



Meeting Summary

Lakeridge Playground Improvements - Meeting #2

Saturday, June 8, 2019

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

At the Park, 10145 Rainer Ave S, Seattle, WA 98178

Attendees: Approximately 150 participants

Project Team	Libby Hudson, Planner; Shwu-jen Hwang, Sr. Landscape Architect; and Garrett Farrell, Project Coordinator
Project	Lakeridge Playground Improvements: seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/lakeridge-playground-improvements
Budget & Schedule	Budget: \$1.899 M for planning, design and construction Schedule: Planning & Design: 2019 Construction: 2020

Project Scope:

The purpose of the project is to make needed playground and playfield renovations, including new play equipment, new field grass turf, irrigation and drainage renovation, courts resurfacing, retaining wall replacement study, and access improvements to meet ADA standards.

Another ongoing City project is located along the western boundary of the park and across Rainier Avenue S. This adjacent project is led by Seattle Public Utility (SPU) and will improve stormwater management and restore habitat along Taylor Creek. To learn more about SPU's Lower Taylor Creek Replacement Project, [please visit the project webpage](#).

Meeting Summary:

Approximately 150 people from the community joined Seattle Parks and Recreation on Saturday, June 8, 2019 for the open house with SPR staff. Participants enjoyed music, food and sports, and learned more about the park improvement project and shared their ideas and concerns.

Project informational boards displayed schematic design and the play equipment options being considered. The project manager and designer were available to discuss the proposed plan.

People were able to participate by commenting directly to SPR staff at the open house and also by filling out a paper survey, or if they were not able to attend the meeting, through the second online survey. A summary of the survey results is attached.

Comments

The following comments and questions were discussed at the open house, organized by topic:

Overall Park Design

- Many people like the design and all the options for play equipment, saying any of these options would be a welcome improvement
- The loop trail was noted as an important feature and would be well used by kids and adults

- Love the loop idea for biking and running

Play Area

Play Area Surfacing

- Concerns about engineered wood fiber for surface because it is not accessible and can be a safety issue.
- Prefer rubberized surface because it is easier to address safety issues (example: play area at Crest Meadow Park, Renton)
- Q: If budget is limited in providing alternatives to wood fiber, how can we get funded?
SPR Response: We understand the desire for different play area surfacing, but we are limited by budget. King County Sport Utility Grant provides opportunity for neighbors to apply for playground improvements. You can also contact Parks Info to express safety concerns- 684-7587, or after hours-684-7250.

Play Area Design Components

- Q: The hill behind the playground with wonderful views is my favorite spot; can the existing stairs be utilized and connected by a simple trail with rocks up to the hill? This could be nature play experience for children too.
SPR Response: The hill is steep, and City ADA staff may require an accessible route for equal opportunity. We will study the grade there and our project budget to look at the feasibility.
- Q: The Southend needs an off-leash dog park between Genesee and Renton. Can the hill behind the playground be converted to small dog off-leash area?
SPR Response: The hill is too steep for off-leash area due to erosion. It's not in the scope of work.
- Q: Will the wall around the playground remain?
SPR Response: Much of the containment wall around the play area will remain. However, the front wall will be removed to provide an accessible route to the play area.

Play equipment

- Many like all the play equipment options and were happy to see new equipment going into the play area.
- People expressed reasons why they like different Options. Options 1, 2, & 3 all offer many activities, more natural looking, & imaginative

Plaza

- Q: Will there be seating in the plaza to watch our children play in the play area?
SPR Response: Yes, the plaza will be bigger. There will be picnic tables and BBQs in the plaza. The younger kids play area will be located closer to the plaza, the older kids play structure in the middle, and swing at the farther end.

Courts

- Keep basketball. It is important here.
- Pickle ball is a nice addition. We like to play tennis. Will there be tennis courts?
SPR Response: The existing timber wall is failing and soil slumping into the court. We will remove the wall and restore it to natural slope. From previous survey, people showed more interest in basketball. We will provide basketball, multi-sports court, pickle ball/badminton and paving games, but not the tennis. There are tennis courts in other parks not far away from this location.

Playfield

- Q: What are the improvements planned for the playfield?
SPR Response: There will be new grass turf, drainage and irrigation improvements, dugouts, accessible route to the dugouts and viewing areas, as budget allows.
- Q: How will the drainage be improved?
SPR Response: We are studying the hillside hydrology and designing a system that will collect the water at the foot of the slope and then direct this flow away from the field. We will regrade the field and add a soil mix that drains better. We are also installing a new underdrainage system to collect the stormwater and direct it into the storm system. These measures are intended to address the existing wet areas and to drain the field, allowing it to be used earlier in the season.
- The local Little League cannot use this field because it is too wet. Artificial turf should be provided instead of grass turf.
SPR Response: The primary goal for the playfield improvements is to solve the drainage problem at this park. This solution will lead to the field being useable earlier in the season and solve the concerns and issue expressed by the Little League. The park is designated a neighborhood park and has limited parking, and the ballfield is relatively small and is not planned for conversion to synthetic turf. Solving the drainage problems here will go far in improving the ballfields playability.

Pedestrian Access & Trails

- Many people liked the loop trail and asked about detail of the route. They like the opportunity to walk, run, and for kids to be able to learn how to bike on the loop trail.
SPR Response: The loop pathway will be dependent on budget. We understand that this is a highly desirable component and are designing it to be 5 to 6-feet wide. It will likely be an add-on to the project and will be included as the budget allows.
- Can the connection to Deadhorse Canyon trail be improved by pruning overgrown plants? It would be nicer to walk within the park instead of busy street.
SPR Response: We will check with Green Seattle Partnership to see if pruning overgrown plants will help, but there is no formal trail connection due to the steep slope there.
- We need safe access down Cornell Ave from the hill, with street lights and sidewalks to bring our kids to the park
- Walking to the park is unsafe, so need to drive; Should improve safety of the parking area
- We live two blocks away and cannot get to the park easily and safely because there is no sidewalk and it's dangerous to walk here.
SPR Response: The right-of-way along the nearby streets are controlled by Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). SDOT has a current project to improve the pedestrian crossings and connections along Rainer Ave S. This is part of the SPU Taylor Creek project. (See link above). SPR is coordinating with SPU and SDOT on these related projects and we will pass along the community's concerns and we encourage the neighbors to also contact SDOT on this issue.

SPU Project Adjacent to the Park (west and north, across Rainier Ave S)

- Some people desired to understand the connection between the adjacent SPU/SDOT projects and opportunity to see the salmon.

SPR Response: SPR continues to coordinate with SPU on their habitat improvement project. Our project will be constructed prior to theirs. We anticipate making appropriate connections and are working together to understand each of the project design needs.

Traffic Concerns

- Many expressed concerned about the traffic safety at intersection of Cornell and Rainier Ave S. SPR Response: As part of the SPU Taylor Creek project, SDOT will improve the intersection by narrowing Cornell to slow speed and funnel cars better onto Rainier Ave, as indicated on the plan. Please see the SPU project link above for more information.

Schedule

- Q: When will this improvement be done?
SPR Response: After this meeting to gather and incorporate public input, we will proceed to construction document and seek permit, bid project and start construction. It will be done by next year.

Next Steps

The online survey remained open for another two weeks – until June 21. The project schematic design and selected play equipment will be provided on the project page. An optional meeting may occur in the early fall if SPR determines that it is needed to further refine the design.

Second Lakeridge Playground Improvement Project Survey Results Summary

Approximately 35 people provided comments through the paper survey at the open house, and another 38 provided comment online.

Question 1 – Which design element that may be added (based on budget availability) would you like most – Loop Trail, Adult Fitness, or Incorporating Art into the design?

The loop trail was the most desired as a multi-age, multi-use trail for kids to ride bikes and scooters, and adults to walk and jog. People wanted to see a trail that could accommodate kids on bikes and scooters, in addition to walkers of all age and abilities. Adult fitness is the second and art incorporation is the third.

Question 2 – Please share thoughts on the overall schematic design.

The majority of commenters thought the design was good and were happy to see the park renovated. Some wished that the restrooms were included in the project. Many were happy that basketball was remaining. Some wanted more trees at the site. People thought pickle ball was a good addition. Some people want rubber surfacing and more benches at the play area. A number of people support benches and BBQ shelter. One desired an off-leash dog area. A number of people were concerned about the traffic and lack of sidewalks. There were concerns expressed related to the walkability of the adjacent street and the existing restroom blocking views of the play area.

Question 3 – A successful play area will enhance children’s physical, social and cognitive development. In comparing the four options, which Play Equipment Option do you like best and why?

Many participants mentioned that they really like all options and were thrilled by the good proposals. Proposals were presented in perspectives, plan views, and analysis of important features such as elevated and ground activity numbers, maximum height, number of slides, swing options, and size of deck.

More people were drawn toward nature theme with forest, log, rock, etc. (option #1, #2, #3) and less drawn to the ocean theme (option #4). Of those attending the second meeting, more people like Option #2. People mentioned that they like its funky cool look; that it can accommodate more kids with many activities; it includes climbing nets and rock walls; that it is unique and not duplicative of other nearby play equipment. Many liked the global motion, the adult and kid swing, the 3-bay swing, the interactive play, the layout, that it blends with wilderness, and that it provides nice play equipment for 2 to 5 year-old's.

Option #3 also is popular. People like the rock and rope climbing feature, that it provides more play events and activities for multiple age, that it has a natural forest look that blends in well with hill, that it includes curved slides & music and looks like it also includes a rubberized surface. Some people choose option #3 because they like the rubberized surfacing, which is a depiction in the illustration, but not presently included in the budget. Some people selected this option because they like the music elements, which can also be included in the other options.

People who like Option #1 mentioned that it's cool, has lots of activity, seems to maximize the space, looks more natural and more creative, provides a log crawl, higher swing and many slides.

Fewer people like Option #4. Those that selected this option like the cool pirate theme, pirate ship and whale, and also the track and ride. It only offers two slides and does not seem as attractive as the other three options.

Because those participating saw value in each of the options, the "why do you like it" component of this question offers insight and provides guidance for the designer in understanding what elements of the play equipment are most important to the community. The following summarizes these:

- Many want natural & attractive equipment that blends with forest, look of wood and rock – natural materials; Natural options that fit into the park best; Wilderness
- Many like play equipment that provides lots of activities and things to do
- Climbing features are popular such as rock & net climbing, the flex net tower, and other climbing.
- Natural play is popular, such as rock, log crawl and log balance.
- Play Surfacing that improves accessibility and easy to see foreign objects such as needles.
- Open play, get kids moving, many choices
- Promote imaginative and interactive play
- Activities for multiple age
- Many slides with different size, height, and types.
- Swings (incorporate youth & adult swing); 3 bays of swings
- Global motion; global spinner
- Some want music element incorporated in the play activities

Question 4 –What other ground-level activities do you want to see in your chosen option?

Adult & kid swings were popular, followed by rock & rope climber, music element, global motion, and log crawler and seesaw.