Othello Park Play Area Renovation
COMMUNITY MEETING #1A AND #1B
NOTES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 – 12:00pm – 2:00pm
and 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Othello Park Play Area

These notes reflect findings from the first two of three community meetings for the Play Area Renovation project and a review of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Opportunity Fund project. Johnson Sutherland and Parks staff presented the goals and overview of both projects with display boards and 1 on 1 explanation. Community attendees were interacting with designers and staff during the meeting with questions and comments. Specific question related to design and informal voting on play area equipment occurred, voting tallies and board attached.

Parks will compile all input from the community to inform the design for the renovation of the play area and park. The third design meeting will present the concept plan in August.

Attendees:
Kelly Goold, Project Planner of Seattle Parks and Recreation
Maggi Johnson, Principal Landscape Architect of Johnson Sutherland
Sarah Gould, Landscape Architect of Johnson Sutherland

Design Background
Scope:
Play-area Renovation. Bring the play area into compliance with current play area safety standards and guideline of American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), as well as meets ADA requirements. Improve the connection between the play areas, basketball court and comfort station. Elements include a new play-equipment , play areas separated by age groups, ADA complaint paving, and improved connection to surrounding park features.

Opportunity Fund Project. Varying project elements to improve safety and access. Specific elements to include way-finding and mile markers, benches and seating, expanding existing basketball courts, converting second basketball court to multi-sport court, and native species planting to improve visibility and storm water retention of the existing steep slope.

Budget:
The total budget for the improvements is $500,000 for the Play-area. Funding is made available through the King County 2013 Park Levy.. The project budget cover all costs associated with the project including administration, design, permits, bidding and construction.

Budget for the 2008 Parks and Greenspace Levy Opportunity Fund is $547,000. This budget includes basketball court improvements, renovate existing 2nd basketball court to multi-sport court, wayfinding medallions, CPTED improvements, and landscaping improvements. This project had previous public input and elements were reviewed again at this public meeting(s).
Both project budgets will be combined under one construction project to provide for greater efficiencies and reduce construction impacts to the park.

For more information contact:
Kelly Goold, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Planner
800 Maynard Avenue S. 3rd Floor, Seattle, WA, 98134-1336
Phone: (206) 684-0586
Email: kelly.goold@seattle.gov
Website: http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/othello/

OTHELLO PARK PHASE III

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

JOHNSON SOUTHERLAND

WHAT'S GOING ON?

In the past couple of years, the Parks Department and the Othello Park Alliance have worked with the Othello Community to make a number of changes at Othello Park. First came safety improvements such as removing brushy vegetation, all new lighting, and fixing paving throughout the park. Then came new entries, the stage, and the zip line. We will soon be putting in some furnishings and wayfinding for the walking trails, planting the hillside, adding seating at the north basketball court, and updating the comfort station with new lighting, fixtures, and accessible restrooms.

Now the Parks Department is planning improvements for the play area. We need to make sure that the play area meets new standards for safety and accessibility, and Parks has a budget for making these changes. The new play area is expected to be built next year.

Your input will help us figure out what gets top priority, even if the available budget or space can't stretch to do everything people want. We've spent some time in the park to meet with the public, and now we would like to hear what you think of the new draft plan!

WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

Most people love the play area as it is! While we need to make changes and will replace some of the equipment, we'll try to keep in mind what people like and keep its spirit intact.

People love...

The existing swings (yes, we can keep them!)

A big play structure in a newer, more free-form style

A naturalistic play area with boulders and logs for young children

Transforming the southern basketball court into a multi-sport court with soccer goals and lower hoops

A wide variety of play equipment for kids of all ages

Adult fitness equipment so adults can play too

The giant hill slide (don't worry, we won't touch it!)

WHAT ABOUT...?

Spray Park: Sorry, we can't provide this one! Spray-parks are very expensive to build – mostly because of the filtration and mechanical equipment required, we wouldn't have any left over to pay for the other things the park needs. There are some options nearby; a small spray park at John C. Little Park, a larger spray-park at Jefferson Park and a wading pool up the hill at Van Asselt Community Center.

P-Patch: People liked the idea of having a P-Patch. The P-Patch program told us that passionate community members can put together a committee and work with them to get one started. However, the program is expanding beyond their current staff capacity and they are overwhelmed, so they will not be supporting new P-Patches right away.

Dog Park: A dog park is outside the scope of this project. It's a big project that needs to be powered by a committee of energized community members. It would require a community approval process and a formal permitted change of use process. This kind of time-line would delay renovation to the play-area. A city wide off leash planning effort is underway - for more information visit http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/offleash/.

Johnson+Southerland

Othello Park Phase 3

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - Written Answers to Questions

In the Park, July 29, 2015

ROUND 1 (10am-12pm)

What play equipment or activity would you most like to see at Othello Park playground?

- Nature play
- Spray feature or tiny stream to float boats (!!)
- Adult fitness (YES!)
- Mile markers on path (YES!)
- More benches
- Keep play area – swings, big toy
- Move basketball area away from homes
- Frisbee golf
- Replace climbing toys to upgrade, improve
- Create new park entrance feature SW corner (NW & NE corners look very nice! Nice job!!)
- Spray park
- Small rock wall (climbing)

Are there any problems with the current playground? What needs fixing or replacing?

- Seems like existing b-ball courts are basically fine, but some players like double hoops vs. single hoops
- Maybe add a splash pond
- Skate ramps
- Longer (expand) the hang glider
- Taller slide for bigger children
- No problems
- Basketball nets

What works well in the existing playground—what should we keep?

- Keep existing swing set
- Expand south basketball court (uses e.g. soccer sport court but keep paving)
- Keep long slide on west side
- Keeping existing open spaces to include meadow area
- We like to come all the time, we like it, it's clean, peaceful & big
- Keep zip line
- Keep or improve playground for small children

Misc. Notes

- Let kids touch nature, real rocks, climb trees
- Pretty good as-is, nice mix of challenges and activities, just fix the surfacing
- Big spider web thing
- Concern about ideas of P Patch and Dog park – prioritize kids' needs, don't let these take over
- Love the zip line
- Swings are good
- Prefer climbing w/o falling
- Play equipment in the shade
- Basketball games in the middle of the night keep neighbors up (south court)

ROUND 2 (6pm-8pm)

What play equipment or activity would you most like to see at Othello Park playground?

- Nature play for older & younger kids (ie. Westmoreland Park in Portland)
    - Sand & water play, rocks, logs
- Wading pool for younger kids
- Fountain that kids can play in
- New seating
- Shorter hoops
- Treehouse type structures or fort
- Wheelchair accessible play equipment & plastic swing for kids who need extra support
- Twirly cups
- See-saw
- Concerts and/or movies in park
- Less plastic, more natural structures
- Especially when the park is closed, it would be very helpful – <u>to turn off lighting</u> that illuminates the basketball courts. This would reduce noise, hanging out – possibly leading to crime, etc. Thanks for consideration

Are there any problems with the current playground? What needs fixing or replacing?

- Nothing specific but my kids seem to have no interest in it.

What works well in the existing playground—what should we keep?

- Big slide – Yes! Please keep the giant metal slide!
- Swings
- I like that the current swings are big enough for teens/adults – and are <u>used</u> by all ages.

Misc. Notes

- Changing tables in the bathrooms
- Basketball court is popular/good even in winter
- Concern about shutting everything down at once for construction

Johnson+Southerland

Othello Park Phase 3
FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - Responses to Images

In the Park, July 29, 2015

ROUND 1 (10am-12pm)

	Top Priority (3 pts)	Second Priority (2 pts)	Total Points	Kids Dots
Big Play Structure				
Modern Style	4	1	14	5
Classic Posts & Platforms	4	1	14	4
Parcours	3	2	13	7
Tots Play Area				
Small Climber	1		3	1
Nature Play	1	2	7	7
Free-Standing Play Equipment				
Teeter Totter	1		3	4
Bars	2	1	8	4
Spinner			0	2
Multi-Sport Court				
All-Ages Soccer & Basketball	3		9	3
Terraced Seating			0	
Keep Court As-Is		1	2	
Keep Existing Swings	4	2	16	6
Adult Fitness	2		6	2
Sound & Music			0	5
Benches & Seat Walls	1		3	

Your Suggestions

- Water
- Wading pool
- Wheelchair-accessible play structure
- Sandbox
- Multi-age play
- Safety swings

ROUND 2 (6pm-8pm)

Top Priority (3 pts)	Second Priority (2 pts)	Total Points	Kids Dots	Grand Total
1	4	11	4	25
2	1	8	2	22
4	2	16	3	29
2	1	8	1	11
2	3	12	3	19
	1	2	3	5
		0	1	8
		0	1	0
5		15	3	24
		0		0
1		3		5
3	1	11	2	27
4		12	1	18
1	4	11	4	11
	1	2		5