



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 27, 2018

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jon Jainga, SPR Natural Resources Manager and Kathy Nyland, SPR

Subject: Viewpoint Advisory Team

The purpose of the memo is to describe the process to engage research and community in creating a plan to better serve our viewpoint parks. This includes convening of a Viewpoint Advisory Team, consisting of internal and external stakeholders and technical experts. This document also includes information about the history of these designated viewpoints, and the objectives and desired outcomes of this approach.

The September 27 meeting will serve as an informational briefing and we hope to return to the Board of Park Commissioners in early November with a report out from the Viewpoint Advisory Team and share the options we are exploring as next steps.

Project Process and Background

As part of our 2018 work plan, SPR has committed to reviewing and updating our viewpoint park policies. This includes designation, criteria, examining current practices, as well as developing sustainable maintenance strategies, policies and funding.

Context:

Seattle is known for its natural beauty. Our parks and open space contribute to making this region a destination. There's a reason why Seattle often ranks as one of the most livable cities. We are surrounded by classic icons such as Mount Rainier, the Cascades, and the Space Needle. We offer park spaces to take in these iconic views to locals and tourists alike.

Many of these viewpoints were designated several decades ago. Since then criteria, policies and regulations have changed, including environmental standards and best practices associated with maintenance. Any recommendations about proposed work that pertain to viewpoints must be consistent with Best Management Practices, as well as local, state, and federal regulations, e.g., Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) or Shorelines.

Objectives:

To develop a reliable, consistent and sustainable system that maintains our designated public viewpoints.



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Process:

The process includes an emphasis on data collection and research as well as a thorough assessment of our current practices and conditions of the viewpoint parks. This process will involve:

- **Technical Team** is a multi-disciplinary effort, consisting of SPR staff, SDCI, and other Subject Matter Experts (SME) who collect data, research other jurisdictions, identify best practices, and identify issues for development of options. Works closely with and is responsive to the Advisory Team. The Technical Team will conduct: site evaluations, inventory critical areas, document conditions (including views, vegetation, and any significant features such as slope/topography). The group will also look at national standards and best practices that have been identified over recent years.
- **Advisory Team** consisting of representatives of SPR, Board of Park Commissioners, and community members. Meet up to four times to receive presentations and needed information to help formulate options. SPR anticipates that the research and analysis will result in identification of a range of options for changes in how services are provided throughout our viewpoint parks, including the possibility of funding needs. The Advisory Team will also help SPR identify options to include to the Superintendent and Park Board, including pros and cons of each possibility.
- **Superintendent** will review the options presented, deliberate and ultimately make his recommendation based on the information presented.
- **Demonstration sites**, or pilot parks, to implement ideas and recommendations. This will allow us to “course correct” as necessary before implementation across all designations.
 - Proposed demonstration sites include:
 - Admiral Way Viewpoint
 - Dr. Jose Rizal Park
 - Hamilton Park
 - Sunset Hill Park

Advisory Team Details

In order to do this, the Advisory Team working group will:

- Hold meetings that are open to the public, with times and locations being announced on SPR’s website with advanced notification
- Receive briefings and presentations on relevant research and analysis, and provide feedback that guides further work
- Become familiar with the designation process, and those parks currently/officially deemed as such
- Become familiar with the conditions at the determined (pilot) parks
- Become familiar with the current operations of our maintenance staff
- Become familiar with other alternative service delivery models used by other jurisdictions



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- Receive input from the general public and internal stakeholders
- Generate ideas and possible options for operations
- Provide feedback on draft materials provided by SPR
- Think BIG picture on city-wide needs

The members are expected to:

- Attend four meetings of the Advisory Team, plus other public meetings if needed
- Read the materials provided prior to the meetings, and come prepared for discussions
- Follow up on agreed group norms
- Be a valued contributor whose efforts and interests are appreciated

The members are not expected to:

- Open up the process for future designations
- Bypass regulatory standards and fair labor practices
- Focus on neighborhood specific wants

The Advisory Team will begin considerations in September, and will continue deliberations and discussions through October, with the expectations of a final presentation of options to occur in late October.

This working group will meet at the Dexter Board Room on the following dates:

- September 12
- September 26
- October 10
- October 24

Goals

Both working groups are important and needed to develop a comprehensive data-driven analysis of various options for the future of our viewpoint parks. The efforts described will help determine a maintenance strategy, policies and budget to achieve desired results.

The final deliverable will be a report to the Superintendent which will include:

- The options developed
- The process for option development
- Data collected and analyzed
- Public outreach and input

Additional Information

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/special-initiatives-and-programs/viewpoint-advisory-team>

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Attachments

- Item A. Geographic Map- Shows all (16) designated viewpoint parks.
- Item B. Matrix of elements within viewpoint parks
- Item C. Designation process, DPP 060-P 2.17