

Airport Heights Park – FAQs

How does the park design process work?

The process for redesigning Airport Heights Park is being led by the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club on behalf of the Coos County Airport District. The Rotary Club has hired design consultants to lead the design process and produce a comprehensive plan of the park which will be used for fundraising efforts and to provide direction for future construction.

I thought the airport owned the property. Why and how is Rotary involved?

The Coos County Airport District owns and manages the property surrounding the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport, including the Airport Park. The Coos Bay – North Bend Rotary Club celebrated their 100-year anniversary in 2022, and the Club was looking for a legacy project to commemorate the support of the community over the years. The Club approached the Airport District in the spring of 2023 with the hopes of partnering with them to complete a legacy project that would have an impact on our community. A memorandum of understanding was signed in May of 2023 giving the go ahead for the Coos Bay – North Bend Rotary Club to move forward with the Park Project.

What is the project timeline?

The redevelopment of Airport Heights Park is broken up into two primary phases:

- Phase one is master planning which is currently underway and expected to conclude at the end of 2024.
- Phase two consists of fundraising, design development/permitting, and construction. The length of time for phase two is undetermined and contingent on fundraising.

How is the park being paid for? Who is paying for the park?

The park is expected to be paid for through fundraising, community partnerships, and grants. The park **will not** be paid for by public funding.

Are there opportunities for park sponsorship to help raise funds?

Absolutely, contact the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club to discuss these opportunities at Park@coosbaynorthbendrotary.org.

Why isn't there a park design yet?

To create a well-designed park, there is a lengthy process with multiple phases that each contain multiple steps. Each step of each phase builds on the one before it to create the finished park. Currently we are in the first steps of the first phase, master planning, which consists of initial fact finding/research and community input. Once this initial information is in hand, the design team will begin to develop diagrams which will lead to a preferred design at the end of the master planning phase.

How are the park elements being chosen? Who decides?

The various elements (or program) that make up the park will be decided on by the community. Through a series of community events, the design team will engage with the community through conversation and activities that will help determine what is important to have as part the park.

What's the best way for members of the community to get involved?

The most helpful way for the community to be involved is to collectively invest in the design process and the park's future. This is your park for your community and the design team would like to hear all voices as part of the process. There will be multiple opportunities held throughout 2024 for community feedback.

What if my idea doesn't become a priority? Will there be possibilities of future expansion of the park?

All ideas are valuable and valid as a part of this process. If an idea doesn't make it as part of the of the initial design, it is typically for one or more of the following reasons: it is not one of the most preferred uses by the largest part of the community, there is not enough space to accommodate all uses due to property size or other physical constraints, and/or the funding is unable to accommodate for certain elements.

At this time the Airport Park is limited to the size available, this is due to many federal regulations the Airport District has on use of space and the proximity to the airport. We have pursued the largest boundary we can for this location at this time. The Coos Bay – North Bend Rotary Club is excited about this process as a whole and hopes that this will be a catalyst for other groups (or maybe even the Rotary Club in the future!) to take a look at other community parks and complete an improvement plan and updates.

How much of the park will be changing from the current park? What will be done to preserve the park's history?

The design team will be looking at the park wholistically while developing design options for the park. They will be cautious in how the design will affect environmentally sensitive, unique, historic, and/or well-loved features of the park as it exists. There are special environmental considerations due to the proximity of the park to the airport, which will also be studied as the design develops.

If there are aspects of the park you would like to see retained, let us know and the design team will do what they can to preserve these features.

Do you plan to get rid of any uses in the park like volleyball or tennis and what things will be added?

The uses that end up in the future park are still being finalized. We have heard initial preferences from the community and are confirming these preferences as a final design is pursued. While it is known that ball fields will be included in the future park, the quantity is still unknown. Beyond that, there are five primary ways the design team are evaluating what will be included in the park;

- What elements are currently present
- What elements are lacking/missing in other nearby parks
- What elements do the community want
- How much space is available for the preferred elements
- How much budget is available for the preferred elements

Can this park be dedicated to baseball?

It is a given that baseball will continue to remain a component to this park and there is a goal to make the best ball fields possible for the community. Quantity and quality will always be held to evaluation by development and cost constraints. As a community park there is a broader need to consider the desires of the community as a whole and how each of the preferred park elements can coexist with one another.

Will the park be accessible to all abilities?

Access will be top of mind as the design develops. While it cannot be guaranteed that every single use within the park will be accessible, the design team will work carefully to make as much of the park accessible to all abilities as much as possible.

What happens if one use of the park is only used part of the year? Will it be converted for some other use?

Potentially. Reusing space in the park due to seasonal use is possible but will depend on what the various uses are by season and how they impact each other throughout the year. This will be considered as the design develops and ultimately determined by how the park will operate post construction.

How will this project affect traffic/parking in the airport heights neighborhood?

The level of onsite parking is still being determined but will likely be kept to a minimum to allow sufficient space for the onsite elements that the community desires. There will likely be limited additional traffic/parking impact beyond what is currently experienced.

Will the park be noisier when it's redeveloped?

The amount of noise that will be coming from the park in the future will depend on what elements are a part of the park. Some elements tend to be louder than others and the design team will rely on the community's feedback to understand what the tolerance for some of these elements will be.

Will there be lighting on at all hours?

The level of lighting at the park is yet to be determined.

How will the park be maintained?

Long-term maintenance of Airport Park will be carried out by the Airport District.

Will there be a restroom?

There will likely be some level of restroom facilities at the park. The size, location, and appearance are to be determined.

What will happen to the equipment that is currently in the playground?

The equipment that will end up in the future park is not finalized. Potentially, some of the equipment may be reused, some may be utilized somewhere else in the community, and some may be at the end of use and will be demolished. As we move forward with the process we will know more.

Will there be a dedicated fenced-in space for a dog park at Airport Heights?

All ideas are valuable and valid as a part of this process. If an idea doesn't make it as part of the of the initial design, it is typically for one or more of the following reasons: it is not one of the most preferred uses by the largest part of the community, there is not enough space to accommodate all uses due to property size or other physical constraints, and/or the funding is unable to accommodate for certain elements. The combination of space constraints, user groups, and mixed-use liability concerns have led to the dog park not being included in the first set of preliminary designs. The goal is for the park to be inclusive and a dog friendly environment where community members of varying groups can meet together.

Parks in the area are experiencing issues with safety. How will the safety of park visitors be addressed?

Safety can be addressed in several ways while still allowing for an inviting facility for the community as a whole. Some simple solutions are to provide; lighting, clear line of sight (no hiding spots), standard hours for opening/closure, lockable facilities, and regular eyes in and around the park.

The Airport Park Steering Committee (consisting of Rotarians, CCAD contractors or commissioners, and community at-large members) that was been established by the Coos County Airport District has discussed potential security measures such as fencing, locking up, park use hours. Solutions have not been finalized and the Committee will make a recommendation to the CCAD administrators and/or board of commissioners for final determination in the future.