



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 3434 Meridian, Bellingham, Washington 98225
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**MEETING SUMMARY NO. 1
LITTLE SQUALICUM MASTER PLAN
STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE OF MTG.: March 31, 2009, 3:00PM
DATE ISSUED: April 23, 2009
MTG. LOCATION: Mayor's Boardroom, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street
BY: Gina G. Austin, P.E. - City of Bellingham Park Project Engineer
DISTRIBUTION: via email

PRESENT (indicated by an 'X'):

- 1. Gina G. Austin, PE, City of Bellingham
 - 2. Edie Norton, Columbia Neighborhood
 - 3. Eve Magyar, RA, Bellingham Technical College
 - 4. Mark Longtine, Ecology & Environment, Inc (consultant for Environmental Protection Agency)
 - 5. Chris Secrist, Oeser
 - 6. Jack Weiss, Bellingham City Council
 - 7. Renee LaCroix, City of Bellingham
 - 8. Meredith Murray, Columbia Neighborhood
 - 9. Tim Wahl, City of Bellingham
 - 10. Mike Stoner, Port of Bellingham
 - 11. Mary O'Herron, Washington State Department of Ecology
 - 12. Freeman Anthony, PE, City of Bellingham
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This meeting summary is a general overview of the items discussed at the subject meeting. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of Gina G. Austin, P.E. at 360-778-7000, gaustin@cob.org.

I. GENERAL

- a. This meeting is the first of a series of stakeholder meetings to obtain input on the design of the master plan of Little Squalicum Park.
- b. Gina asked that everyone introduce themselves and state one item they are most interested in discussing at these stakeholder meetings:
 - i. Plans for Port of Bellingham Property
 - ii. Safety for the neighborhood
 - iii. Improve habitat
 - iv. Coordinate construction with the Oeser cleanup
 - v. Incorporate cleanup with master plan
 - vi. Coordinate with the Bellingham Technical College master plan
- c. Gina provided an introduction regarding the project background and schedule.
- d. Tim provided background information regarding the history of the site, previous plans, and current contamination issues.
- e. Freeman (aka 'Fritz') provided a brief project description and update regarding the proposed plans for the West Illinois road improvement project.

II. DISCUSSION

a. The following includes a list of concerns, questions and comments discussed by the group:

i. Site management & boundaries

1. Does the cement plant retain an easement to the pier? No. However they do have a harbor area lease.
2. When will the park be annexed? This needs to be worked on. There is a concern regarding law enforcement and applicability of City codes. Annexation of park will need to be considered under larger annexation plan with additional properties
3. Can you walk up the beach towards the County? There appears to be both private and public property along the beach.
4. Connection to the Cliffside? There is a valuable beach walk at low tide in this area.

ii. Park Design

1. Propose changing the name of the master planning documents to “Little Squalicum Beach & Natural Area”
2. Public meeting for master plan should include information about site history, constraints, ravine and water table
3. The new trails should accommodate bikes and meet City of Bellingham trail standards.
4. The Schultz Drive connection is important.
5. The Bay to Baker trail is a major trail connection. Connections to the park should be enhanced.
6. Create places for people to sit.
7. Incorporate an interpretive story board, coordinate with the tribes.
8. Desires for this park: Kayak launch, trails, restroom at trailhead, daylight stormwater & manage treatment, which can provide aesthetic benefits for park users.
9. Manage stormwater flow and detention by creating a wetland at landfill excavation site.
10. Concern about stagnant water bodies and mosquito issues. Diversify vegetation to increase mosquito predators.
11. 1990 master plan shows meadow areas, open views for safety corridors.
12. Will the public request significant changes to the current park use? People want contact with water, may want a picnic shelter or playground.
13. Coordinate park master plan with BTC master plan. BTC Admin building proposed to be built over existing parking lot at northeast boundary.

iii. Habitat

1. Fish presence in the creek is affected by culvert and beach drift on Port and RR property. Conceptual plan calls for culvert removal and, if feasible and desirable, pocket estuary creation on park property.
2. Creek grades ok for habitat, doesn't appear to be any negative impact on fish presence.
3. Focus on native vegetation.
4. Will fishing be allowed on the Tilbury pier? Fishing is managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

iv. Cleanup discussion at public meeting – how will this be handled?

1. People will want to talk about the cleanup at the master planning meetings.
2. Include EPA and Ecology in public meetings for master plan. Representatives can be available to answer questions.
3. Good to provide the public with detailed information ahead of time.

4. Emphasize that costs for cleanup will be paid with cleanup money, park money used for park development.
5. Ecology proposes to issue another fact sheet, and then schedule a public meeting after reviewing draft Remedial Investigation report and after negotiating an agreement with EPA.
6. The master plan can be presented at the separate public meeting lead by Ecology to discuss cleanup issues.
7. Some Oeser work will coincide with development proposed in the master plan.
8. Remind public that Oeser is committed to cleanup according to Consent Decree with EPA.
9. Mark with Ecology & Environment, Inc (consultant to EPA) is here to observe and is not acting in any capacity for EPA.
10. Mark agreed that the more information that is available to the public, the better

III. ACTION ITEMS/NEXT STEPS

- a. Park's consultant selection committee will meet on April 15 to discuss scores and develop shortlist for interviewing master plan consultants.
- b. Parks will select design consultant on May 6.
- c. Ecology will schedule public meeting to discuss status of cleanup.
- d. Parks will schedule public meeting after Ecology's meeting and after design consultant is on board.

IV. CORRECTION ITEMS

- a. None.

Little Squalicum Park Master Plan

City of Bellingham Staff, Stakeholder and Consultant Site Reconnaissance (Stakeholder's Meeting #2)

6/18/09

Meeting Summary

REVISED 07/22/09

Attendees

Gina Austin, City of Bellingham
Tim Wahl, City of Bellingham
Fritz Anthony, City of Bellingham
Rod Lamb, Whatcom County Parks & Rec.
Mark Herrenkohl, Herrenkohl Consulting
Vanessa Rayner, Ecology & Environment
Mark Longtine, Ecology & Environment
Kurt Baumgarten, Dept. of Ecology
Jeanne O'Dell, EPA
Mary Jane Nearman, EPA
Frances Badgett, Columbia Neighborhood
Dan Welch, Birchwood Neighborhood Association
Eve Magyar, Bellingham Technical College
Maw Herring, Heering Ex
Chris Secrist, Oeser
Jon Gunschel, Oeser
Wendy Steffensen, RE Sources
Randy Whitman, CH2MHILL
Ellen Southard, Belt Collins
Bob Walsh, Belt Collins
Chris Webb, Belt Collins
Analiese Burns, NW Ecological Services
Molly Porter, NW Ecological Services
John Monahan, GeoEngineers
Aaron McCain, GeoEngineers

Distributed Via Email To:

Gina G. Austin, PE, City of Bellingham
Leslie Bryson, City of Bellingham
Mike Stoner, Port of Bellingham
Eve Magyar, Bellingham Technical College
Chris Secrist, Oeser Cedar
Fritz Anthony, PE, City of Bellingham
Tim Wahl, City of Bellingham
Renne LaCroix, City of Bellingham
Frank Ordway, Birchwood Neighborhood Association, Acting President
Edie Norton, Columbia Neighborhood Association
Bruce Sheppard, BNSF
Jack Weiss, City Council
Todd Kuhn, BNSF, Manager Public Projects

Becky Schlotterback, Birchwood Neighborhood Association
Lynne Givler, Whatcom County Parks
Frances Badgett, Birchwood Neighborhood Association, President
Mark Longtine, LG, Ecology and Environment, Inc. (USEPA)
Mary O'Herron, WA DOE
Meredith Murray, Columbia Neighborhood Association
Judy McCarthy, SALSA-G (Security @ Little Squalicum Action Group)
Mary Jane Nearman, EPA
Wendy Steffensen, North Sound Bay Keeper (ReSources)
Rod Lamb, Whatcom County Parks Design and Development Supervisor
Jane Blume, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Mark Herrenkohl, LEG, Herrenkohl Consulting (part of City's consultant team)
Vanessa Rayner, Ecology & Environment
Kurt Baumgarten, Dept. of Ecology
Jeanne O'Dell, EPA
Dan Welch, Birchwood Neighborhood Association
Jon Gunschel, Oeser
Randy Whitman, CH2MHILL
Ellen Southard, Belt Collins
Bob Walsh, Belt Collins
Chris Webb, Belt Collins
Analiese Burns, NW Ecological Services
Molly Porter, NW Ecological Services
John Monahan, GeoEngineers
Aaron McCain, GeoEngineers

Notes (Recorded by Bob Walsh, Belt Collins)

The following notes were taken by the consultant team during the two hour site visit with City of Bellingham Staff and the Project Stakeholder Group. The purpose of the site visit was to gain an understanding of the project background, issues and opportunities and to discuss the preliminary clean up concepts.

Bob provided a brief overview of the project process and schedule. Upcoming project milestones include:

- July 15 - Stakeholder Workshop #1
- July 22 - Public Meeting #1

Bellingham Technical College's 20-year Master Plan map was presented.

- The northern half of the park site will become a prominent feature within BTC as new campus facilities develop along W. Illinois Street.
- The park site offers a potential link and greenway between the outlying buildings along W. Illinois and the Main Campus.
- The BTC Master Plan documents are available on the BTC website:
<http://www.btc.ctc.edu/welcome/MasterPlan/MasterPlan.asp>
- The infiltration capacity is good at the park adjacent to the parking lot.

At the beach overlook Gina and Bob discussed some of the existing site conditions and preliminary park improvements concepts.

- The park boundary is approximately 25 feet north of the centerline of the railroad.

- The area south and west of the railroad including the beach is owned by the Port of Bellingham.
- The beach is highly prone to erosion and is one of the most dynamic in Bellingham.
- The beach receives a lot of freshwater influence from surrounding rivers (Nooksack, Squalicum, Little Squalicum).
- There are two shell midden sites in the park. One exists in the lower creek area.
- The concrete culvert that empties into the bay should be removed.
- Preliminary concepts include a bridge over the creek just north of the railroad.
- An informal connection from the main trail to the beach is proposed.
- The terminus of the main trail may include an ADA accessible outlook or view point at the beach.
- A separate study managed by Renee LaCroix (Bellingham Public Works) is looking at improving the beach and the possibility of creating a tidal influx to a new lagoon north of the existing culvert/trail.
- The extent of contamination in the lower creek is significantly lower than that found in the upper creek.
- The EPA plans to work with the City to continue the contamination warning signage in the Park. The content would likely be similar to what the City has used up to this point. The Cleanup Team will help the City with changes to wording as needed. Changes would then be passed to County Health for their review. After their review, the City will run any changes by the EPA.
- Vanessa of E&E passed out a figure showing preliminary considerations for remediation. The EPA emphasized these are initial ideas, but they have laid out some selective remedial alternatives to consider including excavation and capping options for the upper creek, historical creek, and lower creek areas.
- The existing clay layer would be the base line for exaction in areas where exaction was the selected remediation method.

At the West Meadow site Gina described some of the conceptual park improvement concepts:

- These improvements might include expanding the existing meadow and opening the tree canopy as well as enhancing views to the water.
- Preliminary concepts call for rerouting the existing path to provide a more serpentine connection to the water along the south and east sides of the proposed meadow.
- Vanessa indicated the EPA cleanup team was also looking at rerouting the upper portion of the creek between the historical creek and current creek locations. Cleanup might include capping of both upper and historical creek locations. There was an extensive discussion about this option including the necessity to provide a liner for a new creek bed because of potential drainage problems in this area of the site.
- There was further discussion of the EPA figure. An EPA representative explained that the EE/CA will be out shortly. Alternative 2 is on-site excavation of the current and historic creek channel and off-site disposal. Alternative 3 is excavating the lower creek and keeping it in the current channel and capping and re-routing in the upper creek.
- Attendees asked if the EPA has considered re-routing the creek to the historic channel. They said that is not a current alternative. The re-routing is in a neutral location between the existing and historic channels.
- There was discussion about whether a creek liner is needed to prevent infiltration and provide separation of the creek from contaminated soils left in place.
- EPA said they envision a cap to be two feet in depth.

- Bob Walsh asked if the proposed remediation alternatives would preclude future park uses or recreation. Mark Herrenkohl noted that institutional controls would be needed to prevent damage to capped areas. Mary Jane indicated there would be no restrictions on park activities if capping was used to contain contamination in the creek areas. She indicated vegetation could be planted, picnic tables could be placed on top of the cap for human use, etc.
- Gina stated that the master plan was in process before the contamination was discovered and that we are, “picking up where we left off.” She further stated that the master plan will guide the cleanup and that the cleanup should not make any restrictions on the master plan.
- Chris Webb asked if different caps allow for different types of uses. EPA Project Manager said this type of contamination is not a big deal and you can do almost anything over this type of contamination/cap (institutional controls will not be significant).
- EPA Project Manager said they would like input to help inform which capping method would be most appropriate.
- There was discussion regarding what type of plantings would be allowed over the cap. EPA representatives said planting alternatives would be taken into consideration. They did not rule out any suggestions including trees.
- Oeser has an NPDES permit that allows 9ppb of (material?); Mary Jane said for the contaminants to threaten living organisms, the concentration would need to be (quantity?) ppm far above what is currently permitted.
- Wendy Steffensen (Bay Keeper) would like one of the alternatives to include relocating the creek back to its historic channel. She asked whether removal of contaminated soils and sediments in the historical creek would jeopardize or change the hydrology of the creek. Mark Herrenkohl doesn’t think this would be the case since only the upper 2-3 ft of soil and sediments are impacted in this area with additional creek bed and low-permeable wetland soils below this depth in many areas. However, some lining may be necessary to avoid drainage to underlying areas since some of this area has been altered by historical sand/gravel mining.
- An Oeser representative said vegetation in the park is approx. 35 years old. The area was most recently used for log storage.
- The historic channel currently considered for capping is a wetland. There was discussion as to whether or not 2 feet would be enough fill. How high would the “berm” be? Would you need to do wetland mitigation for this fill? Gina answered “yes”. If they need mitigation, do they know where they would do it -on site?
- Question to EPA representative about whether there is still flexibility in the EE/CA to incorporate land uses the City wishes to see. He wasn’t sure whether or not there would be flexibility.
- Randy Whitman (Ch2M Hill – ph: 425-233-3276) was brought into project by Mary Jane at the EPA. Randy is encouraging Mary Jane to work with Oeser Company to consider the “maximum stream restoration budget”, and then share that number with him so design alternatives can be developed that meet that budget.
- Randy cautioned Mary Jane against the “myth of the sinuous stream”. Randy suggested that the stream channel may not need to be especially sinuous given available volume of water.
- Randy expressed concern the proposal to route the stream from the Oeser site toward BTC, then through the old channel may not work due to low gradient or risk of trying to move water upgrade. There was concern by others regarding mosquitoes. This concern would support Randy’s suggestion to keep water moving downgrade and minimize low-velocity areas (mosquito larvae habitat).

- Chris Secrist noted significant changes in the hydrology of Little Squalicum Creek since 1915.
- Chris Secrist noted the riparian edge and canyon bottom was comprised largely of “volunteers”. In his opinion, controlling unwanted vegetation may be a bigger challenge than establishing/planning new vegetation and upland habitat.
- Chris Secrist indicated that Oeser is testing the viability of sand fleas (sic – perhaps Cladocera – Daphnia?) and some type of minnow in the Oeser runoff. This study offers a potential data source for creek habitat.
- Mary Jane indicated the EPA has summary information useful to biologists. The remediation information is voluminous and not particularly reader-friendly.
- Mary Jane expressed interest in having Randy at Ch2M Hill and John Monahan (GeoEngineers) work together in developing stream restoration design alternatives.

Proposed cottonwood gallery location:

- There’s approximately 2 ft of contamination in most locations, with the exception of an area near the trail where 4 feet of contamination is present.
- EPA representative was not sure what utility the historic stream channel provided other than substrate. The topography is uniformly flat.
- Analiese mentioned that a wetland exists in the location of the historic channel. Because the system is “water limited”, can we retain this source of water if they cap the wetland? Do they know if it is groundwater or perched surface water? No answer from representative on the source of the water but he said it is still feasible to design retention of this water source.

BTC parking lot and field

- BTC is planning a new building next to the field along the northeast corner of the site. The field has always been a field (sometimes hayed) in recent memory.

West Illinois Street

- Historic use was an access to Morse Steel and BTC.
- W. Illinois improvements are in permitting right now (waiting for agency approval). They hope to break ground this summer (late). The permitting review is related to required clean up of arsenic found in the roadway base. The arsenic is probably related to spraying RR ballast ties. The clean-up is currently under review by Ecology.
- The new road is planned as an arterial standard from Nome St. to Marine Drive the County ROW. The road will consist of 2 lanes, bike lanes, and a sidewalk on the south side.
- The road will serve as the primary access to Morse Steel and BTC.
- There was a question asked about requiring Oeser to use W. Illinois as a primary access rather than going through the neighborhood. Oeser could use the road as an access in the future, although their property is separated from W. Illinois by a RR property easement. Access would require permitting from the RR. This consideration is not part of the W. Illinois St. project. The ROW adjacent to West Illinois is being cleaned up to allow for a possible future connection to Oeser.
- ~~Soils along W. Illinois showed low infiltration capacity so storm water option was pursued.~~ Soils along West Illinois showed low infiltration capacity so a piped/vaulted system was designed.
- Storm water on the east ½ of project would empty into the Birchwood/BTC storm water system and discharges to Little Squalicum Creek.

- Storm water on the west ½ of project would empty into the Marine Dr. system and discharges to Little Squalicum Creek (lower down).
- There is potential to tie into the W. Illinois storm water to recapture some water (per Fritz). We need to keep Fritz posted and in the loop. However, he's reluctant to make changes to W. Illinois design at this time.
- The landfill clean up is being managed by Public Works and is not related to the W Illinois St. project. The contaminants prompting the clean up are high levels of lead and zinc.
- The EE/CA will be finalized in September (EPA hopes). They are anticipating a draft EE/CA in the coming weeks. The schedule for the draft document and public comment period will be decided next week and communicated to the stakeholders by Mary Jane.

Additional notes from John Monahan regarding the City Staff and Consultant Field Trip on 6/8/09

- Tim Wahl noted the wetlands on-site were created. We may need to eliminate or significantly modify some of the wetlands to accommodate new features. He encouraged looking at wetland protection and enhancement as part of a long-term, large scale project rather than constrain the site plan by preserving their current location and function.
- Tim envisions engineered log stabilization features between the RR and beach as well as dispersed access points to the water. Development of a transition to intertidal area upstream from the RR - if elevations can be worked out.
- Tim noted there are french drains along the pit. These are a potential source of water. We must address quantity and quality. There are also spring sources at elevations above the creek channel. There is potential to pipe water upstream and increase the length of the channel.
- The steel pipe under Marine Drive was previously utilized by Bellingham Cold Storage. The pipe extends to the Nooksack River. We could consider using it as a potential water source during high flow periods in the Nooksack. We would need to investigate water rights and salmon olfaction concerns. Stowe Talbot (stowe.talbot@bellcold.com) of Bellingham Cold Storage is a bit of a historian and may be a good contact for further inquiry about a Nooksack River/Marine Drive piped-water alternative.

This meeting summary is a general overview of the items discussed at the subject meeting. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of Gina G. Austin, P.E. at 360-778-7000, gaustin@cob.org.

**Little Squalicum Park Master Plan
Stakeholder Workshop #1
7/15/09**

Summary

Attendees:

Gina Gobo Austin - City of Bellingham	Ellen Southard - Belt Collins
Tim Wahl - City of Bellingham	Bob Walsh - Belt Collins
Leslie Bryson - City of Bellingham	Chris Webb - Belt Collins
Renee LaCroix - City of Bellingham	John Monahan - GeoEngineers
Jane Blume - Park Board	Analiiese Burns - NW Ecological
Carol Williams - Port of Bellingham	Robin duPre - RE Sources
Eve Magyar - Bellingham Tech. College	Mary Jane Nearman - USEPA
Justin Thomas - WCC	Jeanne O'Dell - USEPA
Chris Secrist - Oeser	Mark Herrenkohl - Herrenkohl Consulting
Frances Badgett - Columbia Neigh. Assoc.	
Dan Welch - Birchwood Neighborhood	

Notes from Flip Charts

Qualities

- Back glade - quiet below the level of surrounding activity around, enclosed
- One of our few public beaches, only access to the delta, biologically rich, connects upland to the sea
- Feeling is very different than surrounding area
- Wonderful exercise route, running, commuter route, great connectivity to the neighborhoods
- Open views from Marine Drive
- Dynamic high energy beach, winds
- Views in the park to Lummi
- Abundance of wetlands - although low grade
- Proximity to Squalicum Creek Park – linkages
- Park provides only hand-carry boat put in for the north part of bay- (kayaks)
- Feels like a corridor, not just a place
- Greenbelt in industrial area
- Excellent vehicular access
- Attracts many families

Issues

- Feels like a corridor
- Attracts undesirables
- Environmental issues – contamination/cleanup
- Need to attract more families
- Site is so underutilized - results in bad behavior

- Garbage problems
- Beach is not in a natural state - lots of concrete rubble
- Campfires on the beach- concern from adjacent bluff homes
- Lots of invasive species
- Off trail use (social trails)
- Site is altered, grades, hydrology - surface and ground
- Mining previous activities
- Storm water capture and treatment
- Drug dealing
- Large uncontrolled run-off (drainage) events
- Compromised ability for storm water to clean itself naturally
- Lack of trees in the upper park site, needs buffering from industrial uses, possibly a topographic buffer
- Nutrient issues for trees, many are not growing a natural patterns
- Off-leash dogs

Desires

- Spruce, cedar, madrone on south slopes
- Vegetation management
- Indigenous plants
- Utilize every inch of the park for active and passive use
- Enhanced access to the beach, utilize dock (pier)
- Enhanced BTC linkages
- Interpretive signs, will require maintenance
- Restrooms - must have at the parking lot and in the ravine near the beach
- Long trail is multi-use - good place for a restroom
- Environmental/interpretive signage, plan of park site and surrounding features
- Cultural interpretation
- Creek should feel natural not just channelized
- Create a natural feel
- Have to link the estuary with the beach (shield it from human and dog use)
- Barrier free as possible- no physical structures (fences), natural barriers
- ADA access

Vision and Goals

- Master Plan should fit into surrounding neighborhood Master Plans
- Partnership opportunities – county, neighborhood, Oeser, Port, industries, BTC- connectivity (surveying, civil engineering)
- Recreational uses - zip line, hiking, biking, running, picnicking
- Contiguous habitat areas, high value
- Provide use areas, direct people
- Restrooms, clean of contamination
- Area to enjoy waterfront
- Ensure the backshore is part of the habitat
- Moving trail back from the beach
- Playground in upper park area
- Frisbee golf – one at Cornwall Park- damage to trees, added element of safety with more activity

- Back glade- opened up for field use Frisbee, informal play fields
- BTC parking gets full during fall quarter, no permitting
- Marine parking is all of the parking for the park, informal parking at Mt. Baker plywood
- Have environmental signage like Tenant Lake - explain processes, clarify uses, activities and recovery
- Transitional zones, mini-watersheds
- Interpretative signs, kiosks
- Partnerships outside the park- Whatcom Museum
- Unknown ravine, need a symbolic gateway to draw people in
- Park entry sign
- Wayfinding signage
- Trees nearing lifecycle, 45-years alder, cottonwood
- Pipe the water from the Oeser/BW culvert to the top of slope. Wouldn't need fill material, not an uncontrolled flow, you could armour channel.
- Run Oeser to south detention (Birchwood).

Working Vision Statement:

The Little Squalicum Park Master Plan sets a course for the restoration and revitalization of an active, vibrant shoreline park in Bellingham.

While capturing the quintessential Northwest park experience; it establishes seamless connectivity between the community and the waterfront, stimulates ecological recovery of the forest and streams while providing a clean, safe and healthy environment for a range of passive and active recreational opportunities.

Participant Suggested Changes to the Vision Statement:

<p>Vision/Mission</p> <p>“Provide for an enhanced recreational space for people, both active and passive places” Or “Little Squalicum Park is a place for passive and active uses, which should be enhanced to provide...”</p> <p>Change “Northwest” to Bellingham</p> <p>Accessible</p>
<p>Vision Statement</p> <p><u>People</u> The Bellingham and Whatcom county citizens have established a vision for the Little Squalicum Park, established in the Master Plan.</p> <p><u>Place</u></p>

We envision a park that serves both as an attractive destination and as a corridor connecting our communities with the bay, educational facilities, residences, and businesses.
...seamless connectivity for people between community and waterfront and provides a wildlife corridor connecting upland habitats and the sea.
Providing a bridge between natural and human landscapes
Instead of "range" of active and passive recreational opportunities I'd like as many passive and active recreational uses as possible
Add: wildlife habitat somewhere
Add concept of neighborhoods and college in addition to "the community" and "ecological recovery"
Does "restoration" and "ecological recovery" include the concept of "clean up" enough?
Add the concept of "cultural/historical"
Change the name now. The definition of "Park" in Bellingham does not reflect the goals for this area. Examples: Little Squalicum Natural Area, Little Squalicum Nature Reserve, Little Squalicum Reserve and Beach
LSPMP provides a SAFE, HEALTHY respite for REJUVENATION, FUN, WONDER and RECREATION in a NATURAL, UNIQUE place with a DIVERSITY of EXPERIENCES.
Don't like "quintessential NW park experience" "seamless" – over done "forest" opening that may be preferred/desired (there are records of prairie/meadow lands in the pre-contact vicinity, albeit at the "upper park" elevation)
The lower park should provide a series of linked but distinctive places along the streams and trail following the old ravine alignment. (The "places" are not large, but they are important.)
Groundwater and springs and their relationship to surface water could be a theme explored via the pre-white name as the "place of many springs"
Comment Cards: City naming policy: clarify expectations: Potential to discuss in public meetings Could name change affect attitude of what a park is "Beach" not in name Is off leash still on the table? "corridor" Define active and passive uses Unforested areas Historical meadow opening Mosaic that adds light and wind
Public meeting thoughts? Vision Maps for orientation Team leaders
Mark's survey of culvert area; compare elevations Calculate evapotranspiration

13 C water temperature

Mini watershed

Proposed hood sign at parking lot

Not having to fill area between habitat and active area

Add BC and City logo

“Brainstorming sessions”

Pipe from culvert

Community driven vision

Accessibility; ADA

No parking planned for the arterial

After 3:00 no permitted parking at BTC

Port lot closed at dusk

Capitalize open spaces to push out undesirable behavior

Linked but distinct areas

Cultural and historic

Add features

THE END

**Little Squalicum Park Master Plan
Stakeholder Workshop #2
9/9/09**

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Steve Nordeen, Park Operations
Tom Slack, Park Operations
Marvin Harris, Park Operations
Dan Welch, Birchwood Neighborhood
Renee LaCroix, City of Bellingham
Barb Campbell, Birchwood
Neighborhood
Louise Bjornson, City Council Member
Gina Austin, City of Bellingham
Mary O'Herron, WA Dept. of Ecology
Carol Williams, Port of Bellingham

Jack Weiss, City Council Member
Analiese Burns, NW Ecological Services
John Monahan, GeoEngineers
Mark Herrenkohl, Herrenkohl Consulting
Chris Secrist, Oeser Cedar
Tim Wahl, City of Bellingham
Ellen Southard, Belt Collins
Bob Walsh, Belt Collins
Eve Magyar, Bellingham Tech. College
Jane Blume, P & R Advisory Board

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- summarize the findings from the first public meeting
- review the Master Plan alternatives
- determine if the alternatives represent the range of public opinions
- ensure each plan is feasible and can be implemented
- determine what changes should be made to the plans prior to Public Meeting #2

Notes from Flip Charts

CONCEPT A

- Utilize logs as well as rocks for seating in meadows.
- Grade the upper park to facilitate the movement of water from north to south through the site.
- The proposed alignment will require a bridge or culvert to cross the stream. Could entail drilling horizontally under the existing trail to install a culvert.
- Excavated landfill site to be utilized for W. Illinois detention basin
- The stream will tie wetlands areas together. There will be very little stream gradient in the upper park.
- For the most part the existing trail system will remain in its current configuration.
- Look at moving the creek/estuary inflow to the north, to accommodate a larger active use area in the lower park.
- Is the estuary too big? Look at providing for more people space in the lower park and at the beach.
- The shoreline study is nearing completion. In order for the estuary to be viable it needs surface area & volume. The proposed configuration accommodates the necessary volume.

- Look at reducing the shoreline undulations along the west side of the estuary. The peninsula projects too far into the estuary and the bay cuts too deeply into the active areas of the West Meadow.
- What happens to the estuary during periods of drought? Is that covered in the feasibility scope? The estuary is not entirely dependent on water from the creek. Tidal influx and wave energy will recharge the estuary throughout the year. Sediment build-up may also affect tidal influx.
- Concern over trail sightlines. Straighter trail configurations make it easier to see potential threats. Visual connections help with crime prevention.
- The trail along the BNSF right-of-way will be located several feet or more above the beach. The trail will be located atop a stabilized bank.
- Provide a restroom near the pier access. Locate the restroom along the upper trail outside of the BNSF right-of-way.
- Trail locations are contingent on grades and slope stability.
- Keep trail widths above six feet (with a one foot shoulder), otherwise they cannot be maintained.
- Primary trails should be ten feet (with a one foot shoulder on each side).

Concept A Changes

- Remove the eastern most nature trail with the two bridges
- Soften the undulating shoreline along the west side of the estuary. Reduce the size of the peninsula and make the adjacent bay shoreline shallower (enlarging the West Meadow)
- The 360 degree panorama on the peninsula should be maintained. This is an experience found nowhere else in Bellingham. Look at incorporating a boardwalk overlook (T) if the peninsula is shortened. The southwest side of the estuary could undulate more.
- Show the restroom near the pier on both concepts
- Add a few picnic sites with views to the water.

CONCEPT B

- Like the active meadow area adjacent to the BTC campus. It's a great space for kids and classes. It also provides a welcoming feel into the park.
- Like the additional BTC connector trail just north of Marine Drive.
- Some of the sidewalk near the main BTC campus (Lindbergh Ave.) is already constructed.
- Concept B requires additional excavation for the W. Illinois detention pond, as well as fill material for the landfill site.
- Art pieces do not necessarily have to have an environmental theme. It's more important to work with local artist. The art should reflect site history and "localism".
- BTC is transferring the trail above the upper park to the City of Bellingham. Survey information and a legal description should be available.
- Provide a Tenent Lake like experience around the estuary. With the most active area near the middle of the west side.

- Side trails promote greater safety. More people utilizing remote areas of the park. Minimize the number of side trails.
- Open sight lines for greater visibility and safety.
- Provide for regular monitoring of the site.
- Boardwalks funnel users, therefore reducing the temptation to go off trail.
- Assess trail maintenance prior to development of the Preferred Master Plan.

Concept B Changes

- Show the existing trail loop within the BNSF right-of-way, but identify it as existing.
- Show the restroom near the pier on both concepts.
- Soften the undulating shoreline along the west side of the estuary. Reduce the size of the peninsula and make the adjacent bay shoreline shallower.
- Change the seating configuration and color in the gathering area adjacent to BTC so that it stands out better on the plan. The color on the plan looks too similar to the other dashed lines representing the park boundary.
- Shorten the upper walkway trail adjacent to the BTC campus.
- Remove the art piece on the east side of the estuary.

Public Meeting

- Post more meeting announcements/sign prior to the meeting.
- Utilize colored dots to selected preferred elements within the concepts.

**Little Squalicum Park Master Plan
Stakeholder Workshop #3
10/07/09**

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Gina Austin - City of Bellingham	Michele Bodtke - NW Ecological Services
Tom Slack - City of Bellingham	Analiene Burns - NW Ecological Services
Marvin Harris - City of Bellingham	John Monahan - GeoEngineers
Leslie Bryson - City of Bellingham	Mark Herrenkohl - Herrenkohl Consulting
Dan Welch, Birchwood Neighborhood	Chris Secrist - Oeser Cedar
Barb Campbell - Birchwood Neighborhood	Ellen Southard - Belt Collins
Louise Bjornson - City Council Member	Bob Walsh - Belt Collins
Brian Gouran - Port of Bellingham	Eve Magyar - Bellingham Tech. College
Anara Thomas - Grateful Dogs Off-Leash Assoc.	Jane Blume - P & R Advisory Board
Jeff Parks - Whatcom Co. Sheriff's Office	Vanessa Rayner - Ecology & Environment` (EPA)

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- discuss the public's comments from the September 16th Alternatives Meeting
- discuss park management, safety and law enforcement recommendations
- develop a draft plan that:
 - reflects the public's opinions and desires
 - is feasible and can be implemented
 - will be supported by the Stakeholder Team, Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council

Notes from Flip Charts

- Can the estuary count as mitigation?
 - 0.8 stream + 1 acre estuary = 2.8 acres wetlands
 - Saltwater estuary may be considered "out-of-kind" mitigation. Need further discussion with regulatory agencies

Management Discussion

- Park hours: 6am-10pm as per BMC, no closure gates at park entrances
- Whatcom County Sherriff can enforce state law or county regulations
- Generally parks are not where crime is occurring, however it is a bigger deal when it does
- City has to intervene regarding trespassing
- An Inter-local agreement could be developed for the park between County and City but may not supersede state laws
- County is not the primary responder
- 911 calls are routed according to where the call came from, County residence = County Sherriff
- City & County calls arrive together then dispatched by location
- When sheriff responds, usually two officers respond to calls at the park
- The beach is the primary concern and most problematic area of the park

- Better site access makes it easier to police without a lot of hiking
- Party activity and fires typically occur along the entire stretch of beach between Mt. Baker Plywood and the pier
- No emergency phones in Bellingham Parks – most people have cell phones
- Lindbergh Avenue has locking bollards, this is the primary emergency access location
- Bridges in the lower park would need to accommodate emergency vehicles and maintenance vehicles
- Broad access should be accommodated at the beach
- Visible escape routes provide an added element of safety
- Biker & buggy visibility from the beach
- The plan should not accommodate or encourage a main corridor/path from Mt. Baker Plywood along the beach
- Develop parking in the upper area of the park
- Proposed parking might not be adequate if public access to the pier is provided
- Utilize Mt. Baker plywood parking for shorter walks
- BTC parking permits are coming soon, might limit or negate parking for park on weekdays.
- Not many transient camps in park except along the RR right-of-way and sometimes below BTC campus on the east side of the park
- Opening up the back glades should provide a greater sense of safety
- Louise has generally felt safe at the park
- Consider lighting for navigation, parking, dock, restrooms
- Lighting is generally not provided along park trails in Bellingham.

Preferred Master Plan Discussion

- Provide irrigation/potable water close to the restroom facilities, trash, etc.
- Back glade picnic shelter should come out, vandalism is a certainty
- Provide convenient and easy to access trash receptacles
- Pack-in-pack-out of garbage not a widely accepted practice at City parks
 - Move the shelter in upper park closer to the active play area
- No manicured turf areas, just meadows
- Simple gathering areas are ok in the back glade
- Include a maintenance closet within proposed restroom facilities
- Lot near the proposed BTC diesel building could likely remain public parking
- Easement from BTC into the parking lot should be included on the Master Plan wish list
- DOE to respond to new AO agreement for landfill, DOE to sign termination agreement of AO for rest of park
- Why change wetlands?
 - Expand, improve upon existing wetlands
 - The site needs to optimize hydrology to enhance wetlands
 - Consolidating water helps filter and clean
 - Greater habitat value, less encroachment into useable park space
- Buffers would have to go off stream channel
- Generally Class 3 wetlands must be replaced at a ratio of 3x
- Secondary trails are an option, their exact location can be determined during final design
- Picnic tables near the beach? This is a very popular spot, provide at least a few overlooking the beach
- The existing beach experience is of utmost importance, we must maintain this setting
- Show the park boundary at the RR right-of-way. Clearly show beach management by Port

- Currently the park is off-leash for dogs, Could the dog issue be vague? This is a policy issue and should not be changed in the master plan.
- What is the timeline/process for the Environmental Clean-up?
 - Goal is to have the clean-up completed by September 2010.