



## **PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

### **August 2009**

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

No Change. Staff continues to meet with several nearby cities to continue evaluating the idea of alternative funding mechanisms to address regional aquatic needs.

#### **Ashwood Park Master Plan**

A charrette with various City departments was conducted to review previous master planning efforts and to help guide the next planning steps. Staff has also met with the City Manager and representatives of the King County Library System, who would like to consider using Ashwood Park to construct underground parking for the adjacent Bellevue Regional Library. We were unable to work out a solution amicable to both parties, so the library will proceed with plans to construct parking on their property, and will likely request the temporary use of Ashwood Park for parking during construction. The master planning effort is on hold.

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

The final schematic design plans were reviewed by the internal design team on June 11, and the architect has been authorized to initiate design development. The design team has met with the fundraising team representatives to review the desired graphic materials for the effort.

#### **Crossroads Park Water Play**

The shelter installation is complete and in use, though the roof is not satisfactory and the contractor will submit plans for replacement in August or September. Safety surface repairs are complete and in use, though also not accepted until additional repairs are made.

#### **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**

Approximately 40 neighbors attended the fourth park planning meeting on July 23 at South Bellevue Community Center. Staff shared technical information about the property and reviewed feedback from the previous community workshops, online surveys and correspondence from the community, Parks & Community Services Board and City Council. The park system recreational needs and opportunities were then reviewed before viewing a range of three updated design alternatives. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session. Over 300 responses have been received to-date to the 4<sup>th</sup> on-line survey asking preferences to the three design

alternatives. The Park Board will review the options at their September and October meetings. We have also been supporting staff in the Economic Development Dept. apply for grant funding for brownfields clean-up under the Federal Economic Stimulus Program

### **Grant applications**

The Youth Theatre project will receive a \$75,000 grant from King County, with the possibility of receiving additional funds in future grant cycles. An additional \$221,000 has been approved by the State RCO for the 2004 Meydenbauer Bay acquisition project, bringing the total approved for this project to-date of over \$700,000. Formal Council approval will be requested in September.

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

A total capital program of \$73 million, \$53 million for park development and \$20 million for park acquisition, was approved in November, 2008. The sequencing program presented to the Board in March will be delayed because the projected \$28.5 million in CIP resources will be delayed due to the economic recession. The status of the development projects is as follows:

- Synthetic Sportsfields at Newport Hills and Wilburton Hill Parks:** Design/permit work continues on both projects. A SEPA determination of non-significance was issued for the **Wilburton** project July 16. The project is currently out to bid and will open on September 2 with construction expected to start in late September.  
Approximately 20 people attended the June Park Board meeting, and a response to their previously expressed concerns was presented at that meeting. A response to several Board questions was prepared for the July meeting, which was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. We plan to submit for SEPA and permits in September.
- Lewis Creek Park Improvements:** A consultant contract to prepare design plans for the picnic area and trail improvements was approved at the 7/20 Council meeting. Boxwood Architects is updating the existing plans, and will be proceeding with design development and permitting this fall/winter.
- BYT Construction:** See BYT design above.
- Botanical Garden Projects:**
  - **Ravine Garden:** Design work continues.
  - **Wetland-Sun Terraced Garden:** We are reviewing qualified designers and plant experts to complete design work on this garden. We expect to have a design contract approved in September.
  - **Visitor Center & Parking Lot:** 22 Proposals were submitted to the City and are under review by a team comprised of representatives from the staff and Botanical Garden Society. The team has narrowed the field to five finalists, and conducted interviews the week of August 17. We expect to have a design contract presented for Council approval in September.
  - **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:** Voters approved \$2.5 million to acquire, develop or enhance parks and open space in the Bridle Trails neighborhood. Park staff is supporting the efforts of the Bridle Trails Community Club to process and prepare a recommendation for park levy project(s). The recommendation will be forwarded to

the Park Board and Council. Staff and committee members attended neighborhood picnics on May 30 and June 27 to collect feedback from the neighborhood. City and neighborhood web sites are available for residents to get information and forward park levy project ideas for consideration.

- 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.

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

Installation is complete. Modifications to one of the play area covers are being considered to increase coverage.

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

The City has reached agreement with the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County (MBA) to construct Wetlab 2 as a donation, and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Right-of-Entry to formalize that relationship. Construction fencing has been installed, and construction is expected to begin in August, and be complete by the end of the year.

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

The Draft EIS was issued on June 4, 2009. A public hearing was held on the DEIS on June 23, and the public comment period closed July 20, 2009. The Steering Committee met twice in June to begin discussions, and then finalized their recommendation in July for a preferred alternative to be analyzed in the Final EIS. The FEIS is scheduled to be released mid-November 2009. City Council will be presented with the FEIS, the draft Master Plan and the Steering Committee Recommendation Report for transmitting to the Park Board and relevant commissions.

#### **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 expected to begin next spring.
- **Ashwood Plaza Construction:** See paragraph above.
- **Somerset Entry renovations:** Construction is underway, with completion anticipated in September.
- **Cougar Ridge Elementary Sports Wall:** Staff is working with the Issaquah School District (ISD) to have design and construction to occur in late summer/early fall of 2009. Staff will work with the ISD on coordination of school programming and construction.
- **Crossroads Water Play Area Picnic shelters:** See paragraph above.

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

At their meeting of June 15, the City Council asked the Park Board to further review options to provide off-leash areas downtown, including further study in Downtown Park. They also wanted the decision on an off-leash area at Eastgate be determined through the Eastgate master planning

process. Once we have reached this decision, we will return to the Park Board with the results of the additional work requested.

**Surrey Downs Master Plan**

The park portion of the plan was adopted by Council on March 16. The process to resolve the building issue is on hold.