

Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Project – Open House  
Thursday, May 7, 2015  
Rainier Beach Community Club  
6:30 –8:00 PM

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) hosted an open house for the Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Project on Thursday, May 7, 2015. The open house provided an opportunity for community members and the public to (1) learn about the project purpose and what has been done so far, (2) understand the criteria used to rank the planning concepts, (3) view three planning concepts, and (4) talk one-on-one with project team members to discuss the concepts and next steps. Approximately 50 community members attended the Open House and an additional twenty-two community members responded to the online feedback form.

Attending members of the Project Team included Rick Johnson, SPU Project Manager; Rachel Garrett, SPU Communications Lead; Jason Sharpley, SPU; David Graves, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks); Daniel Sims, SPU RainWise; Steve Hamai, SPU; James Le, SDOT; Katherine Lynch, SPU; Julie Crittenden, SPU; Peter Mason, Friends of Dead Horse Canyon; Rebekah Weston, Alma Rettinger, Gretchen Muller, Patrice Thomas, Maia Segura, SPU Consultant Team.

Community members were asked to provide feedback on three questions:

- 1) How do you currently use Lakeridge Park?
- 2) How do you currently access Lake Washington?
- 3) How would you like to use Lakeridge Park and the project site in the future?

SPU received 24 responses via the hard copy feedback form that was handed out at the open house. An online survey was also created for community members that were not able to attend the open house and 22 individuals provided feedback via the online survey. The hard copy and online responses are summarized below. Responses to additional questions and/or comments are also included. **Images of the display board responses to the above questions are also included below but are not counted in the tallies by each response.**

In addition, community members provided comments on flip charts.

## OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK FORM

### Summary of Results

(Total of 46 Respondents – from Open House (24 responses) and online survey (22 responses))

#### Question 1. How do you currently use Lakeridge Park?

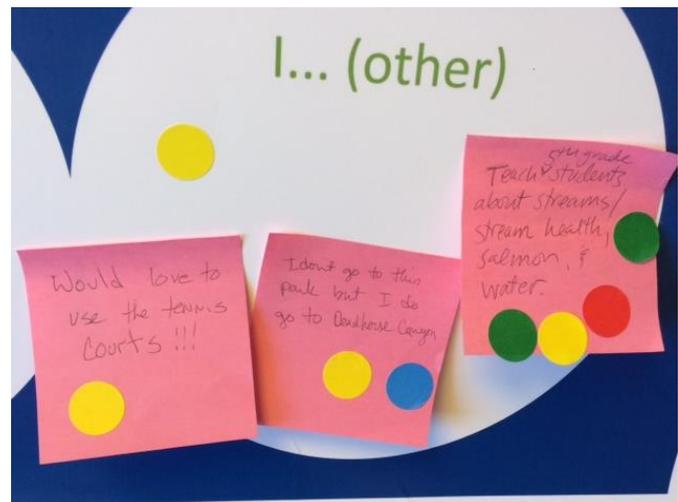
6	I play sports.	26	I walk for exercise.
12	I walk my dog.	5	I socialize.
3	I have picnics.	4	I paint, draw, or take photos.
8	I watch my child(ren) play.	11	I . . . See list of responses below (please write in your response)
30	I enjoy nature.		

#### Additional responses

- 1) I jog Dead Horse Canyon.

- 2) I park to ride my bike to Renton.
- 3) I use Dead Horse Canyon.
- 4) I would like tennis court restored.
- 5) I have never been in Lakeridge Park.
- 6) I use Dead Horse Canyon.
- 7) I have lived here 9 years and never used it. I do use Dead Horse Canyon for hiking and dog walking.
- 8) I don't. I use Dead Horse Canyon.
- 9) I don't use the park.
- 10) I paddle board near it.
- 11) The park and canyon feel unsafe. Would like to have picnics.
- 12) I only use Dead Horse Canyon for hiking and walking my dog.
- 13) I look for birds.

**Display board responses:**



**Question 2. How do you currently access Lake Washington?**

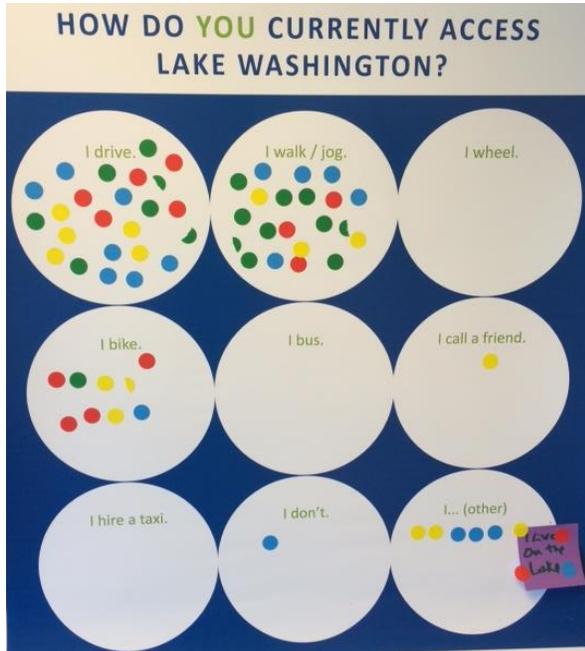
- |                         |                                              |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>35</b> I drive.      | <b>3</b> I call a friend.                    |
| <b>30</b> I walk / jog. | <b>0</b> I hire a taxi.                      |
| <b>0</b> I wheel.       | <b>3</b> I don't.                            |
| <b>13</b> I bike.       | <b>3</b> I . . . See list of responses below |
| <b>1</b> I bus.         | (please write in your response)              |

**Additional responses**

- 1) I kayak to/from City boat launch and Prichard Beach after driving to there.
- 2) I row out of south end boathouse, Renton Rowing Center.
- 3) Live on 68<sup>th</sup>.

- 4) I live on the lake.
- 5) Kayak.

**Display board responses:**



**Question 3. How would you like to use Lakeridge Park and the project site in the future?**

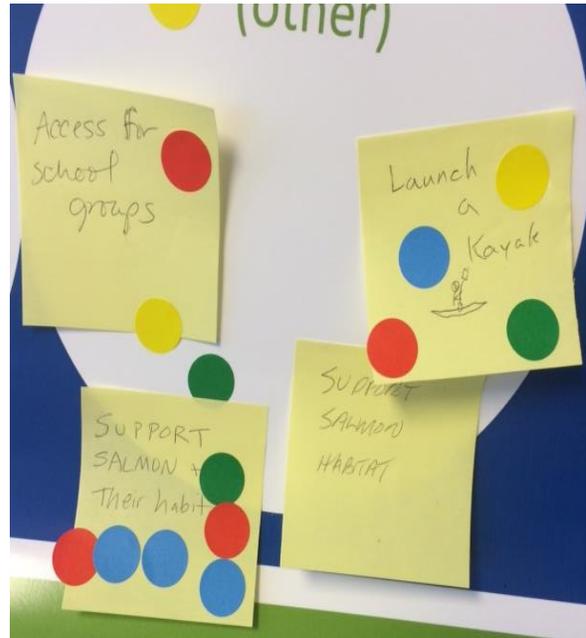
- |                                        |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>20</b> Bring my family.             | <b>27</b> Enjoy great views.          |
| <b>16</b> Walk my dog.                 | <b>16</b> Watch the sunrise.          |
| <b>28</b> Appreciate wildlife.         | <b>23</b> Exercise.                   |
| <b>21</b> Meditate.                    | <b>11</b> See list of responses below |
| <b>17</b> Socialize with my neighbors. | (please write in your response)       |

**Additional responses**

- 1) Promote salmon.
- 2) Nature walks with scouts (as we so with Dead Horse Canyon now).
- 3) I don't think of the park as part of my neighborhood.
- 4) Would love a small dog park!
- 5) Be a salmon naturalist.
- 6) Kayak.
- 7) Expand field for soccer.
- 8) I won't use the park in the future – I do other things in other places for recreation and exercise.
- 9) Support salmon habitat.
- 10) Paddle board.
- 11) I just use Dead Horse Canyon for walks.
- 12) I don't use the park other than walk the dog. The "users" of the park trash it, and don't pick up after their dogs or kids.

- 13) I would like to do Kayaking. Why can't we have a soccer field?
- 14) Swim when hot!!
- 15) I wouldn't.
- 16) Keep restoration happening.

**Display board responses:**



**OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK FORM**

Additional Questions &/or Comments

#	Type	Question/Comment
1	Access & Habitat	I think it makes sense to limit access. The main goal is to improve habitat. Be great to have or grant access with folks who see that as its best or main use. Access to parking lot opens access to lots of folk who don't have that interest in mind. Very appreciative that this is happening.
2	Access & Habitat	This Taylor Creek restoration project offers a huge opportunity to provide public access to Lake Washington. In doing so, it will be essential to look at connectivity with other adjacent open spaces, i.e. Dead Horse Canyon nature area and the ball fields/playground just to the south of the project site. PLEASE work with SDOT to explore opportunities to create a sidewalk or pedestrian access on 68th Ave to achieve this connection. Currently there is no pedestrian access from the trailhead of Dead horse Canyon and those ball field and to future shoreline open space. Connecting this network of parks would create a valuable amenity to surrounding neighborhoods, and create a more vibrant and healthy community as a result. The other comment I have is more or a concern: Once the fish barrier is removed on Taylor Creek, hopefully salmon will gain access to the upper reaches for spawning/refugia. Currently Dead horse Canyon

#	Type	Question/Comment
		is the unofficial off leash dog park for the surrounding neighborhood. The dogs romp through and splash up and down the creek. Although this is a great thing for the pets and their owners, add salmon fry and fragile spawning grounds into the equation, and you end up with a major impact to newly created salmon habitat; potentially undoing any ecological benefit the project aims at achieving. Please work with Seattle Parks to ensure adequate enforcement of the leash law in this park, once the stream is opened up. It would only take a few surgical strikes of issuing tickets before pet owners changed their behavior. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Lorcan French
3	Access & Habitat	Do not open to the public and kill wildlife
4	Access	I'm so excited to have lake access that we can walk our family to. We hike in Dead Horse Canyon walking from our house but must drive to Seward Park to enjoy the lake. Can't wait!!
5	Access	I would love access to our Rainier Beach!
6	Access	Looking forward to shoreline access with seating and picnic space.
7	Access, Educational Opportunities, & Option Pref.	My top 3 concerns: No parking at project site; Scheduled access for school community groups; traffic flow on Rainier. (Prefer Option #2)
8	Access, Habitat & Option Pref.	I like the daylight open creek through the park the best. (Not the one through private property.) Move the ball field back if you have to. We live across the street from Dead Horse Canyon – 206-721-0247. 6613 S Ryan St. – Donovan O'Brien
9	Access	Small watercraft access (not boats, not motorized) would be wonderful.
	Option Pref.	I vote for Option #2.

#	Type	Question/Comment
11	Option Pref.	I like Option #2.
12	Option Pref.	Thank you for this event! I like Option #2. It seems less extensive than #1 and keeps it off private property in #3.
13	Educational Opportunities	With our scout group it is important to be able to show our young kids, many from immigrant families, the importance of living side-by-side with nature. Please ensure there is opportunity for our kids to have a spot to get up close and personal with the fish and the creek.
14	Flooding, Safety & Sewer	I am at 68 <sup>th</sup> South adjacent to the park. Concerns: Will my property be at risk from flooding? Crime on empty lot next to mine is BIG concern. What will be done with the existing sewer lines?
15	Supportive	This is a great community amenity and a benefit for everyone.
16	Option Pref.	I like Option #2.
17	Option Pref. & Meeting	The display for the options were put too close together – couldn't see them well with people all bunched up. I like Option #1.
18	Miscellaneous	Can you acquire some more of the property in project area?
19	Misc.	What are you going to do about the creek running underneath the restaurant?
20	Misc.	I would like to have a soccer field. No one uses the tennis courts for tennis and baseball is a dying sport. Soccer is amazing. I'd like a kayak launch point. I dislike that the surrounding property owners are so NIMBY, this is going to improve our neighborhood!

#	Type	Question/Comment
21	Misc.	What is to happen to the public land directly over Rainier Ave (Lakeside) from the present Lakeridge Park?
22	Safety	Would love to see a safe connection between the trailhead at the bottom of Dead Horse canyon on Holyoke/68th and the Rainier ave/Lake Washington pieces of the park. Thanks!
23	Safety, Access	Have you tried crossing Rainier Ave at the crosswalk by Lakeridge Park recently? If you have, good for you because it's an incredibly dangerous spot to cross. I'm incredibly concerned not only about my own neighborhood (I live on the private drive that would be directly affected by a park) but also about opening up a space in an area where there is no parking, and no safe way to cross the road. The traffic situation at that spot is confusing enough as it is and would incrementally get worse.
24	Safety, Access, Educational Opportunities	Will the intersection be made safer? Will the work align with the Rainier Road _____ happening in Columbia City? Water access for our kids? Safety in the area by getting more walking and eyes in the area. Educational opportunities for the schools and families in the area. Bike safety and use of the Lake WA Loop.
25	Safety & Facilities	My concerns for the park is the safety. I don't always feel safe being there and safety for dogs; people have picnics and BBQs and actually leave their chicken bones in the grass. Where are the garbage cans besides the two by the bathrooms? Suggestion for meeting: Room is too loud. At some point people should sit and listen to project manager, engineer, etc., so that we all might be on the same page. Thanks!
26	Safety	We living on the private lane know you will jam a park extension through. You care nothing for our feelings. The focus of the project should to restore shoreline and protect salmon habitat, which is great. However, making it an open park invades our peaceful neighborhood with many bad elements. We don't use Lakeridge park except to walk our dogs. The main users of the park trash it, leaving behind litter from adults and kids, and don't even pick up pet droppings. Now you want to extend that crowd into our neighborhood? I am not privileged. I worked hard all my life to have a peaceful place to retire.

## OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

### Flip Chart Responses

#### **Stations 1 & 2:**

- 1) Water lines to houses on 68<sup>th</sup> cross stream and bed erosion is exposing them.
- 2) How will the side sewers to houses on 68<sup>th</sup> be impacted by new stream alignment?
- 3) Mapes Creek – beautiful restoration – I agree!!
- 4) Are fish expected to go under the road (through culvert)? Do they do that?

- 5) Resident located adjacent to project on 68<sup>th</sup> Ave concerned if stream alignment will increase flood risk for her property.

### **Station 3:**

#### **Project Concerns**

- 1) People swim in non-swimming areas.
- 2) Litter/trash left
- 3) Don't respect private properties
- 4) Damage houses/stealing from houses
- 5) Protect fish/don't open to public
- 6) Illegally access through private property
- 7) Boats stuck on Delta – need markers
- 8) Don't want public access
- 9) Where will people go for a restroom? Heads up Health Dept.!
- 10) Traffic flow on Rainier
- 11) Construction timelines – blocking private drive / Alternatives
- 12) Traffic flow
- 13) Unsupervised children
- 14) Dangerous curve on Rainier – safety hazard for pedestrian's crossing Rainier.
- 15) Regardless of option chosen, traffic on Rainier must be addressed.

#### **Project Wants**

- 1) Gates
- 2) Light at crosswalk used to be there and helped
- 3) Scheduled access
- 4) Would like to launch kayak from access
- 5) Make sure all in city involved know this property on private lane – not Rainier, as address suggests
- 6) Would love a walking trail to the water.
- 7) No view blockage to water, including views from neighbors.
- 8) NO boat launch!

#### **Design Concept Preference**

- 16) Like #1 for aesthetics on each side of road. #3 not preferred – denies public access.
- 17) Option 1, or 3 please!
- 18) If Option #1, keep sports courts (basketball/tennis).
- 19) In Option #1, if there is a fence along the new creek area to protect it, what happens when a stray ball goes over the fence? Is there a gate, or do you forget about retrieving it?
- 20) No to Option #1.
- 21) No to Option #3!
- 22) In Option #3, are the homeowners required to maintain or plant certain salmon-friendly plants/landscaping and garden/lawn management techniques?
- 23) Do not mess with park. It is used a lot. (#2 is best.)

- 24) I like Option #2. I'd like a kayak launch. Save room at the field for a soccer field.
- 25) Option #2 – Best
- 26) I like Option #2.
- 27) Option #2/Traffic addressed.
- 28) # 2
- 29) I like Option #2.
- 30) We like #2 best.
- 31) YES!!!!!!! (Option #2)
- 32) Put option for Lane residents to buy back on list.
- 33) Buy property to south to deal with disgruntled property owner: avoid ongoing problems w/ park in future!

**Other**

- 34) Thornton Creek video on-line.

