

Time Submitted	September 17, 2012 10:59 AM
Project Name: No more than six words	Othello Park Improvements Project
Project Type:	Development
Project Location: Insert address. Please remember that Development Projects must be on public property.	4351 S. Othello St Seattle WA 98118
Attach Site Location Map here	 Othello Park neighborhood map.pdf  SouthEndGangGraffiti_othelloPark.jpg
Attach Site Photos here (up to 4 photos)	 1_BasketBallCourt_OthelloPark.jpg  BrokenGraffitiBench_OthelloPark.jpg  Playground_othelloPark.jpg
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 and Recreation
Neighborhood:	Othello
Brief Project Description: Please give a brief description of the project in 100 words or less	<p>Since 2008 over 100 volunteer citizens, government representatives and non-profit staff sponsored 10 design and planning workshops facilitated by professional landscape architects to improve the safety and usability of Othello Park. The resulting 3 phased development plan found great support from the Department of Neighborhoods, the Department of Parks and Recreation and private citizens through financial and in-kind support. The generous support was enough to fund the first two phases of the plan. We are asking for funding to support the third and FINAL phase of this plan that will improve the health and security of both people and the environment.</p>
Anticipated Project Costs:	\$546,312

Other Project Funding: Amount of additional leveraging, grants	
Attach Budget here:	 Othello budget_estimate_2012-09-12.pdf
Proposal Organization:	Othello Park Alliance
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.

If you travel along MLK Jr. Way in Southeast Seattle, you'll pass Somali Halal markets, Vietnamese groceries, and the Filipino Community Center, fixtures of the community for decades. But as you approach S. Othello Street, you'll notice signs of change. Holly Park is now New Holly, a mixed-income development with resident gardens, a community college campus, and a library. A new light rail station graces the intersection, while a new development offers retail space and 300 plus apartments with a view of the adjacent green space, Othello Park.

Othello Park marks the transition from the apartments and ethnic small businesses on MLK Way to the residential neighborhoods beyond. Without a real draw for families and with a reputation that keeps many away, Othello Park often sat empty. Shouting, fighting, and drinking were common activities, and brawls spilled out over its edges. In response to the negative uses of the park, community and cultural groups, local churches, SPD, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and non-profits pitched in to ensure children and elders alike could enjoy, rather than fear, the park. One of these community groups, the Othello Park Alliance (OPA), has as its mission and core work to assure that Othello Park's beauty and open space is retained, enhanced, and integrated into a vibrant, multicultural, pedestrian-friendly town center and the surrounding residential community by coordinating community events and making capital improvements in the Park.

Every summer for the past six years, OPA has organized the Othello Park International Music & Arts Festival, a celebration of our vibrant and global community. The festival - featuring international music and dance, demonstrations, art stations, and food - drew over twenty-five hundred participants in 2012.

We recognize the rarity of open space so close to a commercial center, light rail and bus lines, and dense housing, especially in a low-income community. We know the best way to steward Othello Park and reclaim it as the jewel of Othello is to ensure it is a beautiful space activated with positive use. A recent survey showed that area visitors and residents patronize either the park or the adjacent business district, but not both. The area still lacks a cohesive sense of place, and improvements will certainly help link the two to create a more cohesive neighborhood.

We have engaged in an extensive community process and worked with Parks to engage local consultants who drafted a multi-phased plan. The first two phases of the three phase construction project have already been funded, planned and have broken ground.

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

The third and final phase, that we are asking you to fund, will include improvements and expansion of very well used basketball courts, installation of furnishings including benches and game tables, grading to ready the ground for a new P-Patch, rain gardens and bioswales to address the poor drainage and create a learning opportunity for residents, wayfinding markers embedded into the walking paths, and expansion of the playground to engage the many youth in the neighborhood in healthy activities.

<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>More than 10 design workshops involving over 100 neighbors resulted in a three phased development plan. The first and second phases are funded and under construction. The third phase is a professionally drawn site plan (attached). If awarded, this grant will pay for construction drawings and physical construction.</p>
<p>Project's Site Plan - Attachment</p>	<p> Othello Opp Grant Future Schematic.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>Since 2008 over 100 Othello residents, area business owners, Seattle Parks and Recreation staff, Seattle Police Officers, community group members, non-profit service agency employees and local religious leaders organized and participated in 10 design & planning workshops to identify and prioritize elements for the Othello Park Improvements plan. With the help of a UW landscape architecture student and a local landscape architecture & planning firm we established a three phase development plan from the prioritized design elements.</p> <p>Additionally, the concepts employed in the Othello Park improvements are clearly supported by the Othello Neighborhood Plan, recently updated and enhanced through intense community engagement. The policies and strategies included in the neighborhood plan describe benefits articulated by the community that are relevant to our proposed park improvements. Specifically, goal 7 envisions that “the Othello Residential Urban Village has parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces that are designed and programmed to accommodate users of diverse ages, interests and cultures, and that allow for informal interactions of people from different cultures”. Please see the Othello Neighborhood Plan for details</p> <p>http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cms/groups/pan/@pan/@plan/@neighborplanning/documents/web_informational/dpdp018589.pdf</p>
<p>Attachment: Support Letters - A maximum of two letters of support for the project may be attached.</p>	<p> RainierChamberSupportLetter.pdf</p> <p> StationOthelloParkSupportLetter.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>This proposed project will restore and significantly extend the life of Othello Park including the addition of bioswale, rain garden, new park furnishings, new play equipment, and expansion and upgrade of basketball courts. Bioswales and rain gardens improve the aesthetic of a park, clean storm water run-off, and encourage silt to stay on site, rather than entering the storm water system or pollute local rivers and lakes. It will restore dangerous areas of poor drainage to useful and educational amenities. Additionally, the Othello Park play equipment is nearly 20 years old and was recently identified by Seattle Parks and Recreation as a priority to be replaced. Old, crumbling and graffiti covered benches and picnic tables will be replaced with furnishings made of graffiti resistant materials. Othello Park is home to two of the most well-used basketball courts in Seattle. We want to expand and make upgrades to the northeast court.</p>
<p>f. Does the project provide health benefits or opportunities? (e.g. trails, bike paths, open space)</p>	<p>c. The project provides improved opportunity for low intensity exercise or access to healthy food.</p>
<p>Please describe in 200 words or less.</p>	<p>This project provides health benefits and opportunities by encouraging physical activity and healthy eating and providing environmental benefits.</p> <p>Bioswales and rain gardens not only provide a great educational opportunity but they also provide health benefits to people and nature. They increase rainwater ground infiltration and reduce stormwater run-off. They reduce stormwater pollutants that flow into local waterways and add more attractive landscaping while reducing lawn mowing maintenance. Finally they increase natural habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.</p> <p>The addition of a P-Patch Community Garden in any community enhances nutrition and physical activity and promotes healthy eating improving quality of life. Opportunities to organize around other issues and build social capital also emerge through P-Patch Community Gardens.</p> <p>Improved and expanded basketball courts and playground equipment will provide direct health benefits to adults and children alike. The large population of young people in the Othello Neighborhood need and want safe outdoor activities to occupy them after school and during summer break. Enhancing and improving the play structures and play area will help draw families to the park, will offer smaller and younger children safe and interesting opportunities for physical activity, and enhanced basketball courts will give teens a safe, healthy activity.</p>

<p>g. Does the project take advantage of an opportunity that will be lost unless action is taken? ACQUISITION ONLY</p>	<p>d. No threat of loss of funding, opportunity or is a City Property.</p>
<p>Please describe in 200 words or less.</p>	<p>N/A</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>a. The project follows the Living Building Challenge's (LBC) Landscape & Infrastructure Typology, Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) or provides Sustainable Energy Practices</p>

This project demonstrates new and creative methods to meet the community's need for parks and green spaces by following the guiding principles and performance benchmarks of the Sustainable Sites Initiative. The elements included in the proposal—P-patch garden, bioswales or rain-garden solutions for storm drainage, and engaging the youth of the neighborhood in healthy activities--all score well in the categories of water, soil and vegetation, and human health and well-being.

P-Patch community gardens have many benefits to physical infrastructure and the urban ecosystem. The P-Patch lends itself to sustainability in materials selection and operations and maintenance. They also have a direct environmental impact. They help to filter rainwater that keeps lakes, rivers, and groundwater clean. They reduce soil erosion and runoff, which lessens flooding and saves the city money. They restore oxygen to the air and help reduce air pollution through the gas exchange systems of leaves and soils. Finally they reduce the "heat island" effect and lessen the need for air conditioning and lower electric bills.

Developing a natural drainage system in a park in a diverse urban neighborhood well-served by mass-transit and bicycle facilities all score well for sustainable site selection that helps to repair damaged resource systems. As mentioned previously rain gardens and bioswales have direct environmental benefits. Bio-swales cleanse and slow run-off water directing the water to another location. Rain Gardens cleanse and encourage infiltration of run-off relieving stormwater systems or nearby water ways.

Including space for youth to experience active and passive recreation in an urban environment is a benefit that not all parks can offer. Drainage of the open central meadow will create a useable space that provides an opportunity for spontaneous games year round. Improved and expanded basketball courts and updated play structures encourage physical activity that provides a direct health benefit to our inner city youth.

Walking paths wind through and encircle the large central meadow of Othello Park. Many elderly neighbors walk the paths for exercise daily. The paths are cracked and bumpy creating unsafe conditions for users. The safety issues were addressed in Phase I of the plan and we would like to include in Phase III something creative that will encourage more walkers in the park. We developed the idea of wayfinding markers that will let the walkers know how far they have walked on one of two loops. When you walk the crocodile loop 3 times you will have gone a mile and when you walk the phoenix loop twice you will have gone a half mile. The animal symbols are taken from art banners that already exist in the park and were chosen

Please describe in
500 words or less.

Please describe in
500 words or less
(continued).

through a community process before we developed the Othello Park Improvement Plan. In addition to the proposed healthful elements, this project will demonstrate excellent pre-design assessment and planning, as it is the outcome of an extended analysis, design and community engagement process.

For more information on SITES please visit:
http://www.sustainablesites.org/report/Guidelines%20and%20Performance%20Benchmarks_2009.pdf

<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>Thanks to Parks and Green Spaces Levy funding, Phase I of the Othello improvements broke ground the summer of 2012, including removal of vegetation that obscure sightlines, native plantings, pathway and drainage improvements, increased and more energy-efficient lighting, and ADA upgrades. Additionally, we were awarded a Large Project fund matched by a large private donation and volunteer work to complete Phase II of the three phase project. Phase II includes construction of a stage, ADA accessible grand entries to the park and some play area improvements. The Opportunity Fund money will finally finish a long needed improvement plan that began in 2008 by dedicated citizen volunteers. If we do not act now we will lose the benefit of permits that are already in place for the first two phases and lose momentum to complete the improvements that we all worked so hard to plan.</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>

Please describe in 200 words or less.

This project will decrease the City's maintenance and operating costs in 4 ways. First, the bioswales and rain gardens add more attractive native vegetation while decreasing mowing maintenance. Additionally they will channel water away from areas of poor drainage to areas that require watering decreasing the need to reseed grasses and replant drowned vegetation. Second, Seattle Parks and Recreation has determined that the 17 year old play equipment in Othello Park has passed its life expectancy and demands an upgrade. This proposal will allow Parks to use their tight budget on other high need projects. Furthermore the more modern equipment will last longer, better withstand wear & tear, and require less upkeep. The third factor that will decrease operating costs is the installation of new furnishings. We plan to remove the old graffiti covered picnic tables and benches and replace them with new furnishings that are graffiti resistant. This will eliminate the cost to Parks to replace or repair them and will decrease the need for maintenance and repairs in the future. Finally improving and expanding the well-used basketball courts will further decrease maintenance and operating costs of Othello Park by eliminating the need for Parks to fund the replacement.