



## Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines

### Project Summary

*Seattle Parks and Recreation is developing values-based guidelines to inform the appropriate use of Seattle's Natural Areas and Greenbelts. This process will result in a vision for Natural Areas and Greenbelts that will maintain the native forest ecosystem, protect public safety and enhance positive uses over the long-term.*

### Public Engagement Overview

#### Intent

*The intent of this engagement effort is to get public input to inform the development of the Natural Area and Greenbelt use Guidelines.*

The public engagement strategy consists of several major components:

1. **Media announcement and Survey/Blog**
2. **"In reach" events with Historically Underrepresented Communities**
3. **Invitational Focus Group sessions**
4. **Mini-Summit - Panel Discussion and Open House**
5. **Public Hearing and recommendations by the Board of Park Commissioners**

#### 1. **Media announcement and Survey/Blog with MindMixer**

Media announcement would be through electronic mailings to Parks database and constituent groups, press releases, community newspapers, e-news letters and social media.

- MindMixer platform will launch in early-February and be open through mid-April
- Topic Areas will focus on values and priorities.

#### 2. **"In reach" events with Historically Underrepresented Communities**

These events will occur in February – March 2015. The intent is to initiate a dialog on awareness, current issues and priorities for Seattle's natural areas/greenbelts. Goals are to solicit priorities, encourage representative attendance at a Focus Group, and to achieve broader attendance at the April Open House.

- Discussions would occur at the groups existing meetings/locations and would be approximately one hour in length.

#### 3. **Invitational Focus Group sessions**

These events will occur in mid-late March and last for approximately 2-3 hours. Organizations/groups will be encouraged to send a representative to one of four available dates.

- The process will ensure that an appropriate variety of stakeholder ideas are represented, bring a city-wide perspective, and contain a mix of people with technical expertise, passion, and experience in the topic, and that have an interest in ensuring Greenbelts and Natural Area parks are managed in a way that ensures their health and vitality; serves the open space and ‘breathing’ room needs of the City.
- Facilitated small group discussions
  - Identification of overarching priorities
  - Development of supporting action items
  - Development of Draft Use-guidelines that reflect/incorporate the groups overarching priorities (first session outcomes) and actions (second session outcomes).

#### **4. Mini-Summit - Panel Discussion and Open House**

This event will be a 2 + hour event. The intent is to engage the broad public in a dialog on priorities for uses in Greenbelts and Natural Areas. Organizations/Groups will be encouraged to participate in the Open House with displays, posters and handouts.

- Panel Presentation and Q/A – 5-7 member panel discussion with guest speakers with varying viewpoints on Natural Areas and Greenbelts
  - Facilitated large group discussion (1 hour)
- Open house – informational boards and comment sheets
  - Maps showing existing Natural Areas/Greenbelts, trails and OLA locations
  - Summary of existing policies and applicable goals from PLP
  - PLP survey summary
  - Participating Organization/Group displays.

#### **5. Public Hearing and recommendations by the Board of Park Commissioners**

These meetings are expected to occur by mid-2015 (late May and early June) and entail the presentation of Draft Supplemental Use Guidelines followed by a public hearing and recommendations from the Board. The Draft Supplemental Use Guidelines will reflect priorities identified in elements 1-4 above.

#### **Project timeline**

January 21 – June	Media announcements and email notices
February 6 – April 10	Priorities Survey/Blog through MindMixer
February – March	“In reach” events with Historically Underrepresented Communities
March 19, 21, 26, 28	Invitational Focus Group sessions
April 4	Mini-Summit - Panel Discussion and Open House
May – June	Public Hearing and recommendations by the Board of Park Commissioners

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