



Seattle Parks & Recreation

healthy people healthy environment strong communities

NORTH RAINIER LANDBANKED SITE PARK PROJECT

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Planning & Development Division

1) Safeway at Rainier Square Plaza parking lot, 10am – 12noon
Courtyard between Columbia Gardens and the Dakota at Rainier Court, 1-3pm
Saturday, September 28, 2019

MEETING NOTES

Present

- Ed Pottharst, Seattle Parks and Recreation Planner
- Lisa Corry, Osborn Consulting, Inc.

Community Members – More than 50 community members attended in total. There were at least two dozen people at each of the two locations.

Summary

This meeting was conducted twice in two locations as open houses that included boards with graphics. Ed and Lisa greeted participants and explained the planning process. Two alternative concepts for the new park in North Rainier were presented. Participants reviewed the images and used dot stickers to select the concept they preferred and indicate park elements they would like to see in the new park. Using pictures and holding the meeting at two places near the park site made it accessible for a diverse group of participants. Many participants voiced questions and concerns related to the project but also shared their ideas. Visitors included people of all ages and ethnicities. Kaiser Permanente, which is funding adult fitness equipment for the new park, generously provided flu shots at the afternoon meeting. People are excited about the new park and looking forward to its construction. The design team will use the public input to finalize park design.

Schedule: The project is currently at the end of the planning phase, with two other community meetings having been held in 2017. Design will be completed by the mid-2020 with construction planned for 2020-2021.

The following are the comments that we heard from people at the two open houses on Sept. 28, 2019:

- Need more seating in play area
- Add sand pit
- Some shelter in play area would be great
- Exercise equipment
- Elliptical equipment
- Motion/balance
- Multi-purpose courts
- Traffic and basketball court – ball issues
- Park pavers or personal stamps
- Barcelona parks -balance equipment
- Would like seating that lets me sit and watch kids play
- Tiles like @ Pike Place Market with family names
- Or remembrance garden for those who died of cancer or AIDS – charge \$25 or free
- My largest concerns are ongoing maintenance. Clean up transient gatherings that make families and visitors feel unsafe. Posted gathering hours – some area fenced off. No preference on plans – if no regular maintenance, can just be another gathering space like under the Rainier Ave overpass.
- Concern about entrance – love park but concern about “ownership”
- Love park but want it to be safe
- A playfield
- More seating at children's play areas – both alternatives
- Site history – once a garbage dump and fill site. Want fill to be up to street level.
- Alt #2 – separate basketball from elderly – like this
- Safety concerns with crossing to the north. Need marked crosswalks and lights.
- Alt #2 – basketball in view of Charlestown not so desirable
- Drought-tolerant plants
- Lawn intensive maintenance
- Alt #1 – calming on Charlestown better – come into park for
- Alt #2 – concern about picnic at edge of park tucked in by tree
- Alt #2 – shrubs needed between basketball court and street to stop balls (2 people said this)
- Existing site has lots of bees. Hive = nuisance but can we move it? Recognizes importance of bees, wants to save.
- Needs a restroom! (2 people said this)
- Madison Park – raise money by selling food etc. to help neighborhood
- Security needs to be on site everyday
- Seniors will have a hard time with teenagers

- A lot of senior smokers – need an area to go to
- Do not want basketball court here. Arguments happen at basketball. (2 people said this)
- Too many functions for an acre
- Extend the play area
- Concern about grass turning brown
- Dogs – could be a dog park.
- Want classic swings
- Markers on loop trail for distance

NEXT STEPS: The planning process with the community has now finished. We are sifting through the public comments. Park design will be completed by the mid-2020 with construction planned for 2020-2021. We look forward to sharing a brand new neighborhood park with the community in 2021!

Please feel free to contact SPR Planner Ed Pottharst, ed.pottharst@seattle.gov, 206-386-4232, with any questions.

Thank you for participating!

