

*Colman Vista Restoration*  
*Public Meeting #1 – DISCOVERY*  
*May 10, 2016*

**COMMENTS:**

1. I appreciate the historic foundation/approach this project has taken thus far.
2. The park feels more like “municipal property” rather than a “park.”
3. Upper Colman should be something to admire and enjoy.
4. It is difficult to recognize Upper Colman as the entrance to Colman Park.
5. Neighbors are tired of looking at a wall of maple trees!
6. As a 7 year old, I enjoyed moving through Colman Park as well as the views from the top.
7. Make sure Colman Park is not only remarkable from the Vista. It should be a place that’s equally excellent and safe to walk through and experience.
8. Addressing restoration of park holistically is perhaps a more effective approach than focusing on specific areas.
9. The majority of restoration work in Colman Park has been done in the lower parts, primarily east of the P-Patch.
10. Experimental coppicing was conducted on maples in Upper Colman in early 2000s
11. The ornamentals found in the flatter areas of Upper Colman near the P-Patch are not necessarily a result of former nursery volunteers. That area has undergone restoration with blackberry removal and the planting of madronas and incense cedars.
12. Colman Vista can be enjoyed by more than just immediate neighbors. I am a pedestrian and jogger along 31st Ave S that would love a vista from that vantage.
13. Thick vegetation around park entrances encourages dangerous activity. I would love to feel more safe around these areas.
14. The trees on Colman Ridge serve no purpose.
15. All of Seattle has been built around views and view properties. It’s unfortunate that Colman hasn’t received equitable treatment in this regard.

16. Tour buses used to drive along 31st Ave S and look out over the vista in the mid 1960s. During this time, the vista also served as a gathering space for the neighborhood's African American community, particularly during SeaFair and other summer cultural events. The neglect Upper Colman has received over the years is an unfortunate byproduct of the general underrepresentation African American communities have felt in Seattle for some time.
17. The vista brought community together in the 1970s and is an eyesore now. It was beautiful and now is not.
18. I used to jog through Colman and do not anymore because of safety and aesthetic concerns.
19. When in Colman Park, no one can see you from 31st Ave S. This impacts feelings of safety.
20. Removing trees on Colman Vista wouldn't impact light levels or sun exposure that the P-Patch receives.
21. I use Colman Park at least 3 times per week: trails, P-patch, etc.. There is considerable activity in the park. Not an "unactive" place by any means.
22. Any work done in Upper Colman Park should follow all requirements of the Parks Department. The specifics of the vegetation management plan should be defined. Also be cognizant of the potential for classifying this park as a "view park." Only about 10 exist in the city and Park is reluctant to add more because of associated costs with maintaining them accordingly. To make this change requires going through a full political process: city council testimony, etc.
23. A coordinated restoration & view park designation effort across Colman Park could be a more politically feasible approach than focusing on the upper slope alone.
24. Part of Olmsted's design intents were to create multiple viewpoints that allowed users to see other parts of the park.
25. Upper Colman doesn't have to be treeless.
26. Park safety is best improved by increasing park users. This is accomplished by inviting them in.
27. Don't just look at trees as obstructions to views. They are utilities. They hold water, soil, and CO2. It will be beneficial to include some trees with any view corridors that are created to both frame the views and because of their utilitarian aspects.

28. The guardrail and hedge are beneficial for both cars and pedestrians (especially younger to both protect them from the drop-off (safety, injury) and to protect the slope from them (erosion).
29. I would like to see more trails through Upper Colman.
30. I don't believe Mt. Rainier can be seen from Colman Vista.
31. Mt Rainier is not the only valuable view from 31st Ave S. Lake Washington, Mercer Island, the Cascades and the I-90 floating bridge all have merit as views as well.
32. Make sure all communications about this park use verbiage that specifies Upper Colman or Colman Vista. "Colman Park Restoration" is misleading, as much restoration has been (and continues to be) done in Colman Park.
33. Colman Park already gets considerable positive use from the public: running, walking, P-Patching, beaching, etc.
34. Frink Park is an excellent example as to what Colman Vista should strive for [unclear if this comment was in regard to view qualities or plant community/design]
35. The primary attention Colman Vista receives from parks is an annual trimming of the hedge at the western edge. Other than that the slope is ignored.
36. Any restoration to the trails in Upper Colman should be addressed by the Parks Department because of Colman Park's historic status. The DON grant shouldn't have to include these improvements as part of its scope.
37. Some trees near the houses on the north and south borders of Colman Park should be preserved in any thinning efforts. This would provide buffer between park users and home owners, and allow for better experiences for both parties (P-Patchers don't have to look up into homes, homeowners don't have to look down onto park users). Don't clear trees to the adjacent lot lines.
38. I only feel safe in Colman Park with my dog. It's not a place I'd feel comfortable taking my elderly mother.
39. I'd like picnic and seating areas in Upper Colman.
40. The idea of being able to look down into the park and see other parts of the park as a way of being drawn in is compelling.

41. Colman Park is currently successful in that it can feel like a national park or adventure for young children. Any new work completed in Upper Colman should complement this legacy and enhance that sense of discovery that can be attained within the park.
42. The project should pursue corporate sponsorship(s) to more efficiently complete tree removal and restoration efforts.
43. Viretta Park in the Denny-Blaine neighborhood would serve as an ideal precedent for Colman Park Vista.
44. I would like to see lighting on the entry stairs, better signage & trail maps identifying the park along 31<sup>st</sup> Ave S and a replacement of the guard rail.
45. I think the entirety of Colman Park needs an upgrade, but support this initial step and think a phased or small steps implementation approach is wise.
46. This project is compelling for having foundations in improving both the aesthetics and safety of the park.

**QUESTIONS:**

47. Is a similar, history-based perspective on park revitalization taken with similar parks and properties across the city?
48. Why does this project/effort only focus on Upper Colman? Is it because of funding limitations? Wouldn't a more holistic approach produce better results?
49. Do any photos of Upper Colman from ~1910 – 1930 exist?
50. What are the failures of the original Olmsted plan, if any?
51. Should the public expect results from this endeavor? Similar efforts have been undertaken before.
52. If the park (or portion of the park) is designated as a view park, can tree preservation/retention standards be compromised, allowing for trees outside of Upper Colman to be cut in future?
53. What will removing trees in Upper Colman do to the spring(s) that drain to the P-Patch?
54. How will the overall hydrology and drainage of the site be effected by potential changes?
55. Will trails or trail improvements be a part of the Colman Vista restoration?

56. Has any viewshed analysis been completed for Colman Vista or along 31st Ave S?
57. Is it fair to use photos taken from private property to demonstrate the potential for views from Colman Vista?
58. Does the Lake Washington Boulevard Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), or any other VMP provide prescription for restoration or management in Upper Colman?
59. How can work in Upper Colman catalyze additional positive work and energy in greater Colman Park?
59. Has Seattle Police Department had any buy in on revegetation or restoration plans?
60. Why is all the funding for this project coming from just “us” [taxpayers, neighbors, Department of Neighborhoods] rather than the Parks Department?
61. Why has Mt. Baker Play Area received over \$500,000 for improvements when Colman hasn’t received anything near that sum?
62. How can the principles/standards/prescription of the Green Seattle Partnership influence potential development on the site?
63. Is this park considered a Natural Area by the Parks Department?
64. How can Colman Park be made a space for all to enjoy?
65. Which trees are “buried” in the lower part of Upper Colman?
66. If upper Colman Park is not defined by the Parks Department as a “Designated Viewpoint,” is that because it was never a viewpoint?
67. If Colman Vista was a viewpoint, approximately how long did it have this designation?
68. Is the existing slope landscape of the Olmsted’s design? If not, who designed it?
68. What were the ethnic and racial demographics of the neighborhood over its history?