

Lake Washington Boulevard Trail and Drainage Project

Public Process Summary

In 2000, Seattle voters approved a \$198.2 million levy for Parks and Recreation, including \$1,000,000 to improve the park along Lake Washington Boulevard from the Mount Baker Swimming Beach to the Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center. While it is beyond the scope of this paper to identify all the issues and ideas raised during the planning and design process, key themes and decisions are summarized within.

Pro Parks Planning

Parks staff held three community meetings in which ideas and comments were solicited and information was disseminated. The first meeting was held in June 2006 at the Mount Baker Community Club. At that meeting Parks staff introduced the concept of renovating the existing social trail along the water's edge as well as repairing acute drainage problems in the boulevard itself. At the same meeting, the Parks Urban Foresters presented a Vegetation Management Plan and Study that was prepared by the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington.

The meeting participants were informed that the second community meeting would be held after a drainage study was conducted by consultant engineers. Unfortunately rain, of an intensity and duration required to conduct the study, did not fall until November 2006.

The second community meeting was held in December 2006 at the Lakewood/Seward Park Community Club. Parks staff presented the proposed plan for the trail as well as information gleaned from the drainage study. The meeting participants critiqued the specifics of the trail design and Parks staff agreed to incorporate many of their requested changes.

In August 2007, Parks held the third and final public meeting at the Lakewood/Seward Park Community Club. The intention of the meeting was to update the public on the project status, present the final trail design, and to publicize the construction start date.

Final Design

The fourteen-inch wide trail will be renovated with gravel – the width will remain the same. Much of the trail will follow the existing alignment though in places it will be offset anywhere from three to 30+ feet from the original placement. The trail is being realigned in order to provide lengths of trail that are more fish friendly and to avoid wet areas.

The trail will be extended to the intersection at 43rd Avenue S. and Lake Washington Blvd. A switchback ramp will also be constructed at the Mount Baker Swimming Beach. This ramp will provide access from the sidewalk at street level to the water's edge at the south end of the parking lot.

Friends of Olmsted

The proposed improvements were presented to board meetings for the *Friends of Olmsted* in July 2006, February 2007, and September 2007.

Current Status, September 2007

Trail construction is complete. Construction documents are currently being prepared for the drainage improvements. Construction of the drainage component will occur the first or second quarter of 2008.