



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Timothy A. Gallagher, Superintendent

Project History & Public Involvement Summary

NORTHGATE URBAN CENTER PARK DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Scope:

This project provides funding for planning and design improvements to Northgate Urban Center Park to create open space and serve current and future members of the community. This park will provide for low, medium and high intensity park uses and will address the desires of the many individuals and groups within the area. Parks will host a series of community meetings where community members will be asked to provide comment and feedback. It's through this process that the community will participate directly with Parks and the design team to help define what this new park will ultimately look like.

Budget:

In 2007, \$800,000 was provided for design and planning through the Capital Improvement Program. The Department will seek construction funding in the future. It's estimated that the Total Project Budget will be \$4,000,000.

Timeline:

Planning and design will occur throughout 2008. The construction timeline is to be determined.

PROJECT HISTORY

Genesis

The Northgate Park-and-Ride Lot was recommended for park acquisition by the Northgate community when the Northgate Area Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 1993-

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/npi/plans/northgate/>. The acquisition proposal was further recommended in the Planning Commission's workshop, "Northgate Town Center Visioning Charette," in June of 2000 -

http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/planningcommission/docs/northgate_charrette.pdf. The "Northgate Open Space and Pedestrian Connections Draft Report of 2004" also affirms a commitment to acquire this site at such time as it becomes available. -

http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/stellent/groups/pan/@pan/@plan/@proj/documents/Web_Informational/cos_004234.pdf.

Acquisition

The Northgate Park-and-Ride Lot is located on 5th Avenue NE at NE 112th Street and consists of approximately 3.73 acres. It is owned and operated by King County and is improved with a bus shelter and approximately 400 spaces of paved parking. King County is prepared to sell the lot due to the County's interest in consolidating park-and-ride uses closer to the Northgate Transit Center at 1st Avenue NE and NE 100th Street. It is projected that the sale will be final in April, 2009.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The Parks Department reaches into communities to inform them of opportunities to provide input and participate in public process in the following ways:

Mailers and Postings: Fliers announcing public meetings are mailed to residents within adjacent mail carrier routes, previously generated mailing lists from nearby projects, lists from other organizations and recent inquiries. Nearly 17,000 were mailed out for meeting #1. Posting have been placed on the project site, in nearby businesses and public buildings.

Website: Meeting minutes, project updates, and events can be found at the following website -

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/NorthGateUrbanCenter.htm>

Project Advisory Team: A project advisory team (PAT) was established for this project. This PAT will provide invaluable community-based participation and advice to Parks staff and consultants in the development of the park. The PAT reflects the diversity of the facility service area. Membership includes community participants representing a wide range of backgrounds, age groups and perspectives, and involves neighbors, schools, businesses, community center advisory councils, and other civic facilities or organizations.

Community Meetings: Parks will host a series of (3) community meetings which will be the main vehicle for community outreach. (See chart below.)

Cultural Audit: The design consultant, Mithun, will conduct interviews of 24-hour residents, 9-to-5 professionals and occasional visitors to gain an understanding of the end user and the community.

Media Releases: Parks release announcements through local newspapers.

Email and Mail: Comments can be sent to the following :

email: kim.baldwin@seattle.gov

snail mail: **Seattle Parks and Recreation, Attn: Kim Baldwin**

800 Maynard Ave. South, 3rd Floor, Seattle, WA 98134-1336

INPUT, DECISION-MAKING PROCESS & SCHEDULE	Winter 2008	Spring '08	Summer '08	Fall '08
Project Advisory Team Meetings – We'll have one before and after each community meeting.	★			
Community Meeting #1: February 20, 2008 Community Meeting #2: TBD, 2008 Community Meeting #3: June 25, 2008 PUBLIC INPUT INVITED	★	★		
Internal Parks Reviews – Parks will review the progress of the design formally throughout the process.	★	★	★	
Design Commission – The design team will present the progress of the design to the design commission at various points throughout the process.		★	★	
Public Process Complete			★	
Construction --- To be Determined				

DECISION MAKING

Parks reaches into the communities near the sites of proposed park improvements through public meetings, websites, news releases, and the public involvement methods stated above. This is in an effort to distribute information about potential projects and, more importantly, to gather input from those who will be the end users. This input becomes an important factor in shaping the final outcome of the park. Parks uses this information to help define the scope of the project and the maintenance and operations needs. The designers use this information to help guide the design to meet the needs of the users and to create a timeless and maintainable park. Parks strives to understand the needs of the under represented as well as the most vocal citizens. Such factors such as safety, budget, and timeline also drive the project. Recommendations will be taken from many sources and all final decisions will be made by Parks.

❖ **Planning and Development Division** ❖

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