



**BHY KRACKE PARK PLAY AREA RENNOVATON**  
**Community Meeting**  
**Monday, May 18, 2009, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**Neighborhood Service Center – 160 Roy St.**

Meeting Purpose: To present the project to the neighborhood and to discuss design options with community members. Community input will guide final design.

Attendees: Parks: Joseph Neiford (Sr. Landscape Architect), Virginia Hassinger (Project Manager),  
Audience: Thirteen adult residents, several children.

Overview: The project is one of the first projects funded by the 2008 Parks and Greenspace Levy to proceed. It is being accelerated as part of “Seattle Jobs Forward” initiative, the mayor’s action plan to create jobs and boost the local economy. The project will provide play area improvements for children ages 2-12, including safety surfacing, play equipment, improvements to accessibility, and site improvements that may include picnic tables, and benches. It will be designed by Seattle Parks Sr. Landscape architect Joseph Neiford and built by a private contractor. We want to be sure we have community input prior to design. Our goal is to provide improvements to the park that will make the park and play area a desirable place to gather and play. We would like the play equipment to provide good play value and to use different play equipment than you have at other Queen Anne Parks so that the play experience will vary as you visit different sites. The project budget is \$150,000.

Site analysis: The existing play equipment is old, does not meet current safety standards and is of minimal play value. The proposed design will roughly double the play area, providing for better play value and current safety standards. An ADA accessible pathway connects to the sidewalk and passes along the front of the play area, similar to the current arrangement. Because the sidewalk along the street is over 8% the site will never be fully accessible, but this will be much better than current pathways inside the park which are too steep to be accessible for ADA. It is still a small play area compared to some other parks and our initial design focuses on the younger age group (2-5 years) , although there will be some elements that should hold the interest of children up to 8 or 9. This is one of five project we are designing concurrently. We are trying to use several different play equipment companies to spread the work around, and also avoid duplicating play equipment found elsewhere in your neighborhood. We are proposing to use SiteLine play structure here, it provides good play options, and we can vary the features according to community input. SiteLines offers a very good (26%) discount on the equipment so we can get good play value for our budget. This is choice is not “locked in” but it gives us a good starting point, and allows us to move forward quickly with the design.

Community comments and Parks responses:

- We have heard that park donor Bhy Kracke had detailed development plans for the park. Do you have them? (We haven’t seen the plans mentioned, but you could check the online in the City Clerk’s Archives: <http://www.seattle.gov/CityArchives/> and also see more Park history in the Sherwood files: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/history/sherwood.htm>. Note that the focus of this project is the play area and not the overall design.
- Please no bongos or music elements. Teens use the park at night for gathering and drinking, this would create more noise.
  - Parks- Ok, we heard that loud and clear
- Can you replace the monkey bars with a zipline?
  - Parks - Possibly, but they take up a lot of room

- Those four stool things are useless, never see kids on those things
  - Parks -We can omit them
- What exactly is \$150K being spent on. Can you show us a line item budget?
  - Parks -We did not bring one with us and usually don't go over budgets line by line with community, the budget includes all associated costs; planning design - including all staff time -etc.
- What is containment area?
  - Parks - This is the area within the curb which borders the play area and which contains the safety surfacing, which in this case will be wood chips.
- Can you use rubberized surface, this could reduce maintenance costs ?
  - Parks -It is much more expensive to use.
- Several people responded they wanted surface material to remain as natural as possible.
- This park is a gem, but why do Parks gardeners chopped down 11 old growth rhododendrons? Who decides to do that?
  - Parks -Discussion followed about Parks maintenance, desire for more community input, concern about some maintenance staff, practices, and crime reporting. Parks will discuss these concerns with the sector manager Cynthia Thurmond.
- Several people were interested in forming a Friends of Bhy Kracke Park.
- Preference expressed among the group for the more natural color choice, possibly with some smaller elements having brighter coloring.
- Could we consider skate dots?
  - Parks -We have a Citywide Skateplan, it lists the parks we plan to build various skate features. This is not one of those sites.
- Don't put a bench under the trellis, it is frequently used for weddings
  - Parks - OK, we can leave that out, could put benches in other locations on the site. Just leave the picnic table in.
- Possible site for a bench would be under trees, also near play area.
- Could you include a game table that had a chess board on it?
  - Parks - We do have a game table on the plan.
- A table of some kind is popular.
- Don't put garbage cans too close to picnic tables, if they are not emptied regularly, they start to stink.
- Could you include see-saws?
  - Parks -Can consider it
- An Xcelerator is also an possibility, if it works with the chosen line of play equipment.
- Do try to include older children. My little ones will grow up and I plan to stay in neighborhood.
- Will you include lighting?
  - Parks -no, it is not in the budget. There are pros and cons to lighting in a park.
- Sunbathers tend to use the area where the ADA pathway is drawn, shade trees do limit that use on other parts of the lawn.
  - Parks – We will try to consider shading etc and allow for that.
- Will benches be Ipe wood?
  - Parks -Most likely.
- Suggestion to add a loop path for children on the slope just behind the play area
  - Parks -The idea was endorsed by several people, this does appear to be possible.

Meeting conclusion: These ideas will be used to develop the final design, We will post a copy of that design on the website and also on the signboard on site. We do plan to have initial design documents complete by May 27. Any new input needs to come in quickly! Our plans are to get this design completed in early June. The public contracting process will take several weeks. Construction will start as soon as possible, our target is August. We will share names and contact info for people who are interested in forming a Friend of Bhy Krake Park group which volunteer coordinator Theresa McEwan.

