



Discovery Park Play Area Renovation Project Public Meeting Notes

Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:30a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Discovery Park Environmental Learning Center
3801 Discovery Park Blvd, WA 98199

Attendees:

Karimah Edwards, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Planner
Chris Mueller, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Project Manager
Margarett Harrison, Harrison Design, Consultant
Kathleen Conner, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Planning Manager
Karen O'Connor, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Public Relations Specialist
Community Members, open house format, 15 signed in, 25 adults and 10 children estimated total.

Meeting Purpose:

- Present schematic plans for renovation of the Park's play area.
- Collect and gain community input on proposed playground improvements and potential play equipment choices.

Summary:

Schematic plans for renovation of the Discovery Park play area were presented in an open house format. A total of six boards were displayed showing existing conditions, schematic site plans, and potential play equipment types. Several other park events including bird and beach tours took place prior to and after the meeting and a significant number of people stopped by the project display to view and comment on the project. Comments were recorded by staff and written directly by community members on comment sheets. Dot voting on boards was completed by community to indicate preference for the various equipment types presented. Additional written comments were prepared in advance and provided to staff by one community member.

Written comments from comments sheets:

- Sand box- only if covered
- Skate park
- Tetherball

- Spray park in sunny location
- Seattle Center net swing, always has a line
- Balancing ring that rotates (like at Ella Bailey)
- At least 2 baby swings, 2 big kid swings + one yellow/red full back swing
- Incorporate the trees into a climbing/Tarzan like structure with floating bridge connecting trees and climbing ladder similar to the one at Seattle Center
- Rope bridge between trees
- Skate Park plz
- Tether Ball plz
- Embankment slide
- Naturalistic elements “ Adventure playground”
- Picnic tables, places to eat and stay in the shade

Comments & suggestions recorded by staff:

- Like Hinds wharf N of Edmonds
- Shade is an issue, needs more sun
- Covered areas would be nice for rainy season (for parents)
- Skate park would be nice. If done needs to be appropriate distance form play area or designed with features for young kids (to prevent issues with older kids and adults using skate park) Dahl Park play area too close to skate park.
- More benches for parents
- Stroller parking area needed
- Tether Ball
- Water element or spray feature
- Like embankment slide, bouncy logs, crawl tubes, zip line, tire swings, rock maze, little kids paths with variations for different ages, performance area/stage, climbing rocks(s), bridges, animal climbers, low walls
- Covered areas, seating and gathering area.
- Dirt play area
- Provide signage about other interesting park features
- Would be cool to see a combination or sequence of open and enclosed spaces for kids to explore
- Like imaginary world /play elements
- Like naturalistic elements
- Like Prince (name?) park in Olympia. Has forested area

Additional written comments prepared for and provided to staff (abbreviated to withhold personal information):

1. Discovery Park needs to remain a pristine oasis within the city of Seattle. Great care needs to be taken to maintain the natural outdoorsy feel of the park environment.
2. Historically, Discovery Park has housed several unique play items not found elsewhere in Seattle parks. These included a children's slide which was built into a sloping hillside, bouncing logs which were anchored into the ground, tire swings and a small zip-line type of ride. All of these items were made of natural materials mostly available within the park. The theme of using natural versus man made materials should be maintained whenever possible.
3. Some thought should be given toward employing play items which were used by the military families that lived at Ft. Lawton. There used to be several 14' swings located near the housing on officers row and by the Capeheart housing project.
4. Finally, we need to pursue adding some new content to the play area also employing natural materials like a climbable rock maze or a series of low to the ground tree houses or a small person walk path (suitable for both kids and strollers) that contains tiny bridges, ground level balance beams, crawl through logs, logs with step overs or walk throughs climbing nets or even rope swings.

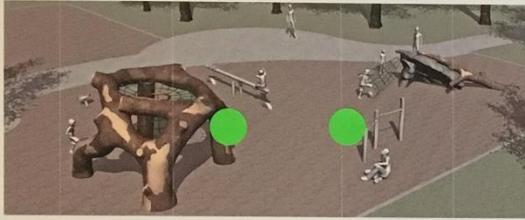
I think what we all would like to avoid are the common plastic structures which are not consistent with the natural feel that has always existed in the park.

Thank you for considering these ideas

Board Dot Voting (note: various dot colors were used and do not indicate different meaning):

Discovery Park Play Area | Play Themes

Bird Nest & Monumental Climbing Rock



Forest Net

BIRD



Tree Houses



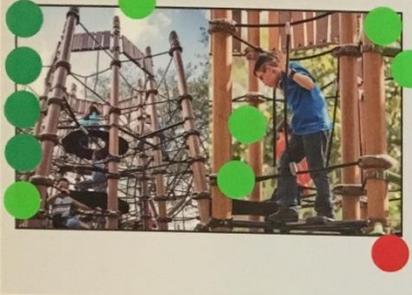
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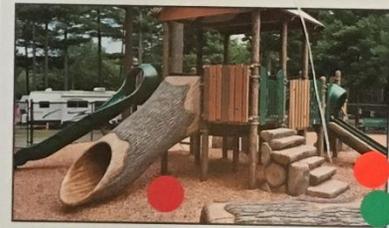


Discovery Park Play Area | Play Elements

Climbing



Sliding



Swing & Sway



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Discovery Park Play Area | Play Elements

Balancing



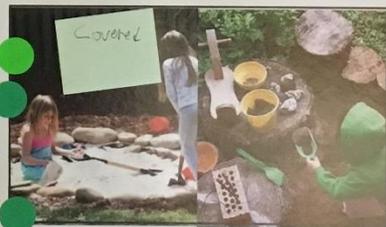
Spinning



Tot Play



Imaginary Play



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