 4 ft. wide natural surface park perimeter connector trail
- Restroom upgrade to direct-entry unisex restrooms
- LED lighting
- New alternate picnic area with BBQ
- Shelter revisions

Brief Summary of Results:

Draft Park Concept 3 and Natural Area Concept A received the majority of community member votes. The Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department used the feedback provided by community members at the Open House Forum to develop the final North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan. See Appendix G for community member input.



Significant public participation occurred during the October 2017 meeting to provide input on the proposed Park & Natural Area plans.

The Plan: A Vision for the Future and Our Priorities

Benton County produced this planning document and associated Master Plan map to both guide the development of the recently acquired 10 wooded acres and 3 acre wetland parcel, as well as to create new or upgraded park facilities and amenities to best serve the growing demands of the immediately surrounding neighborhoods, the City of Albany, and Benton County in general. The goal is to begin implementation of certain aspects of the plan immediately upon adoption, while putting together the longer term financing to fund major park facility additions and upgrades over the next two to six years.

Benton County also recognizes that North Albany Park & Natural Area is uniquely situated both in Benton County and within the City of Albany limits. Efforts have been made to factor this unique situation into the Plan, especially from the perspective of 1) coordinating the Master Plan needs assessment with City of Albany officials in order to maximize benefits, and 2) discussing the opportunity for joint management and/or funding of the targeted North Albany Park facility improvements, with both Benton County and City of Albany funds.

Park Improvements

The final Master Plan was the result of a community engagement process over a 7-month period. All of the recommended improvements have come as a result of the needs assessment activities and community engagement process. The improvements listed below describe each of the major park features and a brief description of the improvement.

1. Playgrounds

The overall recommendation is to retain the existing play area and add a new play area to the south lawn of the Park. The goal of each play area is to maximize parent visibility and to create safer playground design and equipment for all ages of children. The upgraded playground will be designed to retain traditional popular elements where feasible and safe, and will offer a range of play options suitable for all ages with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible features and nature play components incorporated. It is important to note that current regulations will determine the ability of the County to upgrade existing play structures. There may be requirements to completely remove and replace structures that pose a documented safety concern, and are no longer allowed within the Park.

2. Access and Parking

Through the public engagement and assessment process it became clear that it is important to increase accessibility for all park users both in travelling to the Park and in the use of the Park. As a result the plan incorporates new general and ADA parking spots. All of the park designs work to ensure that Park facilities are accessible and meet ADA standards. The plan also includes a design for increased pedestrian/bicycle access from adjacent neighborhoods and a connection from the Natural Area to existing Park and adjacent neighborhoods. The Park & Natural Area will include the following new pedestrian entrances:

- Southwest side of Park/south of NW San Pedro Avenue
- NW San Pedro Avenue/southeast side of Park
- Trail in Natural Area from NW Crocker Lane/northeast corner of Natural Area
- Natural Area and Park connector through sidewalk on NW Amble Side Court

3. Trails and Paths

One of the elements that came through clearly in the public engagement process is to increase the accessibility and range of the trails and paths in the Park. The first element in the design is to construct natural surface path around the Park perimeter and to create a natural surface loop in the Natural Area. In addition, the plan calls for the creation of a trail and path network which connects the established Park to the surrounding residential neighborhoods as well as the new Natural Area. To aid in usability there will be trail head kiosks posted with informational, regulatory, and interpretive signage. Determining areas where ADA accessibility could be developed in the future is a high priority.

A puncheon will be an optional “as-needed” trail alternative dependent upon the success of planned repairs and improvements associated with existing stormwater system and re-vegetation strategies intended to increase rainwater absorption and decrease downslope runoff.

4. Shelter and Picnic Area

The plan incorporates safety lighting near shelter and restrooms, and other Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) components to increase safety at the Park. The existing picnic shelter will be either substantially modified or replaced pending further structural evaluation. Picnic tables, including ADA accessible tables, intended for general public use will be provided throughout the Park.

5. Restroom Area

Similar to the shelter and picnic area, the restroom area will incorporate safety lighting near the shelter and restrooms, and other CPTED components to increase visibility and safety. A new fully ADA accessible restroom will be designed to accommodate two single users and include an ADA accessible drinking fountain.

6. Other Park Features

Some other Park features include:

- An off-leash dog area in the northwest section of the park,
- A basketball half court play area to replace the existing volleyball site,
- Maintaining the existing baseball/softball backstop, and a
- Wetland overlook with bench and interpretive signage.

7. Natural Features

A number of measures will be taken to enhance and maintain the natural features in the Park & Natural Area. These include:

- Replant site appropriate trees and vegetation to provide screening, retain and enhance the natural Park.
- Add winter screening vegetation, such as evergreen native trees and shrubs along the southeast corner of the Park property.
- Plant a tree and vegetative border around the Park.
- Add a low fence within vegetation to protect the existing playground area.
- Mitigate low land areas saturated with water.
- Restore and manage the wetland resource area to provide for surface water storage/habitat.
- Take actions to manage storm water runoff and improve riparian area function.

- Naturalize drainage ditches as bioswales, meander course, and vegetate with riparian native plants.
- CPTED principles relating to landscape and trail design/maintenance will be employed throughout the Natural Area to increase safety.
- Woodland trees in the Natural Area will be monitored and managed on an ongoing basis to promote tree health and provide for public safety.
- Invasive plant species control will be emphasized throughout the Park & Natural Area.
- The eastern 1/3 of the Natural Area will be replanted with a mixture of coniferous and deciduous tree/shrub species with emphasis on resiliency and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- Vegetation will be managed to enhance the growth and vigor of mature oak trees and associated habitat species, coniferous species in proximity to mature oaks will be removed to reduce competition.

North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan Map – Sheet 1 of 2



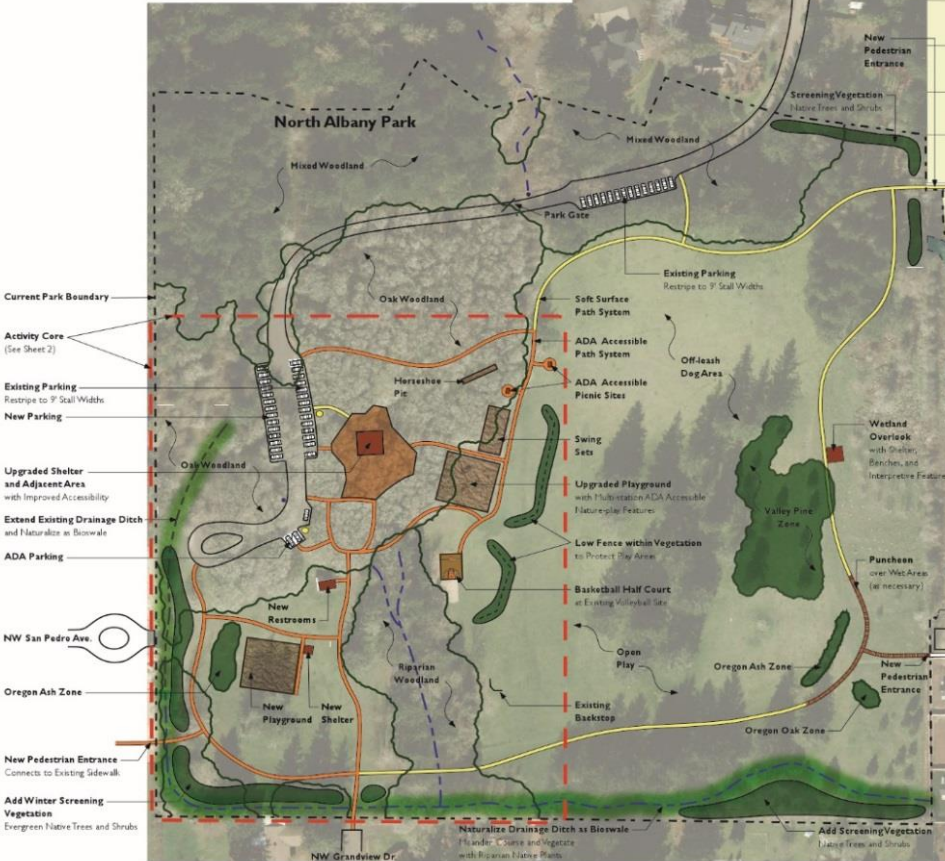
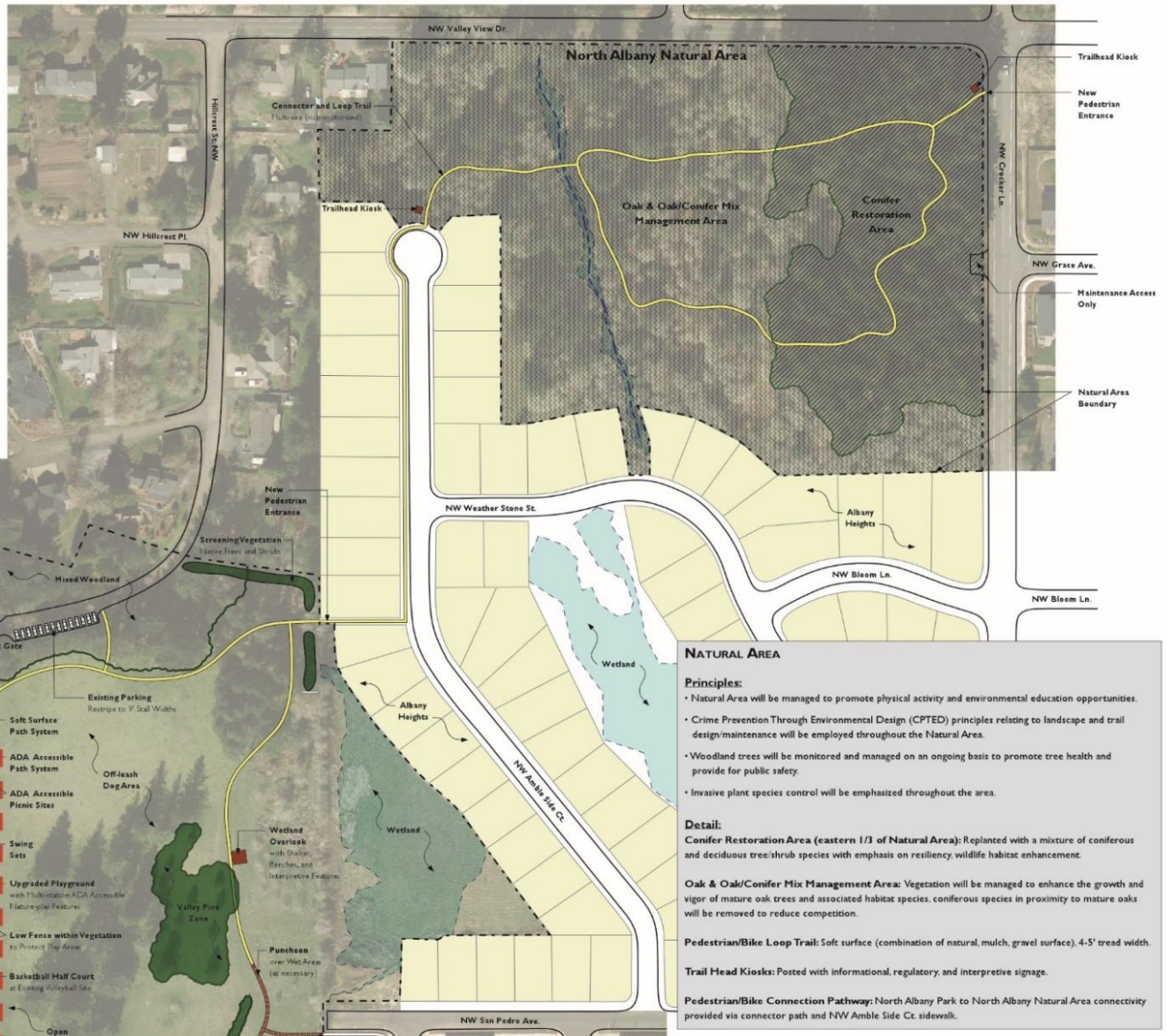
PARK

Principles:

- Design and plan to assure the highest level of safety and security, including integration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) components.
- Incorporate park amenities and design features which promote health and well being.
- Create a trail and path network which connects the established park to the surrounding residential neighborhoods as well as the new Natural Area.
- Replant site appropriate trees and vegetation to provide screening, retain and enhance the natural park character.
- Take actions to manage stormwater runoff and improve riparian area function.

Detail:

Punchcons: Will be an optional "as-needed" trail alternative dependent upon the success of planned repairs and improvements associated with the existing stormwater system and re-vegetation strategies intended to increase rainwater absorption and decrease downslope runoff.



NATURAL AREA

Principles:

- Natural Area will be managed to promote physical activity and environmental education opportunities.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles relating to landscape and trail design/maintenance will be employed throughout the Natural Area.
- Woodland trees will be monitored and managed on an ongoing basis to promote tree health and provide for public safety.
- Invasive plant species control will be emphasized throughout the area.

Detail:

Conifer Restoration Area (eastern 1/3 of Natural Area): Replanted with a mixture of coniferous and deciduous tree/shrub species with emphasis on resiliency, wildlife habitat enhancement.

Oak & Oak/Conifer Mix Management Area: Vegetation will be managed to enhance the growth and vigor of mature oak trees and associated habitat species. coniferous species in proximity to mature oaks will be removed to reduce competition.

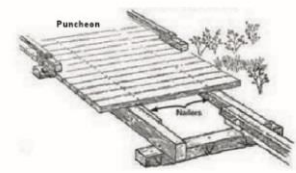
Pedestrian/Bike Loop Trail: Soft surface (combination of natural, mulch, gravel surface), 4-5' tread width.

Trail Head Kiosks: Posted with informational, regulatory, and interpretive signage.

Pedestrian/Bike Connection Pathway: North Albany Park to North Albany Natural Area connectivity provided via connector path and NW Amble Side Ct. sidewalk.

LEGEND

- ADA Path
- Soft Surface Trail
- Puncheon
- Street Light
- Catch Basin
- Drainage
- Natural Area Management Zones:
 - Conifer Restoration Area
 - Oak & Oak/Conifer Mix Management Area
- Activity Core Boundary (See Sheet 2)



Owen Dell & Associates, Inc.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Approx. Scale:
0 20' 40' 80' 160'
(orig. size 36"x42")

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

March 20, 2017

North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan
Corvallis, Oregon
Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan Map – Sheet 2 of 2



PARK ACTIVITY CORE AREA

EXISTING PICNIC SHELTER: To be either substantially modified or replaced pending further structural evaluation.

PICNIC TABLES: Picnic tables, including ADA accessible tables, intended for general public use (not associated with the tables dedicated to the picnic shelter) will be provided throughout the park.

PARK RESTROOM: New fully ADA accessible restroom will be designed to accommodate two single users and will include an ADA accessible drinking fountain (approx. 11'x19' footprint).

PLAYGROUNDS: Upgraded playgrounds will be designed to retain traditional popular elements where feasible/safe, and will offer a range of play elements suitable for all ages with ADA accessible features and nature play elements incorporated.

ADA ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS: The ADA accessible pathways depicted on the plan may be revised upon construction depending upon field slopes and contours.

LEGEND

- ADA Path
- Soft Surface Trail
- Street Light
- Catch Basin
- Drainage
- Activity Core Boundary

Upgraded Shelter and Adjacent Area with Improved ADA Accessibility

Extend Existing Drainage Ditch and Naturalize as Bioswale

ADA Accessible Parking

New Restrooms



New Shelter



New Parking
Existing Parking
Restripe to 9' Stall Widths



ADA Accessible Picnic Sites

ADA Accessible Path System

Swing Sets

Upgraded Playground with Multi-station ADA Accessible Nature-play Features

Low Fence within Vegetation to Protect Play Areas

Basketball Half Court at Existing Volleyball Site



Existing Backstop

New Pedestrian Entrance Connects to Existing Sidewalk

Add Winter Screening Vegetation Evergreen Native Trees and Shrubs along Southeast Corner of Property

Naturalize Ditch as Bioswale Meander Course and Vegetate with Riparian Native Plants



Approx. Scale:
1" = 30' - 0"
1/4" = 15' - 0"
(orig. size 36"x42")

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

March 20, 2017

Funding the Plan

Recent discussions between Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department and City of Albany Parks & Recreation Department focused upon on a tentative agreement involving the use of City of Albany Parks System Development Charge (SDC's) funds to help pay for new North Albany Park & Natural Area facility improvements which meet an unmet demand resulting from population growth. In other words, while park SDC's cannot be used to upgrade existing facilities, they can be used to fund new park features which meet an identified new demand resulting from increased park use. For example, this Master Plan calls for significant trail and pathway improvements and additional play equipment to support the demand as a result of population growth in North Albany. Consequently, funds generated from the City of Albany Park SDC, could be used in combination with Benton County funds to pay for the trail/paved pathway improvements and/or pay for additional children's play structures cited in the Plan.

It is also customary for Benton County to seek grant funding assistance to pay for the more significant, new park facilities or facility upgrades. This North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan calls for a(n):

- New restroom facility,
- New or upgraded picnic shelter,
- System of paved, linked accessible pathways and soft trails, and
- Additional play equipment and basketball half-court.

Grant funding primarily through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), will likely be sought to help fund all or a portion of the improvements listed above. Specifically, the above listed improvements qualify for the following OPRD grant programs:

- Local government Grant Program,
- Land and Water Conservation Fund, and
- Recreational Trails Program Grants (pathways and soft trails only).

Benton County has included the North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan improvements as an adopted item within the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) portion of its approved 2017-19 biennial budget. Consequently a limited amount of matching County funds are available to couple with any grant funds awarded the County. The total cost of the improvements proposed in the Master Plan are estimated in the range of \$500,000-\$600,000, and again, the practical expectation is that these improvements will be phased in over the next two or three County biennia. See Appendix H for 2017-19 Capital Improvement Project Natural Area Worksheet.

Benton County also plans to take the opportunity to work with local non-profit organizations such as the Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas (AFRANA) to seek grant funding typically not available to governmental agencies. Individuals interested in contributing toward the North Albany Park Master Plan improvements could also make specified, tax deductible contributions to AFRANA to help fund the improvements.

The less costly items identified in the Master Plan (landscape & drainage improvements, vegetative screening, tree replacement, Natural Area trail construction) will likely be accomplished using County labor forces and materials and services funds allocated within the Natural Areas & Parks Department biennial budget.

Phased Plan Priorities

As discussed above, the North Albany Park & Natural Area Master Plan Improvements can be broadly categorized as either Capital Improvements including major facility improvements and upgrades or less costly natural resource related enhancements. Logically, the natural resource related improvements (drainage, landscaping, tree replacement and vegetative screening) will take place first.

The next phase will likely involve completion of the soft trail network.

The final phase of improvements will likely involve the higher cost items such as the new restroom, new or upgraded shelter and play equipment plus the paved parking improvements and paved pathways which will serve as the accessible route connecting all major park features.

This phased approach should be considered conceptual given the uncertainty associated with various funding and grant scenarios and unforeseen circumstances.

Appendices

A. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Report

TO: Benton County Parks Department

FROM: Albany Police Community Resource Unit

DATE: 9-26-16

SUBJECT: North Albany Park



Attached are the address crime statistics and a five year grid study of crime stats

The following recommendations are based on concepts and strategies of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and traditional crime prevention organizational and mechanical methods of target hardening. The CPTED concept is that “*the **proper design and effective use** of the built environment can lead to the reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and improvement in the quality of life.*” CPTED assessments involve four overlapping strategies. The strategies are Natural Surveillance, Natural Access Control, Territorial Reinforcement, and Maintenance. Target Hardening is a Physical Security concept which is incorporated into the CPTED assessment. Also included is the CPTED concept of design which includes the *physical, social management, and law enforcement directives* that seek to positively affect human behavior as people interact with their environment.

- **NATURAL SURVEILLANCE** – Is a design concept intended to allow intruders and offenders to be easily observed by people passing the property and those using the property.
- **NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL** – This strategy is intended to decrease the opportunity for offending by denying access to a crime target and increasing the perception of risk to the offender.
- **TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT** – Is a strategy to create and/or extend the property’s sphere of influence, which is the perception that someone is in control of the space. This strategy distinguishes what private space from public space is by using landscaping, pavement designs, signage, artwork, and fencing.

- **MAINTENANCE** – Allows for the continued use of a space for its intended purpose. Serves as an additional expression of ownership. Prevents the reduction of visibility from overgrown landscaping and unobstructed or inoperative lighting.

- **TARGET HARDENING**- This strategy enhances the physical security of the site through the use of locks, gates, alarms, and other crime prevention methods.

At the request of the Benton County Parks Department, I was given the opportunity to perform a CPTED survey of North Albany Park. After conducting a CPTED Assessment of the location, the Albany Police Department has several CPTED safety/security issues that should be addressed.

1. Lighting that illuminates for human activity and safety is critical. Parking lots, walkways, entrances and exits should be the focus of lighting. The park currently has minimal lighting, some of which is obscured by tree limbs. Consider upgrade in lighting along roadway, parking lot and buildings. Lighting can be purchased with timers and dimmers. Choose LED, full capped lighting.



2. Consider new restroom that allows better visibility, rather than cinder construction. The user can anticipate who is in the restroom. This can be done through design change.

Restrooms should be adjacent to the playground for better visibility of children.



3. Consider a secure dumpster area.



4. Create clearance along all trails that are six-eight feet wide and have visibility 30 yards ahead and 30 yards behind the user. These give user better visibility and increase the use of the path because the user feels safe.



5. Be intentional about placing trails, walkways. This keeps users in the marked areas and where the Park wants the use to take place. Add way finding system for all park trails and include park rules.
6. Post park hours at entrance and physically close the park to traffic at specified times.

Sandy Roberts, Deputy Fire Marshal
City of Albany Fire Department for
City of Albany Police Department

B. Physical Activity Observation Tools

Parks and Play Spaces Observation INSTRUCTION SHEET

Introduction

This tool and protocol were developed by the Healthy Communities team from Benton County Health (Megan Patton-Lopez, PhD, RD, Evaluation Specialist, Sara Hartstein, MPH, and Rocio Muñoz, BS). An earlier version of this tool was developed by the evaluation team from Transtria LLC for use in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities project. This tool and protocol were adapted from the System for Observing Play and Leisure Activity (SOPLAY) and System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC) tool, protocol and operational definitions.

Observation Schedule

- Recommended timeframe for observations:
- If area is accessible, usable and is not empty an observation is needed.
- Scan area for at least 10 minutes (if there is a lot of activity you can expand length of scan to 20 minutes in the area).
- Scans should be for 30 seconds.
- Scans should be for 30 seconds observing/counting and 30 seconds rest.

Schedule observations at different times of the day (3-4 times per day recommended).

- Early Morning (6:30 AM)
- Morning (10:30 AM)
- Afternoon (1:30 PM)
- Evening (5:30 PM)

Schedule observation for multiple times a week (at least 3 days, but can be more).

- At least 2 weekdays (Monday through Friday) and at least one weekend day (Saturday and Sunday).
- Example: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

Prior to conducting the observations

Safety

- Assess the safety of the environment for observing before entering the area:
- If dangerous or suspicious activities are taking place, leave the premises and notify Sara Hartstein at (541) 766-6250, and determine whether to schedule a new assessment.
- If weather conditions (thunder or lightning) are not ideal for collecting data, leave the premises, notify Sara, and determine whether to schedule a new observation period.

Supplies needed for completing the observations

- Data Collection Tools
- Screening Tool – 1 per observation time period
- Observation Tool – 10 front/back per observation time period
- Timer to count down 30 seconds (with an alarm)
- Clipboard
- Pens
- Comfortable shoes
- Camera
- Map of park for data collection (identifying boundaries of the target areas and where to stand for observations)
- Letter explaining the reason for data collection
- Contact information for Project Coordinator

Completing Screening Tool

The Screening Tool should be completed at each observation period prior to observing each of the target areas. This tool will assist the Project Evaluator with understanding the qualitative factors in the park setting.

For each of the target areas, indicate the following:

- **Accessible:** Code “Yes” if area is accessible to the public (e.g. area is not locked, rented to a private party or overgrown). If not accessible, do not observe and move to the next target area.
- **Usable:** Code “Yes” if area is usable for physical activity (e.g. not excessively wet or roped off for repair). If not usable, do not observe and move to the next target area.
- **Activity Organized:** Code “Yes” if an organized physical activity is occurring in the scan area (e.g. softball game, birthday party, etc.).
- **Empty:** Code “Yes” when there are no individuals present during the scan. If no individuals are present, do not observe and move to next target area.

Completing Observation Tool

Use the following codes and definitions to assist you in completing the observation tool.

Observers: Observers will work in pairs to observe and record the activity in each of the target areas.

Observer 1: Scan the area for 30 seconds, calling out the number of individuals, their approximate age; if sedentary, moderate or very active, and type of activity.

Observer 2: Start the timer for the 30-second scan and 30-second rest period. Record the number of individuals in each of the designated cells (using hash marks). During the 30-second rest – enter the activity codes.

Please note on the bottom of the observation form the number of individuals observed with strollers, wheel chairs or other assistive devices and the target areas in which they were present. In regards to gender/sex – we are not recording the gender/sex of each individual observed in the park. However, please note the approximate proportion of females to males (1:1, 2:1, 1:2, etc.).

Start Time: Every one minute a new period of observation (or measurement) will begin. Each observation will last 30 seconds, with a 30 second break in between observations to record. In the first column, record the start time for each period of observation.

Scanning: When scanning a target area, observers should **start on the far right end of the target area and scan to the left side, then back to the right side for the duration of the scan time.** During the scan, the 2nd observer should complete the observation tool by tallying activity by age group, in addition to reporting the activity codes for the age group. **Be sure to count each individual only one time.**

Ages: Each age category has its own count. Please provide the number of children (3-12), youth (13-18), adults (18-64) or older adults (65+) represented during the observation period participating in whatever intensity level of activity and their given activity code.

Activity Codes: Define what activities individuals are participating in during the scan period. All codes are labeled at the bottom of the sampling sheet. If the activity is not listed with the codes at the bottom of the observation tool, use the “other” activity code and write in the type of activity observed.

Activity: Write the code for the most prominent (primary) physical activity that individuals are doing in the area.

During the scans of the target area, all people should be accounted for as either participating in very active, moderate or sedentary activities.

Example Activities that might be observed

Sedentary Related Codes

Sedentary behaviors = people are not moving

- Artwork
- Chess/checkers/cards
- Lying down, standing or sitting
- Picnicking (food involved)
- Reading

Moderate Related Codes

Moderate intensity behaviors require more movement, but no strenuous activity.

- Walking
- Sports that could be **moderately active** during the scan period
- Baseball
- Horseshoes
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Dance

- Football
- Soccer (e.g. walking on the field during the scan period)
- Gymnastics
- Volleyball

Very Active Related Codes

Very Active behaviors show evidence of increased heart rate and inhalation rate.

- Aerobics (dance, Zumba, etc.)
- Dance
- Fitness stations
- Football
- Jogging/running
- Gymnastics
- Strengthening exercises
- Soccer
- Sports that could be **very active** during the scan period:
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Other playground games:
- Jumping (rope, hoops, hop scotch)
- Cheerleading
- Tag/chasing games

At the end of the observation period

Upon completion of the park observations, please review each document for completion. Ensure that writing is legible and any important notes/comments are made on the form. When in doubt, document everything :).

All forms for a given time period should be clipped together and stored in the plastic envelope provided. Please store documents in a safe, dry space until delivered to the Project Coordinator.

If photos are taken during the scheduled data collection period, please describe the photos – stating why photos were taken and which target areas the photos were taken in.

Follow the directions discussed with the Project Coordinator on the return of the forms to the Healthy Communities office (Benton County Health Department). Documents should be returned to the Project Coordinator within 7 days of the observation.

Please mail complete observations to:

Sara Hartstein
 Benton County Health Department
 530 NW 27th Street
 Corvallis, OR 97330

Or

Call (541) 766-6250 and someone will arrange to pick up the complete observations.

Parks and Play Spaces Observation SCREENING TOOL

Date: _____ Observer Initials: _____ Time of Observation: _____ Park Name: North Albany County Park & Natural Area

Conditions of Target Areas					
Target Area #	Accessible	Usable	Organized	Empty	Comments
1	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
2	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
3	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
4	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
5	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
6	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
7	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
8	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
9	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
10	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
11	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	
12	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	

Accessible: Code "Yes" if area is accessible to the public (e.g. area is not locked, rented to a private party or overgrown). If not accessible, do not observe and move to the next target area.

Usable: Code "Yes" if area is usable for physical activity (e.g. not excessively wet or roped off for repair). If not usable, do not observe and move to the next target area.

Organized: Code "Yes" if an organized physical activity is occurring in the target area.

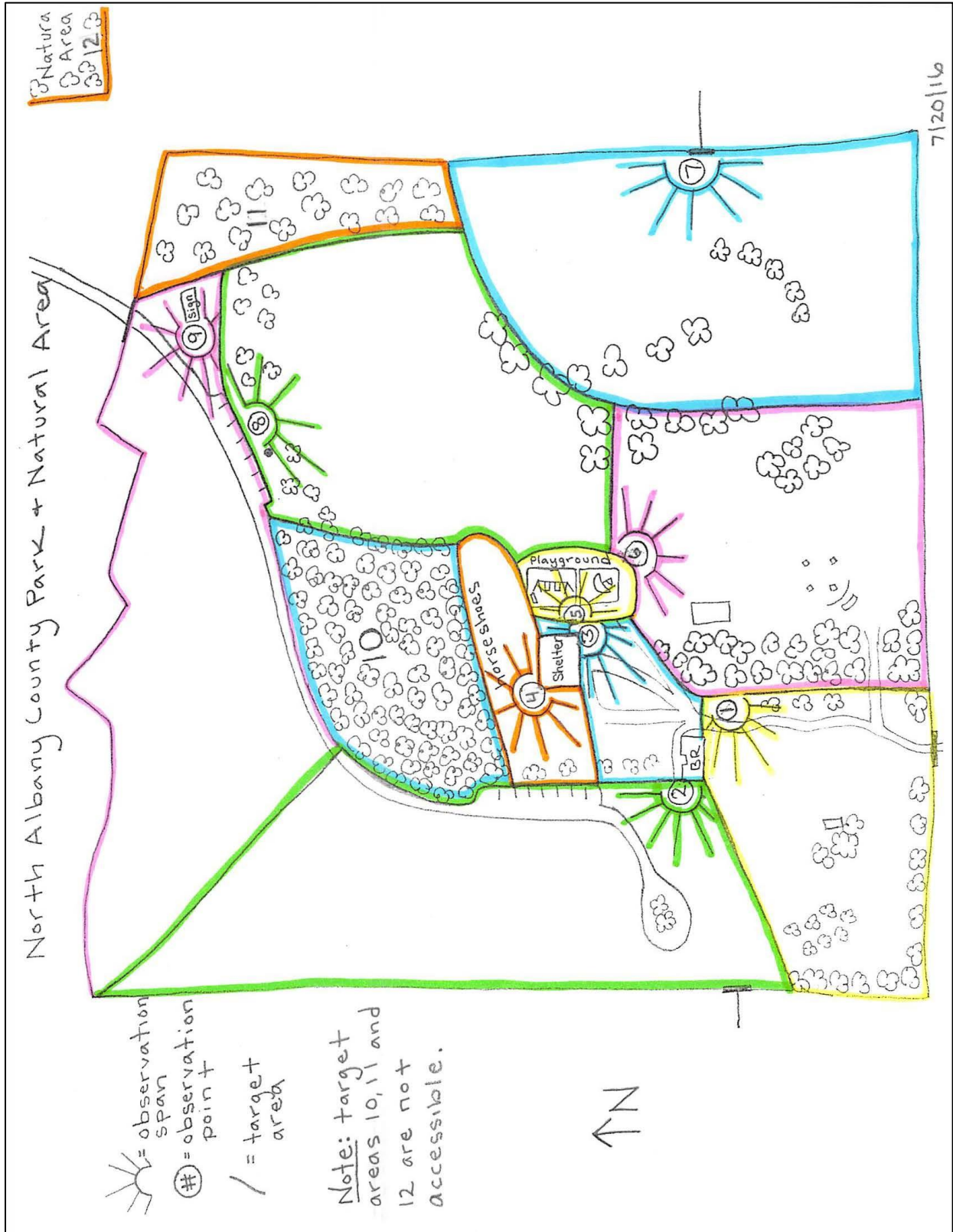
Empty: Code "Yes" when there are no individuals present during the observation.

If no individuals are present, do not observe and move to next target area.

Comments: Enter relevant additional information about the condition, people, or activities within the target area.

MPL 07.20.16

Parks and Play Spaces Observation TARGET AREA MAP



Parks and Play Spaces OBSERVATION TOOL

Park Name: North Albany County Park & Natural Area Weather Condition: _____

Date: _____ Time of Day: _____ Observers Name: _____

Start Time	Target Area (#)	Children 3-12 (# of children)			Adolescent 13-18 (# of youth)			Adults 19-64 (# of adults)			Adults 65+ (# of older adults)		
		Sedentary	Moderate	Very Active	Activity code	Sedentary	Moderate	Very Active	Activity code	Sedentary	Moderate	Very Active	Activity code
Every 30 Sec													

Activity Codes: 0 = No identifiable activity; 1 = Walking; 2 = Jogging/Running; 3 = Baseball/Softball; 4 = Football; 5 = Frisbee; 6 = Martial Arts; 7 = Racquet sports; 8 = Soccer; 9 = Lacrosse; 10 = Volleyball; 11 = Horseshoes; 12 = Playground games; 13 = Aerobics; 14 = Dance; 15 = Gymnastics; 16 = Climbing; 17 = Other _____

Cane, Wheelchair, other assistive device (#, type of device, area)	Strollers (# and area)
Other Comments:	

Adapted from Transtria, LLC - Parks and Play Spaces Direct Observation Tool by Benton County Public Health MPL 7.18.2016

C. Stakeholder Interview List & Questions

North Albany Park Planning STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW LIST

	Name	Organization
1	Myles Breadner	MBBH Development, LLC
2	Iris Carrasco	Oregon State University Extension Service; Community Member
3	Javier Cervantes	Linn Benton Community College Equity Coordinator; Community Member
4	Floyd Collins	City of Albany Councilor, Ward 1b (North Albany)
5	Theresa Conley	Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordinator, Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments
6	Jim Golden	Greater Albany Public School District Superintendent; Community Member
7	Greg Hamann	Linn Benton Community College President; Community Member
8	Hasso Hering	Albany Blogger/Journalist; Community Member
9	Ed Hodney	City of Albany Parks & Recreation Department Director
10	Ron Irish	City of Albany Public Works
11	Mario Lattanzio	City of Albany Police Chief; Community Member
12	David Martineau	City of Albany Community Development
13	Lisa Ong	Community Member
14	Bill Root	North Albany Neighborhood Association(NANA), Chair
15	Mick Skolnick	Community Member

North Albany Park Planning STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Background/Introduction:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today.

Introduce yourself.

As you may know, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department (NAPD), which owns and operates North Albany Park, accepted a land donation which is the parcel located at the SW corner of NW Valley View and NW Crocker Lane. (Here's a map.) The donation came from the developer of the Albany Heights subdivision that is located just south of this parcel.

North Albany residents, particularly those in the vicinity of the existing Park and proposed Natural Area, have expressed that the natural, wooded character of the expansion area should be retained; consequently, the only amenities planned for the proposed Natural Area are a natural-surface loop trail and associated signage.

NAPD is also entering a Master Planning process for the existing North Albany Community Park, and we would like to combine the new Natural Area acreage in to the planning. As a result, we are beginning a community engagement process to gather input from the North Albany community on what they would like to see in North Albany County Park and the new Natural Area acreage.

Stakeholder interviews, like this one, are the first step in this process. (Here's the Timeline).

Interviewer: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Organization: _____

1. Do you live in North Albany? If so, how long have you lived in the North Albany community?
2. What do you like best about the existing North Albany County Park? Tell me what you believe the benefits of the North Albany County Park and the new proposed Natural Area are to your community.
3. What are some of the ways you use the park? And do you do those activities daily, weekly, monthly, and/or annually?
4. What would you like to see added or changed concerning North Albany County Park? Any particular features you would like to see enhanced or altered?
5. Do you see any challenges or barriers exist for community member involvement in the development of a new Master Plan for the existing park and to manage the proposed new acreage as a Natural Area? What types of support do you think will be important to facilitate community involvement?

6. What are the greatest opportunities for re-development of the existing park and proposed trail development within the Natural Area acreage?
7. What is the best way to engage the North Albany community in order to get their input on the existing North Albany County Park and proposed Natural Area, as well as how the community can assist in implementing and maintaining site improvements?
8. What do you feel you, or your organization would be willing to do to support the North Albany County Park and the proposed new Natural Area?
9. How do North Albany community members get their information about North Albany County Park or the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department in general? What is the best method for us to keep you informed and for you to gain information?
10. Is there anything else you would like us to know?
11. Is there anyone else that you would recommend we speak with?

Thank you for your time.

D. First Community Meeting Minutes & Presentation



Minutes

Community Meeting: North Albany Park & Natural Area June 7, 2016, 6:00 - 7:30 pm North Albany County Park Shelter

This meeting was held as scheduled on June 7, 2016 at 6:00pm at North Albany Park. The meeting was publicized through a direct post mail to all residences within 300ft of the proposed project, on the Benton County website, and two notices (8 ½"x11") were posted within the park. The meeting was attended by 51 neighbors. Most of the questions/concerns that came up at the meeting can be found in the Question & Answer section of the minutes. The timeline for the proposed Natural Area development and the North Albany Park Master Plan are also within, and will ultimately address the concerns/issues or problems that the community has brought to us (the applicant).

Light Dinner – Community members networked and communicated with neighbors over dinner.

Welcome, Introductions & Background

Jeff Powers, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Director

Through discussions and previous public meetings, the community and the former land owner of the donated Natural Area requested that the 10.5 acre parcel to stay as is; although, a loop trail through the parcel was also discussed in order to increase connectivity and provide physical activity opportunities. In addition, the Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department realizes that the facilities in the North Albany Park are old and that it is time for a Master Plan process to see what changes, if any, are desired by the community. The North Albany community is an important part of this process, and your input will be very useful. This first meeting sets the stage for additional community input opportunities regarding the North Albany Park. Benton County Natural Areas & Parks has invited the Benton County Health Department to collaborate as we are taking a Health in All Policies approach to this process.

Sara Hartstein, Benton County Health Policy Specialist

The Benton County Health Department's role in this process is to assist with community outreach and engagement. Our Healthy Communities team takes a Health in All Policies approach because we believe that all policies, and the environment we live in, have an impact on our health. We recognize that having access to parks and natural areas increases opportunities for physical activity in the community, and being in nature has proven benefits on our mental health.

Concept Plan & Timeline – The Natural Area

Lisa de Graaf, Benton County Park Operations Coordinator

This community meeting is to discuss the 10.5 acres that was donated by the developer, now known as the North Albany Park Natural Area. We are required to hold a meeting by the City of Albany as part of our Site Plan Review permit. Conceptually, the new parcel will include a half mile dirt loop trail, armored in rock where needed. Only a

trail and two informational/wayfinding kiosks are currently planned; nothing else like parking or restrooms are being proposed. The proposed trail would be cut 8 feet wide, with a 4 inch tread. We do not intend to light the trail. We have considered to possibly have a path around the perimeter of the existing Park later on. The connectivity will improve biking and walking in the area, especially with new bike paths on roads near the park. Bikes will be allowed on the trail as well. Timeline has slightly changed since we did not get the grant we applied for last winter; however, a new grant cycle is coming up this fall and we will apply again. The schedule as of right now is on track (see timeline below). We will keep any negative impacts to the community at a minimum during this process.

Natural Area Timeline:

May 3, 2016 - Benton County acquires the Natural Area

June 7, 2016 - Community meeting for residents that live within 300 feet of the Natural Area and Park

By end of August, 2016 - Benton County obtains Site Permit for the Natural Area from the City of Albany

Fall 2016 – A grant opportunity will be available to help fund the development of the proposed trail

February, 2016 - Invasive Species Mitigation

Spring 2017 - Equipment on the ground to begin trail development

August/September, 2017 - Open trail in the Natural Area

Hazard Tree Mitigation Plan

Adam Stebbins, Benton County Natural Resource Coordinator

We are having a lot of die off of Douglas fir trees in/around the park. Other trees such as Oregon White Oak, Ash and Willamette Pine are in high quality condition.

- Reasons for Douglas fir die off include:
 - Three years of drought.
 - Storm water and water runoff from city development leading to saturation/drainage issues.
 - Many of the Douglas-Fir hazard trees that have been identified, show signs of the Ips Beetle damage.
- At the end of the summer/early fall, before ground surface is too wet, selective tree falling will occur.
- If removal of hazard trees does not occur, increased pests will likely occur.
- All logging and cleanup work will be done as quick and efficiently as possible.
- There are around approximately 116 total hazard trees within the Natural Area and current Park combined. Around 50% in each area.

See presentation poster/slides for more details.

The following are community member questions regarding the hazard tree mitigation plan:

Why were the trees cut down behind Hillcrest? We thought those were going to stay a part of the Natural Area. There has been a lot of confusion about this particular area of the map. The land behind Hillcrest is still owned by the developer and trees were cut down for the subdivision. The rest of the Natural Area will remain.

What is the fire plan for the area? Benton County follows local regulations.

Can there be recommendations around tree management? Yes, input is recommended. Please contact Adam Stebbins at adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us.

When planting small trees, will they be taken care of? Some small trees last year weren't watered and the community took care of them. Yes, Benton County plans to take care of the new trees that are planted. There may also be volunteer opportunities to assist with care of the new trees.

What do the blue stripes mean around the trees in the Park? Trees with blue rings are the ones to be cut down.

When you cut the trees down, do you plan to remove the stumps? Yes, stumps will be ground down to a height so that Benton County can mow over them. The plan is for Park to be closed for no more than five working days for tree removal.

Why are we not growing more Willamette oak trees? We will look into planting that type of tree when we start working on our replanting plan.

Master Plan Process – North Albany Park

Lisa de Graaf, Benton County Park Operations Coordinator

We started with stakeholder interviews in April with community members from North Albany to talk about what they see as the future of this park and the best ways to engage North Albany residents. Data will include the outcome from those discussions as well as other data gathering tools and community meetings. They include surveys in the park, a park audit and observation, and an online survey. Draft options/concepts for the Park will be developed by fall, presented to the community for feedback, updated with community input, and then presented to the community again. The final draft will be ready by the end of year. We welcome all ideas and we will listen to all possibilities.

Master Plan Timeline:

April – May, 2016 – Stakeholder Interviews

June – September, 2016 – Community outreach and engagement

August – September, 2016 – Develop Concept Plan/Options

September, 2016 – Gather community feedback on Concept Plan/Options

September/October, 2016 – Use community feedback to update Concept Plan/Options

September/October, 2016 – First Final Draft of the Master Plan

December, 2016 – End of Master Plan Process

Sara Hartstein, Benton County Health Policy Specialist

The stakeholders we talked with were already somehow engaged with the Park; if we did not interview you, it does not mean that we do not want to hear from you. Here is how you can provide your input and stay involved with this process:

- 1) Stay updated
 - Sign up to be included on the listserv for updates and future opportunities to participate in the Master Plan process.
- 2) Tell us what you think

- Participate in the survey. There are paper surveys available here this evening, or you may take a survey link card home to participate online.
- 3) Promote the process and opportunities for involvement.
- Share with your friends, neighbors and other networks.
 - Invite us to come to you! We will attend your church groups, block parties, neighborhood association meetings, etc. to provide you with updates and/or gather your input.
 - Benton County will be providing updates on the process at the North Albany Neighborhood Association potluck on Tuesday, August 2nd at the North Albany Park Shelter. You are all invited!
- 4) Volunteer
- We will be conducting park observations in the park this summer to determine the characteristics of the park that help or hinder physical activity. If you are interested in participating, we are hosting training on proper data collection methods on Monday, June 13 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the North Albany Park Shelter.
 - Join the Friends of North Albany Park & Natural Areas group to learn about opportunities to volunteer in the Park & Natural Area (e.g., pulling weeds, watering new trees, trail development, etc.)

Questions & Answers

Will you use herbicides in the Natural Area for invasive species mitigation? We have bees in the area that we are worried about. We use a mixture of mechanical use (weed eaters, pruners), volunteers, and some herbicides for most obnoxious weeds. Notifications will be sent out when they are being used.

What is the location of the proposed path in location to existing property? The proposed path will loop mostly around perimeter, separated by about 200 feet before properties.

Would the proposed new trail be open dawn to dusk? Yes, all of our parks are open dawn to dusk. We do not plan to physically close the trail, but if we get reports of people lingering around at night time, that is not acceptable.

What are you doing to make sure the Park is safe? We will be working with the City of Albany to conduct a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Evaluation of the Park. We will use this information to inform the concepts/options in the Master Plan.

What is the cost benefit on keeping the Natural Area as is vs. putting in a trail? If the proposed trail moves forward, ideally the cost will be funded by grant instead of tax dollars. Tax dollars will manage the Natural Area whether there is a trail or it remains in its natural state.

There is a maintenance area pad on the Natural Area map. What will it look like? The pad on the map is proposed for a park maintenance truck to park on the property; it will not be lighted. It will also have some kind of locked barrier when not in use.

Are there any plans for improving Hillcrest? This isn't a very good road and if access is improved it will see more wear and tear from the increased traffic. We look forward to hearing your ideas about that area of the park.

Presentation

Community Meeting: North Albany Park & Natural Area
June 7, 2016, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
North Albany County Park Shelter


Natural Resources Program

**North Albany Natural Area & North Albany Park
Tree Resources Evaluation and Management Plan Overview**
North Albany Community Meeting, June 7th 2016

5/31/16
Aerial Photos of Douglas Fir stand die-off, and healthy Oregon White Oaks
within North Albany Natural Area



By: Adam Stebbins, Benton County Natural Resources Coordinator
Adam.Stebbins@Co.Benton.OR.US; 541-766-6085


Natural Resources Program

Douglas Fir Tree Die-Off: Causes & Conditions

- ~3 years of drought (2011-15), followed by wetter winter (2015-16)
- Poor soil drainage and city storm/water runoff
- Pests and fungal infestations



5/31/16
Aerial Photos of Douglas Fir tree die-off
Facing East from restroom, Facing West from restroom



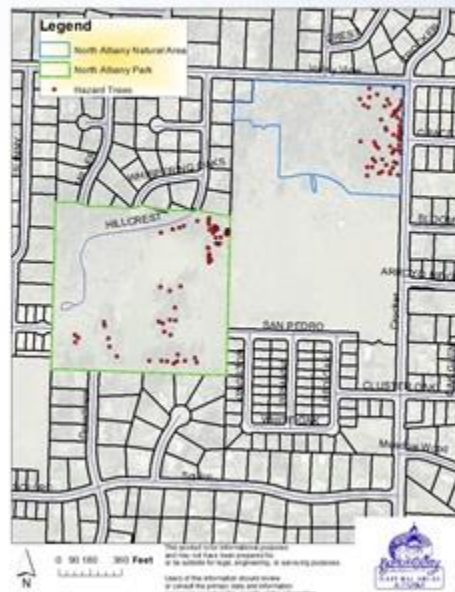


**Tree Management Plan:
North Albany Natural Area & North Albany Park 2016-17**

- Logging and removal of all dead hazard trees for public safety planned for Summer-early Fall 2016
- Logging of all at risk/dying hazard trees for public safety and remaining tree health
- Masticating and/or chipping of all tree debris from logging
- Develop native tree and shrub planting plan after new master plan has been completed including:
 - Evaluation and planning for stormwater runoff
 - Final access and trail locations
 - Facility locations



**Tree Management Plan:
North Albany Natural Area & North Albany Park 2016-17
Hazard Tree Map**



E. Online Survey Results



North Albany Park Planning ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Report formatting and quantitative data compiled and analyzed by Savannah Carrico, Oregon State University Master of Public Health Intern with Benton County Health Department. Qualitative data compiled and analyzed by Racheal Davees, Oregon State University Intern with Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department.

Introduction

This survey was completed by 400 individuals between June 6 and August 8, 2016. The survey consisted of 16 questions and was designed to redirect individuals depending on their answers to Question 1 (whether they wanted to take the survey in English or Spanish) and Question 2 (whether they had visited North Albany Park before). The Spanish survey questions mirrored the English version and are not shown in this report, but are included in the analysis. The questions are as follows:

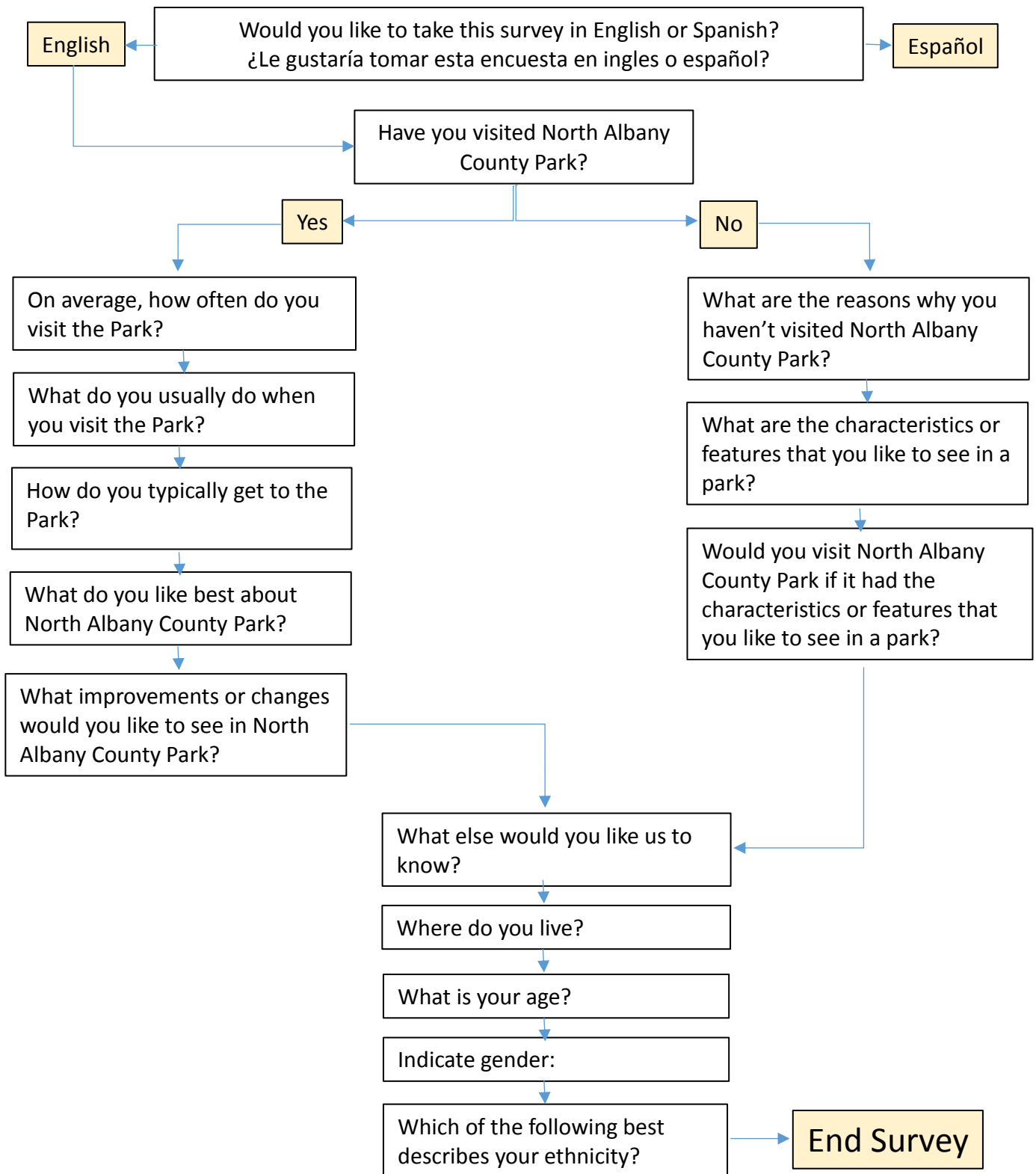


Figure 1: Flowchart of how the survey redirected respondents depending on his or her answers to Questions 1 and 2.

Methods

Quantitative response rates were calculated by the number of people who answered the question divided by the number of people that saw the question.

Results

English vs Spanish

This question was given to each person that took the survey and was answered by 335 people (83.8% response rate). The vast majority (95%) took the survey in English (Figure 2). This corresponds with the 11% of respondents that identify themselves as Hispanic/Latino given that some speak English very well.

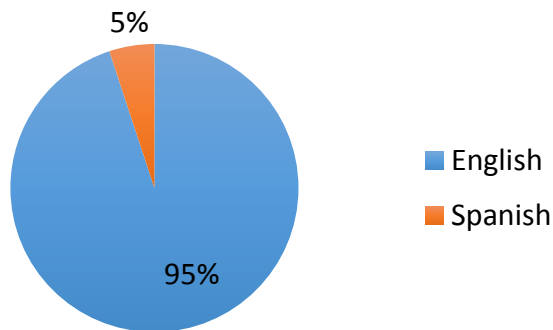


Figure 2: Percentages of how many respondents took the North Albany County Park Online Survey in English or Spanish

Have you visited before?

This question was given to each person that took the survey and was answered by 394 people (98.5% response rate). The vast majority (89%) of respondents visited the Park before (Figure 3).

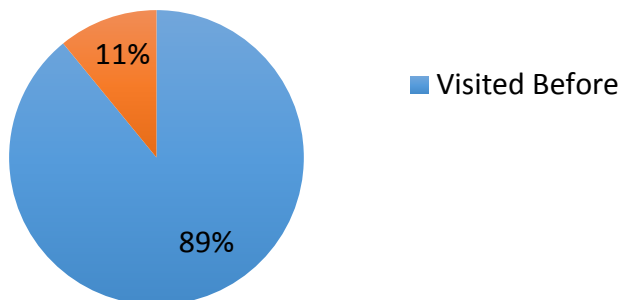


Figure 3: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that visited the Park before or hadn't visited the Park at all.

On average, how often do you visit the Park?

This question was given to each person that took the survey that visited the Park before and was answered by 344 people (86.0% response rate). The majority of people visit the park more than once a week, or at least once a month (Figure 4). The remaining people only visit a couple times a year and only 12% visit once a year.

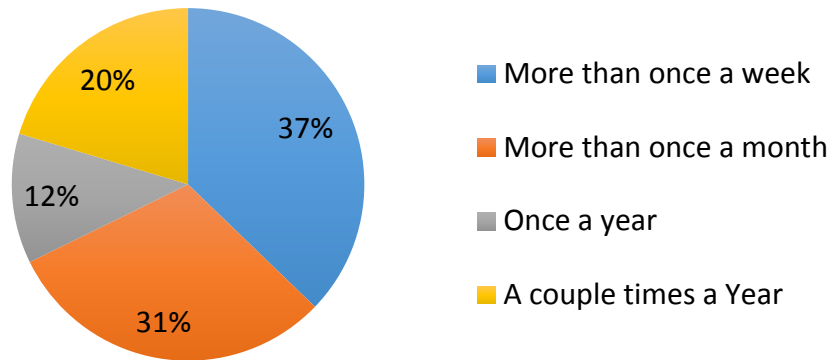


Figure 4: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that visited the park more than once a week, more than once a month, a couple times a year, or once a year.

How do you get to the Park?

This question was given to each person that took the survey who had visited the Park before and was answered by 306 people (87.2% response rate). The majority (57%) of people walk to the park followed by 35% that drive (Figure 5). The remaining people either bike to the park or get there by other means.

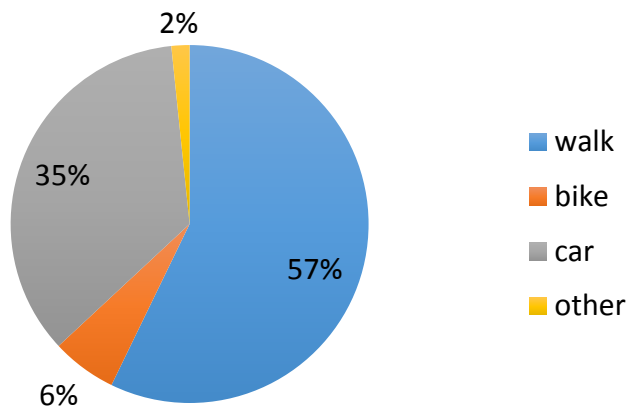


Figure 5: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that get to the park by walking, biking, driving, or using other method of transportation to get to the Park.

What do you like best about the Park?

The online survey collected data from 306 people on the question, “What do you like best about North Albany Park?” When the surveys were taken online the respondents had more time to compose their answers and write their thoughts completely. While there are several long detailed responses most people gave short answers with one or two comments about features they like in the park. Comments varied in detail and covered between one and five themes within the range of categories identified. Each comment was divided into the themes it covered to give a total of 519 comments. For example response 1 is “open space” this is categorized as a single comment in the Character category. Whereas Response 23: “The wide open spaces, the doggie bag stands, the shelter, and water for dogs” was split into three comments because they touch on the Character themes of Natural Amenities, Dogs, and Facilities.

The five themes that emerged after reviewing the data are: Natural Amenities and Atmosphere, Layout, Dogs, Community, Facilities. Natural Amenities and Atmosphere includes comments relating to the peaceful and quiet atmosphere, trees, and the desire for trails to enjoy the natural features of the park. There were 220 comments within this category with a split of 90 comments about the atmosphere and 105 comments about the trees, shade, forest and oaks, 25 comments were made about the natural features of the park including trails. This category is closely related to the Layout category where people commented on the size, character and accessibility of the Park. The distinction between these two categories is that all comments in the Layout category are explicitly a part of park design. The comment made most often was that people like that the Park is open, 92 of the 306 (30%) people mentioned the word open or openness. After *character* the Layout is appreciated for its *size* (37), mostly relating to the large size, lots of room to walk and to be in your own space.

The theme of Dogs was mentioned by 31 of 306 people. They expressed that they were pleased to have an off leash location for their dogs more specifically a large open space that is big enough to throw a ball or toy to give the dogs sufficient exercise.

The theme of Community was expressed in three common ways through the feeling of safety, the location of the Park with in their community and community more specifically relating to comments about neighbors and respectful people. There are 27 comments about community with the majority (11) relating to the location of the Park close to their homes. Seven comments recognize the safety as something they like and 9 talk about feelings of community explicitly. It is notable that only 5% of the comments made recognize a sense of community when responding to the online survey, while 16% of the total comments made recognize the value of community when the people are physically standing in the Park.

Facilities received 72 comments with the majority (40) relating to the playground. The specific features they like being the boat and the swings. Other comments about the facilities include 31 people who enjoy the picnic facilities, the restrooms, baseball backstop, and other unspecified amenities. Additionally there were 20 comments showing appreciation for the facilities being well maintained and clean.

What improvements or changes would you like to see in the Park?

The online survey collected data from 295 people about what improvements or changes they would like to see made in North Albany Park. Comments varied in detail and often covered multiple themes within the range of categories identified. Each comment was divided up into the themes it covered to give a total of 395 comments. For example response 18 is “Access to Benton Woods path” this is categorized as a single comment in the Access category. Whereas Response 34: “More things in the playground. Also, the grass should be cut more. Maybe add hiking trails.” was split into three comments because they touch on the themes of Facilities: *Playground*, Facilities: *Maintenance*, and Natural Amenities and Atmosphere.

Six themes emerged after reviewing the data and are as follows: Natural Amenities and Atmosphere, Access, Dogs, Safety, Facilities, and None (leave as is). Natural Amenities and Atmosphere includes comments relating to the trees, and the desire for trails to enjoy the natural features of the park. There were 61 comments within this category with the two most common points being add formalized trails and ensure the wooded, shady character of the park remains.

There were many comments made about a desire for adding formalized entry points from the Benton Woods neighborhood and in the neighborhood to the east of the Park. Fifty-four comments were made about Access including connectivity between neighborhoods, more parking, and ADA accessible paths and play equipment.

Forty-one comments were made relating to Dog infrastructure such as fencing or additional dog bag stations to be put in place. Over half of the comments relating to dogs expressed a desire to have a designated off leash area rather than all areas free range for dogs. This is significant because again the comments generated in this survey were from people who are not in the park and the presence of off leash dogs may be a barrier to their attendance at the Park.

Thirteen comments were made regarding Safety concerns including a desire for better lighting and safer playground equipment.

The majority of the comments about desired improvements or changes were related to the Facilities (205) which were divided further into four subcategories: *Playground*, *Other Existing Facilities*, *New Facilities*, and *Maintenance*. The Playground was the most commented on with 112 responses. Emerging desires include more and updated play equipment with more slides and better options for young children. There were few specific suggestions but the theme of increased variety and mixing old and new was put forward. There were 50 comments about the desire for New Facilities in addition to the Existing Facilities. New Facilities include more benches and picnic tables, and novel additions include 12 comments about disk golf pins and many wishes for a pool or water feature. There were 18 comments relating to Maintenance and concerns include: turf maintenance and drainage issues, bees/wasps, and maintenance in general.

Thirty comments expressed a desire to leave the park as is with no changes or improvements.

Where do you live?

This question was given to each person that took the survey and was answered by 357 people (89.3% response rate). The majority of respondents (81%) live in North Albany with the next largest group of respondents (14%) living in South, West, or East Albany (Figure 6).

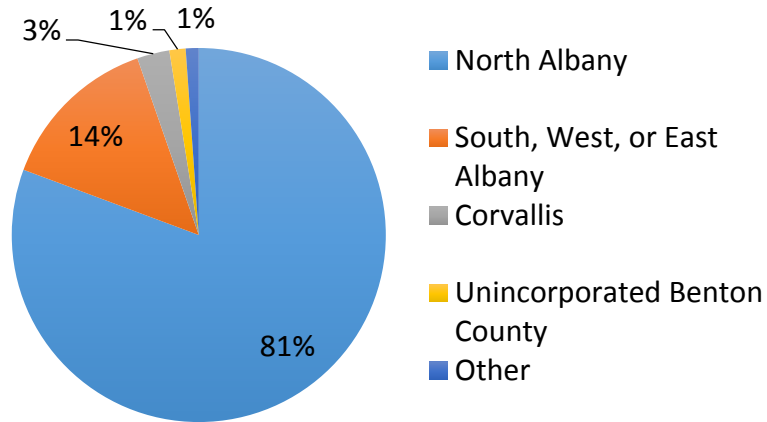


Figure 6: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that live in North Albany, South, West or East Albany, Corvallis, Unincorporated Benton County, or elsewhere

What is your gender?

This question was given to each person that took the survey and was answered by 277 people (69.3% response rate). The majority of respondents (73%) are Female (Figure 7). It is unclear why this question was not responded too by over 30% of the respondents.

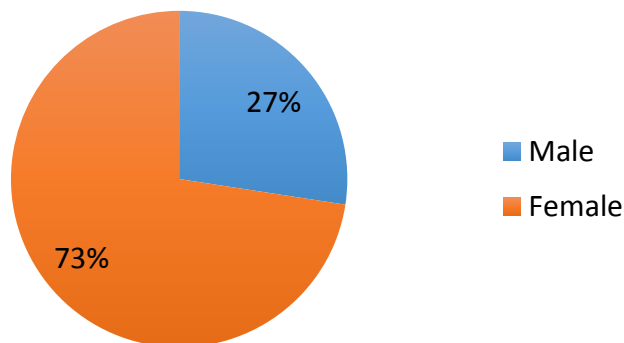


Figure 7: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that are female or male.

What is your age?

This question was given to each person that took the survey and was answered by 286 people (71.5% response rate). Over one third of the respondents are in the 35-44 age range followed by 24% in the 25-34 age range; probably young mothers and fathers taking their children to the Park (Figure 8). There is a peak of 17% of those falling in the 55-64 age range; probably grandparents taking their grandchildren to the Park.

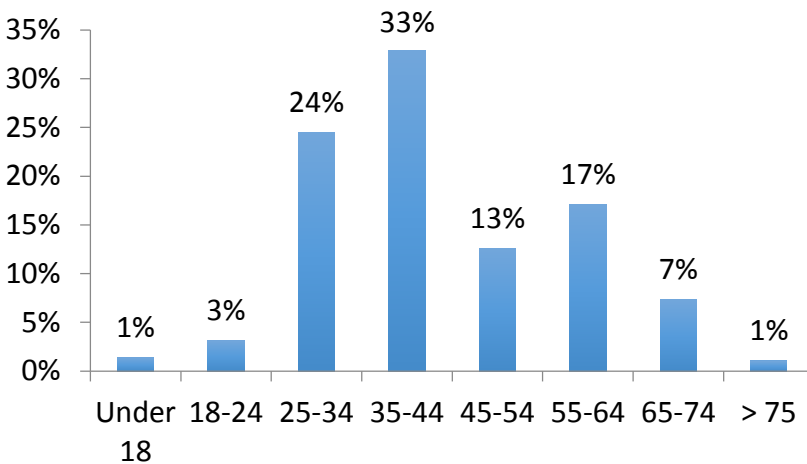


Figure 8: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey in each age group

What is your race/ethnicity?

This question was given to each person that took the survey and was answered by 278 people (69.5% response rate). The majority of respondents (80%) identify as White/Caucasian (Figure 9). Hispanic/Latinos represent 11% of the respondents and Black, Asian, American Indian, and Multi-ethnic respondents each represent less than 5%.

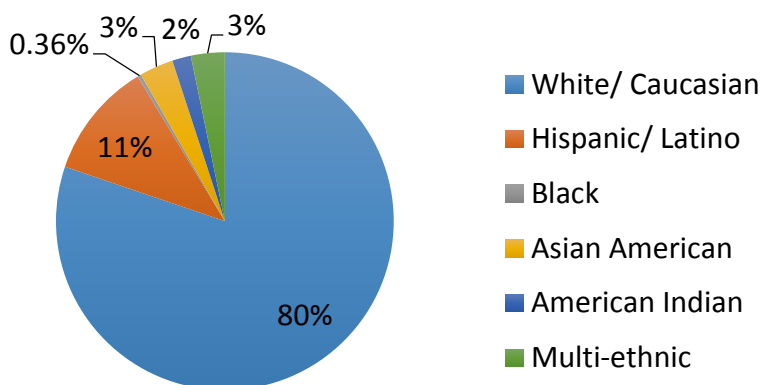


Figure 9: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey and the race/ethnicity they identify with.

What are the reasons why you haven't visited North Albany County Park?

This question was given to each person that indicated that they had not visited North Albany County Park before and was answered by 38 people (86% response rate). Many respondents stated that they are new to the area and/or have never heard of North Albany County Park. Some respondents mentioned that the Park is too far away for them to visit, they don't know where it is, or they don't know what amenities the Park features. One respondent mentioned that they tried to visit once, but couldn't find the main entrance to the Park. Another respondent shared that Gibson Hill Park is about the same distance away as North Albany County Park, and has a superior playground for their children.

What are the characteristics or features that you like to see in a park?

This question was given to each person that indicated that they had not visited North Albany County Park before and was answered by 36 people (82% response rate). Many respondents shared that they like to see natural scenery and native plants, shrubs, and trees that provide shade for humans and support wildlife needs in parks. Respondents also like parks that have parking, bike racks, permanent restrooms, a covered picnic area with BBQ, drinking fountains, informational kiosks, biking and walking trails, off leash area for dogs, public gardens, and water features such as streams, ponds, rivers, or fountains. Respondents also like parks that are family friendly and provide swings, play structures for a variety of ages, imagination toys or innovative play structures, and a path that goes around the park area. One respondent mentioned that a park with a basketball hoop or disc golf is desirable. In general, respondents like parks that are clean, safe, and accessible for all, and tobacco-free.

Would you visit North Albany County Park if it had the characteristics or features that you like to see in a park?

This question was given to each person that indicated that they had not visited North Albany County Park before and was answered by 35 people (80% response rate). The majority of respondents said that they would visit North Albany County Park if it had the characteristics or features that they like to see in a park (83%). Only 3% said they would not visit the park, and 14% said they did not know if they would visit the park.

If you haven't visited before, where do you live?

The data were analyzed to see if any patterns appeared in those that did not visit the Park. The majority of those that didn't visit the park (67%) live in South, West, or East Albany (Figure 10). This is probably because they do not live near the Park.

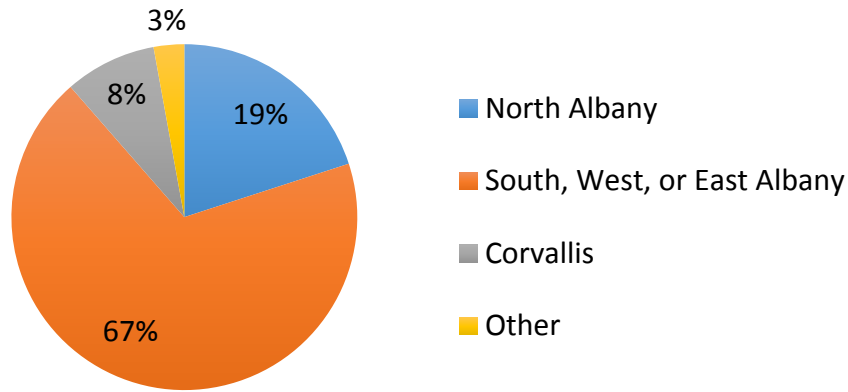


Figure 10: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that did not visit the Park before and where they live.

The following table represents how many of the people that answered the question of where they lived regardless of if they had been to the Park before. Nearly 50% of those that live in South, West, or East Albany did not visit the Park. This is probably because they do not live near the park. This is also seen in those that live in Corvallis or areas other than North Albany. Thirty percent of those that live in Corvallis and 25% of those that live elsewhere did not visit the Park.

Home	Total	Percentage that haven't visited the Park before
North Albany	288	2%
South, West, or East Albany	50	48%
Corvallis	10	30%
Other	4	25%

Table 1: Percentages of those that did not visit the Park and where they live.

If you haven't visited before, what is your age?

The data were analyzed to see if any patterns appeared in those that did not visit the Park. Nearly one third of respondents that haven't visited the park fall in the 25-34 age range as opposed to the 35-44 age range as seen by all respondents regardless of whether or not they visited the Park before (Figure 11).

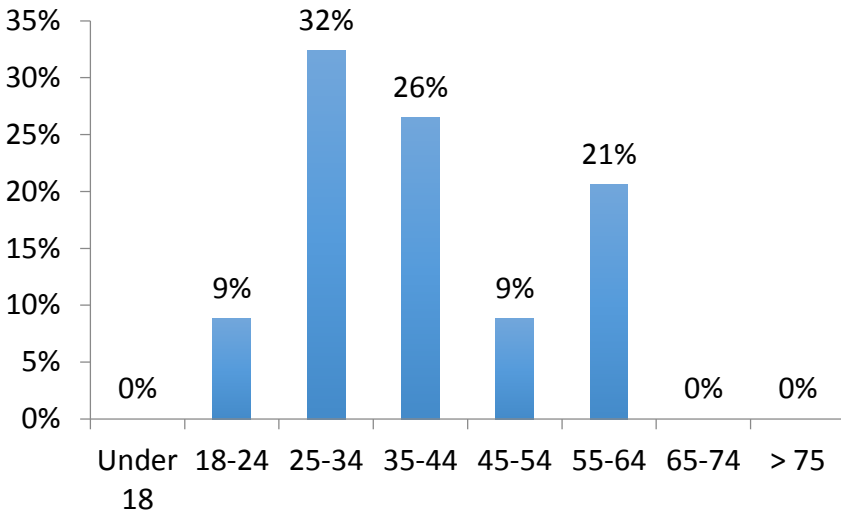


Figure 11: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that did not visit the Park before and their age ranges

One third of those that took the survey that are Under 18 years old have never visited the Park (Table 2).

Age	Total	Percentage that haven't visited the Park before
Under 18	4	0%
18-24	9	33%
25-34	70	16%
35-44	94	10%
45-54	36	8%
55-64	49	14%
65-74	21	0%
> 75	3	0%

Table 2: Percentages of those that did not visit the Park and their age ranges

If you haven't visited before, what is your race/ethnicity?

The data were analyzed to see if any patterns appeared in those that did not visit the Park. The majority of respondents (68%) were White while 24% of respondents identified as Hispanic/Latino. This is a slightly different representation than those that took the survey regardless of whether or not they visited the Park.

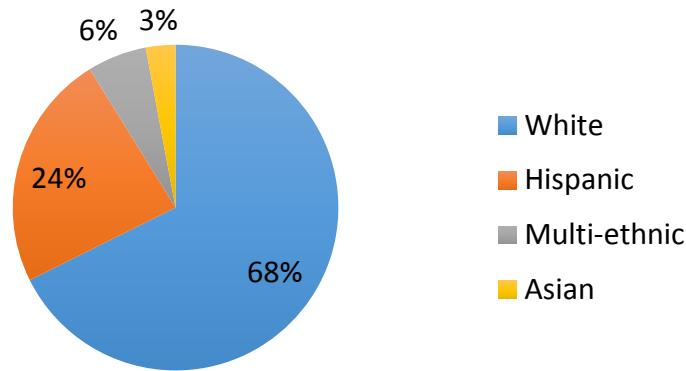


Figure 12: Percentages of those that took the North Albany County Park Online Survey that did not visit the Park before and the race/ethnicity they identify with

Race/ethnicity	Total	Percentage that haven't visited the Park before
White/ Caucasian	223	10%
Hispanic/ Latino	31	26%
Multi-ethnic	9	22%
Asian	9	11%

Table 3: Percentages of those that did not visit the Park and the race/ethnicity they identify with.

What else would you like us to know?

This question was given to each person that took the survey and was answered by 156 people (39% response rate). Many respondents reiterated their appreciation of the North Albany County Park and hope that it remains a rural feeling park with natural habitat preserved for wildlife. With more homes being built in the surrounding neighborhoods, respondents felt that the Park is even more important to both humans and wildlife. Several shared that they would like to see the current facilities upgraded, trees replanted, and better drainage in the Park. Others felt that they would like to see the Park continue to be kept clean with additional dog waste stations placed in strategic locations. Respondents also used this space to make specific requests such as asking for law enforcement to patrol the Park more frequently and Natural Areas & Parks staff to cease spraying herbicides and pesticides in the Park.

F. Intercept Survey Results



North Albany Park Planning INTERCEPT SURVEY RESULTS

Report formatting and quantitative data compiled and analyzed by Savannah Carrico, Oregon State University Master of Public Health Intern with Benton County Health Department. Qualitative data compiled and analyzed by Racheal Davees, Oregon State University Intern with Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department.

Introduction

This survey was completed by 144 individuals that were encountered in North Albany County Park between July 17 and July 23, 2016. Twenty six (18%) of these individuals reported having already taken the North Albany County Park Online Survey. Eight individuals indicated that when they took the North Albany Park Intercept Survey, it was their first time at the Park. These people were incorporated into the respondents that did not complete the North Albany County Park Online Survey for a total of 118. The Intercept Survey consisted of 20 questions and was designed to redirect individuals depending on their answers to Question 1 (whether or not they already took the North Albany County Park Online Survey) and whether or not they have visited North Albany Park before (Figure 1). The questions are as follows:

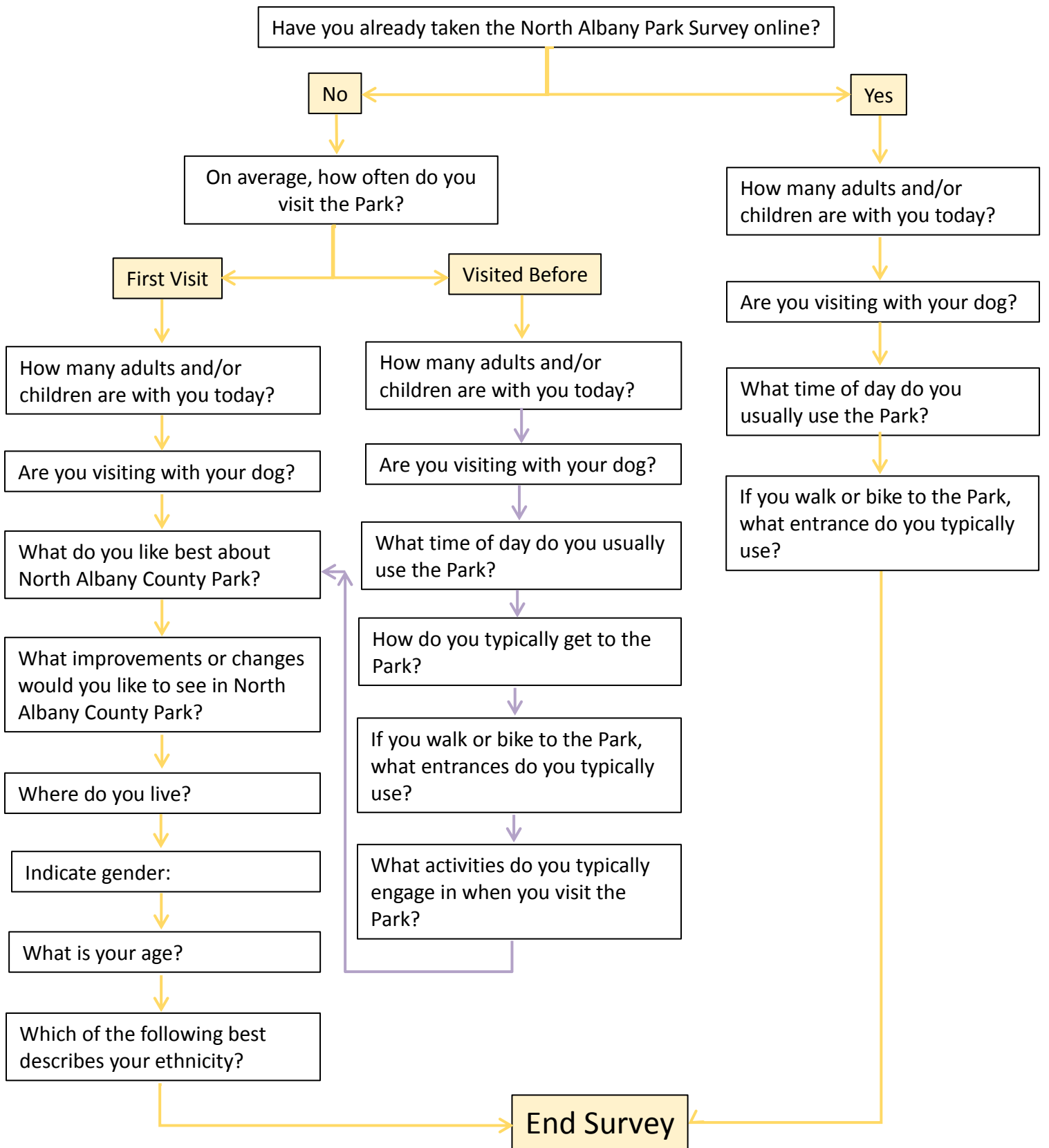


Figure 1: Flowchart of how the survey redirected respondents depending on his or her answers to Questions 1 and 6.

Methods

Response rates were calculated by the number of people who answered the question divided by the number of people that saw the question.

Results

Have you already taken the North Albany County Park Online Survey?

This first question addresses whether or not this individual has already taken the online survey. This was necessary as the intercept survey had duplicative questions that were included in the online survey and additional questions that were not included in the online survey. Those individuals that answered that they had already taken the online survey were asked only the additional questions. Twenty six individuals reported taking the online survey. This indicates that there are as many as 118 surveys provided where no one took both the surveys. Those that indicated on the North Albany Park Intercept Survey (NAPIS) that this was their first visit are included in the 118 people that didn't take the North Albany County Park Online Survey (NACPOS).

Total	NAPIS	NACPOS	First Visit
144	118	26	8

Table 1: The number of people that took the North Albany Park Intercept Survey (total), people that only took the North Albany Park Intercept Survey (NAPIS), people that also took the North Albany County Park Online Survey (NACPOS), and people who only took the North Albany Park Intercept Survey and it was their first time at the Park (First Visit).

How many adults and/or children are with you today?

This question was given to everyone that completed the North Albany Park Intercept Survey, including those that also completed the North Albany County Park Online Survey (Figure 1). 123 people answered this question (85% response rate). The majority of people were at the Park alone. Groups of two, three, or four were the most common while groups larger than four were accounted for less than 10% of the respondents.

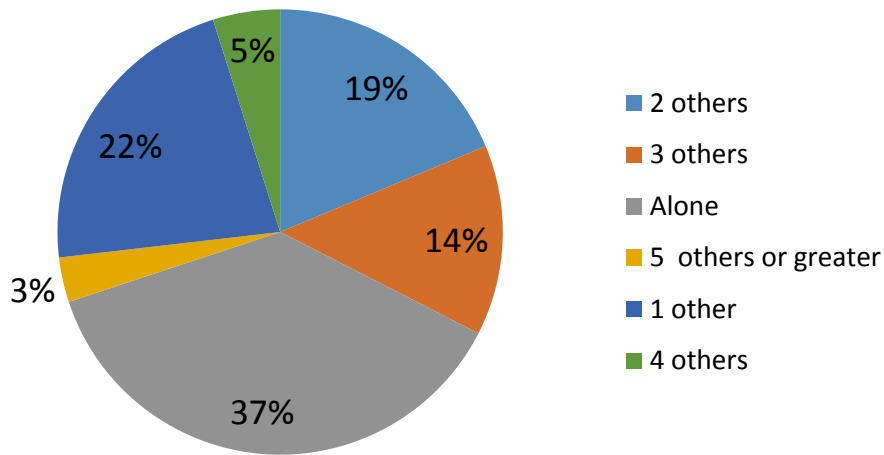


Figure 1: Percentages of all respondents that indicated how many people were with them at the Park

The first time visitors' answers to this question differed from the total (Figure 2). Seven people answered this question that also said they were first time visitors (88% response rate). The majority of first time visitors came to the Park in a group of three. Groups of four or greater were more common than being alone.

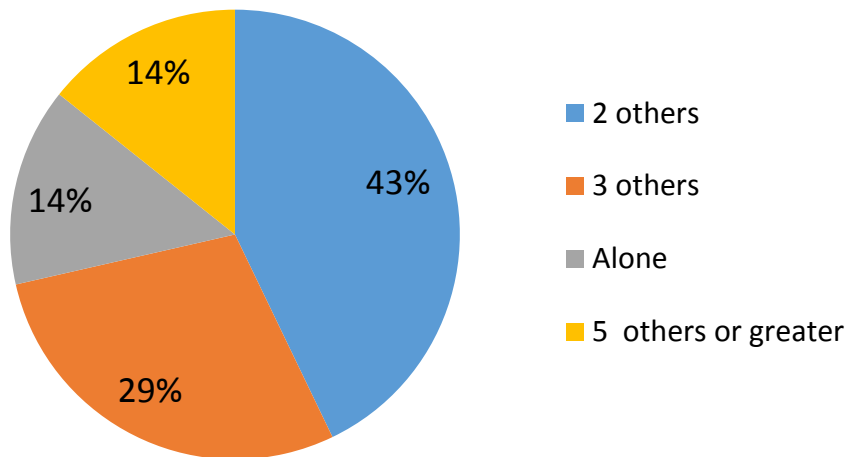


Figure 2: Percentages of First time visitors alone and in groups at the Park.

Are you visiting with your dog?

This question was given to everyone that completed the North Albany Park Intercept Survey, including those that also completed the North Albany County Park Online Survey. 137 people answered this question (95% response rate). Whether or not someone brought their dog to the Park was fairly evenly divided. 52% of people did not bring their dog, while 48% did (Figure 3). The people that visited the Park for the first time as indicated on the North Albany Park Intercept Survey did not bring their dog.

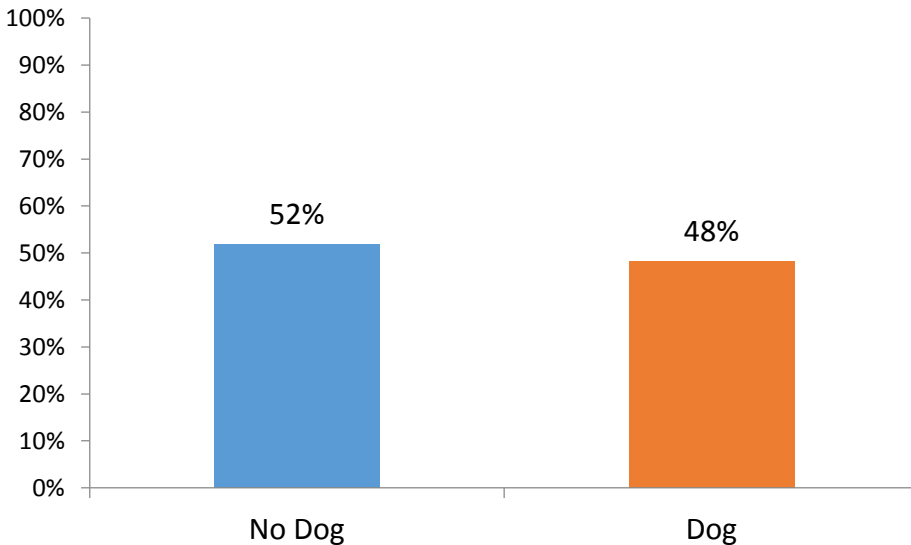


Figure 3: The percentage of people that brought their dog to the Park or not.

Of the 137 people that answered the dog question, 121 also indicated if they were with people or alone (84% response rate). 52% of people that didn't bring their dog to the Park were also alone. 73% of people that did bring their dog were also with people.

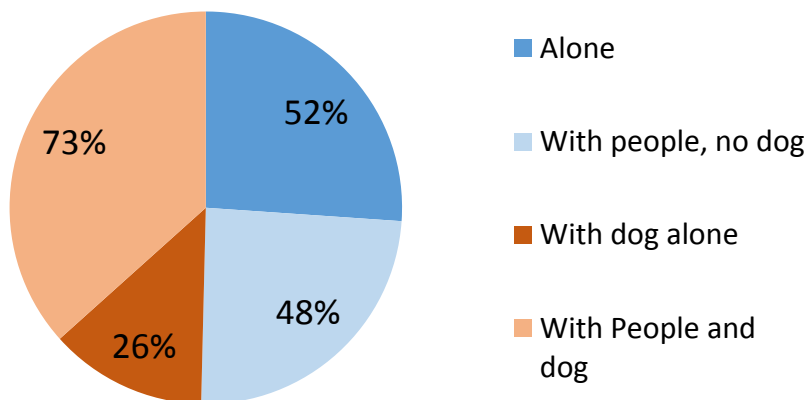


Figure 4: The percentage of people that brought their dog to the Park or not and indicated if they were with people.

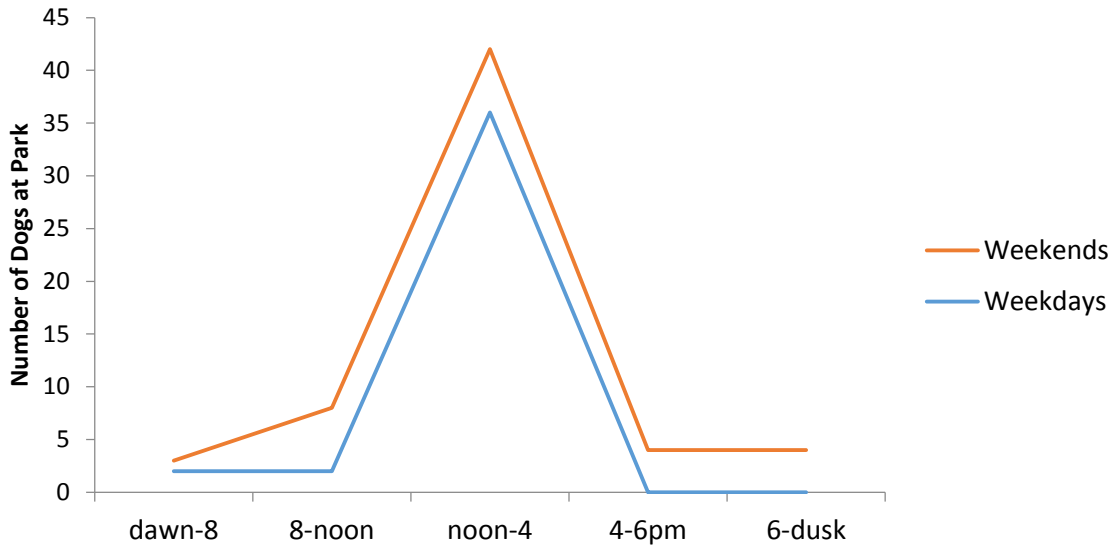


Figure 5: The time of day that dogs are present at the Park on weekends and weekdays.

What time of day do you usually use the Park? Check all that apply.

This question was given to everyone that completed the North Albany Park Intercept Survey, including those that also completed the North Albany County Park Online Survey. 134 people answered this question (93% response rate). The majority of people indicated that they visit the Park on both weekdays and weekends. Only 10% of people indicated that they only visit the Park on weekends.

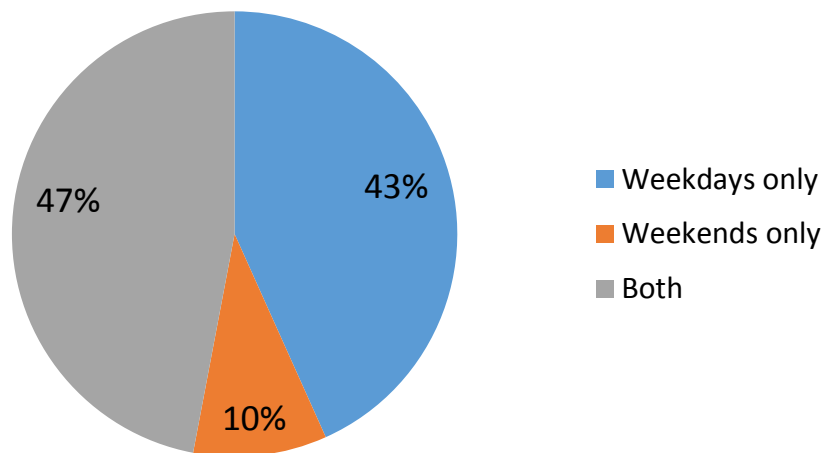


Figure 6: The percentages of people that visit the Park on weekdays only, weekends only, or both.

The most popular time on weekends to visit the Park is from 8am to noon. On weekdays, the most popular time to visit the Park is noon to 4pm. Less than 5% of people visit the park between dawn and 8am during weekdays.

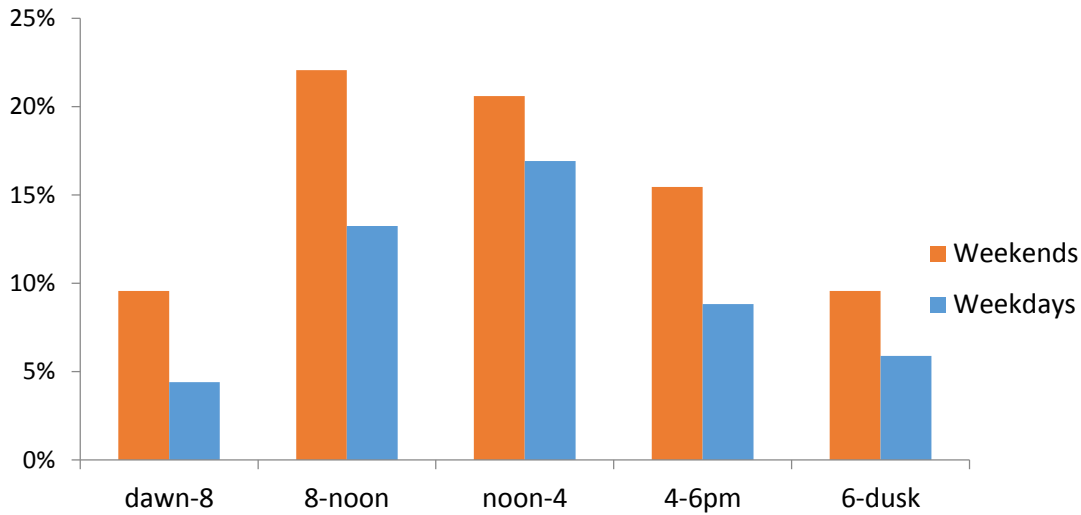


Figure 7: The percentages of the population that visits the park during each specified time of day on weekends and weekdays.

Figures 8a-8h all display the percentages of each age group are at the Park during each specified time of day. Those younger than 18 years are most often at the Park from noon-4 on both weekdays and weekends. 18-24 year olds are at the park between noon-dusk on both weekdays and weekends. 24-35 year olds are at the Park most often from 8am to noon on weekends. 35-44 year olds visit the Park most often between noon and 4pm on weekends. 45-54 year olds visit the Park most often between 4-6pm on weekends. 55-64 year olds visit the Park most often from noon to 4 on both weekdays and weekends. 65-74 year olds visit the park most often from 8am to noon on weekends. Those older than 75 years most often visit the Park from noon to 4 on weekends.

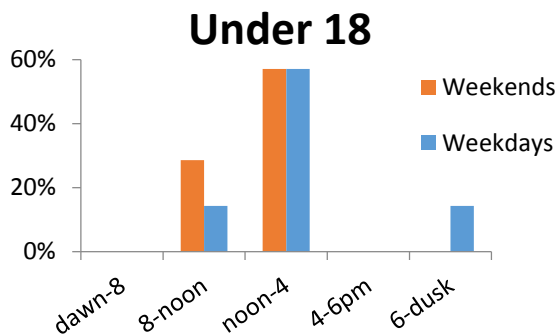


Figure 8a

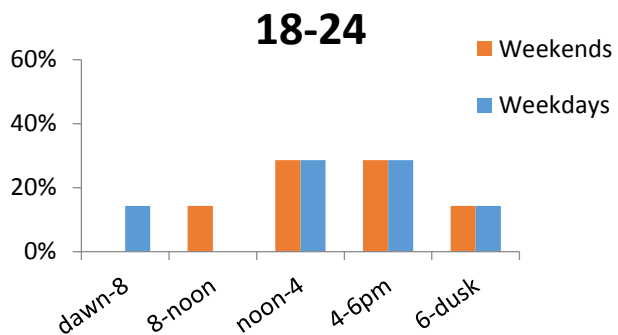


Figure 8b

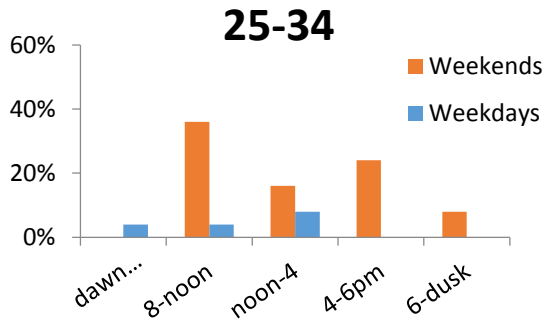


Figure 8c

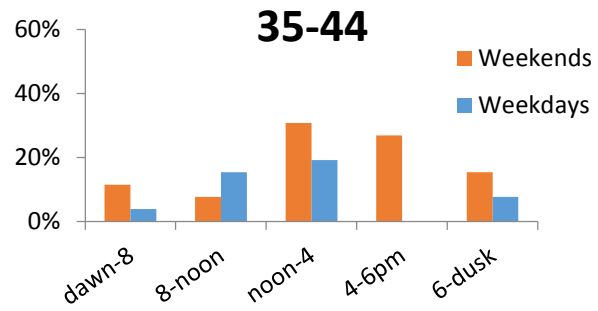


Figure 8d

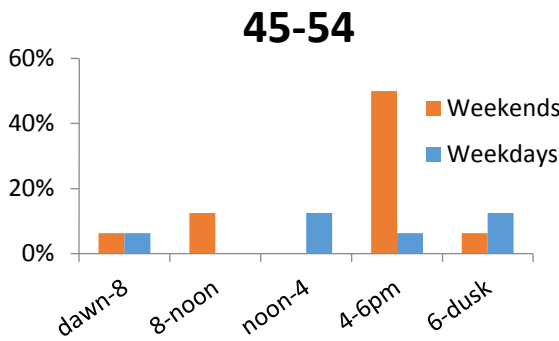


Figure 8e

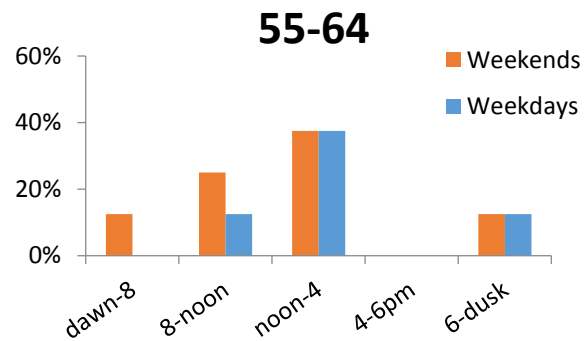


Figure 8f

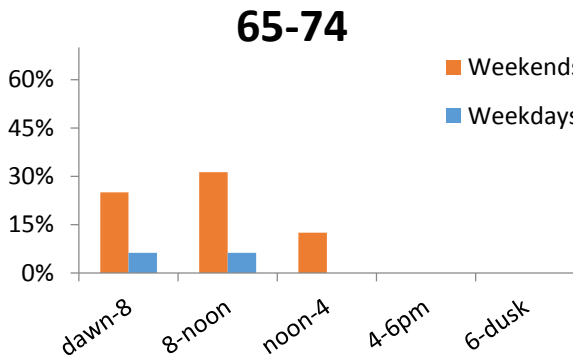


Figure 8g

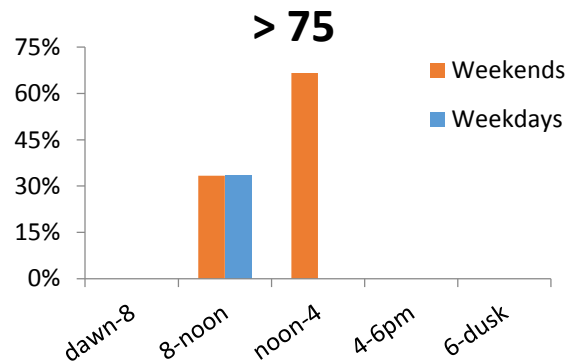


Figure 8h

How do you typically get to North Albany County Park?

This question was only answered by those that did not indicate on the North Albany Park Intercept Survey that this was their first time visiting the Park (Figure 9). 114 people answered this question (97% response rate). The majority of people walked to the Park. 40% of people drove the Park, 7% rode their bike, and 1% indicated that they walked and drove to the Park.

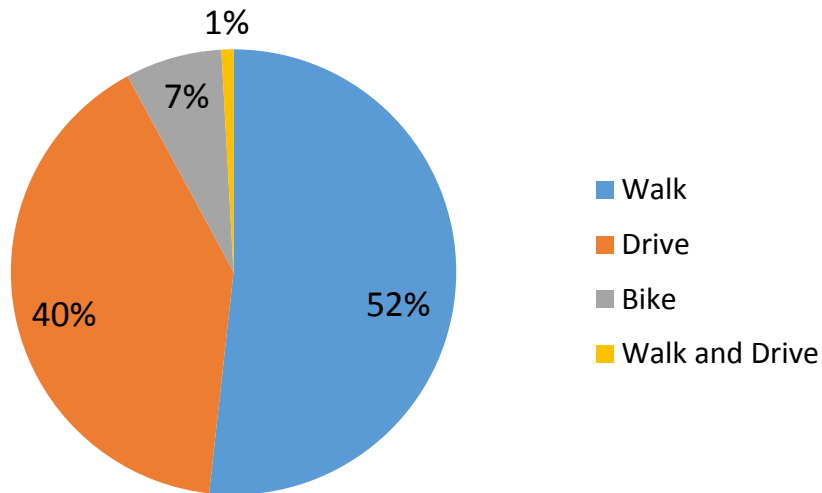


Figure 9: The percentages of people who walk, drove, rode their bike, or walked and drove to the Park.

If you walk or bike to the Park, what entrance do you typically use?

This question was only answered by those that indicated that they walked or biked to the Park. This question was answered by 91 people (77% of the total respondents). This means that 77% of the respondents walk or bike to the Park. The majority of these people use the South entrance.

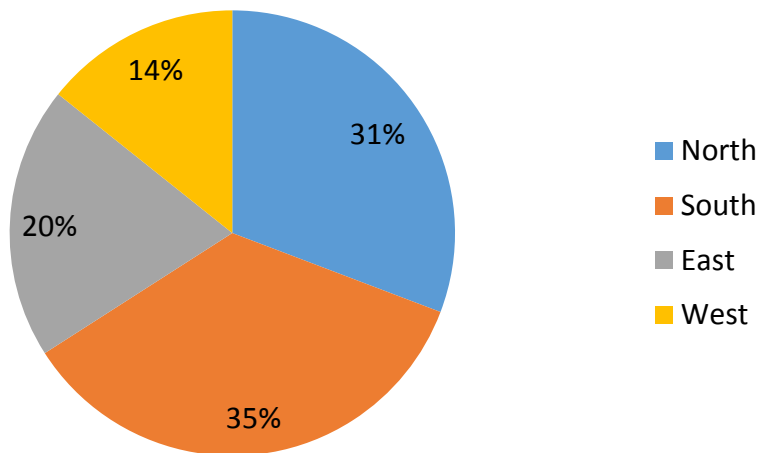


Figure 10: The percentages of the uses of each entrance (North, South, East, or West) used by people that walk or bike to the Park.

What activities do you typically engage in when you visit North Albany County Park?

This question was answered by everyone except those that had already taken the North Albany County Park Online Survey. 111 people answered this question (94% response rate). The majority of people indicated that they exercise their dog, use the playground, or hike.

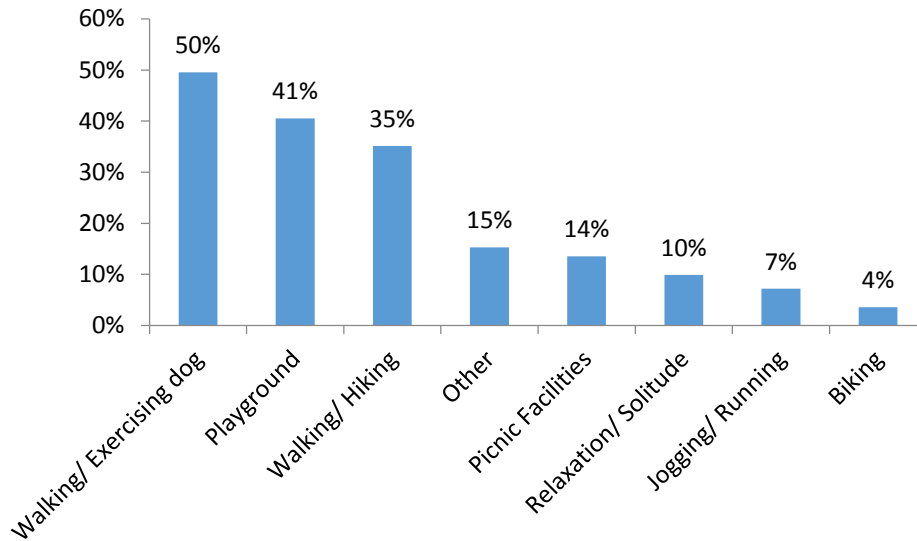


Figure 11: Percentages of people that did not already take the North Albany County Park Online Survey and which activities they engage in at the Park.

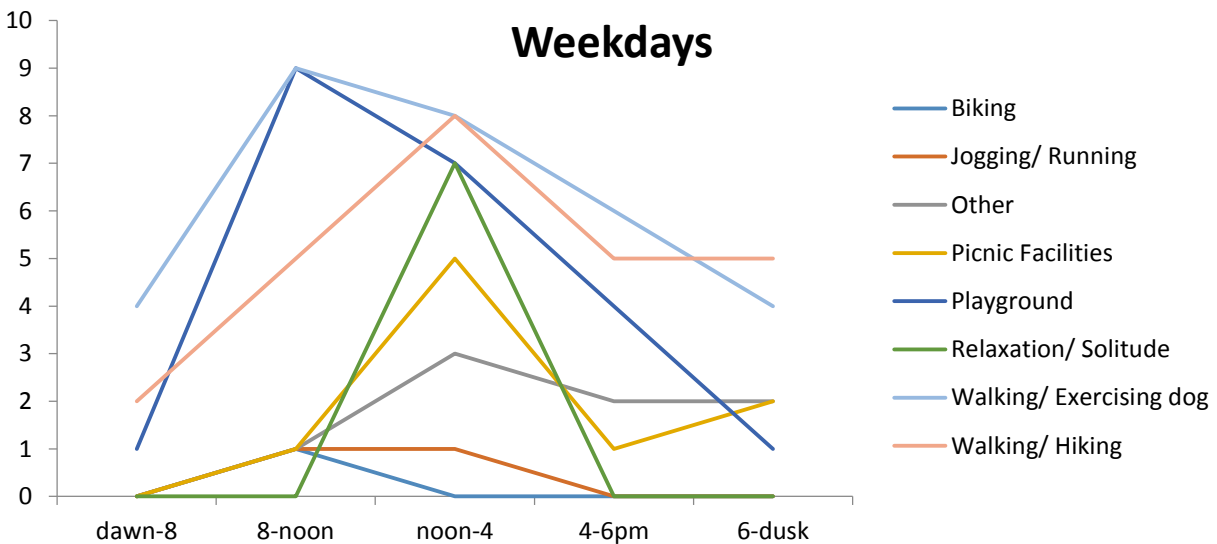


Figure 12: The times of day that certain activities are done in the park on weekdays.

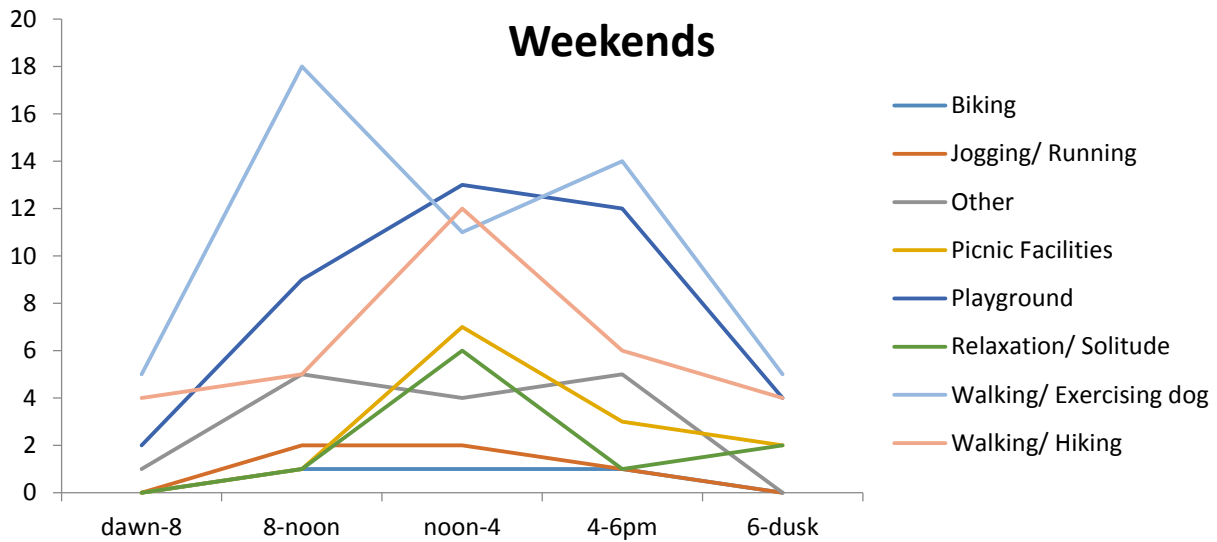


Figure 13: The times of day that certain activities are done in the park on weekdays.

What do you like best about North Albany County Park?

This question was answered by all those that had not completed the North Albany Park Online Survey. One hundred and fifteen people answered this question (97% response rate). These data were collected as a free response and summarized by the data collector and results were then categorized based on the type of answer received. The answers indicated what participants liked about the Park and were coded into four primary categories: Layout; Facilities and Maintenance; Natural Amenities and Atmosphere; Community, Safety and Location, and Dogs. People were not limited to a discrete number of comments and therefore the number of comments exceeds the number of participants surveyed at 170.

There were the most comments (54) about the Natural Amenities and Atmosphere which includes that the Park is shady, not crowded, and a rural atmosphere. The category second most commented (n=45) on was the layout of the Park being large and open with space to run and play. Additional comments on the Park layout include that it leaves “creative options” and is appropriate for all ages. Comments on Community, Safety and Location (n=30) include the sentiment that the Park had a close knit feeling where there are “respectful people” and many of the users appreciate that it is “close to home”. People use the Park for its facilities (n=23) and specifically enjoy the playground with the boat feature as well as the presence of a shelter, picnic areas and restrooms. They appreciate that the Park is clean and mowed regularly. There were 17 comments that expressed appreciation for having the Park open for Dogs to be off leash.

What improvements or changes would you like to see in North Albany County Park?

The intercept survey collected data from 110 people about what improvements or changes they would like to see made in North Albany Park. The responses were recorded on the iPad by the survey

administrator and best effort was made to capture the statements with accuracy but they were not copied verbatim though major points and themes were recorded. Often more specific details about the comments were elaborated on in conversation after the survey was concluded though these were not added to the survey responses. Comments varied in detail and covered between 1 and 4 themes within the range of categories we identified. Each comment was divided up into the themes it covered to give a total of 142 comments. For example response 17 is “update playground” this is categorized as a single comment in the Facilities: *Playground* category. Whereas Response 66: “A fenced area because my dog runs away, picnic tables dispersed through park, wasps in trash” was split into three comments because they touch on the themes of Dogs, Facilities: *New Facilities*, and Facilities: *Maintenance*.

The six themes that emerged after reviewing the data are: Natural Amenities and Atmosphere, Access, Dogs, Facilities, and None (leave as is). Natural Amenities and Atmosphere includes comments relating to the trees, and the desire for trails to enjoy the natural features of the park. There were 19 comments within this category with the two most common points being add more trails, improve existing trails, and ensure the wooded shady character of the park remains. Four comments were made about improving Access through parking, paving or additional formalized entry. Five people wanted Dog infrastructure such as fencing or dog bag stations put in place. Three comments were made regarding safety concerns including a desire to see more sheriff patrol and better lighting.

The majority of the comments about desired improvements or changes were related to the Facilities (82) which were divided further into four subcategories: *Playground*, *Other Existing Facilities*, *New Facilities*, and *Maintenance*. The *Playground* was the most commented on with 31 responses. Emerging desires include more and updated play equipment with more slides and better options for young children. There were few specific suggestions but the theme of increased variety and mixing old and new was put forward. The next most commented on theme was the desire to improve *Other Existing Facilities* (19) including the ball field and volleyball court, and update the shelter, bathrooms and picnic tables. In a related but slightly different aspect another 19 comments were made about wishes for *New Facilities*. New congruent facilities include more benches and picnic tables. Novel additions include six comments about disk golf pins and a comment about adding pickle ball courts. There were 13 comments relating to *Maintenance* and concerns include, turf maintenance, bees/wasps, and just generally maintenance.

Thirty comments expressed a desire to leave the park as is with no changes or improvements.

Where do you live?

This question was answered by everyone except those that had already taken the North Albany County Park Online Survey. 115 people answered this question (97% response rate). The majority of respondents live in North Albany followed by South, West or East Albany.

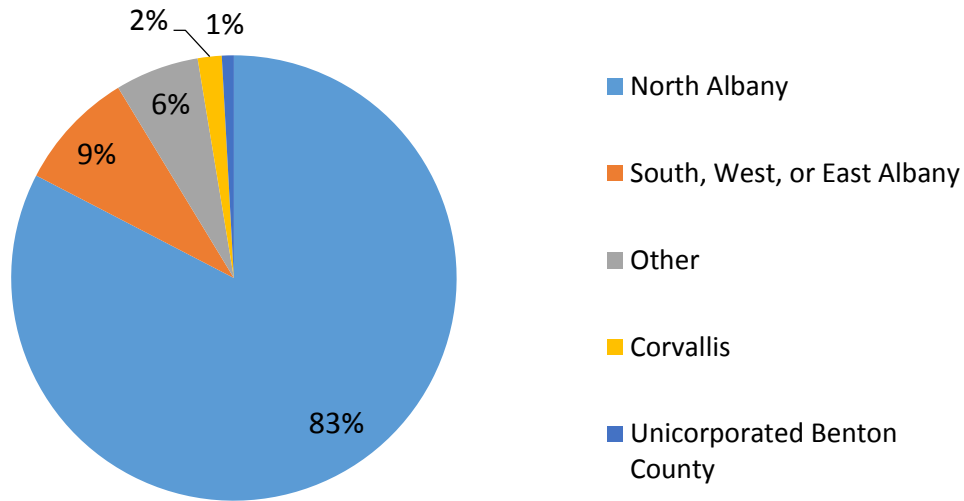


Figure 14: Percentages of those that did not already take the North Albany County Park Online Survey and where they live.

Indicate gender

This question was answered by everyone except those that had already taken the North Albany County Park Online Survey. 115 people answered this question (97% response rate). The percentages of males and females that answered this question was equal, 50:50.

What is your age?

This question was answered by everyone except those that had already taken the North Albany County Park Online Survey. 113 people answered this question (96% response rate). The majority of respondents were between 25 and 44 years of age. This is likely the result of parents bringing their children to the Park as ‘Playground’ was the second most common reason for activities at the Park.

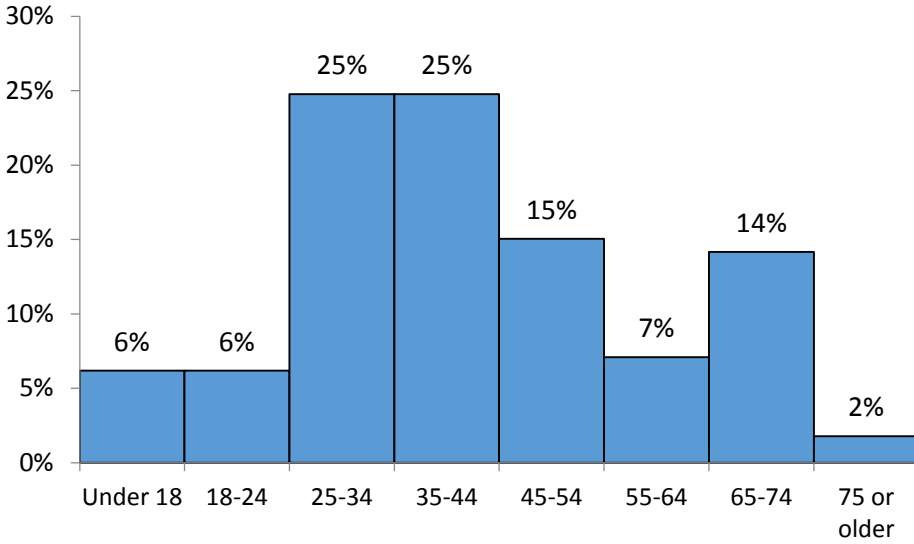


Figure 15: The number of people that did not already complete the North Albany County Park Online Survey in each age group.

Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?

This question was answered by everyone except those that had already taken the North Albany County Park Online Survey. 114 people answered this question (97% response rate). The majority of respondents identify as White/Caucasian. Hispanic/Latino and Asian are the following two largest racial and ethnic groups.

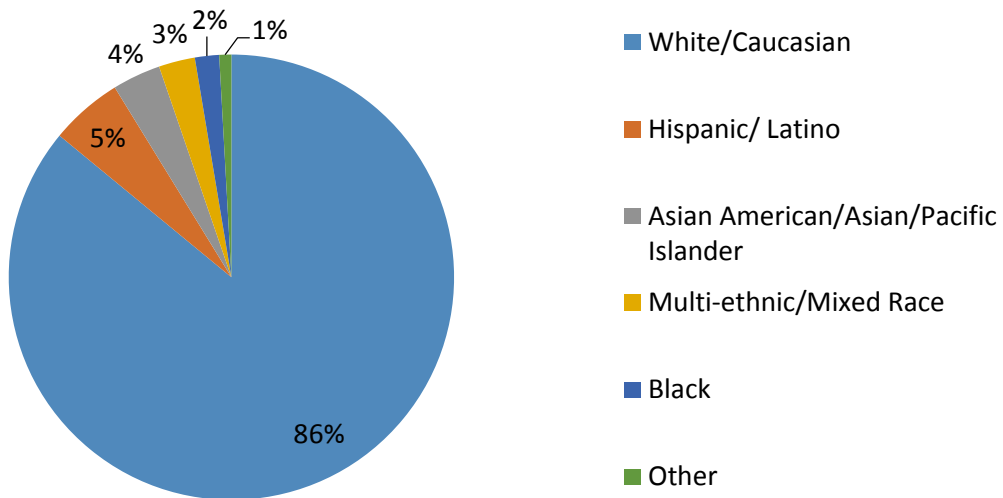


Figure 16: The percentages of those that identify which race/ethnicity they identify with.

G. Second Community Meeting Presentation & Community Input

Presentation

Community Meeting: North Albany Park & Natural Area
October 13, 2016, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
North Albany Middle School

Agenda

6:00 – 6:30 pm: **Light Dinner & Expert Stations**

6:30 – 6:40 pm: **Welcome, Intro. & Background**

6:40 – 6:50 pm: **Presentation of Concept Plans**

6:50 – 7:20 pm: **Breakout Groups**

- Feedback on Concept Plans

7:20 – 7:30 pm: **Wrap Up & Next Steps**



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

2

Background

Jeff Powers, Director
Benton County Natural Areas & Parks



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

3

Outreach & Engagement

- Stakeholder Interviews: April - May
- First Community Meeting: June
- Online Survey: June - August
- In Park Survey: July



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

4

Other Important Input

- American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Evaluation
- Physical Activity Observations



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

5

Priority Design Elements 1 of 2

- Keep as many trees as possible
- Keep open feel
- Dogs to run freely
- Make ADA accessible
- More/separate picnic space
- Improve/create pedestrian connections



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

6

Priority Design Elements 2 of 2

- Create natural surface path on park perimeter, connecting entrances
- Improve baseball/volleyball areas
- Update restrooms
- Add safety lighting
- More parking
- Safer playground
- Update playground equipment



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

7

Priority Playground Features

- ADA accessible
- Keep the boat!
- Nature play, climbing, swings, slides
- Surface to support falls
- Multi-use space (e.g., play equipment with loop path for bikes, strollers, walking, etc.)
- Toddler and youth equipment



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

8

Vegetation & Storm Water Management Plan

Jenna Tilt, Assistant Professor

College of Earth, Ocean, and

Atmospheric Sciences

Oregon State University



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

9

Draft Park Concept Plans 1 of 2

All plans include the following:

- ADA compliant; from shelter parking area to playground, restrooms & shelter
- 2 new ADA parking spots in front of restrooms
- 10 new parking spaces around loop
- 1 new parking spot at shelter
- 2 new spots in north parking lot



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

10

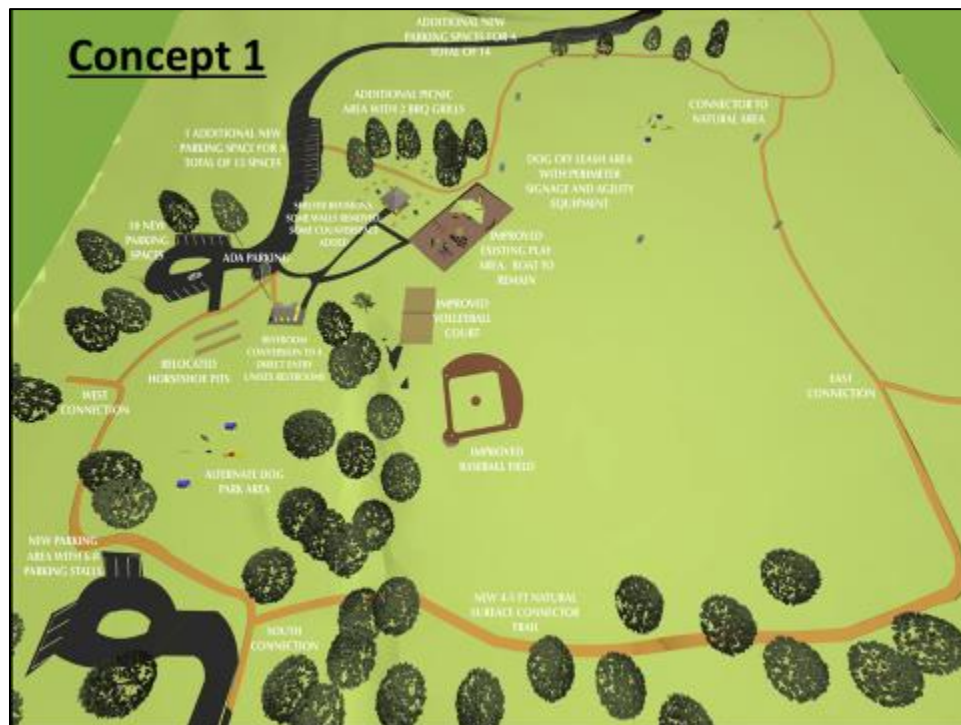
Draft Park Concept Plans 2 of 2

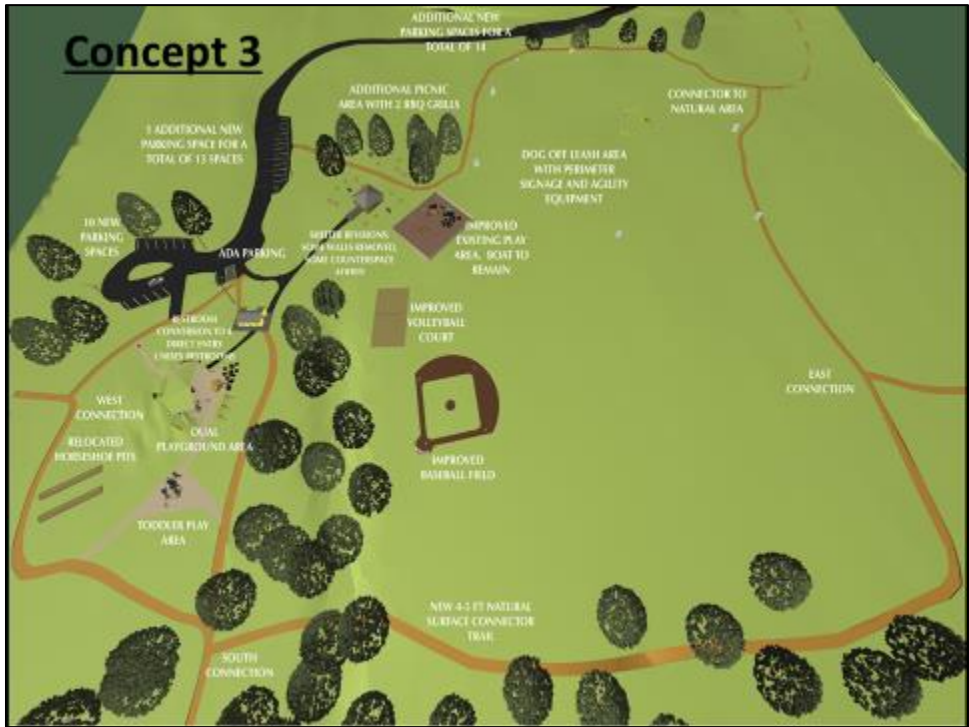
- New 4ft. wide natural surface perimeter connector trail
- Restroom upgrade to four direct-entry unisex restrooms
- LED lighting
- Improved volley ball and baseball fields
- New alternate picnic area with BBQ, north side of shelter
- Shelter revisions



Benton County Natural Areas & Parks

11









Breakout Groups

- 30 minutes total
- 4 rotations, 6 min. per concept station
- Nametag indicates starting station
 - Park Concept #1
 - Park Concept #2
 - Park Concept #3
 - Natural Area #4 (Concepts A, B, C)
- 4-8 per station



Breakout Questions

- 1) What are the positive aspects about this concept?/ What do you like?
- 2) What are the negative aspects about this concept? / What don't you like?
- 3) What's missing? What changes would you make?



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Next Steps

- Compile input and use to update the Concept Plan
- Next version of the Concept Plan ready by early December
- Concept Plan distributed for review
- Master Planning process finished by the end of December



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Thank you!

Before you leave:

- Please vote with your dots on the overall Park Concept Plan and Natural Area Concept you like the best.
- Vote with your dots however you like.
- Examples:
 - 3 dots on the park concept you really like, and 1 on the natural area concept you like the most.
 - All 4 dots on the park concept you really like.
 - Or....



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Draft Park Concept Community Input

Community Meeting: North Albany Park & Natural Area

October 13, 2016, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

North Albany Middle School

* Marks each time the idea was repeated.

Park Concept 1: 8 votes

Positives:

- Like having a 2nd South parking lot**
 - What is the impact on the neighborhood?
 - Increased traffic?
- Like adding additional picnic area with BBQs**
- Leave the dog area where it is, we enjoy all the space!**
 - The large dog area allows for the neighbors to continue weekly social time with their dogs
- Keep play area where it is, it is nice to be near the shelter****
- Love the trail*
- Love that they are keeping the boat!
- Great that the dog area is not fenced
 - Dogs in the park are well trained without a fence

Negatives:

- “We are corralling the kids to let the dogs run free”
 - Can we fence the dogs in instead of the kids?
 - Don’t like the fence around the playground*
- Path on the South side should be moved a bit further North, away from homes adjacent to the park
- Is the South parking lot really necessary?***
 - Most people don’t see the need for more parking on the South side
 - Don’t like the South parking lot because the road is semi private
- No alternate dog area, play area instead!
- The South parking lot is dangerous because it is too close to the play area and will add loiterers
 - Will disturb the neighbors
- People use the park for their dogs
- The parking lot takes away park space
- Weddings/events pull the posts out and park at the horse shoe pits

Missing/ Changes:

- Add
 - Tennis court instead of the alternative dog park
 - Add a basketball court near the volleyball court
 - Skate park instead of alternate dog park on South side

- Add disc golf
- More picnic areas
- Trees to create a barrier between the park and neighborhoods
- The dog area needs shade and access to water
- Fence volleyball court
 - Sand pit has dog poop in it
- Fence the dog area*
 - Put the fence around the dog area instead of the South parking
- There needs to be a path to connect the East side to the playground*
- Improve the East connection with a real path!
- Leave the wetlands
- Make walking path more interesting
 - More meandering , not just a straight path
 - Add benches to perimeter trail
- Connect the road
- Replace the gravel with sawdust mulch
- Please use something natural for the paths
- Re-establish trees for draining

Park Concept 2: 27 votes

Positives:

- Separate play area **
 - Utilizes space below restroom
 - More activity in South lawn with the play structures
- Keeping play areas together
- No South parking lot*
- Additional BBQ and picnic areas*
- The dog area with the signs instead of a fence is great!*
- Horse shoe pit
- Like two playground areas
 - More accessibility for play areas
- Big open space – SE area
- Not having the South parking lot
- Location of the dog area
- Separation of horse shoes and play area
- Not having a fence around the play area
- Nice having play areas close to the bathrooms

Negatives:

- The dog off leash area is not large enough**
 - Perhaps keep it smaller in the summer then open it up in the colder seasons?
- Proximity of rented shelter and horse shoe pit
- Parking lot loop is not sufficient
- Need overflow parking that currently sits next to the bathrooms
- The dog area is too close to the road
- Play area is too far from the shelter and picnic tables**
- Lack of sitting area around play grounds – especially for parents
- No fence around dog area

- Having 2 different play grounds is hard on parents to keep an eye on their kids*
- Young kids don't use smaller play equipment, they would rather go play

with the big kids. From experience the toddler area just doesn't work*

Missing/ Changes:

- Add
 - Create path/boardwalk from East entrance (North Creek Neighborhood) to the play structures****
 - Can create a break between the off leash dog area and the open surface area
 - Boardwalk over the wetland
 - Disc golf course in SE area****
 - Baseball field is rarely used- can we change it to a soccer field or basketball court instead?*
 - More shelter/picnic areas
 - Even just a simple small covering for shade/rain
- Dog area
 - Dog area needs to be further South – towards the middle of the open area
 - Do NOT fence dog area
 - BBQ and dog area are too close
 - Dog area needs to be fenced*
- Playground
 - Add more picnic tables or benches by toddler area*
 - Toddler area moved closer to the bathroom for crime prevention
 - Need two playground areas. One on each side for all neighborhoods
 - Involve “nature” play at the playgrounds
 - Not many toddlers play at the park, trade the toddler play area for a skate park for the older kids
 - Need shade around the play areas
 - Would love a soft/rubber material for the bath through the playground*
 - Need shelter area at the South lawn if play equipment is moved over there
 - More picnic tables and sheltered area
- Have the loop trail go through trees instead of around, and put them through where the proposed BBQs are

Park Concept 3: 34 votes

Positives:

- Toddler area
- Leave the dog area
- The Natural Play area*
- Improving the existing playground

Negatives:

- Two playgrounds isn't necessary
- Horseshoe and playground are too close
- Baseball field doesn't get much use now
- The dog area is not fenced*
- Too busy
- Fencing around the play area
- Separate additional picnic areas are too close together
- Still not enough parking

Missing/ Changes:

- Add
 - Skate park and basketball court
 - Dog agility equipment to the dog area
 - Additional parking
 - Disc golf course
 - More seating/more picnic tables*
 - Picnic tables around the play area
 - Grills and possible shelter too?
 - A walking path from the East connection to the existing play area
 - Boardwalk across the marsh area
 - Fence around the dog area
- Leave tires in the play structure
- Allow expanded seasonally off leash area
- Get rid of poison oak near walking path
- Upgrade new turf
- Move play areas closer together or only have one play area
 - One play area, larger space
- Horseshoe pits closer to the shelter
- Parking close to the shelter can be expanded
- Make the paths/trails meandering (not straight)

Natural Area/Trails:

Concept A – Loop Trail: 25 votes

Concept B – Single Trail: 0 votes

Concept C – Do Nothing: 22 votes

Positives:

- Concept A – Natural surface loop trail
 - Minimal wildlife impact
 - Hike and bike*
 - Useful for walking path and conservation of natural brush and plants

- Access point/road
- The loop keeps people on the trail
- More access to the park
- More area to walk around
- More variety with the loop
- Concept B – Natural surface single trail
 - Alternative exit
- The deer won't be disturbed as frequently
- Concept C – Do nothing
 - Good for the animals*
 - More habitat for deer
 - Less people near homes
- All
 - Promotes walking/exercise

Negatives:

- Concept A – Natural surface loop trail
 - Risk of erosion
 - Maintenance costs
- Concept B – Natural surface single trail
 - Maintenance costs
- Concept C – Do nothing
- No trail connection to city streets
- All
 - No biking*
 - Parking issues on Crocker and Valley View
 - Isolated

Missing/ Changes:

- Concept A – Natural surface loop trail
 - Add educational signage
- Concept B – Natural surface single trail
 - Add educational signage
 - Move single trail more toward house line
- Concept C – Do nothing
- All
 - More cars = need bike paths
 - Add lights to all paths**
 - Open sight lines
 - No more parking
 - Use the least invasive trails (bark/sod)

H. Capital Improvement Project Natural Area Worksheet

N. Albany Park Renovation

Project Sponsor:	<u>Natural Areas & Parks</u>	Project Status:	<u>Rollover</u>
Project Manager:	<u>NAPD Director or Coordinator</u>	Authorization Year:	<u> </u>
			Total Capital Cost (All Years & Sources) 589,600

Project Details

Project Description	County NAPD staff and County Health Promotions Team has collaborated to produce a Master Plan Update for N. Albany Park. The plan was timely due to extensive residential development adjacent to the park as well as aging facilities and infrastructure within the park. Key plan highlights include new trail system, new shelter, play and RR facilities.		
Scope of Benefit (Internal)	Reduce maintenance costs, continue discussions with the City of Albany concerning both maintenance and capital improvement partnership opportunities.		
Scope of Benefit (External)	The Master Plan process included extensive public involvement and feedback concerning park facility needs and desires as well as proposed management of 12 acre addition. We now have an obligation to be responsive. ADA upgrades.		
Project Start Date	It will be necessary to implement the plan improvements on a phased basis starting in the Fall 2017 with targeted full implementation of all plan improvements near the end of the 19-21 biennium.		
Effort of Sponsor Dept.	1.5 FTE (administrative and Maintenance Techs combined) over the course of the biennium to plan, oversee and carry out in-kind aspects of plan implementation		
Effort Required by Others	Anticipate .01 FTE assistance from Public Works Engineering staff to layout and engineer some aspects of plan.		
Explanation of Financing	Master plan improvements call for extensive new trails, planting of trees and shrubs and minor park amenities which can be completed by NAPD staff. We will seek grant \$\$ for larger plan improvements including a new restroom, picnic shelter, play equipment and fall protection surfacing, accessible pathways. NAPD Dedicated \$\$ from Clubhouse Fund.		
Risks of Implementation			
Risks of Not Completing	Reputation risks if not responsive after extensive outreach and recognition of increased public pressures/ management challenges from dramatic population increase close to Park. Safety and maintenance costs from outdated aging facilities.		
Dependent Projects	n/a		
County/Dept. Goals Supported	Physical infrastructure stewardship and systematic upgrades. Responsive and sensitive to public needs. Expanded opportunity for environmental education and resource management. Seek efficiencies through collaboration with other governments.		
Return on Investments & Notes	ROI refers only to Park Shelter which generates revenue. Numbers are based upon a new facility.		
Operating Return Ratio =	1.2	5 Yr Total Operating Cost = \$ 25,000	5 Yr Est. Rev = \$ 45,000 5 Yr Est. Sav = \$ 10,000
Amortized useful life =	\$ 19,653	Project Cost = \$ 589,600	Useful Life (Years) = 30
Ratio Opr Return on Capital =	0.3		

Financial Summary	Prior Rev/Exp	17-19 Biennium		19-21 Biennium		21-23 Biennium		Total
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	
Budgeted Resources								
General Fund (Gen Rev)	-	10,000	115,000	85,000	-	-	-	210,000
Dedicated Revenues	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	-	-	-	50,000
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local/State/Federal Gov'ts	-	-	125,000	110,000	-	-	-	235,000
Private Fundraising	-	5,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	25,000
Carry Forward from Prior Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Financing & Loans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Budget Resources	5,000	25,000	265,000	225,000	-	-	-	520,000
Budgeted Expenditures								
Design/Engineering/Admin.	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Property Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction / Equipment	-	25,000	250,000	210,000	-	-	-	485,000
Contingency	-	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-	30,000
Total Budget Expenditures	5,000	25,000	265,000	225,000	-	-	-	520,000
In-kind and Non-Budgeted Contributions								
In-kind Materials & Labor	-	21,600	48,000	-	-	-	-	69,600
Paid Direct by Third Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-