## **OVERVIEW**

### We are improving Victor Steinbrueck Park to preserve its legacy and significance.

Victor Steinbrueck Park was created in 1981 by architect and activist Victor Steinbrueck and landscape architect Rich Haag. After helping to save Pike Place Market from demolition, the two designed the park (originally named Market Park) as a place to enjoy the view and to act as an extension of Market's social life, providing a place to gather outside. The park designers feltstrongly that the park provide for all people, including disadvantaged members of our community.

Victor Steinbrueck Park is an incredibly well-used and well-loved space; and over the years it has seen the effects of overuse and general wear and tear. Various elements have also been added or removed from the park over time.

#### This project will take a holistic approach to improving the park for all.



### GOALS

In 2008, City Council passed a Levy that allocated \$1.6M for "Improvements to Public Safety". These "include but are not limited to:

- improving sight lines into the park
- renovating seating
- renovating the former children's play area
- improving and expanding lighting
- upgrading landscaping

The park is within Pike Place Market Historic District; the Pike Place Market Historic Commission has adopted guidelines which outline the "character defining features" of the park. These guidelines must be considered as part of any park improvements.

### SCOPE

The scope of this project includes public outreach, design, and construction related to improvements outlined above. In addition, the park was constructed on top of a parking garage, and it has recently been determined that the waterproofing membrane between the park and garage is failing. The replacement of the membrane will require that the entire park be removed and reconstructed. While \$1.6M will cover park improvements described in the Levy language, additional money will be required to cover the membrane replacement and reconstruction of the park.

### PROCESS

The design team will meet regularly with the public as well as numerous local stakeholders and park users. The design team also meets regularly with Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Pike Place Market Historic Commission, which is responsible for making decisions on all use and design changes in the Market to assure that the historic character of the Market is preserved. The Seattle City Council must approve the final design pursuant to the Levy language.

Public Outreach will include 3 open houses, the first of which will occur May 17, 2016. The design team will also hold on-site events to solicit input from park users; the first on-site event is being held May 19, 2016.

We are at the very beginning of what is expected to be a multi-year design and construction process.



Public Open House 1

### **ORIGINAL DESIGN** *The park is an extension of the Market and lively public space with a tranquil view of the Sound and mountains.*

The park was designed with two simple goals in mind:

- It provides a "belvedere" to enjoy the view of the water and the mountains
- It is an **extension of the Market**, a place for people from all walks of life to congregate outside.

This renovation project considers all of these elements to be significant and is not proposing a wholesale redesign of the park. Instead, improvements will be made that preserve the original design intent and use of the park while acknowledging the significant change in context since the park was constructed. Accommodations will also be made for the needs of the Seattle community in 2016.





### LEGEND

- A Park paths were laid out to lead visitors out to the "belvedere" and the view over the water.
- **B** The mounded **lawns** shelter the park from the street and create informal green gathering space with a fantastic view.

Three **"outdoor rooms"** were created as small gathering areas set slightly apart from the rest of the park:

- C The pergola and picnic area in the southwest corner
- **D** The picnic area in the northwest corner
- E The children's play area, which is now a memorial.

onginal site plan (labels not original)





Public Open House 1







C Picnic Area





VICTOR STEINBRUECK PARK

D Picnic Area





E Play Area







## **SAFETY** *Everyone should feel welcome and safe in the park.*

The park was created to be a safe and enjoyable place for all types of people. Throughout our outreach process, many people have voiced their concerns about safety and sense of safety in the park. Some have told us about feeling uneasy because of unclean or damaged facilities, poor lighting after dark, or a lack of other people in the park at certain times of the week. Others have seen illegal and antisocial activities or have felt intimidated or threatened. These experiences and concerns damage the park's reputation and potential.



Where do you perceive safety issues in the Park?



What change would most improve your perception of safety?

Put one check next to your choice



2



### **CONNECTIVITY** The park is an extension of the Market, along a new pedestrian route connecting downtown to the waterfront.

VICTOR STEINBRUECK PARK

Three neighboring projects-MarketFront, the Overlook Walk, and the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaductwill change the park's immediate context. The park renovation will take these projects into account in order to reinforce the park's presence and importance in Seattle.

The city has adopted a visionary plan to rebuild its waterfront and better connect it to downtown, following the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct. The plan features an array of new public open spaces, including the Overlook Walk, which spans from the Seattle Aquarium to the new MarketFront project. MarketFront will be a new waterfront-facing extension of the historic Market, providing opportunities for farmers and crafts people, social services, and senior housing as well as public open space. Together these projects will provide a continuous pedestrian route between the Market and Elliott Bay, a grand gesture to connect two of Seattle's greatest assets—immediately adjacent to Victor Steinbrueck Park.

#### **EXISTING CONDITION**



2017 MarketFront Project complete late 2016 / early 2017

Image by Waterfront Seattle



Artist's rendering of the MarketFront Project, adjacent to the park. The MarketFront site was designed to accommodate a park connection to the future Overlook Walk, down to the waterfront. Image by MarketFront.

FUTURE CONDTION

ASSIST



Artist's rendering of the Overlook Walk and MarketFront project, adjacent to the park. Image by Waterfront Seattle.





### CONNECTIVITY The renovation offers the opportunity to connect Victor Steinbrueck Park directly to this new pedestrian route.

Currently, a low concrete wall separates Victor Steinbrueck Park from the MarketFront's public walk. Left or restored in place, that wall would segregate the park from these adjacent public open spaces. The intuitive route for entering the park from the Market or the waterfront would be blocked. A modified design of the park's south edge could open the park to invite more people in and maintain the park's close relationship with the Market. It would also provide a direct connection between the Market and the park that would be accessible to people of all ages and abilities without having to cross Western Avenue.

Somepeopleareconcernedthataconnectionbetween Victor Steinbrueck Park and Market Front would flood the park with visitors from the waterfront, potentially impacting people who use the park now. Others believe all these people give the park its character and should be encouraged to enter, not precluded by constructed



Possible condition: view from south end of park to MarketFront steps. Image by Waterfront Seattle



Existing condition: wall and construction fence at south end of park

#### Should the renovation include a direct connection to MarketFront? (Shown in Blue)



This connection would provide a new accessible pedestrian route to Pike Place Market and link to the Overlook Walk to the water.



#### Which option is best at south end of the park? Put one dot next to your choice





between park and MarketFront st's 111

D. no connection



## GATHERING

The park has always been an important meeting and gathering place both a civic forum and a refuge where people can congregate in relative peace.

Over its life, Victor Steinbrueck Park has taken on a distinct role as a place for people to meet and gather. It is a natural destination: its panoramic views of the sound and mountains, proximity to the Market, and pastoral lawn are unrivaled downtown. Equally important, the park has developed a culture of tolerance for people from all walks of life, who enjoy the park togethermany would say this is a key, distinguishing trait of the park.

As such, Victor Steinbrueck Park is where many people and groups congregate, either informally and spontaneously—at lunch, after work—or intentionally, for organized classes, celebrations, civic affairs, protests and other events.









Public Open House 1

VICTOR STEINBRUECK PARK



WALKER MACY

### **GATHERING** The park renovation could create a better place for small groups to gather.

Despite the park's identity and function as a place to gather, the original design under serves this use in many ways. While the park's "outdoor rooms" encourage social gatherings, the layout of fixed furnishings limits the ability of small groups to assemble. The pergola offers only outward-facing seats, and little usable space.

As part of this renovation project, subtle design changes could create a better place for people to gather. These might include a larger more flexible area, different seating arrangements, or an alternative pergola layout to better accommodate small groups.



Should an area of the park be redesigned to better accommodate small group gatherings? Mark one: "yes" or "no," and put marks next to the features you like for the park.



Which location would be best for a small group gathering area?

Mark one: A, B, C or D

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A C D MARKETFRONT		0000000 0000000 0000000 0000000 0000000	0000000 0000000 0000000 0000000 0000000	0000000 0000000 0000000 0000000 0000000



# NATIVE AT VICTOR STEINBRUECK PARK

Many people, including some Native Americans, say that the park has special signficance to the Native American community.

Through our outreach process, we have learned that many people consider Victor Steinbrueck Park to have unique importance to Native Americans, many of whom have relocated to Seattle from other places and know the park as place to meet and connect with others. Some people have remarked on the significance of connection to the mountains and water-the park's view-to the Native American community. The original design prominently features two carved poles inspired by the totem pole tradition of indigenous people in the Pacific Northwest; they were created in 1982 and 1983 by Victor Steinbrueck, and the artists James Bender and Martin Oliver, the latter of Quinault/Isleta-Pueblo heritage. Though not traditional totem poles, for many people these art works stir a sense of Native American culture at the park, which has sometimes been referred to as "Native Park."





Should the renovation project strengthen the park's identity as a place for Native Americans?





Should a part of the park be designed for Native American gatherings?

Mark one: "yes" or "no"



## PLAY

## The park's original play area was removed. Today, the surrounding neighborhood has more families and kids—and no place to play.

The original park design featured a simple play area comprised of boulders and a salvaged cherry tree log set in sand and surrounded by benches. Over time these climbing elements were removed due to damage and lack of use, and the area was converted to a gathering area centered on the "Tree of Life" sculpture, a memorial to homeless women who have died on the streets of Seattle.

Through our outreach process we have heard many people, in particular downtown families, say that the neighborhood needs a play area for young children. As the only real park in the district, Victor Steinbrueck Park would be a natural place to fill this gap.





### Should the renovation include a small play area for young kids?

Mark one: "yes" or "no," and put marks next to images you like for the park



### Which location would be best for a play area? Mark one: A, B, or C





## SOCIALIZING & EATING

## The renovation is an opportunity to provide better places for people to converse, eat, and relax in the park.

VictorSteinbrueckParkisauniquelysocialpark, regularly full of small groups of friends and family who come to sit and enjoy the view together. Besides the panoramic view to the west, people appreciate being a part of vibrant city life in a park setting. The original design provided several ways for small groups to sit and relax, with an emphasis on fixed dining tables and stools for four to six people.

Many of the original furnishings have fallen into disrepair, and are not as comfortable as they could be; the seating and layouts do not easily accommodate people with mobility challenges. The renovation is an opportunity to consider new ways to encourage people to socialize and dine outdoors. Additional types of furnishings could be added throughout the park or improvements could be limited to a single area.



1

### Should there be more types of furnishings for socializing and eating?

Mark one: "yes" or "no," and put marks next to images you like for the park



### Should an "outdoor room" be dedicated to socializing and eating?

Mark one: A, B, or "no"





## **PRIORITIES** *This project aims to improve the park for everyone*

while preserving the integrity and historic character of the original design.

We would like your input on how to address the many ways that the park is used. How can we balance opportunities to improve it and also preserve its character as a beacon within the Pike Place Market historical district? The renovation is a complex project and we value your opinion on how to prioritize improvements.





Should the design team consider new locations for the pergola, play area, or picnic areas?



2

### Which are most important to the park's legacy and future success?

Allocate your 10 pieces according to your priorities

