

**LAKE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC MEETING #5: PRELIMINARY DRAFT MEETING**

Thursday, October 26, 2006

Rainier Community Center

MEETING SUMMARY

Staff Members Present: Katie Moller, Urban Forester; Jon Martin, Central East Crew Chief; Lisa Beyeler, Planning Intern

Meeting: The purpose of the meeting was to present maintenance opportunities for the management and maintenance of vegetation along Lake Washington Boulevard and to share ideas and listen to the neighbor and communities hopes and concerns for the proposed Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for Lake Washington Boulevard.

The meeting was held from 6:30-8:30pm. About 10 community members attended and most everyone participated in the discussion with lots of questions and comments about the Vegetation Management Plan.

Although we had some technical difficulties with the projector, the focus of the meeting was a PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of the current draft of the VMP as well as the projected schedule for the completion of the VMP. These presentations were intended as a starting point to elicit ideas from the community.

The University of Washington study was conducted by undergraduate students in the Landscape Architecture program under professors Iain Robertson and Daniel Winterbottom. Using the 1903 Olmsted design of Lake Washington Boulevard and their vision for the greater Seattle metropolitan region as well as the 1986 study of Lake Washington Boulevard by the firm EDAW, the students began generating ideas and concepts for the management of vegetation along the Boulevard.

Since the University of Washington studio ended in the spring of 2006, Seattle Parks and Recreation has spent the summer reviewing their plans as well as looking for ways to practically implement their maintenance concepts.

The materials proved to be a good catalyst for a broad discussion of the opportunities presented by the preliminary draft of the Vegetation Management Plan. With the input from this meeting, Parks Urban Forestry staff will put together a revised draft Vegetation Management Plan for presentation on November 30th at 6:30pm at Rainier Community Center.

**Written
Comments:**

- The Management Unit Graphic on page 9 is unclear. Is the graphic supposed to represent the existing or proposed vegetation? Please clarify.
- Please post the Map Units and Canopy Study online.
- Much of the Arboretum was logged in the early twentieth century. Did John C. Olmsted arrive before or after this was done in Seattle?
- Who was responsible for the target goal of 80% canopy cover for undeveloped parkland?
- If Parks is concerned about air pollution in regards to increasing trees and canopy to combat this problem, why wouldn't they focus on areas of primarily built environments instead of parklands? Areas such as south King County where they are building light rail would be an ideal area for canopy trees. Areas downtown, especially South Lake Union would also be good candidate spaces.
- What is the difference between tall narrow trees and broad-branched trees in their ability to battle air pollution (e.g. Cedar vs. Bigleaf Maple)?
- Much of the loss of canopy in the Seattle area is due to city policy, especially the Mayor's call to increase the city's density. The loss of canopy is a consequence to bad growth management.
- Please put the Office of Sustainability website online.
- Has Parks made any steps to accommodate private property views along LWB?
- A tenant of good design is preventative care. If private property owners are illegally topping and/or removing trees, Parks should compromise and create more flexible tree policies to prevent illegal activity.
- Parks tree policy is very rigid and it is difficult to receive permits to prune trees.
- Creating native strands of forest along LWB is counter to what private property owners desire for LWB.
- Private property owners live along LWB 24/7, while guests visit periodically. Private property owners should have a voice in the VMP.
- The Olmsted design is 103 years old and may be too archaic for today's human use patterns.
- In the draft VMP, it calls for the "city to be shielded from LWB" this language is too strong for private property owners. A conifer "wall" between private property owners and LWB is unacceptable.
- Is there a bike path plan in the future for LWB? There needs to be a two lane bike path along LWB.
- Moving boulevard trees to the east side of the pedestrian path is a good idea (general consensus).

- Is there a plan in the VMP to emphasize Madronas as candidates for the slopes forests? Do not forget Madronas when considering trees for the planting plan.
- In regards to the canopy cover guideline of 30% for developed and 80% for undeveloped, what is the ratio of evergreen to deciduous within these guidelines?
- In the VMP draft, there is a section which designates “Unique Areas.” One of these unique areas is the Judkins/Charles Median in the Leschi area. The language here is too weak. This area needs to be emphasized as a priority for future capital projects.
- Future capital projects along LWB should be prioritized in the VMP.
- How large will the proposed trees be when they are planted?
- What types of conifers will be planted? There is a big difference in terms of opacity between Firs and Cedars.
- Is it healthy to trim trees?
- Will future funding for planting along LWB include the replacement of trees, the removal of existing trees, or the moving of boulevard trees to the east?
- Are there any active capitol improvement projects along LWB today?
- Has Parks looked into buried utilities and sewer lines along LWB?
- Would Parks consider zoning LWB to exclude large trucks?
- Are the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival representatives concerned about the VMP recommending the possible removal of cherries along LWB?
- There is currently a lot of casual parking along the west side of LWB. Are there any plans to manage this?
- Does Parks have a view point management plan?
- Private property owners are not asking Parks to be beholden to their views, but to simply be good neighbors.
- What is the spacing of trees along LWB?
- The community needs to be aware that Parks owns LWB, not SDOT (Seattle Department of Transportation). The VMP needs to recommend a transportation study of LWB.
- The VMP needs to prioritize its management guidelines.
- The VMP should include typical cross sections along LWB that show the range of management unit combinations.
- Several letters from neighbors that live on Lakewood Ave S were received subsequent to this meeting expressing concern regarding tall trees being planted on slopes in front of residential property. The letters focus on slope stability and view issues as main concerns.