



Nantes Park Beautification Project Survey Responses
As of 4/8/2021

Three surveys were done between January 17 and March 31. The sculpture choices remained the same in all 3 surveys, but the walkway choices evolved based on feedback from the community and SPR. Also included in [brackets] are votes from the facebook group on bronze versus stamping.

For the temporary sculpture:

Plant Mimicry	50 votes (19) (7) (24)
Pots on wall	24 votes (5) (6) (13)
Pots on ground	19 votes (5) (3) (11)

For the walkway art, choice of creature:

Footprints	19 votes
Insects	11 votes

For the walkway art, choice of materials:

In bronze	29 votes [+ 6]
Stamped in concrete	19 votes [+ 3]

Some additional extras requested by multiple people:

- Make the sculpture permanent
- Do both poles and pots
- Add a path up the hill to the northern neighborhood
- Add a crosswalk to the southern neighborhood
- Garbage can – could be part of the art
- Artistic bike rack
- Fence or barrier of some kind for safety, with French-style gateway

Other common comments:

- Additions should relate to theme of Nantes/France so that park is unique
- Keep storytelling, imagination, and creativity front and center
- Think about all age groups who might use the park

Comments about sculpture choices:

Disregard my selection above. I prefer the design that will be the most sustainable and least vulnerable to vandalism and defacing

I like the idea of installing them either behind the concrete wall or in the circular walkway area near the benches. I like the idea of it being a "hidden gem" for people who take the time to visit.

Safety of installations/how long they will last with the weather here/how to deal with vandalism of installations if it occurs

Fantastic; love the art. Please incorporate more storytelling and the ability to spark imagination and the background behind the art. I would like to see both versus choosing between them. We would really like the sidewalk

Pot mimicry looks so playful!

I don't really like the troll face look. Make the poles look like totem poles.

<https://www.christineabroad.com/animals-in-france/> Use totem poles for the plant mimicry and use animals from France...same with the animal prints.

I think scale will be critical for this installation - would like to go big and make an impression from the street. Something to draw people in for a closer look as this park is often overlooked (which is a pity).

These look GREAT. However, I worry too much emphasis is being placed on the "temporary" structures. I am in agreement with having them but when they are removed, what is left? If this is truly the draw towards the park and the connection to the sister city, Nantes - then the real investment needs to go into the permanent structures that will be remaining. Having the art tiles and the play structure is just not enough (in my opinion). With that said, consider the neighbor feedback about creating a beautiful entrance and an artful bike rack that serves many purposes, besides just a place to park bikes (which will likely be the main transportation to the park and there is no parking nearby). Please also consider "enclosing" the park - it needs to be kid safe and to better protect the sculptures. I would love to be included in the art concepts - the community workshops sound great. I am a professional artist and want to contribute (brenda5026@gmail.com). Thanks again - this is wonderful and whimsy. I just really hope enough personality remains after the temporary structures are removed.

Again, enhancements should reinforce the Nantes/France connection in order to make this park unique -- sought out, perhaps.

It's not clear how much seating would be taken up with Pots on Seawall. It's my favorite but if space is limited, I would then move to my 2nd choice.

I love them all

I like all three of the options presented. I'm also thinking about the entrance and protecting park visitors from the high speeds on Admiral way. I used to work in Redmond Town Center and they put in a new kid play area but with no fence. Unfortunately, a toddler ran out of the play area into the road and was killed. Now they have a fence. It would be tragic and want to mitigate as much as possible with a fence. I love the idea of a bike rack as part of it. Bike infrastructure already in place with bike lane. With no parking and something interesting to see (and a good place to take your kids) encourage people to bike there. And Nantes Park could be part of a Admiral Bike Tour. Just think, in the future, families on electric bikes could start their tour in the Admiral Junction. Visit the Admiral Theater, then make their way to the beautiful art at Nantes Park, then on to Alki Beach statue of liberty and the First Settlers monument, lighthouse museum, the lighthouse, and then go watch for Orcas at Constellation Park:-) I was also thinking of some kind of fence that resembles what you might see in France. I also like the idea another neighbor suggested of having an arch (maybe french architecture) that would create a more grand entrance. All of this would help create a more peaceful experience because you would be buffering from the traffic.

I think they are all beautiful and fun but wonder about vandalism.

I would love to see a metal fence of some kind. Balls and dogs running into the street with cars/trucks typically speeding down Admiral Way are a concern. We need a garbage receptacle of some kind. We live directly west of the park and pick up trash every week. In the summer, following a weekend, there are beer cans, dirty diapers, food wrappers, cigarette packages, drug paraphernalia, etc. The pack it in, pack it out rule, has not worked! I'm not sure that a bike rack would get used. I would rather have a nice fence across the front.

I just find the pot-a-portes very compelling... I would stop to look at it

They should be permanent additions. I don't think that this park is going to be kid safe or appealing because of the busy road, so I think that ideas should be catered to more toward adults, as a dog park or a rest stop for bikers. I still think that it should be whimsical and fun and I love the idea of incorporating this art work, but it's too noisy and has too much traffic compared to other nearby parks to be ideal for children. I want the money spent on this park to create a long term investment in our community that is pleasant to look at and useful for residents. I missed some earlier meetings, but I think the first step should be determining who is currently using the park and who might want to use the park and make it useful for those people. Perhaps the folks who live at Aegis Living would appreciate having a park to visit.

I love the pots! If there's anyway to have these as more permanent fixtures, that'd be swell. If there can't be any plants, perhaps just having the pots would be good too. I like the at-ground

option the most because it's basically eye level for kids, and makes them seem like real creatures. The plant mimicry ones look a little scary to me.

However, I think there's a larger concern about who would use the park. It's relatively small, exposed, and noisy. As much as I would want it to be accessible to kids, I'm not sure how much that location could be used by them. If I were a parent, I wouldn't tell my 5 year old "go ahead and play in the park, and I'll catch up in a minute" because there's a large road they'd need to cross. If I were a child, I might be interested in the funny plant creatures, but there'd be nothing to play on or places to hide. The park is also a bit out of the way, and there's Alki Community Center which has play structures for multiple ages, a large field for sports, and proximity to the beach and all the shops on Alki, not to mention it is much quieter and safer.

So what's the draw for Nantes Park? I think it's mostly bikers and dog walkers looking to take a rest on their way up the hill. Maybe it makes more sense to cater the park to their needs rather than try to make it exciting for kids. That's not to say we shouldn't go with Ponti though! I think having a smaller path with the fun pots beside it to draw people into the park and a larger grassy area for dogs would suit the park better than a larger path and/or a play structure. Instead, there should probably be a trash can for dog poop bags, a bike rack, and a table where people can picnic. I love the idea of alluding to Nantes architecture, Claude Ponti, and to French in general, but I don't think we should try to turn the park into something it can't be.

do the faces look creepy?

After living in Nantes I would love to have seen something with a nod to Les Machines de l'île or Jules Verne but am glad to see anything thoughtful linking the cities in this park, and love the inclusion of Nantes-whimsy.

I prefer the subtlety of the pots in the first two options to the bolder, center-of-attention nature of the third option. I cringe, though, when I think of dogs encountering the pots on the ground and lifting a leg.

None are very appealing

Prefer ramps and elevation changes to sharp benches. More emphasis of view location.
Possible climbing tower?

What do any of these designs - plants & prints - have to do with Nantes? These designs could be in any park. Can we have something that is unique & specific to celebrate the French-Seattle connection?

Comments about walkway choices:

Prefer that no pavement is used in the park walkway so we can continue to use the grassy areas for play. I do like the mystical footprints as a concept, especially if they are described with french language.

How will walkway designs be installed? When is Nantes, France doing their big event?

Love the idea and hope that we can access the fundraising to have one of the "bugs"
These are cute, more kinds of animal prints would be neat.

I absolutely LOVE the dimension of using imagination to visualize invisible animals based on footprints. This is beautiful idea! I can see walking field trips from Lafayette and Alki elementary with librarians/teachers and lessons about Mr. Ponti and France - I think this would be lovely for young students.... full disclosure, I am an educator and artist :-)

Either one is great. Just please keep these descriptions in mind: Storytelling, imagination and sparking creativity. That should be the underlying theme of the walkway designs and the park itself. We no longer have small kids, but it's important that this park creates a sense of community and a place to bring young children for short visits outside of the home. We hope we can do our part in lobbying for a crosswalk. It's so necessary to really draw more neighbors to this location and slow traffic down. Lastly, there were comments about trash cans which is still needed. For kids parks = parents bring snacks and it would really be nice to have a trash placed back in the park. It could also serve as another piece of art. Make it colorful!

Using French Words that are "common" would be in keeping with the Nantes/French theme. I think actual species footprints would be more educational -- after all, not everyone using the park will be under 5 years of age. And, placing prints close to the entrance could act as an invitation to come into the park; and with French words, highlight the theme of the park. It seems that because people have to walk along Admiral to get to the park, it's kind of a dead-end and won't see much use. If there was access from above, people would be much more likely to pass through and enjoy things, and maybe stop to rest. If there is no staircase to the neighborhood above, this park will never really get much use unfortunately.

Wonderful. I like the idea of what the footprints will do for the imagination of visitors, I think moreso than the insects. I also wanted to mention that when the walkway meets the sidewalk, that it would hopefully lead to a crosswalk over Admiral to the bus station directly across the street. I see people running across the road ALL of the TIME. I also see motorcycles and cars speeding, using the middle turn lane, and completely ignoring the speed warning signs. So a crosswalk, similar what was installed at 49th Ave SW and Admiral is what I am envisioning. That would force traffic to slow down, especially going down the hill to the beach. Ultimately though, it would be about community. Most of us on the north side of admiral, spend majority of our time walking and knowing neighbors on the north side. I would expect it's similar on the

south side. In other words, that road divides our community in half. I think a crosswalk could really help with that, not to mention mitigate speeds as part of the Vision Zero program.

I love this.

I'm excited for it to be paved for wheelchair accessibility. Given how small the park is, I would rather have less paved paths and more green space.

Would it be possible to color the engravings at all? It'd be fun to have a multicolored footprints. Also an option: engraving a popular Ponti quote into the concrete. Bonus points for somehow making the walkway look like something from Castle of the Dukes of Brittany.

both of these look like they might not be accessible? are they too slippery or bumpy for wheelchairs and strollers and runners?

Please, no bronze! This is a nice little garden spot that we enjoy when taking a rest break after a long slog up Admiral Way. Let your permanent art features complement the garden, not detract from it. Leave the shiny bronze footprints for downtown Seattle, which already has sidewalk areas with dance steps diagrammed in bronze.

Concrete prints are simple and fun to discover

Prefer footprints of CHILDREN, the future generation. NO DOGS, this is NOT a dog park! Having dog prints will turn it more into a dog park and then parents can't take their children there. Or print in seashells or native ferns.

What do any of these designs - plants & prints - have to do with Nantes? These designs could be in any park. Can we have something that is unique & specific to celebrate the French-Seattle connection?