

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

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:**

Steve Nordeen, Park Operations	Jack Weiss, City Council Member
Tom Slack, Park Operations	Analiene Burns, NW Ecological Services
Marvin Harris, Park Operations	John Monahan, GeoEngineers
Dan Welch, Birchwood Neighborhood	Mark Herrenkohl, Herrenkohl Consulting
Renee LaCroix, City of Bellingham	Chris Secrist, Oeser Cedar
Barb Campbell, Birchwood Neighborhood	Tim Wahl, City of Bellingham
Louise Bjornson, City Council Member	Ellen Southard, Belt Collins
Gina Austin, City of Bellingham	Bob Walsh, Belt Collins
Mary O'Herron, WA Dept. of Ecology	Eve Magyar, Bellingham Tech. College
Carol Williams, Port of Bellingham	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.