



# Washington Park Arboretum

## North Entry and Multi-use Trail Projects

### Public Meeting #2 August 31, 2011 6:30- 8 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

### Presenters:

Michael Shiosaki – Seattle Parks and Recreation

Andy Mitton – The Berger Partnership

Jason Henry – The Berger Partnership

Pete Lagerwey -Toole Design Group Lisa Chen – Seattle Parks and Recreation

Kevin Schmidt –Seattle Parks and Recreation

### Other staff present:

Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation

Fred Hoyt, UWBG Karen O'Connor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

25 people in attendance

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Q: What area does the Land Use Sign at the North-end E Calhoun to E McGraw Sign refer to?

A: Paige – Thought that the Land Use sign was for the proposal in which WSDOT will transfers WSDOT Peninsula to Parks – Possible Answer is the sign explains the transfer of ownership from the State to Park.

*Post –meeting information: The sign actually refers to a public meeting that Seattle's Department of Planning and Development will be holding related to WSDOT's Shoreline permits for the SR520 project. Michael Shiosaki stated he would direct the person asking the question to the correct person at WSDOT to answer his questions.*

Q: What is planned for the space south of Lake WA Blvd and east of 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.E.)that is in the Master Plan – but this project does not include?

A: The area is shown as a future Children's Arboretum in the master plan. The North Entry mitigation project does not include this area.

Q: Future proposed building – what is the proposed use of this?

A: Possible future office space possible for Arboretum Foundation or U.W. staff and possible use as a Visitors Center.

Q: Are they adding land to the shoreline and decreasing the open water?

A: Yes – adding land, for wetland functions and vegetation

- a. No trails will be created through the proposed wetlands – the area will be for habitat and viewing
- b. Dense shrubs plantings will discourage people from entering the wetland areas.

Q: How does the bike trail end at the north end? Can children ride safely in? How do they merge onto Lake Washington Blvd.?

Q: What are the goals of putting in the path?

A: The trail will connect with the trail to/from SR520.

- a. The proposed multi-use trail will provide a parallel path for novice riders to ride off of Lake WA Blvd.
- b. The trail will be linked to the west side trail system thru the Pinetum via the Wilcox Bridge. Need continuity from beginning to end
- c. At round-about – vehicles slow down to 12 -15 mph. Cyclists can use the roundabout at the same speed as vehicles
- d. A plus for the proposed alignment is that the trail will only have nly one vehicular crossing near the roundabout

Other Multi-use trail goals:

- a. Safety
- b. Access
- c. Offer another bike and pedestrian trail alternative
- d. Multiuse trail will not affect traffic – will take some cyclist off Lake Washington Blvd but not all. The fast cyclists will still ride on the road.

Comment: Signage along trail – needs to not impair visibility, need minimal signage

Q: Riding north to south or south to north is very different, can you locate the path for cyclists on the west side of Lake WA Blvd and above Washington Playfield? Did you look at this?

A: Yes we looked at this alignment, existing trees and steep grades had to be taken into account and there wasn't a wide enough area to place the trail without significant grading. Having the trail switch sides of the boulevard near Arboretum Drive would created another problem with a need for a crossing.

Comment: Access to Arboretum from West Side is difficult – this trail is more of an access for N to S, but should link to the west, it is in the master plan?

Q: Who controls signage?

A: A future trail connection to the area west of the Japanese Garden is shown in the master plan. It is not part of the Multi-Use Trail project. Signs will be added as part of 520 Project. SDOT controls the signs on most streets, although park boulevards are jointly signed by SDOT and Parks. The existing bike path to the west of the Arboretum will remain signed as another option for cyclists.

Q: Can you design better access to neighborhood?

Q: Is it possible to connect Wilcox Bridge to bring neighborhood in?

A: The Westside trails thru the Pinetum will link to the Multi-use Trail over the Wilcox Bridge

Q: Any thought to raising the Wilcox Bridge?

A: A water main runs thru the bridge so the elevation cannot be changed. Lowering the road isn't feasible because it would make the road lower than adjacent Arboretum Creek.

Q: How will people access trail from west side of Lake Washington Blvd, such as parking at Japanese Garden?

A: A crosswalk will be installed at the south end of the Japanese Garden/Washington Park Playfield parking lot at Arboretum Drive.

Q: Where is freeway traffic going?

A: On and off-ramps will be relocated to Montlake Blvd./24<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Q: Do all ramps go away?

A: The ramps will be removed from the Arboretum

Q: Do we need a Multi-use Trail since we have Arboretum Drive?

A: There are several benefits:

- a. Different experience
- b. Different area in the Arboretum
- c. Alternative to loop walk around Green Lake
- d. The more people walking Arboretum the better
  - i. Provides an accessible trail in this part of the Arboretum

- **WRITTEN COMMENT**

- Comment: The Arboretum needs to be maintained! We need to get volunteers, now, to pull the morning glory.
- Response: The Arboretum Foundation is starting up volunteer maintenance programs for different sections of the Arboretum. The pilot project is the “Pacific Connections Garden Stewards.” Although this program has just started, it has proven to be a great success.
- Comment: The whole plan on the path seems redundant to the Arboretum Drive – They could use the state money to pull morning glory, the blackberries, and to get bikes off Lk. Wa. Blvd.?
- Response: We are hopeful that the Arboretum Foundations new volunteer stewardship program will really put a dent in the spread of invasive plants. The multi-use trail follows existing trail beds so as not to be redundant with trails and in combination with Arboretum Drive forms a great loop around the Arboretum.
- Comment: The Pacific Connection gardens are disappointing and ugly.
- Response: Since the plant material is not easily accessible it had to be procured in small sizes. We are confident that it will fill in quickly over the upcoming years.
- Comment: They should not remove part of the Pinetum for a kids garden. Moving the Holly Garden ruined the Holly Collection and the same will happen to the Pines. Put the kids garden across the street from the Pinetum where the off ramps are – Get Smart!
- Response: A children’s garden is not associated with the North Entry and Multi-use trail project. This would be assessed upon future discussions revolving around implementation of the Masterplan. There would be a separate public process to cover such a project.

## **AZALEA WAY AND ARBORETUM QUESTIONS**

Q: Can we help weed, Invasive plants such as blackberries that are taking over part of the Arboretum?

A: Paige – we are addressing weeding issues

- a. Looking to volunteers
- b. Pacific Connections Stewards group being founded
- c. Important: not to just pull weeds – long-term stewardship
- d. Going to have more work
- e. Notify neighborhoods of work parties

Comment: Montlake Blog is a good way to get word out

Azalea Way trail Comments:

A 6 foot wide crushed rock trail is proposed for the approx. northern 700 ft of Azalea Way.

- a. Good idea
- b. Could making running better with trail improvements
- c. Should look at paving system in grass as a long-term solution
- d. Under drainage needed
- e. Allows access
- f. This is seen as a temporary solution
- g. Colored gravel?
  - a. Looking at different sources
  - b. Looking at possible tan or brown

Q: What feedback should we be giving to WSDOT on 520 to support this project?

A: That the mitigation projects are important to the community and should be funded as part of the SR520 project.

