

Spring 2015

In spring 2015, the Lower Taylor Creek project team hosted two community events: in April we met with owners of property adjacent to the proposed project area and in May we hosted an open house. Adjacent property owners raised concerns about the project. Read our [responses to property owner's concerns](#) (pdf). The open house provided an opportunity for community members and the public to learn about the project's purpose and what has been done so far. We presented [three planning concepts](#) (pdf), each with a different creek alignment, and asked community members to provide input on the concepts. The majority of community members preferred a [proposed concept](#) (pdf), which minimizes work in Lakeridge Park and keeps most of the creek within the public right-of-way and on City-owned parcels.

Community input was used to help inform SPU's analysis of these concepts, and that analysis was used to identify the best concept. SPU considered the social, financial, and general environmental impacts and benefits of each concept, including such elements as transportation (particularly construction-related traffic impacts), parking, pedestrian and bicycle impacts, long-term environmental impacts, community preferences, and impacts on ratepayers. SPU has completed this analysis, and staff will recommend the [preferred proposed concept](#) (pdf) be used to move the project into the next phase—design.

Additional updates

SPU is looking at the need for easements to complete the design process and accommodate creek alignment on the north side of Rainier Avenue South.

As part of the project, SPU will evaluate an additional fish barrier opportunity project located along 68th Avenue South in the City's Lakeridge Park. In addition, SPU installed a project information sign along Rainier Avenue South in Lakeridge Park to provide project information to park users, project neighbors, and the traveling public.

Project Open House - May 7, 2015

At the May 7 open house the Lower Taylor Creek Restoration project team shared planning concepts and received feedback from the community.

For those who were unable to attend, meeting materials are available here:

- [Meeting boards](#) (pdf)
- [Handout](#) (pdf)

- [Summary of community comments](#) (pdf)
- [Project FAQ](#) (pdf)

Public Access recommendation update - September 19, 2013

Recommendation for public access

In August 2013, City of Seattle staff made a recommendation for providing some form of [public access at lower Taylor Creek](#) (pdf) due to the various community amenity benefits an open site would provide. The community was asked to provide feedback on the recommendation and share any final thoughts related to public access at the site. Here are the [survey results](#) (pdf).

Wrapping up the public access options analysis

Since March 2013, SPU has been engaging the community and City staff to evaluate public access options at lower Taylor Creek. Early public feedback provided valuable information about how SPU should design the site, and how the community would like to see the site used in the future. While this was the last community input opportunity as part of the public access options analysis process, there will be future opportunities to get involved during project design.

Next up: preliminary engineering

Over the upcoming months, SPU will develop high-level design concepts and alternatives, assemble cost estimates for each alternative, perform additional studies including traffic analysis, and determine which potential alternatives are feasible from an engineering perspective. This phase takes time to complete, but it is a necessary step to inform the design process. Preliminary engineering is expected to be completed in early 2015.

After we complete the preliminary engineering phase, expected by early 2015, we'll be in touch to share an update about what we've been doing, the feasible alternatives that have been selected, and upcoming opportunities to engage during the design process.

Community survey update - August 23, 2013

June 2013 preliminary evaluation survey

In June 2013, we collected feedback in-person and online about whether participants agreed or disagreed with the [preliminary evaluation](#) (pdf) of public access options. Participants also indicated their preferred access option. Thank you to the 91 people who participated.

View a [summary of the results](#) (pdf), which includes answers to common questions and a full report of responses collected.

Staff recommends open access – contingent upon additional studies

City of Seattle staff used input from surveys to determine that some form of [open access at lower Taylor Creek](#) (pdf) is preferred by the community. Open access provides a number of community amenity benefits including:

- Access to Lake Washington shoreline
- Connection to Lakeridge Park and Playfield
- Education and stewardship opportunities

To further address concerns about how open access may affect the stream and surrounding habitat, the immediate neighborhood, and traffic in the area, the recommendation is contingent upon the need for additional traffic and engineering studies, and integrating specific elements into the design. Read more on page 42 of the [public access options analysis report](#) (pdf).

Materials and meeting summaries generated during the public access options analysis process are also available:

- [Interdepartmental team workshops](#) (pdf)
- [Community input opportunities](#) (pdf)
- [Taylor Creek project area public safety analysis](#) (pdf)

The final public access decision will be made after the preliminary engineering stage, expected late 2014.