



Public Meeting #2 / Meeting Notes Battle Point Park Master Plan Update

The meeting was 7 to 9 PM 15 December 2009 at the Bainbridge Commons.

Over 40 citizens signed-in and participated in the meeting. Parks and SvR presented the goals for the master plan update, findings from the last public meeting and web survey, and then facilitated four groups through two exercises.

Presentation –

- Public comments will inform the master plan update process to decide physical improvements and character for the park
- The improvements in the update will guide development through 2022 with the goal to assure that the park is a vital and important destination.
- Findings from the public meetings will be presented to the Board of Commissioners.
- The process builds upon previous master plans as well as the Comprehensive Plan and CIP meetings. The process will be guided by public comments, staff comments, budget, safety and operations, site characteristics, and Board deliberations.
- Findings from public meeting #1 – see meeting notes for more detail -
 - Overall things should not change much – rather existing character and uses should be enhanced and repairs made.
 - The visual character and word preference exercise identified a more rural, wild and pastoral landscape with build elements expressing the history of the site and potentially some whimsy.
- Findings from web survey – over 170 responders with many illustrating a strong specific use preferences
 - What should not change – trails / play areas / ponds / roller hockey
 - What must change – vehicle circulation (open through road) / tennis courts (more) / restrooms (improved and more) / trails (improved and more)
 - What new uses should be considered – (more) tennis courts / concerts / off leash area / (more) trails
- Evaluating the degree of change in the park – physical (roads, buildings, landforms) / use and activities / character (feel and look) – based on a scale of 1 (no change) to 5 (complete change) – the single largest number 39% felt the character of the park should not change although over 50% felt some change should occur and 63% and 59% felt there should be a slight to moderate change in the physical elements and use of the park respectively.
- Finally, the qualities of the site are rare on the island. It is 90 acres of high flat open space. This quality is akin to the reflection pool at the Bloedel Reserve - a beautiful and serene place surrounded by trees and open to the sky. The open qualities of the site include its long vistas which provide a means to organize uses and activities at the park as well providing a unique open space experience.

Exercise 1 –

The year is 2022 and some of the built elements at the park need to be replaced. Where would you place them? Should they be replaced at Battle Point Park? As a group, discuss the findings of the first public meeting and establish locations for the elements.

There was no consensus for most issues. Generally it was felt that –

- The maintenance area should be relocated in the park or moved off site
- The community gardens are important and could be relocated or moved
- An off leash area was felt to be both needed and potentially unused

- It was thought that tennis should be expanded but no consensus of Battle Point was the best location
- Kids up could be relocated if it is adjacent to parking
- Restrooms need to be upgraded with additional restrooms near trails or at observatory
- More picnic shelters should be added along main path

Exercise 2 –

Review and comment on two development options, each represent contrasting visions for various systems and elements of the park. As a group, discuss the details of the two options and select the preferred systems and elements for the park.

Systems – summary comments -

- **Vegetation / Drainage** – general consensus to accentuate existing drainage and wet areas and not expand. Key comments - more natural, optimize open space, provide better drainage throughout park including trails
- **Pedestrian circulation and circulation** – a majority preferred the more developed trail system of option 2 . Key comments – better connections to Fairy Dell and Forest to Sky Trails, split sentiments on paved vs. gravel surfacing, consider making some paths wider
- **Auto access, circulation, and parking** – split opinions between leaving road closed and open. Key comments – prefer better drop off and more parking especially on east side

Elements – summary comments

- **Maintenance shops** – majority opinion to relocate facility on site but not be expanded. An expanded facility should be moved off site
- **Tennis** – general preference for more courts
- **Community gardens** – should be retained and expanded and could be relocated
- **Equestrian features** – general consensus to remove corral and maintain perimeter trail for horse use
- **Off leash area** – an off leash area is preferred but no agreed location
- **KidsUp and playgrounds** – keep it near parking and near its present location
- **Roller hockey and basketball** – no consensus - either facility could be retained or relocated
- **Picnic shelters** – add both one large shelter near soccer / baseball and add several smaller throughout the park / more near pond and large near fields
- **Art and interpretation** – supported the idea but not enough information to evaluate idea
- **Restrooms** – general preference for restroom in option 2 with consideration for a restroom nearer soccer fields – perhaps at observatory. Key comment – restrooms need more maintenance.
- **Amphitheater and concession** preference for expanded and formalized landform with potential concession at observatory – option 2
- **Perimeter fence** – general preference for creating more openings, split opinions on removal of fence
- **Other comments** – keep open quality, better maintenance, apply parade ground / historic references

Close –

Public comment is critical to the success of the process. Beyond the public meetings the Board meetings are open for public comment.

Parks will next overlay operations, safety, and budget considerations. SvR will begin to overlay design options.

Thank you!

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