



# MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 15, 2008

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Patrick Foran, Director  
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan

As you may know, after the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan Steering Committee reached consensus on the land use phase of the plan in January, the project has been in recess for several months allowing staff to reassess the approach for the next phase of the project which will focus on park planning. Over the past year, Sasaki Associates, Inc. has assisted the city through the first phase of the project (the land use planning phase) and the Preliminary Preferred Land Use Plan developed by Sasaki provides the city with a firm foundation from which to move forward.

Environmental issues and public concerns raised in the first phase prompted staff to review the skills needed to successfully complete the Park Master Plan Phase. Due to the park's waterfront location, it is clear that the park plan will need to focus much more on integrating environmental solutions with opportunities for place-making consistent with these environmental values. After significant review and discussions, staff determined that a new consulting team with different skills was necessary to achieve the best park plan. To that end, we have terminated the contract with Sasaki Associates and are currently negotiating with EDAW, a firm that we believe will bring the best skill set to the park planning phase. During the original RFP process EDAW presented an excellent proposal, placing them second in the selection process. EDAW is a multi national firm with extensive waterfront planning experience that integrates environmental planning with their projects. And because we will work primarily with their Seattle office, access and communication will be excellent and their local knowledge of environmental issues will be very helpful.

As part of our negotiations with EDAW, we are developing a schedule that will take us to project completion in an efficient but realistic manner, allowing the Steering Committee, the Park Board and Planning Commission, and the general public to anticipate major steps in the remaining planning process. We hope to be under contract with EDAW by late April, and resume the park planning process in May.

The park master planning process, including integration with the preferred land use plan, could require an additional 10 - 12 months to complete, extending into Spring of 2009. Opportunities for participation and input for the public, boards and commissions and the Steering Committee are included at key points in the process. Once the schedule is finalized, we will provide those dates as far

in advance as possible to maximize public and Park Board involvement. We have tentatively scheduled the next Steering Committee meeting for May 29, 2008.

We are also tentatively scheduled to attend Park Board meetings in July and September 2008, and will provide information about the process and project in May or June through your meeting packets.