



Golden Gardens Park Playground Renovation Community Meeting #1 NOTES

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010
6:30– 8:00 p.m.
Golden Gardens Bathhouse**

Our first public meeting for Golden Garden Play Area Renovation was held on April 7, 2010 at the Golden Gardens Bathhouse. The design team introduced the project to an audience of approximately twenty people. In the audience were many parents, a few children, and an overlapping majority expressing an interest in the parks natural environment. We began the meeting by listing the reasons to move the play area: 1) Existing area too small; 2) Site constrained by tree roots; 3) Site impacted by proximity to heavy traffic area. We led the group through a site analysis which in turn led to a preferred site option – the lawn immediately east of the bathhouse. We then held a discussion about the site options. There was a general understanding among attendees that the proposed location is the most appropriate site option.

Constraints include the 200 foot shoreline zone (it would be a difficult to get a permit within the shoreline zone since we have other potential locations on our property); habitat areas, and areas with other preferred uses. Location near the picnic area, ADA parking stalls and overflow parking and the restroom is desirable. The existing play area is under 2800 square feet. The lawn east of the bathhouse is roughly 10,000 square feet. The size range for a park of this type would be between 5,000- 10,000 square feet. A reasonable size expectation for this play area given the budget is about 6,000 square feet. The actual size will be worked out during schematic design, and dependent on play elements, pathways and budget.

After the site discussion we presented an array of play events and styles which were represented on seven poster boards. The community helped us with a “dot” exercise to highlight elements which were preferred (or not). Our final discussion summarized what people liked and disliked about the elements and why they made those choices. That conversation also included suggestions on other play elements not included. We also talked briefly about possible site themes. This information will help the design team develop schematic design options. We will hold another meeting in mid-May (date pending) to get public input on the options.

While the project scope focuses on children ages 2-12 we also heard from a strong advocate for inclusion of teen elements, a request for adult exercise equipment, a request for environmental education signage, and an advocate for inclusion of a slack line within the Park.

Flip chart notes

Site

- How much of grass area would be used?
- Preferred site is not used much – speaker uses the park a lot and observes it's use. Pathways would be helpful here.
- It looks like a great site
- Can you separate age groups with a pathway?
- Why not consider area to the north?
- Hope to see the play area relate to Puget Sound
- More than a play area, would like to see signage about the ecology – eelgrass, mussels and the like
- Speaker lives nearby, had already visualized the proposed location as the new play area, would also like to incorporate Puget Sound. The SW corner of proposed area is best for that
- Think about the views, especially from a swing
- Parents congregate around the play equipment for younger children – can you put that in the SW, the views are better.
- Keeping play to the SW section would also help reduce conflicts with weddings

Play elements

- Look at other play areas to see what we have in the area.
- We like ziplines – Don't like the one at Discovery Park, but like those at Salmon Bay Park, Cowen Park and Madison Park; mentioned a double zip line so kids can "race" each other.
- We did not see slides on the sample boards. Would like to see some big slide options. Adams elementary has good metal slides, covered slides are also nice.
- We want to see swing options
- And a spinning cup!
- Water features
- Water play at Madison Park is great
- Adult fitness would be good, maybe in different location, not as "visible"; this could include teens
- Slack line is a growing sport, slack liners are using some areas of Golden Gardens now, could we incorporate pylons for a slack line in play area and/or elsewhere in park.

Likes and Dislikes based on sample boards:

- Galaxy systems are popular but also becoming ubiquitous
- This place is special, it should look special too
- We like seesaw
- Don't understand what to do on the rainbow chimes
- Yuck to the Big Woods park
- Story Makers present lots of play value, imaginative play and are simple
- Think about vandalism and maintenance – ziplines and spinning things need lots of repair, aren't fun when broken
- Flubber steps feel wobbly and don't like that (parent)

Themes:

- Ships – the one at Ballard Community Center is great
- Incorporate Driftwood and natural elements
- Rope swing!
- Train
- Golden Gardens is a unique park and should include unique elements, not be the same like other park equipment.

Next Steps

We will prepare some schematic design alternatives for public comment, and hold another meeting for that in mid-May. Refer to project timeline. The final design will be presented in June. Construction drawings will take several months to prepare. Expect construction in early 2011.

