

OVERVIEW

We are improving Victor Steinbrueck Park to preserve its legacy and significance.

Victor Steinbrueck Park was created in 1981 by architect and activist Victor Steinbrueck and landscape architect Rich Haag. After helping to save Pike Place Market from demolition, the two designed the park (originally named Market Park) as a place to enjoy the view and to act as an extension of Market's social life, providing a place to gather outside. The park designers felt strongly that the park provide for all people, including disadvantaged members of our community.

Victor Steinbrueck Park is an incredibly well-used and well-loved space; and over the years it has seen the effects of overuse and general wear and tear. Various elements have also been added or removed from the park over time.

This project will take a holistic approach to improving the park for all.



GOALS

In 2008, City Council passed a Levy that allocated \$1.6M for "Improvements to Public Safety". These "include but are not limited to:

- improving sight lines into the park
- renovating seating
- renovating the former children's play area
- improving and expanding lighting
- upgrading landscaping

The park is within Pike Place Market Historic District; the Pike Place Market Historic Commission has adopted guidelines which outline the "character defining features" of the park. These guidelines must be considered as part of any park improvements.

SCOPE

The scope of this project includes public outreach, design, and construction related to improvements outlined above. In addition, the park was constructed on top of a parking garage, and it has recently been determined that the waterproofing membrane between the park and garage is failing. The replacement of the membrane will require that the entire park be removed and reconstructed. While \$1.6M will cover park improvements described in the Levy language, additional money will be required to cover the membrane replacement and reconstruction of the park.

PROCESS

The design team will meet regularly with the public as well as numerous local stakeholders and park users. The design team also meets regularly with Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Pike Place Market Historic Commission, which is responsible for making decisions on all use and design changes in the Market to assure that the historic character of the Market is preserved. The Seattle City Council must approve the final design pursuant to the Levy language.

Public Outreach will include 3 open houses, the first of which will occur May 17, 2016. The design team will also hold on-site events to solicit input from park users; the first on-site event is being held May 19, 2016.

We are at the very beginning of what is expected to be a multi-year design and construction process.

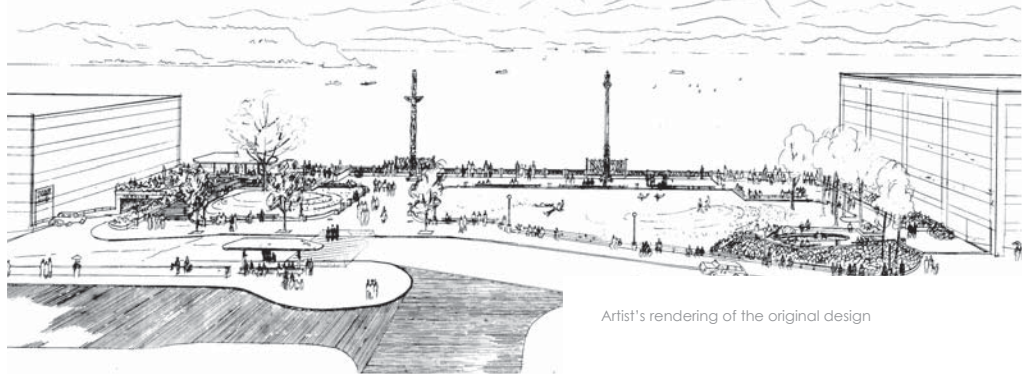
ORIGINAL DESIGN

The park is an extension of the Market and lively public space with a tranquil view of the Sound and mountains.

The park was designed with two simple goals in mind:

- It provides a "belvedere" to enjoy the view of the water and the mountains
- It is an extension of the Market, a place for people from all walks of life to congregate outside.

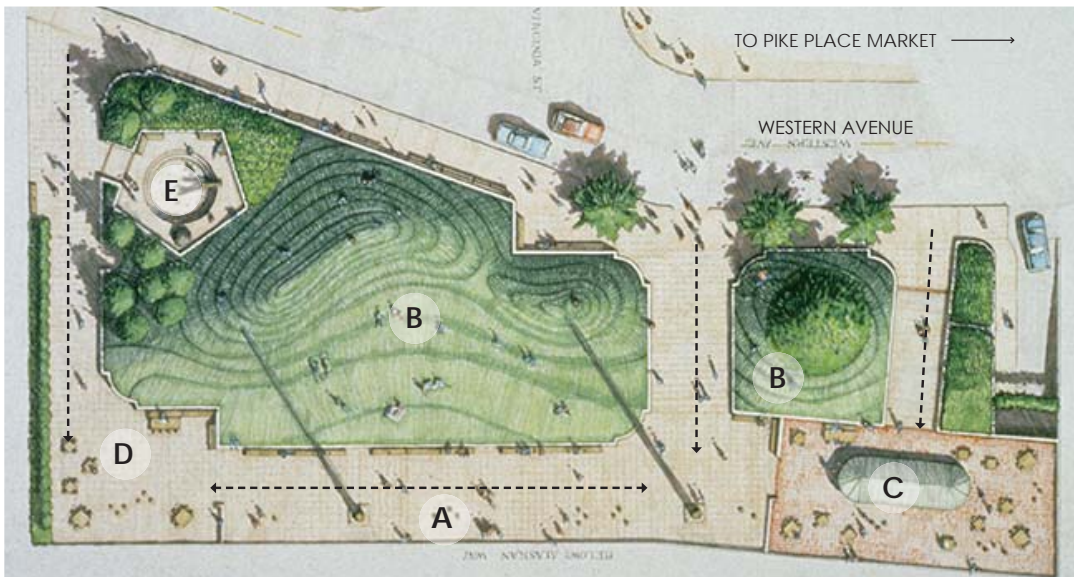
This renovation project considers all of these elements to be significant and is not proposing a wholesale redesign of the park. Instead, improvements will be made that preserve the original design intent and use of the park while acknowledging the significant change in context since the park was constructed. Accommodations will also be made for the needs of the Seattle community in 2016.



Artist's rendering of the original design

LEGEND

- A** Park paths were laid out to lead visitors out to the "belvedere" and the view over the water.
 - B** The mounded lawns shelter the park from the street and create informal green gathering space with a fantastic view.
- Three "outdoor rooms" were created as small gathering areas set slightly apart from the rest of the park:
- C** The pergola and picnic area in the southwest corner
 - D** The picnic area in the northwest corner
 - E** The children's play area, which is now a memorial.



Original site plan (labels not original)

A Belvedere



B Lawns



C Picnic Area



D Picnic Area



E Play Area



SAFETY

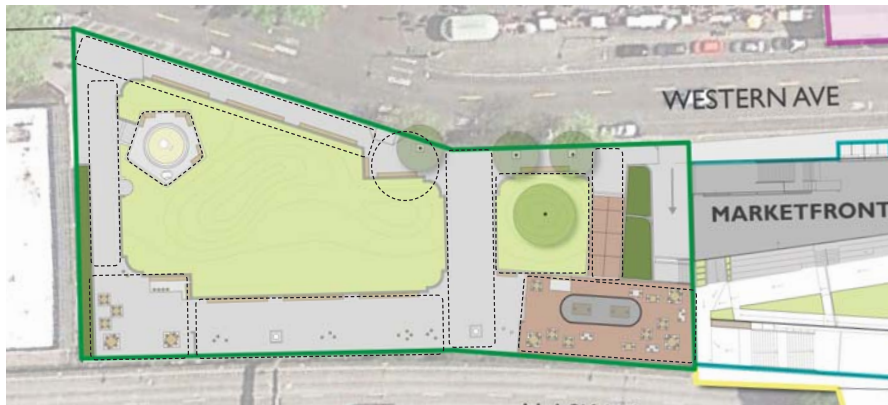
Everyone should feel welcome and safe in the park.

The park was created to be a safe and enjoyable place for all types of people. Throughout our outreach process, many people have voiced their concerns about safety and sense of safety in the park. Some have told us about feeling uneasy because of unclean or damaged facilities, poor lighting after dark, or a lack of other people in the park at certain times of the week. Others have seen illegal and antisocial activities or have felt intimidated or threatened. These experiences and concerns damage the park's reputation and potential.



1 Where do you perceive safety issues in the Park?

Put marks on the map



2 What change would most improve your perception of safety?

Put one check next to your choice

more people

better lighting

maintenance & cleaning

surveillance & security



CONNECTIVITY

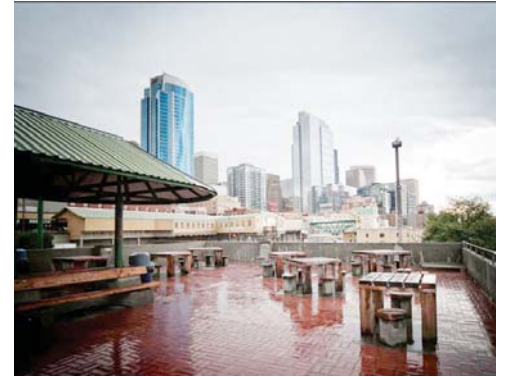
The renovation offers the opportunity to connect Victor Steinbrueck Park directly to this new pedestrian route.

Currently, a low concrete wall separates Victor Steinbrueck Park from the MarketFront's public walk. Left or restored in place, that wall would segregate the park from these adjacent public open spaces. The intuitive route for entering the park from the Market or the waterfront would be blocked. A modified design of the park's south edge could open the park to invite more people in and maintain the park's close relationship with the Market. It would also provide a direct connection between the Market and the park that would be accessible to people of all ages and abilities without having to cross Western Avenue.

Some people are concerned that a connection between Victor Steinbrueck Park and Market Front would flood the park with visitors from the waterfront, potentially impacting people who use the park now. Others believe all these people give the park its character and should be encouraged to enter, not precluded by constructed barriers.



Possible condition: view from south end of park to MarketFront steps. Image by Waterfront Seattle



Existing condition: wall and construction fence at south end of park

1

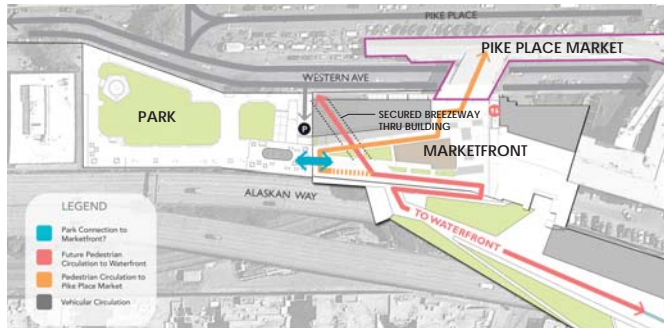
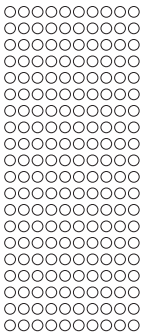
Should the renovation include a direct connection to MarketFront?

(Shown in Blue)

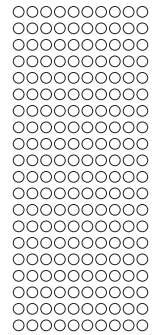
yes

Mark one: "yes" or "no"

no



This connection would provide a new accessible pedestrian route to Pike Place Market and link to the Overlook Walk to the water.



2

Which option is best at south end of the park?

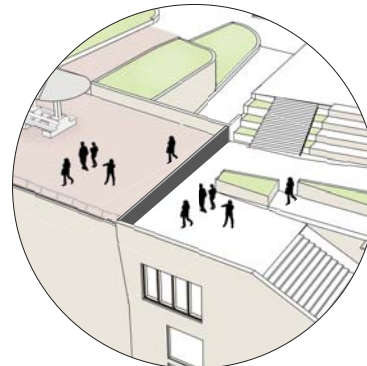
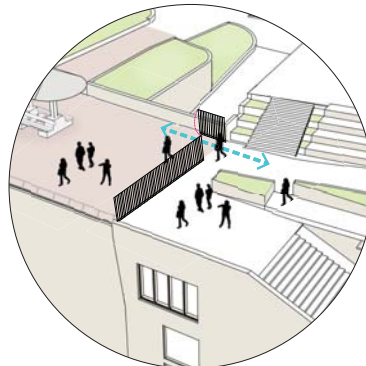
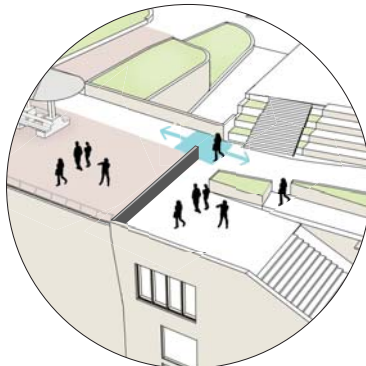
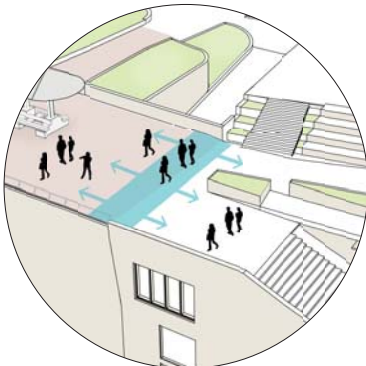
Put one dot next to your choice

A. full connection between park and MarketFront

B. partial connection between park and MarketFront

C. partial connection, with gate between park and MarketFront

D. no connection between park and MarketFront



GATHERING

The park has always been an important meeting and gathering place—both a civic forum and a refuge where people can congregate in relative peace.

Over its life, Victor Steinbrueck Park has taken on a distinct role as a place for people to meet and gather. It is a natural destination: its panoramic views of the sound and mountains, proximity to the Market, and pastoral lawn are unrivaled downtown. Equally important, the park has developed a culture of tolerance for people from all walks of life, who enjoy the park together—many would say this is a key, distinguishing trait of the park.

As such, Victor Steinbrueck Park is where many people and groups congregate, either informally and spontaneously—at lunch, after work—or intentionally, for organized classes, celebrations, civic affairs, protests and other events.



