

Taylor Creek Neighborhood Meeting

Meeting Notes: 8/31/11

A meeting was held for neighbors along Rainier Ave S and 68th Ave S that live close to and along Taylor Creek. The intent of the meeting was to inform people that Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) now owns 10032-10038 Rainier Ave S, discuss preliminary ideas for the site, talk about the project timeline, hear from neighbors about their ideas and concerns, and provide a point of contact within the City of Seattle.

The meeting included: 1) introductions, 2) a brief presentation on issues/concerns with lower Taylor Creek, 3) preliminary concepts for making improvements to the creek for habitat improvements and fish passage, and 4) discussion with the residents regarding their concerns, thoughts, and ideas. The notes from the meeting, including all comments given by attendees, are provided below. Attendees are listed at the end of the meeting notes.

Major issues and concerns discussed (*any follow up information is provided in italics*):

1. Taylor Creek watershed and impacts from the upstream areas
 - There is development in the upper watershed (Skyway area). What is being done in the upper creek? *SPU has purchased about 1 acre of the west fork wetland to help manage creek flows. The majority of the east fork watershed is in unincorporated King County where the City of Seattle does not have jurisdiction.*
 - There have been many changes in last 20 years.
 - Runoff from upper watershed is a problem.
 - Sediment is also an issue coming down the stream.
 - Are there/could there be detention ponds to feed out water slowly?
 - There is a need to coordinate with King County.
 - The road that goes up the canyon (Holyoke) creates drainage issues for homes on 68th. The water drains off the road into the creek. The high amount of water coming down the creek from roadway runoff damages driveways. Will need to elevate driveway 1st house below park. The hairpin turn is an issue.
 - You need to look in upper watershed for fixes. Skyway development is primary problem – what can be done upstream? Will the project at the mouth be just a band-aid? Upstream issues include water and sediment.
 - There are not enough efforts in the upper watershed. There needs to be better department coordination. A message needs to go to King County. *The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Stormwater Services Team works on stormwater management in unincorporated King County. Their website is: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater.aspx>*

2. Fish use of Taylor Creek
 - Salmon can't get upstream of the delta at some times. The delta is a barrier to them.

- When fish do come upstream, how far up do they go? (*Katherine Lynch noted that salmon have been seen as far up as the culvert at Rainier Ave S*).

3. Regulations and permits

- People are not supposed to alter shoreline according to the state shoreline act. To make changes, you would need permission from agencies.
- There are riparian setback requirements. How will changes from the project affect adjacent properties? *The Department of Planning and Development regulates land use actions under the Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance. In general, the regulations limit development actions within 100 feet of a stream or shoreline. For more details, please see the website:*
<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Codes/EnvironmentallyCriticalAreas/Overview/default.asp>
- How will the project get permits?

4. Concepts for Changes to Lower Taylor Creek

- The concept abandons the existing stream channel downstream of Rainier. What will be done with the abandoned channel?
- Do not want the stream moved closer to houses along 68th Ave S.
- Mr. Clemens and Ms. Anderson have blueprints of stream widening and revegetation plans that appear to be from the 1970s.
- The concept plan says “possibilities for stream” along 68th. What can be done with the stream along 68th Ave S? Katherine and Judith mentioned an example project on Thornton Creek called the Maple Leaf Reach. This might be an example of what could be done along 68th Ave S. *A tour can be arranged if folks would like to see that project.*
- How wide will the channel be downstream of Rainier?
- Will paths be installed to keep people out of the creek?
- What vegetation will remain?
- What utility lines will remain?
- What is the vision for ball field and SPU properties? Will the landscape be open and visible?

5. Creek sediment, creek delta, and flooding

- There is sediment on the floodplain and coming down creek. Do not want to add to delta.
- The concept shows sediment depositing on a floodplain. How do we know sediment will deposit on the new floodplain? *A sediment transport expert will be used during project design.*
- What will we do with delta as it exists now? *WSDOT, who wants to use the area for mitigation for SR 520 work, expects to get a permit to dredge to roughly the top 18 inches of the delta to remove larger cobble/gravel on the delta surface and expose the underlying sand and smaller gravel.*

- Is there any monetary compensation for damages resulting from the delta? Residents have choices: could sue the City but trying to do something that is beneficial to all concerned. We are damaged now – will city provide compensation?
- Sediment continues to come down the creek. Will it create additional flooding?
- What will happen if agencies don't allow dredging of the delta?
- Look at the lake hydrology and how boat wakes can affect sediment.
- If fish barrier comes out under the driveway on 68th Ave S, what will happen to the sediment and stream?
- How much sediment do you expect to come down creek?
- The delta can be dangerous for boats as they can get stuck on sediment at delta.

6. Other problems in area

- During storms the sewer manhole on 68th Ave S, near the upstream house is raising 2-3" above road and surcharging. The overflowing wastewater is reaching the stream. This happened in the 2007 and December 2010 storms. The surcharging could be related to runoff coming down road.
- Road that goes up canyon is an issue. There are issues with ditches, garbage, and water off road.
- The culvert at Holyoke that was replaced in 1999 - sediment is filling it, once it fills more water down road.
- Back of property (hillside) floods
- Erosion is occurring on both stream banks downstream of park lands in Deadhorse Canyon and upstream of the driveway culvert at 10050 68th Ave S. Large cobble and rocks move downstream. A sediment bar forms in creek before the house.
- Need to look at flows/runoff down the road.
- Boat wakes in the lake can create 3-4 ft. waves that can drift 20 ft from shoreline into yards.
- Rainier Ave. S has safety issues. The speed limit is 35 mph but people drive 40 mph. It is hard to see which way traffic is coming and going with Cornell Ave. The crosswalk is a liability.

7. Public Ownership of land and access

- How will public access be handled – paths?
- Is the intention of putting a park in this space? *Early plans call for a passive natural area or open space, not a park like the playfield across the street.*
- Will the area be closed at night?
- Will there be lights?
- Will there be fencing?
- Trash is a huge problem at Lakeridge playfield, especially after July 4th, Seafair, and New Year's.
- There will be more noise.
- How will vegetation change on site?
- How will utility lines change?

- Can the area be made into a wildlife sanctuary without signs or access? This could make it less inviting.
- *The City has a number of shoreline street end parks. Parks has been working with neighbors living adjacent to those parks. There are issues that come up, but overall it has not been a problem for neighbors to those parks.*
- Opposed to turning property into a public park. Could the property be given to a land trust or the Nature Conservancy so the land does not become a park?
- The property as a park affects property rights of 25 owners along the drive.
- We have easement rights on private drive – condemnation of access rights – we should post as private drive. How will the project affect access to homes?
- Pedestrian traffic in driveway and park are a concern.
- Could land be sold to neighbors or deeded to the property owners subject to drainage easement to City of Seattle?
- (submitted after meeting) The City should keep 3 of the houses at the site and rent them, perhaps as low income rentals. The largest house could be demolished. That should leave enough room for the stream improvements.
- (submitted prior to meeting) Can the City can put up road signs, “Dead End” and “Private Road”, on both sides of the City property leading to the both sides of the private lane in order to deter the public from coming onto the private lane. We do not want the public to drive down the road and/or park on the private lane. The lane is narrow and it is difficult to turn around especially when our own cars are parked.

8. Impacts to residents during construction

- How long will construction last?
- How will residents access their homes during construction? The private driveway is the only access point to all the homes.

9. Miscellaneous

- Fixing an address with SPU and Seattle City Light has to be done separately with both departments. Can they be better coordinated?

10. Next Steps and Project Schedule:

- Meeting notes sent out by September 14, with visuals from the meeting attached.
- Estimated project schedule:
 - 2012-2-13: Project planning and design phase, with a series of public meetings
 - 2014: Construction

Attachments:

Lower Taylor Creek Frequently Asked Questions

Map with issues and concerns

Map with conceptual ideas