

Time Submitted	September 17, 2012 10:51 AM
Project Name: No more than six words	Highland Park Playground Improvements
Project Type:	Development
Project Location: Insert address. Please remember that Development Projects must be on public property.	1100 SW Cloverdale Seattle, WA 98106
Attach Site Location Map here	 Highland Park Site Location Map.pdf
Attach Site Photos here (up to 4 photos)	 Highland Park Site Photos 1.pdf  Highland Park Site Photos 2.pdf  Highland Park Site Photos 3.pdf  Highland Park Site Photos 4.pdf
Property Owner: If known, name and contact information for private owner, or corporation or business; or public entity of project to be developed/acquired	Seattle Parks Department
Neighborhood:	Highland Park, Southwest Seattle
Brief Project Description: Please give a brief description of the project in 100 words or less	With the new spraypark and public art project planned for Highland Park Playground, we will see an increase in an already steady flow of users. Two unresolved gaps remain for Highland Park Playground: access into the park, and new play equipment. Attention to pedestrian flow will tie its new pieces together into a cohesive whole, create a better connection to the neighborhood, make the park more usable and safe for everyone, and is a proactive measure to address increased use. The park also needs some fresh play equipment that adds to the diversity of play experiences in the neighborhood.
Anticipated Project Costs:	\$518,787

Other Project Funding: Amount of additional leveraging, grants	0
Attach Budget here:	 Highland Park Budget.pdf
Proposal Organization:	(highland park resident)
Contact Person:	
Mailing Address:	
Zip Code:	
Day/Work Phone:	
Evening/Home Phone:	
Home or Work E-Mail Address:	

Project Goals: In 500 words or less, Describe the project in more detail. What is the intent or goal of the project, e.g., expand an existing park, improve trails or bikeways, habitat restoration or the implementation of sustainable energy practices? How did the idea for the project originate and evolve.

Highland Park Playground is not planned as a “regional” facility; rather it is a park in the heart of our neighborhood and people travel there primarily on foot. With the new spraypark and public art in the works, the park will be receiving new visitors walking from the neighborhood, the bus stop, or their car. There is plenty of parking adjacent to the park along 10th Ave SW and along Thistle Street, but there is no access into the park from these streets for those in wheelchairs or with strollers. The “big picture goals” of this project are to:

- be proactive in planning for future use of the park
- help create a walkable, pedestrian oriented community
- be a better neighbor to the surrounding neighborhood by inviting people in
- offer a space that is equally accessible to all members of the public at all times of the year

The specific goals are:

Address the missing pedestrian link along Cloverdale: This gap on Cloverdale between 10th and 11th sees plenty of pedestrian traffic, as made evident by the desire path etched into the hillside. It is an established route from the neighborhood to the adjacent school, to the new lid at Westcrest, the Westcrest dog park, and into the Highland Park Playground. This link receives so much foot traffic right now from the neighborhood, it could be transformed into a grand pedestrian boulevard into the park with echoes of the WPA era work throughout the rest of the park: exposed aggregate concrete, concrete bollards, a grand staircase, a wide tree lined path. Attention of this scale could really help to transform the park into something that feels more established, respected, and safe. It would embrace the neighborhood and the new users of the park, and create a nice connection between the park, the school, and Westcrest. Existing trees along the top of the slope may limit the possibilities for this to become an ADA accessible entrance into the park. If this is the case, the accessible route can be from Thistle.

Address the missing pedestrian link to Thistle Street: Existing trees along the western edge of the park are the perfect backdrop for a simple crushed rock path. Currently, access into the park from this direction is through an extremely wet and muddy field, which ruins the field and is uncomfortable to traverse. The western edge as it exists already provides dappled shade, pedestrian scale trees, and easy, clear site lines for pedestrian safety.

Rethink the Play Equipment: The existing play equipment will seem out of place in the park with the new spraypark and public art. We

Project Goals: In 500 words or less (continued).

would like to see some inspired equipment that adds to the diversity of play in our neighborhood and addresses the 2-5 age group as well as the 5-12 group. It could be a custom piece playing off the spraypark's planetary theme, or working with something that the artist comes up with for the park.

<p>Project's Level of Readiness: Is the project in the idea stage or is there a professionally developed scope of work or a developed plan? (Please attach your project's site plan below if available.)</p>	<p>This project is in the ideas stage, which the attached site plan illustrates. A professional needs to develop a more detailed plan. The park is about to undergo construction on three major fronts: the wading pool conversion, Leo Berk's public art project, and restroom renovations. These three projects, scheduled to be completed by spring of 2013, are completely separate projects with no coordination between them. They desperately need to be brought together with a thoughtful pedestrian overlay, or the entire park will seem disjointed, piecemeal, and incomplete. The opportunity to tie the new pieces of the park together begins now. Ideally construction could be coordinated with the other projects but the timing is likely too tight to be able to do that.</p>
<p>Project's Site Plan - Attachment</p>	<p> Highland Park Site Plan.pdf</p>
<p>a. Does the project demonstrate a high degree of neighborhood support or involvement as demonstrated through a public review process and/or is the project consistent with approved plans, such as a neighborhood, community council or other recent planning documents?</p>	<p>The project is consistent with a Parks Approved Plan or other recent Parks Planning Documents.</p>
<p>Please list out plan(s) and describe in 200 words or less neighborhood support/involvement.</p>	<p>The project is consistent with existing park use, and helps to make the park more usable once the spraypark and public art projects go in. The wading pool conversion shows a design that labels "future path to Thistle" on their drawings, indicating that the designers saw the need for a pedestrian overlay to be a future phase for the park. The issue of pedestrian access came up at all the community meetings held about the wading pool conversion, it is a big concern among the neighbors. We are proud to say that we have the support of the immediate neighbors along 10th avenue, as presented in a letter from Matt Wittman, as well as the support of Highland Park's very active community groups: Highland Park Action Committee, and Highland Park Improvement Club.</p>

<p>Attachment: Support Letters - A maximum of two letters of support for the project may be attached.</p>	<p> Highland Park Support letter 1.pdf  Highland Park Support letter 2.pdf</p>
<p>e. Does the proposal restore or significantly extend the life of a current park or facility?</p>	<p>Developed Parks: The project repairs, replaces or upgrades aging infrastructure or facilities, extending their life at least 20 years.</p>
<p>Please describe in 200 words or less.</p>	<p>The project will upgrade two desire paths by replacing them with legitimate paths, creating appropriate access into the park that will last for at least 20 years. The current access into the park from Cloverdale has caused significant soil erosion. Creating a grand entrance type of staircase/pedestrian boulevard at this location will also help the neighborhood feel a better connection to the park. It currently feels uncomfortable to go to the park because you can't get there on a legitimate path. With this problem addressed, more people will use the park, take ownership of it, care about it- all of which will help to extend the life of the park significantly.</p> <p>Access from Thistle street across a muddy field damages the fields for recreation. Establishing an accessible route from Thistle is a huge upgrade to the pedestrian access and will cut down on repairs to the field.</p> <p>Rethinking and updating the play equipment and coming up with something really interesting and unique for our neighborhood also helps create ownership of the park which extends the life of everything there. The existing play equipment doesn't have many years left as it is fraying and chipping on the edges.</p>
<p>f. Does the project provide health benefits or opportunities? (e.g. trails, bike paths, open space)</p>	<p>b. The project improves existing high intensity recreational opportunities.</p>

<p>Please describe in 200 words or less.</p>	<p>The project provides improved access to high intensity recreation opportunities, as well as walking paths and a clear connection to Westcrest Park and the exercise loop planned for the lid there. It definitely would improve the existing recreational opportunities at the park. Also important to note here is that in the future, we would like to establish 10th Avenue as part of the Greenways system through our neighborhood, so the missing link on Cloverdale has some real potential to connect to a larger system of Greenway pedestrian and bike routes that will run throughout the city.</p>
<p>g. Does the project take advantage of an opportunity that will be lost unless action is taken? ACQUISITION ONLY</p>	
<p>Please describe in 200 words or less.</p>	
<p>5.1 Does the project demonstrate new and/or creative methods to meet the community's need for parks and green spaces (sustainable energy practices, etc...)?</p>	<p>c. The project meets minimal sustainable requirements for development projects.</p>

<p>Please describe in 500 words or less.</p>	<p>This project is concerned with getting more members of a community into a park in a safe and efficient manner, and with creating a walkable, pedestrian oriented community. It links the park with the school, Westcrest park, a future Greenways route, and the surrounding neighborhood. The project attempts to create a space that is equally accessible to all members of the public at all times of the year. With the right designer, there is no reason that this project couldn't comply with the Sustainable Site Initiative (SITES). Also with the right designer, there is potential to use the water flushed from the future spraypark to irrigate any new planting areas designed into the Missing Link to Cloverdale. Potential also exists to use solar power for lighting, to use sustainable materials, to integrate educational opportunities, and to integrate recycled or "up-cycled" materials for the play area. I checked "c" in the criteria question because it all depends on the designer and the requirements from the Parks Department to mandate such sustainability requirements for the project. There is no reason, though, why the project couldn't attain much more than "minimal sustainable requirements for development projects."</p>
<p>i. How does the project leverage or have the potential to leverage other resources through the actions of other public agencies, funding from public, private or philanthropic partners, and/or in-kind contributions of time and energy from citizen volunteers?</p>	<p>d. No additional funding or contributions in hand.</p>
<p>Attach Funding Plan here.</p>	

<p>Please describe in 200 words or less.</p>	<p>This proposal rides on the coat tails of the spraypark, restroom renovations, and public art projects in process. While it would be ideal to work directly with the artist for the public art project or the designers of the spraypark, unfortunately, the timing and nature of those projects don't allow for this project to directly leverage those funds. The idea behind this proposal is to link the three existing projects together so that it doesn't seem like a piecemeal design. While it doesn't directly leverage funds from those projects, they are all part of the broader picture of improving our neighborhood park.</p> <p>Highland Park unfortunately does not have a lot of residents with extra time or money to dedicate to public parks, even though they are heavily used and appreciated in our neighborhood. The Department of Neighborhoods Matching Funds grant seems to favor those neighborhoods with extra resources that people can donate. Our very diverse community has historically been overlooked because of the inability to communicate needs to the city as fluently as other neighborhoods have been able to articulate their needs. It is difficult to get people to show up for volunteer efforts, even if it means better parks.</p>
<p>j. What potential effects does the project have on the City's maintenance and operating costs?</p>	<p>a. No net increase in the City's maintenance and operating costs.</p>
<p>Please describe in 200 words or less.</p>	<p>With increased use, unique play opportunities, and easier access and views into the park, the theory is that vandalism in the park will go down, so maintenance will go down on that end. Similarly, maintenance related to soil erosion and trampled fields would decrease with established routes through the park. The new paths and entry from Cloverdale would not contribute to a net increase in maintenance. It is also important to note here that there is potential for the link to Thistle to increase access for maintenance vehicles entering into the park. I have noted on more than one occasion, large trash and maintenance trucks driving across the fields to access the restroom building and play area. A path that can accommodate those vehicles would greatly benefit the maintenance staff as well as preserve the condition of playfields.</p>