



PORTAGE BAY PARK: DESIGN OUTREACH

Public meeting – September 24, 2015

Online open house – October 8, 2015

FINAL SUMMARY



Fall 2015

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Introduction

Background

Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) is developing an open waterfront park on the Bryant Marina site located on Portage Bay (1101-1137 NE Boat Street). Parks 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, Parks will also clean up the existing site contamination. Site development will also include building demolition and potential partial re-use of building elements and shoreline enhancement.

Purpose of Public Meeting and Online Open House

Parks is in the planning phase of park development and held an outdoor public meeting from 6 to 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 24, 2015, at the Sakuma Viewpoint located on the project site, as well as an online open house at noon on Thursday, October 8. The purpose of these meetings was to provide the community with an opportunity to:

- learn about the project including site background and project schedule
- provide feedback on three design alternatives
- ask questions

Parks will take this community feedback and use it to refine the design concepts and will hold a third meeting in early 2016 to present the preferred design concept. Parks expects to have a final design by mid-2016.

Public Meeting Promotion

Seattle Parks used a number of methods to inform the community and spread the word about the September 24 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 (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

Seattle Parks used a number of methods to inform the community and spread the word about the October 8 online open house:

- **Postcard:** Distributed at the September 24 meeting, at UW residence halls and libraries, and to nearby businesses and UW department buildings
- **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 was posted on Parks' blog, Parkways, as well as a few local blogs such as the 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
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 8
2015
@ 12 PM

Online Open House

Dear Natalie Graves,

This is a reminder for an upcoming meeting. All the information you need to join the meeting is below.

Thank you again for registering for Seattle Park and Recreation's Portage Bay Park Online Open House. In order to participate in the meeting, you will need a phone (a cell phone or landline will work), a computer, and an internet connection. Remember to test your computer compatibility prior to the meeting (see side panel at right) so that you will be able to see the presentation. During the meeting, you will hear the meeting hosts by using your phone and you can communicate with them by typing into a chat window on your computer screen. The participant lines will be muted in order to allow for clear audio quality. We look forward to your participation!

Step 1: Dial-In
U.S. Toll: 303.248.0285
Access Code: 2502865

Details
Date: Thu, Oct 8, 2015
Time: 12:00 PM PDT
Duration: 45 minutes
Host(s): Seattle Parks and Recreation
Share: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

Add to your Calendar
[Outlook Calendar](#)
[Lotus Notes Calendar](#)
[Google Calendar](#)

Test Your Computer
Test your computer for compatibility prior to the meeting.

Presenter Information
Seattle Parks and Recreation

Seattle Parks and Recreation provides

Meeting Details

Format

Roughly 30 people attended the in-person public meeting on September 24, and 21 people participated in the online open house on October 8. At both meetings, the presentation included introductions, project background and project schedule. The design team then presented three design alternatives to participants.



At the public meeting in September, project staff were stationed at display boards showing the three design concepts. Attendees were able to speak one-on-one with members of the project team and visualize the design concepts as they stood on the project site. The online open house in October 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 from their location remotely, providing convenience and ease of access.

Participants were asked to provide feedback about the designs through comment forms (at the in-person public meeting) and an online chat feature (at the online open house). Questions posed were:

- Which scheme or elements appeal to you and why?
- Are there park elements not included in the alternatives you would like included in the final plan?
- What would your main reason be for visiting Portage Bay Park?
- What are the best ways to keep you informed and involved during the planning process?

Feedback from Meetings

Answers to Questions Posed

Which scheme or elements appeal to you and why?

- #2 with some of #1. Watercraft tie off is a great idea and street side action sounds like a great idea (food trucks, farmers markets). Public restroom is a must.

- Like them all, especially option #1 (the pier). Would like the pier to have large floating dock portion. Portage Bay goes up/down, summer/winter, and floating dock makes it much easier for kayaks, canoes and rowboats....non motorized craft only please.
- Overall scheme #3, and main aspects from this choice I would like are the two habitat sites (one by marina boats and other by Sakuma), and the beach access for public. But it would need a bathroom and I do think the amphitheater is pretty cool.
- Maximize open shoreline – all schemes are too enclosed. Simplest is best. Simplify, simplify. A kayak ramp and some covered seating (roof and table) are all that is needed.
- Option 3. Good use of space. Beach access in the west end (side). Overlook not too far in the lake. Lay out in sloop
- Remove the parking – it is an urban area with good active transit access. Parking for cars is not an equitable or responsible use of space
- The outdoor theater could direct noise to the house boat community across the bay
- I would like to be able to lock the kayak while I go to class. Currently there is no place to pull up a kayak.
- Kayak and stand up paddleboard rack
- Soft shoreline for natural and fish habitat
- Restrooms, parking, small natural beach, activity near the Recycled Cycles side of the park
- Fishing access
- Most important features: 1. Preserve the most shoreline habitat and have the best access for park-goers of all ages. 2. The park should maintain as many existing trees onsite

Are there park elements not included in the alternatives you would like included in the final plan?

- Bike racks
- Old houseboat across Portage Bay, belonging to Ken Kennedy, was once (originally) on land, built for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (1909), then became a houseboat. It still has many original features and I think might be restorable – and would make an interesting and useful addition to the park. I believe Kennedy might be willing to donate this houseboat.

- An educational part for native plants and Native American name for the park, lots of lighting – all night long, and natural shade or shelter
- A playing field to run dogs and kids and Frisbees is good. A hard edge would be fine. Natural shoreline not needed here. Better edge would be boardwalk to sit and dangle feet. Beach seems a waste to me and misplaced (re: maintenance)
- Keep parking in the west side and create 15 minute parking spots for people to get stuff to the park (picnic, kayaks, etc.)
- Drinking fountain
- Keep parking on the west side
- Programming
- Dog poop bags
- Fishing access
- Stormwater elements
- Unique/fun features (art, trampolines, hammocks, cool lights?)
- Soft near shore areas are important. Areas to interact with nature such as watching fish migrations, ducks, etc.)
- Skip the parking/fan of less parking
- Fill should be engineered – liquefaction area
- Boat traffic – could put buoy reminding boaters of 7 knots

What would your main reason be for visiting Portage Bay Park?

- Lunch breaks, relax from work
- I live in a houseboat opposite the new park
- Taking a nap
- A smoke spot
- A meeting spot with friends
- Rest and relax
- Swimming
- Views
- Walk along the waterfront
- Paddling destination (kayak over)
- Shoreline water access
- Bring students to the park for classes (water and floodplain classes)
- Place to stop and stretch while riding the Burke Gilman Trail
- Connect with nature

- I see this as a local facility, not a destination area. Parking should not be a consideration
- Study break
- Quiet place to get away from SW campus
- Could be a launch/land site on the Lakes-to-Locks
- Would visit with children
- Picnic
- Lunch break location, bring family here on weekends
- Great place for meetings on option 2 pier

What are the best ways to keep you informed and involved during the planning process?

- Come by the businesses that will be affected (Recycled Cycles, Agua Verde, Jensen et al.)
- Email, website
- Social media
- Meeting at or near the space

General questions and comments heard at September 24 public meeting:

Multiple comments heard about:

- Desire for natural shoreline and water access, desire for small beach areas as opposed to large – narrow gravel beach or small pockets of beach are fine.
- Most people like the pier in Option 1 or 2, and like the idea of getting out over the water.
- Keep water access/ beach areas from CSO outfall.
- Restrooms strongly desired by UW, local businesses.
- Many people like the urban plaza on Boat Street but also want the waterfront to be a strong destination.
- Many people like the idea of an amphitheater or terraces that look down over the water.
- Strong interest in showcasing history, environment.

Marine stakeholder:

- Likes all three schemes but leans towards Option 1
- Likes amphitheater idea, maybe in combination with Option 1 – view over wetlands
- Wants options for lawn – ie, meadow, grasspave, etc
- Likes the long thin pier in Option 1 – a water taxi spot? Really gets you out over the water.

Business owner:

- Bathrooms and parking a must
- Does not like activity concentrated near Sakuma – prefers the urban plaza area in Scheme 2
- Concerns about size of beach area though – smaller pockets of beach or thin beach best. Thinks a large beach or large paddleboard area will be bad and not family friendly.
- Sees many visitors from the hospital, including some in wheelchairs who want to know how to get down to the water. Accessibility is important.
- Trail connection to the hospital area important.

Business owner:

- Noted CSO outfall near Sakuma viewpoint, makes water quality yucky in that area after storms – beaches on other sides may be best.
- Likes Scheme 3 – amphitheater on water

Business owner:

- Likes the way Scheme 1 “flows”
- Wasn’t sure what Scheme 2 really represented, but likes idea of kayak and paddleboard pull-ins.

General questions and comments from online open house:

- Invasive purple loosestrife shown
- Please go over the pros and cons of the beach being on either side.
- What would be the hours to the park?
- Can you give an overview of the timeline?

- How are noise concerns coming from park users being factored in? i.e., music etc.?
- How often would the public restroom be maintained? Would it be small like at Green Lake?
- We need kayak access and a place to store the kayak for a couple of hours while you enjoy the park
- Is this UW property? Was there a quid pro quo?
- The beach has to be designed not to lead swimmers into the high traffic channel.
- Students will use the park at all hours
- If the parking is removed, where would it be replaced?
- What is the level of accessibility to the park for those who may have physical challenges?
- Are there future plans to expand the park further east, to connect this park with Montlake/SR 520 Bridge? It would be great to walk from Boat Street along the water to 520
- To what degree are existing trees and natural shoreline preservation being pursued as goals?
- There may be a lot of boats hanging around the access points. This could cause a conflict with commercial boat traffic. Large barges travel the canal.
- Agua Verde may exploit the site for outdoor dining. This is good and bad.
- I have had problems with Agua Verde kayak rental folks kicking me out of public areas.
- Why does the U have marina space on the west side? There is already marina on the east. Concern with added motor boat use with swimmers.
- Would there be wayfinding signs for the park on the Burke Gilman Trail?

Written feedback:

- Restrooms are important for providing a safe and clean environment for park visitors and families
- It is important to provide a parking lot for park visitors throughout the region (Eastside, north Seattle, south Seattle etc.) and to make the park more ADA accessible. The parking lot could also have a designated load/unload area for launching small boats, unloading supplies for events, cleaning restrooms, hosting concessions or providing additional space for park events.
- Wheelchair access at both sides of the park (especially near current stairs near Sakuma viewpoint)

- Small naturalized beach with good visibility from land and water that provides water access without creating a beach scene. Abundant natural shoreline will attract wildlife and people. The large active beach shown in a few of the designs may encourage more of a party scene or environment that is unsafe or unwelcoming to families.
- Short term kayak or boat storage racks
- Bike racks/storage at both ends of the park
- Activities or events should be near the Recycled Cycle end of the park and near the street to maximize space. The area near Agua Verde is already very active and has problems with sidewalk crowding. By focusing activity on the opposite end of the park, it would help to prevent crowding and maintain sidewalk access. This location for activities would also help to draw people down from new campus housing.
- Kayak put-in area should be away from potential marina traffic. Ideally, people would launch kayaks from the small beach and load or unload in the parking lot space.



OPTION 1

PORTAGE BAY PARK

WALKER | MACY

Marked-up option 1 submitted by stakeholder

Comment forms

PORTAGE BAY PARK

PUBLIC MEETING – Sept. 24, 2015

COMMENT FORM

Please share your ideas for Portage Bay Park:

Which scheme appeals to you and why?

#2 WITH SOME OF #1 WATER CRAFT
TIE OFF IS A GREAT IDEA, AND STREET
SIDE ACTION SEEMS LIKE A GREAT IDEA
(FOOD TRUCKS FARMERS MARKET) PUBLIC RESTROOM
IS A MUST.

Are there park elements not included in the alternatives you would like included in the final plan?

BIKE RACKS BIKE RACKS
BIKE RACKS

Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

What would your main reason be for visiting Portage Bay Park?

LUNCH BREAKS, RELAX FROM WORK

What are the best ways to keep you informed and involved during the planning process?

COME BY THE BUSINESSES THAT WILL
BE EFFECTED (RECYCLED CYCLES, AGUA VERDE
JENSON ET AL.)

If you wish to be added to our email list, please provide your information below:

Name: SKIP DELANEY

Email: sdelaney@recycledcycles



Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

PORTAGE BAY PARK

PUBLIC MEETING – Sept. 24, 2015

COMMENT FORM

Please share your ideas for Portage Bay Park:

Which scheme appeals to you and why?

- Like em all, especially Option 1 (the pier)
- Would like the pier to have large floating dock portion. - P.Bay goes up/down summer/winter and a floating dock is much easier for kayaks, row boats, canoes... (non-motorized craft only please)

Are there park elements not included in the alternatives you would like included in the final plan?

- Old houseboat across Portage Bay, belonging to Ken Kennedy, was once (originally) on land, built as the for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. (1909), then became a houseboat. It still has many original features and I think might be restorable - and would make an interesting and useful addition to the park. I believe Kennedy might be willing to donate this houseboat.

Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

What would your main reason be for visiting Portage Bay Park?

I live in a houseboat opposite
the new park.

What are the best ways to keep you informed and involved during the planning process?

email, web site

If you wish to be added to our email list, please provide your information below:

Name: Ed Brighton

Email: ebrighton@me.com



Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

PORTAGE BAY PARK

PUBLIC MEETING – Sept. 24, 2015

COMMENT FORM

Please share your ideas for Portage Bay Park:

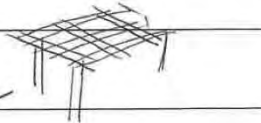
Which scheme appeals to you and why?

Overall scheme #3, + the main aspects from this choice I would like are the 2 habitat sites (one by marina boats + other by Sakuma), + the beach access for public. But it would need a bathroom + I do think the amphitheatre is pretty cool.

Are there park elements not included in the alternatives you would like included in the final plan?

An educational part for plants + native + native american name for park

- #1) Lot of lighting - all nite long!
- #2) Shade → natural or shelter-like



Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

What would your main reason be for visiting Portage Bay Park?

Taking a nap.
A smoke spot
A meeting spot w/ friends

What are the best ways to keep you informed and involved during the planning process?

Email

If you wish to be added to our email list, please provide your information below:

Name: Katie Markert

Email: Katie@aguaverde.com



Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

PORTAGE BAY PARK

PUBLIC MEETING – Sept. 24, 2015

COMMENT FORM

Please share your ideas for Portage Bay Park:

Which scheme appeals to you and why?

Maximize open shoreline -

all schemes are too enclosed

Simplest is best. Simplify simplify.

A kayak ramp and some covered seating (roof + trees) are all that is

Are there park elements not included in the alternatives you would like included in the final plan?

needed.

A playing field to run dogs + kids + frisbees is good.

A hard edge would be fine -

natural shoreline not needed here.

Better edge would be boardwalk - sit +

Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

change feet.

Beach seems a waste to me + misplaced re: maintenance.

PORTAGE BAY PARK
PUBLIC MEETING – Sept. 24, 2015
COMMENT FORM

Please share your ideas for Portage Bay Park:

Which scheme appeals to you and why?

- Option 3
- good use of the space.
- beach access into West end (side)
- Overlook not too far in to the lake.
- lay out in steps

Are there park elements not included in the alternatives you would like included in the final plan?

- keep the parking in the W side and create 15 mts. parking spots for people to get started to the park (picnic, kayaks, canoes etc)

Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

What would your main reason be for visiting Portage Bay Park?

- Rest and relax

What are the best ways to keep you informed and involved during the planning process?

email

If you wish to be added to our email list, please provide your information below:

Name: Alfonso Sucedo

Email: allfsauce@hotmail.com



Visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/portage_bay/

Participant experience and other post-meeting feedback from online open house

- "This has been very helpful. thanks!
- As we move forward I'll be interested to see what the mid-block crossing looks like, as it goes right between two of our buildings (FSH and FTR)."
- Worked really well! Great presentation.
- "cool format and opportunity. thanks!
- One thought is to provide a link where folks can download the presentation or presentation images, so it can be reviewed following the meeting and comments then submitted. It can be hard to remember the nuances between the options when moved through at meeting place."
- The online meeting format is very accessible and easy to use
- "Great, thank you! It seemed to me you considered well each of the comments and questions submitted and will take that public input into account to make the park accessible for all in addition to detoxifying and restoring the natural habitat. I think the most pressing issue in my view after hearing many aspects is to get that parking lot gone! Bravo to you all for presenting parking lot removal as an option and i hope you have the public support as well as the boldness to move forward in this crucial aspect of a successful new public park. Since an aspect of the impetus for the Portage Bay Park project is mitigation from damages caused by freeway construction in sensitive habitat in the UW Arboretum, removing inequitable vehicle space from the small, community park is all the more symbolic and necessary. Also, reducing vehicular traffic and encouraging active transit should be primary objectives for WSDOT & Seattle Parks & Recreation for budgetary, health, and missional reasons--certainly local businesses and the university will appreciate a more inviting, less air-polluted, less noise-polluted atmosphere for their diners and clients who will no doubt be attracted to the area by this new park. Thank you!
- Great information, and we'll get back to you with more comments. This is the first time I was seeing it (missed the first meeting) although I believe Rob (our ED) was at that one. Thanks for mentioning Washington Water Trails and the fact that this will be a site addition to the water trail (Lakes-To-Locks). All three options have merits. Obviously WWTa is interested in the launch/land site for human-powered boaters (kayaks, SUPs, etc.), along with a restroom and a place (parking) for people to unload and load their boats. Kayak racks and locks would be great, too. Again, thanks.