



## **PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

### **December 2009**

#### **Aquatic Center Feasibility Study**

Staff has met with representatives of several nearby cities to assess their needs and to evaluate alternative funding mechanisms to address regional aquatic needs. Most cities recognize the shortage of aquatic facilities on the Eastside, but face the same financial constraints faced by Bellevue, and cannot commit to long-range funding strategies. SPLASH continues to meet with potential private partners and remains hopeful that a new facility will come to fruition in the near future. We have met with the City Manager to discuss next steps.

#### **Ashwood Park Master Plan & Use of Park**

The library is proceeding with plans to construct parking on their property, and has requested the temporary use of Ashwood Park for parking during construction. We are working representatives of the library to review plans and establish requirements for the use of the park during construction, which is expected to begin in late 2010. We expect to discuss this issue with the City Council in January of 2010. The master planning effort remains on hold.

#### **Bellevue Youth Theatre Design**

The architect has begun design development drawings. The design team has developed illustrations for the fund raising effort. The schematic design and the Foundation's upcoming fundraising campaign was well received by Council on December 7, 2009.

#### **Eastgate Area Park Property (Ex-Boeing Property) – Shared access road and parking**

No Change: Work continues on auditing SW's construction contract documents to establish the final City cost and payment for the shared road, landfill gas system upgrades, and parking lot construction, estimated at \$2.5million. We continue to evaluate and negotiate SW's request to modify their parking requirements contained in the Purchase & Sale Agreement.

#### **Eastgate Area Park Property (Ex-Boeing Property) Master Plan**

At their October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Park Board reviewed the project background and discussed the merits of the three master plan alternatives. The Park Board recommended (5-2) the sportfield oriented Alternative A as the preferred Master Plan, with the requirement that an off-leash area be created at Robinswood Community Park of no less than five acres. The Board also recommended (7-0) Airfield Park as the preferred new park name. The master planning process and Park Board recommendations will be shared with the City Council after the first of the year.

#### **Grant applications**

Staff received notice that the BYT project would not receive King County LEED funding assistance in the 2009 grant cycle. King County encouraged resubmission of the project for 2010 grant consideration. The project will receive a \$75,000 grant from the King County 4 Culture

program, with the possibility of receiving additional funds in future grant cycles.

### **Lewis Creek Park Playground Covers**

Initial installation is complete. We will be adding an additional cover to increase coverage on one of the play areas. The play features that were removed as part of the installation will be re-installed at the time of the additional cover construction.

### **Light Rail Impacts**

The staff is working with our Transportation staff and representatives of Sound Transit to evaluate the effects of several alternative light-rail routes that run parallel to Bellevue Way along Mercer Slough. The Winters House, Blueberry Farm, boat launch and maintenance operations are all potentially impacted by several alternatives being studied.

### **Mercer Slough Environmental Educational Center**

The Master Builders Association is completing the plumbing and mechanical systems for Wetlab 2, and has revised the schedule and expects to have the project done by this summer.

### **Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan & Land Use Study**

The FEIS and draft Master Plan were released November 12, 2009. On November 19, 2009, the Steering Committee held their 21<sup>st</sup> and final meeting to confirm their recommendations for the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan. After the Council is briefed on the draft Master Plan and Steering Committee Recommendations Report, these two documents will be transmitted to the Park Board. The project is tentatively scheduled on Park Board agendas for February, March, and April of 2010.

### **Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Projects**

Approved NEP projects being implemented by Planning and Design staff are as follows:

- **Playground equipment at Ardmore Elementary:** Approved 2005 funding is on hold pending the coordination with the School District's rebuild of the school site, which is in process.
- **Cougar Ridge Elementary Sports Wall:** Staff is coordinating the project with the Issaquah School District and awarded a construction contract to Roy E Dunham Contractors. Completion is planned for early 2010.

### **Off-Leash Dog Area Study**

Work is on-hold pending the results of the off-leash decision on the Eastgate Area Master Plan. Once a decision is reached, we will return to the Park Board with the results of the additional work requested.

### **Park & Natural Areas Levy Projects**

- Synthetic Sportsfield at Wilburton Hill Park:** Construction began the week of September 28 and is approximately 30% complete. The fields are expected to open in spring 2010.
- Synthetic Sportsfield at Newport Hills Park:** We have applied for permitting and environmental review. A public informational meeting was held as part of the SEPA process on November 17, and several neighbors continue to oppose the project. A SEPA determination is expected in January.

- Lewis Creek Park Improvements:** Staff is working with our design consultants to update the picnic area design, which is expected to be ready for permit submittal in the first quarter of 2010.
- BYT Construction:** See BYT design above.
- Botanical Garden Projects:**
  - **Ravine Garden:** Design work is near completion on both the rigid and suspension bridges. We expect to apply for permits in mid January and be ready for construction in spring or early summer 2010.
  - **Wetland-Sun Terraced Garden:** The contract with JGM Landscape Architects was approved on Oct 20, and design is underway.
  - **Visitor Center & Parking Lot:** Design work led by the architectural firm of Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen has begun, and Staff will be conducting a series of stakeholder meetings in early 2010 to verify the current needs and programming.
  - **Maintenance Area development:** We are preparing a survey of the site and working with Resources Management staff to develop project scoping and cost estimates for this work.
- Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park:** Park staff is supporting the efforts of the Bridle Trails Community Club to process and prepare a recommendation for park levy project(s) for their neighborhood. An original list of over 50 project ideas has been narrowed to six. The staff is now researching project feasibility and developing project cost estimates. Based on neighborhood feedback and project feasibility information, the Community Club hopes to finalize their recommendation in time to share their preferences with the Park Board in February.
- Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park:** No activity.
- Surrey Downs Park Development:** No activity. See Surrey Downs Master Plan.
- Eastgate Properties Park Development:** No activity. See Eastgate Area Master Plan.
- Downtown Park Development:** No activity.

### Park & Open Space Plan Update

Planning staff is working with Camron Parker to update the Park & Open Space Plan. The community outreach portion of the plan is complete, with a Park Board review scheduled in January.

### Surrey Downs Master Plan

The process to resolve the building issue is on hold.

