

I want . . . in Congress Square

Below are the responses to the prompt “I want . . . in Congress Square” from www.neighborland.com, Twitter, and the 4 signs placed around Congress Square and City Hall during the Visioning Process for Congress Square.

Neighborland.com

A space for performances

Some kind of beautiful green space with trees and flowers

The entire park to stay public

To let the Eastland build a ballroom

A woonerf

More benches and tables

Safe pedestrian crossings

An urban garden tended by volunteers with the food going to feed the homeless

Trees

To see a rooftop garden or rooftop green space on the Event Center

A fountain

Public botanical gardens

Shade

A pedestrian piazza with large trees, and a place for a bonfire

To make Congress Street pedestrian only with a huge open public space

A food forest with berry bushes and nut trees

A wifi hot spot

A green belt to unify the Arts District

A winter garden

A place where all the food trucks in town can park

Want everyone to consider Congress Square isn't the park, it's the intersection of 3 streets in a neighborhood

A plaza where people may engage with urban life rather than a green park to escape from the city

To see evolving public art pieces (that the community can be a part of)

A public/private partnership that is beautiful, useful, and sustainable

Bathrooms

Free concerts and public assemblies

To build a hotel on top of the hotel

A building that conforms with zoning + creates >\$150I (3 teacher positions?) in new tax revenue

To fill in the hole and create a usable park for art and performance

Property owners to fix up their condemned-looking buildings or sell them

Grass instead of concrete

Street performers

Programming and maintenance

A public space where the public can actually go without being bothered by junkies & panhandlers

A place where people can drink and sleep outdoors without being harassed by cops

A green space around a large evergreen tree

The clock from Union Station to be more prominently displayed

The Eastland Ballroom on a 2nd level above the existing building, and a large public plaza at street level

Something similar to Pioneer Plaza in Portland Oregon

A stronger emphasis on digital media arts and, possibly, a ground level NBC TV station

A turning lane for cars making a right down High Street from Congress

A safe, clean square with restaurants and coffee shops, bookstores, trees, etc.

Whatever is done, it MUST be better than the new city slogan

To reimagine Portland with new ideas for three major public space

Twitter

August 1 – 10

Trent Gay @TrentTZA

My vision for #congresssquare is anything but what it is now. Literally anything. I'd take a WalMart over current conditions.

Francis Flisiuk @FrancisFlisiuk

I want a stage for local artists on #congresssquare. Portland, whats your vision?

August 12 – 17

Catharine Hartnett @CathHartnett

#Portlandmaine. Dear City Council, let Rockbridge build and maintain #congresssquare. We can't even fund middle school sports!

Why Art Matters @Why_Art_Matters

Dear #Portland, interactive #publicart & performance space would make #CongressSquare even cooler than it is now #creativeplacemaking

Sign – City Hall

August 6 – 10

Public Space

Money-making businesses to thrive

City leadership to come out and say what it wants – Where's the mayor's voice in this discussion?

RockBridge to buy the park

Public restrooms – Rockbridge can provide

To read what out-of-state reporters report eventually about some local hotel-loving city hall politicians greed over public park

Tables and chairs for an outdoor lunch break spot!

Anything but a private ballroom

A transparent process based on community expressed priorities

An outdoor venue for music and theatre! (2 votes)

Jobs

Cheap parking

Public garden (4 votes)

Chess boards

A pro-business state

Places to sit/gather with shade (2 votes)

Perhaps a fountain?

A list of all the different languages spoken in Portland

Strippers

Music and events

More monkeys

Live music

I want a "Before I Die" wall

Moveable tables and chairs (2 votes)

Happiness

A well-landscaped, maintained public park: and oasis downtown (Please don't sell any of it!) (2 votes)

A “destination park” for all in CS plaza – games, food kiosks, seating, lots of green, water feature, slowed down traffic (2 votes)

Gift shop

New building!!! 7-8 stories lots of new tax revenue so we can take care of the great public spaces that we have and maybe hire a few more awesome teachers – PIMBY

If it’s a building, it should be of appropriate scale and size. A new 1 story building in heart of town is a waste of finite urban real estate

Congress Square is the epicenter of the Arts District and even Portland. Its value as a public space and park is priceless. Please do not make a public space private where only Eastland Hotel customers and conventions can use it.

August 12 – 16

Bocce

Can we make it bigger?

Fewer bums

Outdoor movies

Make por legull

Yes! And closed to cars.

Food carts all together with seating, artists and crafts people selling handmade goods.

No! Tell the Realtor-mayor

Keep it public!

Don’t sell public parks – John

Don’t sell our parks

Farmers market – every day

Lots of greenery and flowers

Comfortable seat

City should keep land for green space

Nice landscaping

Nothing more than what we have now

Stop heroin problem

Balance public and private

Homeless shelter

Congress Square is neighborhood green space

Trees + Grass

Don’ sell our park – clean it up!

Stop selling public space to developers. You are ignoring transportation and infrastructure.

Shared uses – such as Poynton, UK – big intersection

Free Energy

Bumped out sidewalk in front of the (multi-story) visitor center

Get rid of the dead space – not a good place for a park

Change the design. Put clock in corner. Get rid of the “Arena effect”. Visitors don’t stay because they feel someone will release the lions

People>cars, Public sphere>corporations, Place>money

Bikes and People

In Congress Square Plaza, public restrooms (2 votes), open 8:00am to 6:30pm 7 days a week, maintained by City or a good private company (3 votes) – Hon. David E.R. Suite 136 Congress Square Plaza

A public green area with local events

Bums find somewhere else to hang out and ask for money (your house!)

No cars!

A bike-share station sponsored by the hotel

Don’t sell our square

A clean, tax-paying business!

Please sell and make it a great space!

Keep the park Portland's

I do not want it privatized. It should remain a public community oriented park

A business like the one that was there before

Two-way traffic

The area to remain public

Event center = more visitors = more tourist \$ = more city \$ = more services to the needy!

An open air summer café

Clean air

Save our park – we don't need more development!

August 16 – September 13

Half a million \$ for a boring one-story building on prime open space in Portland ??

Businesses!!

Keep the park!

Keep the park

Green space

Don't sell the park!

We want a redesigned park – not a glorified sidewalk

The park is terrible as is. Anything would be better!! (2)

No privatization!

Redesign and keep the open space – deeded along Congress. Then plan events, plant flowers around a fountain, raise the clock on a tower, and maintain it.

A buffer zone @ PP

No bums

Art + music

An edible forest

Permanent farmers market/merchant area

1st Congress Square Park? And next Lincoln Park?

Green space

I heart Congress Square Park

No Sell! No Sell!

Don't sell our park

Rooftop garden on event space

Grass

We can have both: an event/concert/ballroom hall @ the hotel but keep a section for a terrific, vibrant city park – a true green space for Congress Square!

A park

No more commies

Yes commies

More benches for the bums!

Auction property rights to the highest bidder will assure they are allocated to their most profitable use.

Lets sell it to a private firm so they can make all kinds of monies at the expense of the quality of life for Portlanders!

Park is a rat-hole right now.

Q: How many times have you used the park? A: Today and most days

Free money

Save it, don't sell it. (2 votes)

The "park" is terrible now – do something better!

Tables for eating, games, etc.

Free/pay-what-you-can events

Organized for/with families, children, homeless (2 votes)

Sell it and put it to good use!

Wifi plz

Many more benches

Performance space essential!

Do not sell public parks. No money is enough, ever.

Event Center!

Edible forest – fruit + nut trees, berry bushes, edible flowers, bird feeders, use permaculture practices (2 votes)

Keep High Street one-way, maximize property tax revenue from the creepy plaza space.

Pedestrian friendly

Businesses pay taxes, which lowers Portland residents' tax burden. Not all industry is evil! Economic Development can be positive, if done responsibly.

If I win PowerBall \$116 mil. Tonight, then: I too want to buy the park . . . the give it back! In perpetuity as public park land. Oh wait! Isn't that what it is right now, no? City leaders wanting to sell really act like the mob. Ah, hell. No fair bidding competition!! (any federal law broken over that?) Please don't sell it.

Keep part of it, sell part of it. The part that is kept needs to be a green space, mini park. It's needed as an antidote to the hard space around it. (hardscape – brick, stone, tar)

Sign – PMA Plaza

Public restrooms

Street musicians

Chinese food

Cops

No Hotel Events Center!

A clean drug-free place to bring our kids

A park!!

Clean Safe!

No drugs

Lunch cult!

Save the park

Aliens

Video games

Green

Water slide

A real police presence

No more panhandling!!

24/7 café

Art installations

I love this board

More free bands

Dance Partyz

Napping area

A zipline system

A comprehensive redesign of the public space surrounding the entire intersection

Miniature Rockefeller Center

Free food

Legalize weed

Shops + Bars

No homeless

Arboretum

More music venues

No drunks

Cleaned up

No drugs (2 votes)

Full time Farmers Market

A great memorial to 5 minutes ago

Urban Farm

Occupy Congress Square

Subsidize food not bombs

Nice people on drugs

No more bums

No more hotels!!

People not being so vain they think it's about them

No ballroom!

A nice green park

No bums

Get your heads out of you're a#@e! city councilors and don't even think about selling out!!!

I just want drugs

Nice things yeah

Autonomous zone free from capitalism and colonial oppression

Don't kill the open space

Always remember the City Councilors who voted for the hotel get (vote) them out

Love, equality, and freedom

Keep our park (2 votes)

Save the park

Be the community [unreadable]

Playground

Save our park! Call the city councilors!

What in anyone's right mind would do this?

Improv troupes

Public bathrooms

24 hour Police Booth

Black justice

We can have a comprehensive redesign of the whole square and an event center. It doesn't have to be one or the other.

The new hotel to be able to expand and employ more people while improving the park

Why!

A place where people can be happy with or without \$

More vegan food

Nacho Mamma Tuesdays

Fun

Let's get rid of the nasty people

Free internet

Peace

Love

Food garden

More bathrooms

A clean water fountain

Roof garden

A garden!

Farmers market

More freaks

Revolution

In my lifetime fight for communism

Anything but a park!

To see more common sense

Turn the park into something other than crap like a dog park

More delicious nachos! (2 votes)

Hand sanitizers

An end to the idea that we will benefit by having our resources taken from us for private gain

Business

An arcade

Would like a art show for free to teach child + adults

No more bums

My dog

More puppies!

No place to sit. The bums lay on the benches!

Parmesan cheese

Food

Anarchy

Slower traffic

Ole fashioned square dance

Save park

Lipstick

Save our park

Kids park, skate, etc.

Music love

A fountain

Publically subsidized street performers (good for tourism and [unreadable])

Atheism

Play fountain!!

Flowers

Art show (2 votes)

Nachos

Puppies

Fun stuff to do and see [unreadable] trees and benches and outdoor activities

The Band

Have fun [unreadable]

More music (good)

Save the park

Porn shops (2 votes)

Dog poop bag dispensers

Public nudity

Bye Bye Events Center

Let's make it a more useable public area

Sculpture park

Fewer fishy beggars

A big popsicle

Tables and more benches to gather and socialize for lunch and coffee stops and a police booth to cut down (out) drinking/drugs making other feel welcome (4 votes)

Have events, Art – Art – Art

Clean up the grass/plaza trees

Lights

Veganism

Snacks (2 votes)

Love!

No hotel events center

A giant foot piano like in the movie (2 votes)

Enclose the commons (2 votes)

Events center

More green space

Public space

A kinetic art sculpture that makes soothing sounds (2 votes)

Safety

Bubble machine

Make the park into a dog park

Music playing

Cash money

Movie

Locals to actually be sitting, playing

Save this wonderful park before it's too late

Free fruits + veggies

Electrical outlets to play instruments

Jesus!

Cows

No police

Keep our park

Smiles

People to stop asking for change and cigarettes (2 votes)

Keep the park [unreadable]

More feral cats

Freedom + happiness

Edible forest and growing party

More music!

Love

Movies

Free beer

Public garden

Trees, grass, fountain

A naked cowboy

Commissioned public art

More music

Pizza!

Stop the conspiracy laws

Save our park people need it

More public [unreadable]

More food

Bacon

Meatballs

Add the space to the tax roll

An awesome playground

Sign – Congress Square Plaza

Community Policing Booth

Open public space for music, art vendors, space for tables

Compromise! Have hotel build bandstand and provide power for music events and keep it clean . . . they can have 1/3 of area.

Candy

Also decorate with public art

No other spot around to eat a good lunch. Buildings come and go.

Keep it public

More greenery

Two-way traffic

Flowers

Art

Split the difference

Tables and benches with chess/checker boards inlaid

Free Stuff (6 votes)

Art

The park. Every city needs green space. Not all bricks and buildings.

Bring back movies

Save our Park! Call the city council and local media

Live music and fun activities

Save this park

Please save

Live local music

Snakes

Grass

No cars!

More skateboards!

No more skateboards and no ballroom

Garden space

Love it here! I have no yard so this is my yard

Peace

Waiste not this space

Craft marketplace, like First Fridays after 5, but every Friday of some time. A good place for farm stands, too. (2 votes)

Be friendly around

How about keeping it as it is

Call Dave Marshall

Keep the park

Community garden

Free all birds forever

Public chess boards

Need a sign "bigger" posted about not feeding the birds any species. Unsanitary

Along with no peeing or dumping anywhere near the park!

A park

Tables and benches for lunches and coffee stops (2 votes)

Info booth to help with safety and rules

Bring back checker board tables (3 votes)

Keep it as is

Keep it

Free marijuana

A giant foot piano like in the movie "Big" (5 votes)

A park for families to spend time together!

It all or nothing at all

½ basketball

How about a playground for adults and kids? Or a community garden around the edges? Or a place for sitting and eating? Or an amphitheatre? Or friggen anything but a ballroom that only rich white tourist yuppies will use (5 votes)

Or both

Just a nice place to come and sit!

Keep it!!

Swings and slides for the kids

Kid-friendly events

Things for the kids

Keep this park open

There's nowhere left to fall

Security cameras or info booth to patrol park hours on end (2 votes)

Theater

It was always a park

Music

Art

Community

Need a blanket

Vending machines

More kid-friendly area

Water fountain

Gazebo

To tear down the Eastland and expand the park

Transition space based on permaculture

Preaching the Bible

Please turn the park into a family fun spot.

No get rid of it. People pissing and drinking

Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet, and so are you. But the roses are gone and the violets are dead!! And the sugar is lumpy and so is your head.

We need this park

We heart [unreadable]

More drinking and public restrooms

Lift the smoking ban

More stuff to write on and free markers

Keep the park

Weekly concerts!

Puppet theatre!

Green lawns

Checker tables!

Annual murals!

Rotating public art!

Revolutionary training facilities to prepare for succession

Keep it as is

People's free space

Bacon

Church service with Bible preaching

Please save our park

Giant hopscotch game!

I've made a lot of personal growth thru public events and have made important speeches here. Also, I sell my art here. I love this park. Please, save our public space.

Business interests

I came here with my grandfather when I was a little girl and I want to make it a tradition for my son and his children and their children's children. I want to be able to feed the birds with him. Thank you!

Mere appeal to emotion has no role in a healthy democracy

No ballroom

Sign – Schwartz Building 1

A nice place to sit and people watch

We want community, not concrete jungle!

Adult-sized playground (2 votes)

Arcade

Robots: with the 3 laws of robotics

7/11

Free arcade

The guy who owns this building to fix it

Ball pit

Less classists jerks

A fountain

Café

Get rid of that park full of white trash

Money

This to be a community conversation not just a token billboard (this is a good start)

Money trees

Amphitheater/ ice rink

Free wine

1% gallows

Mic

I want a cab stand

More local music!

Free water and soup kitchen

CSQFB (Congress Square Facebook)

Open air strip club

More walls to paint

Community gardens

Food

Wifi

Direct democracy

Practice love

Free ice

Space for trees to dance

Boda oysters

Bacon!

Weed party (2 votes)

Café/public space

Don't sell. Councilors who vote to sell? Out!!

This is not a billboard

Leave it there

I want power

The Singularity

*Grass, trees, open, above grade – low cost!!

We need open space [unreadable]

Stop, think what the people need will be [unreadable]

Live, outdoor music

Dog park!!

More cats

Botanical Gardens plz

A business like what was there!

The hotel to expand! Employ more people!

Adult bouncy castle

"heart" Nature "heart"

No government

More space

Talk hard

Absolutely nothing and sweet #@%*' everything.

Water – like the ravine/stream in Deering Oaks.

Fountains like the Seattle Expo. Trees like Post Office Park . . . places to sit . . . Yakitori bar on the corner . . . a portable dance floor with Cajun music to dance and possibly Astor Piazzola playing the accordion under the stars.

A portal to summon

Water fountain

To smoke a cigarette without being harassed

A shared intersection

An ice cream shop (soft serve!)

Square parties

Ice cream!

Peace

Music venue

My house

A tipi for meditation

Waste of tax payer money

Fluffy kitties

Carousel

Green space

More dog friendly – No, dogs are dirty

Restaurants!

Skate park

More financial pay for the people ex: min wage increase

Public food forest (2 votes)

Place to chill

A homeless shelter for men

Amusement park

Bookstore

Solar powered tea

Life, the universe, and everything

Less arrogance. More peace of mind. A place to be. A local business. Essentially, everything other than what's there or a hotel. Less part-time, more options.

More open minds!!

Please keep it a park!

A chicken and waffles joint – wannawaf

World peace

Music venue/ice rink

Money

More food!!

Solar panels and a botanical garden / community garden (2 votes)

Skate rock (2 votes)

Pepperoni

Monkey butter

Beer garden!

Dog park

Save our park

Dream house

More porta potties

Respect!

More flowers, man

Toilet Store

Legal weed

Free hugs

Keep it a park please

Tea party

It all

Dog park!

To be deliriously happy

A community garden

Cats

And cowbell

Jesus (4 votes)

Trampoline

Water park
An outdoor music venue (2 votes)
Pizza
Docks to swim
Traps + white bricks
Dog park
Free food and water
Music!
Better urban space
Dodgeball games
Keep it all
Free library with reading chairs
Full time farmers market and craft fair (2 votes)
Community gardens
More public space
Definitely more flowers
More public art
People need this space
To stop catering to homeless and drunks from away!
Sell it to the hotel with a height max (2 votes)

Sign – Schwartz Building 2

Garden (2 votes)
Homes 4 homeless
I want the clock
Free chocolate
Fall Out Boy
No smoking
A nice gathering place free + open to all + safe for all

No sell! No sell!
Yay! It was sold finally
Fewer bums
Free Inn for visitors
Share the space respectfully
To have family + friends
Maintain the historical value!
Hula hoops
Marijuana Farmers Market
If I win Power Ball, I want to buy it – then donate it back! In perpetuity as a permanent public park – oh wait, isn't it already? Not a fair bidding competition. Any federal law violated by City Hall mobsters, who want to sell?
Peace (2 votes)
No more bum park! Make the city proud!
Active uses along all approaching streets
Smiles
Happiness
More public art!
Sell it – it's abandoned anyway
I want everyone to be nice to everyone
A circus
I want legitimacy, especially on this sign
Trash in trash cans
Active uses on all edges of the square
Steam clams
Goodwill house
More [unreadable] people here
Beer (2 votes)

Make a difference – and own

You to smile

The circus comes

Less Yuppies, more crimes

I want to go see Hanson!

Love

No junkies

Jesus! (3 votes)

Art

Lions – real ones

The Eastland should buy it

Garden

I want love, peace, happiness

Bum memorial

Reopen the South Windham Fire Station

A place to hangout

Gym

Cabs that stop when I try to flag them down

AA Recovery

I want a sleep factory

Chowder

Clowns

Everyone to stop shouting

Strip club

Local stores to save money

The ped x light to work

Free food