



LAKE CITY SKATSPOT & BASKETBALL COURT @ VIRGIL FLAIM PARK

Seattle Parks and Recreation
Planning & Development Division, Cascade Design Collaborative & Gridline

Lake City Branch Library
12501 28th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125
Monday - July 13, 2015 - 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

SITE ANALYSIS & EXISTING PARK CHARACTER & WHAT WE HEARD:

- Project is located in northeast corner of park, which includes: the existing Basketball Court; the north portion of the sloped lawn; a few deciduous trees internal to pathways; large evergreen trees along the eastern perimeter; and asphalt pathways. The hedge on the north edge is on private property but is a perceived part of the park.
- The asphalt pathways on the east and west sides of the project area are not currently ADA compliant.
- The walkway immediately south of the existing Basketball Court isn't used as much as the perimeter pathways.
- The existing open field is frequently used with non-programmed pick-up soccer and other field recreational uses.
- Pervious improvements such as Skatespot and Basketball surfaces will require bio-retention including rain-gardens for storm water management as there is no piped discharge of stormwater available. All rainwater must infiltrate into the soil.
- The existing calm and peaceful feeling in park could potentially conflict with increased activity generated by new improvements.
- The Park is organized very well, with the play area, picnic tables and grills, seating, circulation pathway, and shade trees.
- While there is a hedge on the north side and a fence on the east side, there is a gap in the northwest corner that has been used by people evading the police. This gap could be closed to stop people from fleeing.
- One participant thought grills were a problem.
- There was a shooting some time ago.
- There is no lighting currently in the park.
- Recommend that designers visit the park in the early evening when busy with many different groups and activities.
- Proposed improvements are near the adjacent residences on the east, residents concerned about noise and noise mitigation will be an important project design goal.
- Parking could be better organized along the street to accommodate more vehicles.

PROGRAM OF PROPOSED USES, ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES & WHAT WE HEARD:

- Skatespot (5,000 - 7,500 square feet in size)
- Replaced Basketball Court - 60' X 60', half court free throw with two hoops
- Universally accessible paths for walking, exercise and maintenance access
- Storm water management bioretention
- Viewing areas with seating or leaning rails
- Internal transition landscape plantings and/or surfacing
- Some limited irrigation may be needed
- "Fit" with park qualities and enhance existing park functions and characteristics

NOT IN PROGRAM SCOPE

- Lighting will not be added to this park per Parks Department policy.
- Parking changes are out of scope of this project.

DESIGN OPTIONS DISCUSSION

These comments reflect the discussion about performance goals, qualities and elements. They do not reflect a preference about one option over the other.

- Provide for accessible pathways and circuit for jogging/walking/strolling around facility.
- Retain as much the green/open space as possible.
- Mitigate the noise impacts of skateboarding and basketball and locate noise generation facilities to minimize impact as much as possible to the close-by eastern residences.
- Use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals to minimize crime potentials.
- Manage night activity, through enforcement of park hours, location of facilities, and increased visibility.
- Address the northeast corner that generates unwanted/bad social behaviors.
- Keep project in scale with the existing park.
- Activate the park through this project to support more use and "ownership."
- Support the Skatepark movement which is here to stay and make this Skatespot different from others in the vicinity.
- This project allows for more recreational opportunities for youth. The need is high and growing with population increases (New School coming – 600+ students) – no barriers to youth access in Lake City/Northeast Seattle.
- Basketball is better in the lower/flatter area as shown in Option 2.
- Introduction/incorporation of Virgil Flaim history and family support into park improvements.
- The multi-use field is highly used and regarded, so project should retain as much of it as possible.