

Open House Meeting Notes

Dearborn Play Area Renovation

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

3 - 7 p.m.

Columbia City Farmer's Market

37th Ave S & S Edmunds St, just off Rainier Ave S

Seattle, 98118

Attendees:

Over 100 people viewed the exhibits and over 70 people stopped to talk and ask questions.

Project Manager: Michelle Whitfield

Landscape Architect: David Bader

Parks Strategic Advisor: Rachel Banner

Questions and Discussion

- People are generally excited about the new improvements.
- The design removes the maintenance vehicle only parking. This parking is not well liked by some of the neighbors. The general public often parks there blocking access to the park for maintenance staff. Maintenance parking was redesigned to be located behind bollards.
- People commented about the swings saying they will be used often since there are not many swings in the area.
- Park closure during construction was discussed. It was suggested that the existing wooded trails may be able to be used to access the park during construction.
- Neighbors asked about the play area surfacing and were told that it would be engineered wood fiber.
- This is a well-loved park with well-loved features. People like the wooded setting.
- One neighbor shared insights about needs for accessible play area features.
- Neighbors would like an opening celebration.
- Visibility for safety is of concern to the neighbors and they asked if it is possible to trim trees more to allow vistas through the trees. Neighbors indicated that they appreciated that Parks recently removed and cleared vegetation by the play area.
- If at some point restrooms could be added, this would allow neighbors to use the space for events. There were other general requests for new restrooms also. Unfortunately, new restrooms are not part of the project. Portable toilets would be well received. We are looking into that possibility.
- The new play area will be larger than the existing footprint. This is because the new play equipment requires more space for safety.