Portner Park

History and Character

Portner Park is located at the end of Portner Road in the Northeast Old Town neighborhood and is currently City owned Right-of-Way. There are no documented historic sites within the park.

The park is 0.25 acres and features large shade trees and passive open space. Portner Avenue dead ends on the north end of the park, which is the only park entrance, and vehicular and foot traffic cannot travel through. There is a 7-foot wide pedestrian access easement to the park from Powhatan Street through the townhome development at 1333 Powhatan Street. This access easement directs pedestrians to the existing park entrance at the north end of the park.

Existing Conditions Map

Portner Park

Which of the following existing park elements would you like to preserve, enhance, or transform?					
Element Number of responses	**Landscaping** 5		**Element** Number of responses	**Entrance** 6	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**	**Value**	**Count**	**Percent**
Preserve it	1	20	Preserve it	1	17
Enhance it	3	60	Enhance it	3	50
Transform it	1	20	Transform it	2	33
Element Number of responses	**Benches** 5		**Element** Number of responses	**Fencing** 5	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**	**Value**	**Count**	**Percent**
Preserve it	2	40	Preserve it	2	40
Enhance it	1	20	Enhance it	2	40
Transform it	2	40	Transform it	1	20

What is currently NOT in the park that you would like to see there?

1. Any reason to go there, considering it isn't very accessible
2. Landscaping to make the ground more level. Any rain causes tons of cud and pooling of water due to the "valleys" in the dirt. Anything to make it clear that it is a park – some of the residents whose homes border the park seem to think it is their property and will question why I (and other) are in their backyard.
3. The park is not very accessible. I'm currently only away of one entrance, and that entrance makes it feel like it belongs to the homes right there (and not nearby homes).

Community Feedback

In Fall 2018, staff collected community feedback to understand how the park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey and community workshop. Over 400 people responded to the survey in total, 16 of which were specific to Pendleton Park. Staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

In 10 years, I would like this Park to…

(Top 3 rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

1. *Be more accessible*
2. *Be a safe place for children to explore*
3. *Be a place to create social connections with neighbors*

Portner Park

Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like?

Recommendation	Park welcome sign	
Number of responses	23	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	16	70
I like it	4	17
I don't like it	3	13

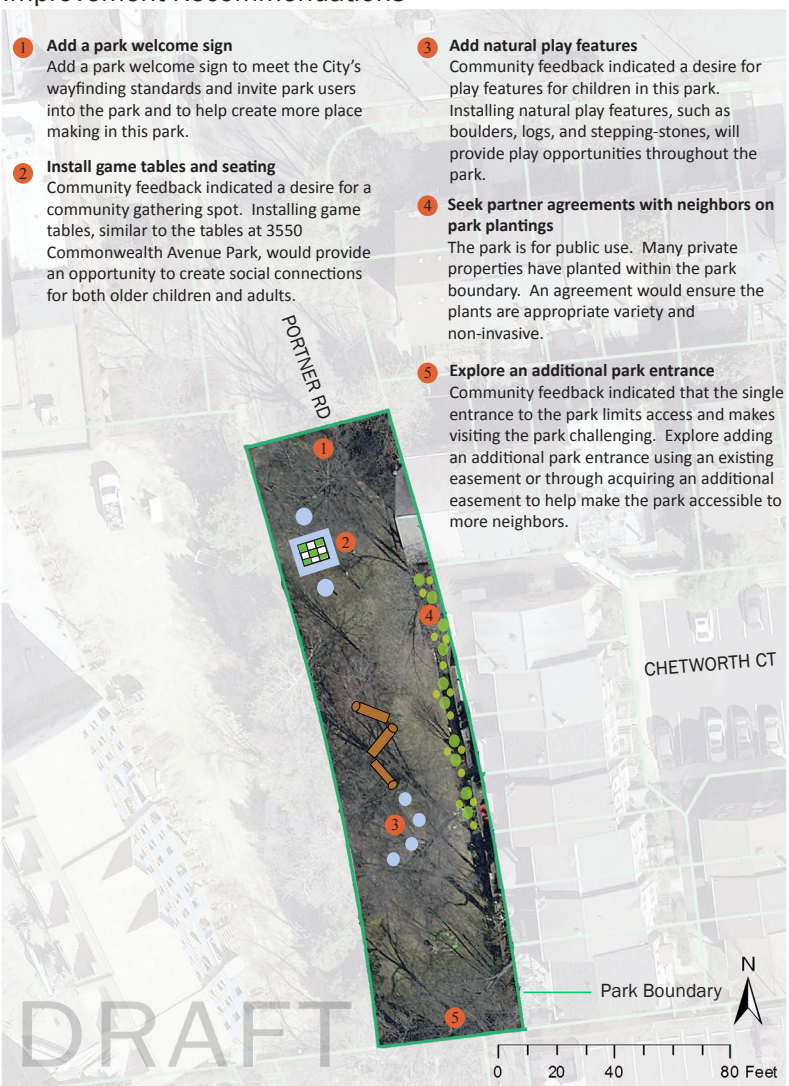
Recommendation	Game tables & seating	
Number of responses	23	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	8	35
I like it	4	17
I don't like it	11	48

Recommendation	Natural play features	
Number of responses	23	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	11	48
I like it	9	39
I don't like it	3	13

Recommendation	Partnerships	
Number of responses	23	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	10	43
I like it	10	43
I don't like it	3	13

Recommendation	Entrance	
Number of responses	23	
Value	**Count**	**Percent**
I love it!	8	35
I like it	6	26
I don't like it	9	39

Improvement Recommendations



In the summer of 2019 RPCA staff collected community feedback on the draft recommendations for improving this pocket park. The following information summarizes what was heard through online surveys and community feedback (see appendix for full results). Over 700 responses were collected in total, 23 of which were specific to Portner Park.

Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. The community outreach for Portner Park resulted in an unclear direction for what the community wanted to see done for the park. RPCA staff hosted a community meeting to review the results of the two surveys, community input, and plan recommendations.

The additional community feedback resulted in several changes to the draft plan, these include: reviewing trash collection outside the park, resolving drainage issues within the park, updating the storm drains, replacing the existing wooden planting beds timbers, explore additional entrance to the park (this recommendation will be explored further if an adjacent property owner applies for a permit to redevelop the land), review dumpster location to ensure it is not located in an existing Right of Way, develop a planting and maintenance plan, add a dog waste station, replace existing barbed wire fence to a City standard fence, and name the park.

Portner Park

Improvement Recommendations

1. **Add a park sign**
   Add a park sign to meet the City's wayfinding standards, invite users into the park, help create more place making, and display the rules and regulations of the park.
2. **Review trash collection location**
   Community feedback indicated a desire to move the trash collection location from the northern end of the park. Review the area with the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services to determine if there is a better location for trash collection.
3. **Resolve drainage issues**
   Community feedback indicated that there are drainage issues in the park. Evaluate drainage improvement options through an engineering and design process.
4. **Update storm drains**
   Evaluate and update the existing storm drains in coordination with the Division of Stormwater Management and drainage improvements.
5. **Replace wooden retaining walls**
   Replace the existing wooden retaining walls along the park border which are old and failing.
6. **Explore an additional park entrance**
   If redevelopment of the adjacent land occurs, revisit the potential of a second entrance into the park to help make the park accessible to more neighbors.
8. **Develop a planting and maintenance plan**
   Conduct a study and review park for non-native plants with the City arborist. Develop and implement a plan to remove non-native species throughout the park. Create a planting and maintenance plan identifying and preserving native plants and adding new, site appropriate plants that are well adapted to shady settings. Explore the possibility of a walking path throughout the park.
9. **Seek partner agreement with neighbors on park plantings**
   The park is for public use. Many private properties have planted within the park boundary. An agreement ensures the plants are appropriate and non-invasive.
10. **Add a dog waste station**
    Establish a partnership agreement with the Division of Stormwater Management and community association and install a dog waste station.
11. **Replace existing fence**
    The fence on the southern end of the park is in disrepair and non-compliant. Replace the fence with a city standard fence.
12. **Name park**
    Name the park as guided by the City's Naming Policy to give the park more of an identity.
13. **Conduct a safety study**
    Conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) study to address community safety concerns. Incorporate recommendations from study.

Recommendations and Rankings

Recommendation	Ranking	Cost
Park signage		
Trash collection location		
Drainage		
Storm drains		
Wooden retaining walls		
Additional park entrance		
Natural play features		
Planting and maintenance plan		
Partner agreements		
Dog waste station		
Fence		
Name park		
Safety study		

DRAFT - WILL BE UPDATED IN FEBRUARY 2020