



# Meeting Notes

## Baker Park Addition 2nd Public Meeting

August 12, 2017 (Saturday)

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Baker Park

**Attendees:** Approximate 35 to 40 participants

Project Planner: Karimah Edwards

Project Manager: Shannon Glass

Sr. Landscape Architect: Shwu-jen Hwang

Landscape Architect: David Bader

Parks Strategic Advisor: David Takami

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: Baker Park Addition Project

Address: 8341 14th Ave NW 98117

Total Project Budget: \$937,125

Construction Budget: \$570,056

CIP Description: Seattle Park District Project

Planning: Q1 2017 – Q3 2017

Design: Q3 2017 – Q1 2018

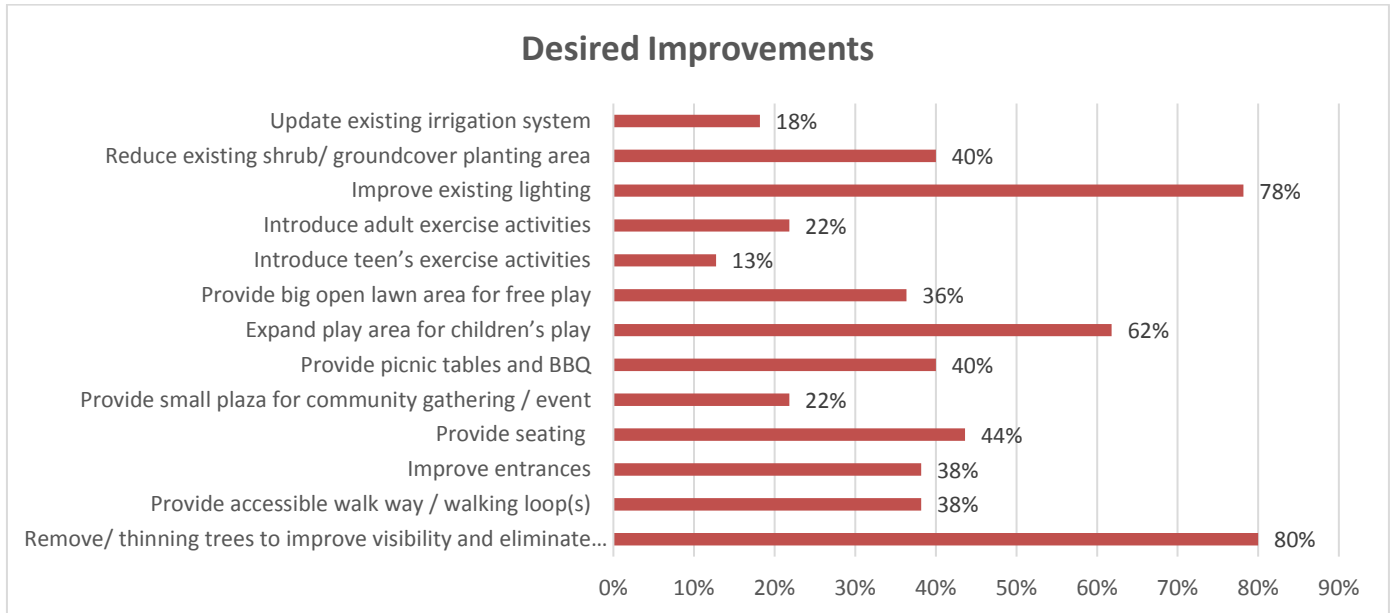
Construction: Q2 2018 – Q4 2018

**Scope:** This project will develop the open space acquired by Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) in 2013 immediately adjacent to the existing Baker Park. The design will incorporate accessibility in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as SPR's intent to create access to open space in areas of high urban density. Impervious surfacing shall be limited to 15% or less, excluding trail and circulation surfaces.

**Project Background:** Location/Context/Land Use, Existing Site Conditions and Problems, Existing Use and Users, Opportunities and Constraints

Safety is major concern (concerns about homeless and teens group, drinking, drug, camp out, fighting, etc.) .... not enough light from existing lighting fixtures.... Trees make the park dark and shady... bad visibility into the park especially from west.... Several popular hiding corners and gathering areas at picnic tables, dark area underneath tree groves, west end of new lot, corner at existing play area, etc. .... Potential up-zoning will increase population density, increase building height, increase shade with less sunlight into the park..... Most park users pass through the park to walk to destinations.... There are more young family with kids in this neighborhood since housing is more affordable here.... Single Family zone require 30' setback for active play.

## Desired Improvements from User Survey:



- Prefer more natural play area style, like swing, slide, climbing, balancing, imagination play, etc.

**Three Options:** Address site and use problems and users' needs, promote walking, improve lighting, selective removal of trees /shrubs to improve visibility and eliminate hiding spots, improve visibility from west entry, provide picnic, seating areas, open lawn; re-introduce totem pole back at west entry, explore various locations for play area expansion, explore options for loop trail, movable site furniture, and east edge options, etc.

## Questions and Discussion

- Previous totem pole was carved out of existing Monkey Puzzle tree trunk on ground. It rotted and had termites. Parks is in the process to contact previous Artist to recarve a new one.
- Likes option A and B, but concerns about safety of children's play for A option. Will there be fence?  
A: Yes
- Don't open too much at west end. Don't want to see the blank wall of Safeway.
- It would be nice if Safeway can do something with the wall and make it more transparent or pleasant to see.
- When Rhododendron in bloom, it is pretty. Want a park with nature to enjoy not just open lawn.
- Rhododendron's root is shallow and can be transplanted. Consider overall structure of the park during major renovation.
- Does not want cop to drive through the park. How do you prevent regular cars from entering the park?  
A. 8' wide pathway will allow maintenance access and potential police surveillance if needed.  
Removable bollards will be placed at entry points.  
B. Parks Emergency Manager is considering setting up emergency hub program for this Park
- Car Cop will not walk through Park to patrol
- Keep fruit trees
- Preserve trees
- No spill light  
A. Will use cut-off light fixtures

- Provide checker game table
- Like most of the proposal but ping pong table will add hard surfacing. This park is more natural.
- Like ping pong. Many different users can use it. It will activate the SW corner at the new lot.
- Provide rounded edge around ping pong table.
- Concern about graffiti on playground grass.... cigarettes burn, dog feces, etc. Prefer rubberized surfacing.
- Crown Hill Park has example of playground grass. Concerned problems were not observed there.
- How do you address Homeless problems?  
A: Improve visibility and lighting. Increase walking circulation (more eyes on the park). Provide activities to activate park use such as play area, fitness zone, or ping pong activities. Eliminate popular hiding spots. Modify grading, provide rock, log, multiple trunk trees, groundcover with spikes to eliminate potential sleeping spots.
- How do you address zoning change in design?  
Up-zoning means higher density, higher building, more shade, less sunlight into the park. Design will ensure sunlight will be able to reach to the park. Housing is more affordable here so there will be more younger families with kids. Expand play area to provide for children's play. If south property got up-zoned from single family to low rise residential, active play activity will not be limited by 30' setback requirements.
- Don't plant trees too big to screen the views from SW multi-family unit.
- Like option A and B but would like to replace swing with 2-5 play area.  
A: 2-5 play structure will provide much more activities for young kids.
- Fencing for play area at northwest edge
- Concerns about porous pave roughness and heat on hot days.
- Introduce sand play with diggers
- How can porous paving be used? Is it scooter or bike friendly?
- Butterfly pollinator garden revival.
- Use design to activate park to discourage crime
- Consider urban needs / practical needs for growth: Dog Park? Etc.
- Agree with tree removal to improve visibility and give park open space a good structure. Rhododendron has shallow roots and can be relocated if needed.
- Swing is a big draw for neighbors. There are very few swings in the neighborhood.
- Before I came to the meeting, I did not expect City/designer will know this park well and understand the issues. I am surprised to find out that you knew our park and its problems well and have provided with some good solutions that address the issues and provide various activities for different user groups.

### **Return Survey**

**Next Steps:** Preferred site plan and play area options will be presented at 3<sup>rd</sup> Public meeting in October