

Meeting Notes

Maple Wood Playfield & Play Area Renovation – Open House/Meeting #1

October 19, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Maple Wood Playfield Park – 4801 Corson Ave S., Seattle

Attendees: Approximately 30 participants

Project Team	Seattle Parks and Recreation: Senior Planner, Emily Griffith – Capital Projects Coordinator PLACE Landscape Architecture: Phoebe Bogert, Katherine Goodrich, Tori Halligan
Project	Maple Wood Playfield and Play Area Renovation: seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/maple-wood-playfield-renovation-projects
Budget & Schedule	Budget: \$3,785,619 for planning, design and construction Schedule: Planning and Design: through December 2020 Construction: 2021

Project Scope:

The purpose of the project is to make needed playground and playfield renovations, including improvements to the athletic playfields, play area, and providing accessible routes of travel to the restroom, field dugouts, play area, and parking lot in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The project details include new equipment for the play area and consideration of reorganizing the play area; new drainage, irrigation, grass playing surface, and backstops for the playfields; and ADA access to parking, comfort station, and play area.

Open House:

Seattle Parks and Recreation staff and consultants from PLACE Landscape Architecture held the first meeting to engage the community and receive input on the planned improvements for Maple Wood Playfield. The open house was held on Saturday, October 19 from 10:00 AM to Noon. Approximately 30 people from the community joined the open house. Participants viewed the graphics showing potential opportunities and issues of the park and other boards that provided inspirational images. Attendees learned more about the park renovation project and shared their ideas and concerns.

People were able to participate by commenting directly to designers at the open house and viewing a summary the initial online survey. The survey results are included in the presentation boards.

The next community meeting will discuss design concepts and will be held on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 at Maple Elementary School, located adjacent to the park.

Project Boards and Community Feedback Summary

PLACE presented 10 boards, with the themes of Opportunities & Constraints, Analysis Diagrams, Relationship to Site/Orientation and the online survey results. Image boards were also provided, which were divided into 5 categories: Field, Activity, Gathering, Play and Planting. Please see the presentation boards to understand the following summary of comments solicited from these boards during the open house.

Opportunities and Constraints Diagram

A diagram was provided that asked community members to express a preference to play areas being together (consolidated) or separate (like existing configuration). 89% preferred them to be separated. Also mentioned was the opportunity to create more informal gathering spaces – coupling as increased “eyes on the street”, so to speak, particularly along the grassy hillside above the existing swing set area.

Comments on Analysis Diagrams

- Safety (CPTED) Comments: 1) Feels sketchy in the NW corner of site; 2) Consider adding designated paths through wetland to promote usership and safety by proxy of increased passerby’s
- Paths and Circulation Comments: 1) Add gravel pathway in wetland area to give access and safety - central from houses just north which t- bones from play areas. 2) Provide fire trucks access to Encampments
- Vegetation Comments: 1) Very distinct preference for the existing Oak grove in the play area. 2) Provide/promote blackberry patch/berry picking areas within and along the fringes of the wetland.
- Topo & Environs Comments: 1) Path flooding at north end of loop is a problem and hazardous.

Comments on Image Boards

- Field – High preference for Soccer, Kite Flying, Ultimate Frisbee, Views
Comments included: cut back vegetation to expose views to the west; prevent cars from coming onto fields
- Activity & Gathering – Many favored the Mural Basketball court, Rollerblading, Playful/thoughtful seating areas, Dog-walking, Exercise stations and Biking. Gathering favorites included Picnic areas, BBQ pits, Farmers market, Formal seating, and evening festival (lanterns)
Comments included: Give a sense of entry at both ends of park; more picnic areas; investments and additions to pathway network; sports of interest were hockey, Samoan cricket, tennis, gaga ball pit and roller-skating flat surface
- Play – Survey showed favor for Balance beams/Nature inspired, slides in landform, accessible spinner, climbing equipment, swings, climbing wall, sensory/music (toddler and tyke)
Comments included: a high preference for full size basketball court; add more swings; bigger play area and zipline; also individual preference for mural basketball court; play area on view side of park; address the tween/adult population; spray park; add more slides and swings; zipline and monkey bars.
- Planting – Oak grove (existing), Pollinator pathway and Sculptural Stormwater
Comments show many were partial towards shaded area near pathways, add more trees and create wetland paths to observe wildlife; also, individual preference for fenced beekeeper linked to jungle/blackberry area; and dynamic planting groups.

General Comments

- High enthusiasm for path lighting
- Dog run (specific reference to along the SW corner of site)
- Creative and accessible paths
- No fireworks
- More trash cans and dog waste bag dispensers
- New painting murals
- Mile markers along path

- Concern about traffic flow management during school drop offs and pick-ups

Online Survey Data Gathering

A review of the survey results shows that the majority of the 52 people who participated in the survey (prior to the community meeting) visit Maple Wood Park 2-3 times a week or at least twice a month. The primary language spoken (92%) was English, with mandarin, Spanish and Vietnamese also represented, the vast majority of people lived within the 98108 zip code.

- **Activities:** The users primarily enjoy walking, playground activities, and running and free play on field. The types of activities enjoyed in the play area include climbing, swings and playing outside the play area.
- **What People Like About the Park:** Some of the qualities that were well-liked within the park include the location/proximity to home and school; the sports fields, views, walking trails and trek, planes flying overhead, large open space but secluded with limited traffic; In addition access to nature and berry picking, as well as shaded play area and amenities were mentioned.
- **What People Think is Missing at the Park:** Some of the qualities the park is missing include inviting places to sit, also gathering spaces, nature play, and visibility of spaces. Other aspects lacking that were BBQ's, access to views, adult exercise equipment, community art and improved walkways. "Other" responses which were 50% of the responses, primarily included, better drainage, improvement of fields, increased safety, lighting, improved bathrooms/amenities, and play structures in one place.
- **Desired Play Elements:** Play elements enjoyed most were sliding, climbing, swinging, a bridge, zipline and balancing.
- **Additional Comments:** Responders also suggested making the playground inclusive for children of all abilities, a mother of 3 neuro-atypical children mentioned it would be helpful to have a fence around the play area. Making play areas closer to fields so families with multiple ages can keep track of kids in all areas. Specifically, sand volleyball court, rock walls and soccer field were mentioned. There was a general concern about the safety of the sandpit area (hazards in the sand, etc.), and the I-5 greenbelt. Some expressed interest in having an off-leash dog park, provide a unique and local experience specific to Maple Wood, apart from nearby parks. There was a resounding preference for general improvement of playfields and improved drainage, and some were partial to grass over turf.