



PORTAGE BAY PARK: DESIGN OUTREACH

Public meeting – February 9, 2016

Online open house – February 18, 2016

FINAL SUMMARY



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Introduction

Background

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is developing a waterfront park on the Bryant Marina site located on Portage Bay (1101-1137 NE Boat Street). SPR purchased the site from the University of Washington in 2014 as part of mitigation for impacts from the SR 520 Highway Replacement Project. The site is currently occupied by the UW Police Department.

The goal for this project is to provide upland and shoreline/water-related recreational experiences for all ages and abilities. As part of site development, SPR will also clean up the existing site contamination. Site development will include building demolition and potential partial re-use of building elements and shoreline enhancement.

Purpose of Public Meeting and Online Open House

The project is in the final planning phase of park design development. In order to further educate the community and solicit feedback, SPR held a public meeting from 6:30 to 8 PM on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at the UW police station, located on the project site. They also hosted an online open house at noon on Thursday, February 18. The purpose of these meetings was to provide the community with an opportunity to:

- learn about the project, including site background and project schedule
- learn how community feedback has been incorporated into design so far
- provide feedback on the preferred design alternative
- ask questions

SPR will take this feedback and make any necessary revisions to the final park plan.

Public Meeting Promotion

Seattle Parks used a number of methods to inform the community and spread the word about the February 9 public meeting:

- **Project Sign:** A 4' x 4' project sign was posted at the site
- **Posters:** 11" x 17" posters were distributed at buildings around the project site (e.g., library, Recycled Cycles, Agua Verde, etc.)
- **Mailer:** A postcard mailer was sent to neighbors within a .5 mile radius (roughly 3,600 addresses)
- **Website:** Event information was posted on the project website
- **Stakeholder Emails:** A list of stakeholders was emailed about the public meeting

- **Press Release:** A press release was sent to local media outlets
- **Social Media:** Content was posted to Seattle Parks' Twitter and Facebook accounts. Several community partners, including the UW Police Department, U District Partnership, Montlake Community Center and UW College of the Environment, also shared content about the meeting
- **Calendars:** The event was posted to the City of Seattle events calendar

Online Open House Promotion

Parks used a number of methods to inform the community and spread the word about the February 18 online open house:

- **Postcard:** A post card was distributed at the February 9 meeting and on the web
- **Social Media:** Content was posted to Seattle Parks' Twitter and Facebook accounts
- **Stakeholder Emails:** A list of 600 stakeholders was emailed about the open house. Many of the recipients forwarded this notification within their own channels (web, social media, listservs)
- **Calendars:** The event was posted to the City of Seattle events calendar
- **Blogs:** The event information was sent to a few local blogs such as the UW Daily, Montlake Flyer, Wallyhood and Capitol Hill Seattle Blog
- **Press Release:** A press release was sent to local media outlets
- **Social Media:** Content was posted to Seattle Parks' Twitter and Facebook accounts



Portage Bay Park Online Open House

Last fall, Seattle Parks and Recreation presented to the community several design concepts for Portage Bay Park. Based on feedback, Seattle Parks has developed a preferred design alternative. At this online open house, you will have the chance to review and make comments on the preferred alternative for this new waterfront park in the University District.

Portage Bay Park, located on NE Boat Street on the southern edge of the UW campus, will provide small gathering areas, picnic spots, and informal recreational opportunities. It will also include hand-carried boat access, natural shoreline habitat, and interpretative and educational elements.

Join us! Participating is easy; you just need a computer and a phone. Meeting details are to the right. Once you register using the link below, you will receive a confirmation email.

For questions, please contact David Graves at 206-684-7048 or david.graves@seattle.gov or visit the project website at www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay.

Details	
Date:	Thu, Feb 18, 2016
Time:	12:00 PM PST
Duration:	45 minutes
Host(s):	Seattle Parks and Recreation
Presenter Information	
Seattle Parks and Recreation  Seattle Parks and Recreation provides welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community, and promotes responsible stewardship of the land. Parks manages a 6,200-acre park system of 465 parks and extensive natural areas.	

Meeting Details

Format

Roughly 35 people attended the in-person public meeting on February 9, and 12 people participated in the online open house on February 18. At both meetings, the presentation included:

- Project team introductions
- Project background and context
- An update on the project schedule
- A review of the three design concepts presented at the fall open houses.

The design team then presented and described the preferred design alternative to participants.



At the in-person public meeting, project staff were stationed at display boards showing the preferred design and vignettes of key park features. The online open house was hosted on a digital platform called ReadyTalk. It was interactive and informal and included a monitored live chat feature. The online format allowed participants to interact with project team members from their location remotely, providing convenience and ease of access.

Participants were asked to provide feedback about the design through comment forms (at the in-person public meeting) and an online chat feature (at the online open house). Generally, the project team asked participants for any remaining concerns, questions or feedback on the preferred alternative.

Feedback from Meetings

General questions and comments heard at February 9 public meeting:

- Concerns about motorized boats accessing the beach
- Will the pier include cleats for boats?
- Lighting levels should be low and cut off completely at some point during the night
- Concerns about how boat traffic might impact swimmers
- Restrooms are needed
- Design could be more natural
- The park's design should discourage criminal activity
- Consider fluctuating water level and how that will affect design and plantings
- Consider the park's relationship to Sakuma Viewpoint
- Desire to see Native American history explained and celebrated

General questions and comments from February 18 online open house:

- What public parking is available for users who want to use the park as a kayak or boat put-in?
- What ADA accommodations are incorporated into the site design?
- Will the multi-use open space be relatively flat?
- I like the multi-use of the space and how clean and simple the images are for its use. Seems like it's a flexible design for multiple use options.
- If the current structure is deemed historic, does Parks have an idea how interpretative elements will be implemented?
- Congrats on developing a thoughtful design. One concern: I live in a houseboat on Portage Bay across from the proposed park. A couple of neighbors have expressed concern about nighttime noise. People who live on the water are well aware of how sound travels! And there have been problems with nighttime drumming at Gas Works. Any thoughts?
- Is there any water access for hand carried water craft closer to the parking lot (for drop off purposes) so someone doesn't have to carry their boat all the way down to the proposed beach area?
- I may have missed the Nature Play area bit. Is that all-ages design?
- How do you anticipate the pier being used? Is it big enough to accommodate performance-type events?
- The small city park next to Ivar's has not worn well over time. Have you investigated it? It is heavily used but not very user friendly and the stone work and terracing has not maintained a high quality. Might this project be bid so the highest quality of materials will be a priority?
- In the parking lot, have there been "10-15 minute spots" considered....so small craft boat drop-off folks will be sure and have an opportunity to get into that lot? Also -- how many spots in that lot? Thanks!!
- The furnishings in one of the vignette images shows chairs and platforms used at the highline in NYC. They work so well there. Has the form or style been discussed for furniture or is it too early in the design? I really like how you have responded to the communities interests and integrated with surrounding amenities
- Any consideration for boat rentals on the property? I know there is a vendor right next door.