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Date 10/24/2008
To The Berger Partnership
From James Knight
Subject Park Tours for DSC Project 3 Schematic Design

The park tour was organized by Robert Evans, Project Manager Heery and included: Robert, James Knight, Bassetti Architects, Earl Edwards SPS, Project Engineer, Larry Matsuda, SPS Design Team Facilitator, six representatives from the neighborhood, the assistant principal for Denny Middle School and two students from DMS.

The tour included the following parks:

Fort Dent in Tukwila
Interurban Hwy / Cloverdale West

This park is a 60 acre complex that was owned by the county and sold to the city of Tukwila in joint venture with a sports complex management firm. The site is dedicated to soccer, 12 fields with two of them in doors and 4 baseball fields. It has a large building to house the indoor soccer fields with concessions and dressing rooms.

The grounds also have walking trails on the Green River berm. There are no play areas for children, dedicated picnic areas or open fields other than the soccer fields. The park is mature in terms of tree growth. The parking is a conventional double loaded parking lot configuration with a tree island between rows. The tree islands are wide and are bermed. The trees are planted at 30' oc. and create a full canopy of shade and leaf cover.

The larger soccer fields are of play turf with the others natural sod.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- "Does not have a parking lot look"
- "Limited lighting"
- "Nice walking trails"
- "Lack family amenities"
- "no art or culture"

Judkins Park

2050 Union Ave NE, Seattle, WA

This park at 6 acres is located along I-90 and abuts to the Washington Middle School. The park has layered topography with various functions at each layer. The parking on the perimeter is segmented into three parking areas, one with eco-grid pavers. The park includes a water feature of water showers and a 25' x 30' wading pond. The park has a walking trail that is on both sides of the long park, traveling north and south. The trees are mature and vary in type with both conifers and deciduous. The lighting is 15' standards along the pathway and around the play fields. There are no dedicated sports; however the larger play field will support 2 full size soccer fields. There are two buildings on site, one at the south end and one at the north end. The buildings have restrooms and picnic grilling stands. They are constructed of concrete with standing seam roof. There are benches scattered throughout the park with plantings backing or adjacent to the benches. The topography is more gentle than the Denny site. Generous children's play area and items.

COMMENTS:

- "very nice walking trails, too bad it's asphalt, would have better if it was porous in some way"
- "the signage is attractive"
- "lighting is subdued"
- "I like that the signs are in two different languages"
- "recycled wall from deconstruction, looks like ledge stone"
- "rest rooms near play areas, that's important"
- "green space separation is good"
- "art tiles are great"
- "amphitheater built into embankment, good use of hill"
- "no fences around play area, connects with the neighborhood, it says welcome"
- "natural steps"
- "bike racks"
- "handicap accessible"
- "nice picnic shelter"
- "really wide path for both bikers and walkers"
- "more playful than just large fields of soccer and tennis courts"

Colonnade Park

I-5 at Eastlake

This park, approximately 3 acres is dedicated to be used as an area for mountain biking. There are trails for both bikers and walkers both asphalt and natural gravel. In addition there are more challenging pathways for a real mountain bike experience. The park is situated under the canopy of the elevated I-5 roadway. There are lights on the under side providing ample illumination. The entrance to the park featured both pavers and concrete with benches made from wood or recycled materials. There were no restrooms, picnic area or other site amenities other than a dog play area that looked a little stark and covered with very harsh gravel.

COMMENTS:

- "Very cool bike trails, could we have some of these humps in our park?"
- "I like the recycled park benches from milk cartons"
- "They had pavers with the names of people on them"
- "Big foot art"
- "Finished – not finished"
- "emergency light, great idea for the park"

Lower Woodland Park50th and Woodland

This park is the largest park in the Seattle Park system at 90 acres. It is adjacent to the Woodland Park Zoo. The park has a "rustic" look due to the maturity of trees, the log roadway barriers and the picnic shelters and tables. The tables are spread out giving ample space to everyone for their needs. There are adjacent soccer fields and a larger skateboard park. The parking lot was difficult to enter with no landscaped tree islands. The lighting was limited to the parking area and the shelters.

COMMENTS:

- "rustic"
- "really big area"
- "I like the spaciousness but it lacks a sense of place"
- "the parking lot looks tired"
- "the trees are really wonderful"

Whitfield Park95th and 15th

This park is adjacent to the Whitfield Middle School. The park is relatively small at 4 acres, but due to the integration of the school playfields and borders it comes off as much larger. The parking is a single isle double loaded parking lot. There are only boulevard trees that shelter it. The walking trails are asphalt and concrete depending where you are. The park has a water feature that incorporates large amounts of sitting elements and art tiles. There are two tennis courts surrounded by mature conifers. The site benefits from very large conifers to back drop the play fields. The park is gently terraced which gives it the opportunity to integrate some seating into the hill side. There is a ball field with wire backstop at the parking lot edge. The park is well maintained, grass is cut and the random placed native plantings give the park a very comfortable feeling. The retaining wall like previous parks was deconstructed concrete giving a natural ledge stone look. Generous children's play area.

COMMENTS:

- "has a pocket park feel"
- "I like the grass plantings and the art work"
- "the terrace seating into the hill is a cool idea"
- "it was a good idea to put larger trees on the west side of the water feature it creates a real great shade thing"
- "I like that the tennis courts are hidden behind the trees and that the lighting is low"

Ballard Commons Park61st and 18th

This park across the street from the Ballard Library is about 300' by 300' in size. The park is divided into green space – 50%, formal plaza 25% and a skateboard park and surround at 25%. The birch trees are at the corners and edge of the site. There is a water feature with water spigots in the plaza surface in an artful form. There are a limited number of back-less benches that surround the plaza. The lighting was 12' pole lights fitting the contemporary site. Parking was street side with most people coming to the park from the neighborhood or wandering over from the library or local businesses. The park is adjacent to a multistory housing project that will provide shade in the afternoons when the building is completed and a

place for the inhabitants to walk over to. There were no children's play items or tables to eat at. The park also did not have any restrooms.

COMMENTS:

- "too much concrete"
- "no shade, I feel I am in a fish bowl"
- "it does not come off as family friendly"
- "no restrooms, I don't know if that's a good idea"
- "the park is well designed from a formal graphical sense, but lacks a connection to humanity"
- "I think it would be really hot in the summer"
- "nice place to lay out on the grass"
- "benches are just impractical for anyone that would want to sit and read or enjoy the fountain for any length of time"
- "the bike park seems out of place, but it is cool, not much protection from falling in"
- "no signs to direct you to other places in the community"
- "no picnic tables, but then without shade there may not be an interest in coming for dinner except late in the day"
- "one would definitely need to live in the neighborhood, there's no place to park"

SUMMARY:

The park tour was very worthwhile and provided each individual an opportunity to explore areas they have both been to and not. Seeing them all in a compressed time-frame provides a great perspective on developing the key attributes the group would like to see evolve for Denny Park.

- Trees on the perimeter in clusters to provide a sense of shelter from the sun.
- The use of the deconstructed material to incorporate texture and what appears to be natural element into the site.
- Low or limited lighting to reduce the effect of spill over to the neighborhood.
- No surrounding fences to make the park more welcoming
- Signs directing to on-site and off-site destinations
- Water fountains
- Walking trails that use natural surface other than asphalt
- Walking trails that have curves and benches along the way.

- Picnic areas at edges
- Water feature for both cooling comfort and sound
- Defined areas of use
- Benches for resting and watching events
- Art work incorporated
- Children's play area
- Neighborhood destination
- Parking in segments not all one area