

Existing Uses in Urban Open Space

During the two public meetings held on 9/23 and 9/25 each participant was asked to list an urban open space and an activity that they had participated in in that space. The list begins to paint a picture of the nature of different kinds of spaces (typology) in Portland (and away) and the activities most likely to occur there. Some activities, such as the Farmers Market or First Friday are unique to specific locations. Other activities are universal in urban space, such as people-watching. This list is admittedly not a significant sample size or scientific; the purpose of the activity was to get participants thinking about how they currently use urban open space, the variety within urban open space types, and then, to think about how Congress Square fits into that big picture in terms of use and activity and how it may or may not be adequately fulfilling current needs and how it might do so better in the future with the redesign.

Congress Square Plaza

People-watching

Meet someone for coffee

Concert/Performance

Take a break from work

Eat lunch

Sit on a bench (in sun)

First Friday

School Performance – steel drums

Protest/political activity

Whiffle Ball

Planting

Clean up

Guerilla art installation

Feed people

Talk to people

See a movie

Silent vigil

Arts

Food production

Walk dog

Monument Square

Farmers Market

People-watching

Catch breath, pause

Eat take-out/lunch/coffee

Talk to a friend

Outdoor dining

Concert/Music

Political Activities/Demonstration

Writing

Photographing

Snowboard demonstration

Look at a display

Listen to speaker

Arts Festival/First Friday

Gathering Place/Destination

Longfellow Square

People-watching

Meet with friends

Listen to music

Entertainment

Benches

Food/Restaurant

Walk through

Read

Flowers/Garden

Posters/Info

Statue

City Hall Plaza

News Conference/Speech

Commemorative activities

Tommy's Park

People-watching

Eat lunch/coffee

Sitting (sun or shade)

Talk to hot dog vendor

Read

Watch parade with lots of people

Small events/costumes

Post Office Park

People-watching

Meet a friend

Watch Belly Dance Performance

Sit on benches with family, eat ice cream

Eat Lunch

Juggling

Bell Buoy Park

Meet friend for lunch

Walk with kids

Bike ride

History

Lobsterman Park

Meet people

Eating

Hanging out

Maine Historical Park/Longfellow House

Eat lunch

Poet reading

Viewing architecture

Flowers

Urban Plaza

A place to sit

Harborview Park

People-watching

Frisbee

Tai Chi

Sit on Lawn

East End Parks

Pick up trash

Lincoln Park

Concert

Deering Oaks

Farmers Market

Enjoy nature

Play tennis

See ducks

Theater

Phoenix Square, Bayside

Maintain a booth

Adams Park (Playground at Munjoy South)

People-watching

Play with kids

Thought about how to improve

Pleasant Street Playground

Playground with kids

Back Cove

Fundraiser walk

Eastern Promenade

Walk

Walk dog

Watch fireworks

Views of nature

Biking

Loring Circle

Use cellphone

Watch sunset

Fort Allen Park

Concert

Western Promenade

Walk

Walk dog

Eat lunch

Quiet/Rest

Concert

Exercise/Recreation/Running

Killing time

Sun

Be in green space

Bike through

Portland Trails

View Architecture/Castle

Walk

Community Garden

Gardening

High Line (NYC)

People-watching

Sit

Walk

Pioneer Square (Seattle)

Sit on steps

Eat

Music/Concert

St. Martin Canal (Paris)

People-watching

Drink wine

Rose Kennedy Greenway (Boston)

Slow down

Walk

Kids playing

Public Art

Water feature

Edinburgh (Scotland)

People-watching

Eat Lunch