Specific design details were not addressed in the planning process; however, general considerations and opportunities for design of park features were discussed. The following paragraphs provide guidance for further design development.

7.1 Landscape Pavements

Paving materials will be selected considering aesthetics, design intent, function, form, and sustainable attributes. Soft and permeable materials will reduce runoff; durable grated materials used for overwater structures will allow light to penetrate and encourage habitat protection and restoration; modular materials are easily repaired and recycled; and locally manufactured materials will reduce environmental impacts associated with transport. Pathway materials will be selected to reinforce park character and wayfinding. Changes in materials can convey hierarchy or distinction. Continuity of materials along the shoreline promenade will unify the design and enhance the prominence of this significant park feature.
Lighting

Lighting will be designed considering energy use, aesthetics, and safety. Unobtrusive and pedestrian-scaled energy-efficient fixtures will be used to enhance enjoyment of the space year round. Care will be taken to achieve appropriate illumination levels and avoid glare. Distinctive lighting will be used as accents or art in more urban areas and corridors of the site.

Furnishings

Furnishings should be selected or custom designed to reinforce the design intent. Furnishing will complement the style of the architecture.

Signage and Wayfinding

Wayfinding can be accomplished with signage as well as good design including continuity and selection of materials, and orientation through views, axis, and other organizing elements. The intent is to use good design, clear circulation patterns, and a hierarchy of spaces to orient visitors. Where signage is required, it will be designed to be clean, simple, understated, and in character with the overall park design.

Figure 7.1-4: Example of Interpretation and Education Signage (EDAW AECOM)
Art

Art is an opportunity to express the culture of a community: who we are, have been, and are in the process of becoming. The Plan suggests locations for signature art pieces and encourages the introduction of art and quality craftsmanship in pavement, walls, architecture, play areas, furniture, and other site details.

Water Features

Two water features are proposed along the 100th Avenue corridor, strengthening the connection from Downtown Park to the shoreline. This more architectural feature begins at the entry plaza, falls along the structure, and continues to the lower entry plaza. This feature should be designed as sustainably as possible using recycled water and perhaps providing a building or urban cooling function. A second landscape water feature is proposed on the east side 100th Avenue NE extending from Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Way SE. This low impact landscape feature captures and cleanses stormwater and irrigates new planting, while serving as a strong visual wayfinding element connecting Downtown Park to the waterfront.
7.2 Park Architecture

New Buildings

New buildings that are proposed include restrooms, an activity building, boat storage, and open shelters. The architecture in the park will be understated, well integrated into the landscape, and in most cases tucked into the hillside. The style is envisioned as contemporary northwest: transparent and energy efficient, with extensive use of glass and timber. Buildings will have generous overhangs for shelter and shade. The architecture of the buildings and site structures should be complementary. The Plan envisions new architecture of human scale with the contemporary use of historic materials to express a connection to the historic waterfront town and optimism about the City’s more urban future.
Historic Buildings

The historic Whaling Building and Ice House will be retained and adapted for reuse as historic, interpretive, educational, or community uses. Although new buildings will be compatible in scale, they will not attempt to replicate the historic style. As a result, the Whaling Building complex will be distinct and memorable.

Bridges, Piers, Overlooks, and Shelters

The Plan proposes bridges, piers, overlooks, and shelters. These structures in combination with their architecture will establish park character. While additional detailed design studies are required, the Plan envisions that all of these elements will be simple, transparent, and contemporary in style, referencing the urban context and integrating into the landscape. Use of natural, more traditional materials (wood and stone) in combination with more contemporary materials (steel and glass) will connect the past with the future and landscape with architecture.

Figure 7.2-6: Historic Whaling Building at Bellevue Marina

Figure 7.2-7: Example of Park Overlook Structure (EDAW AECOM)