

Forbes Lake Trail and Park Improvements

City of Kirkland, Parks and Community Services

Public Meeting #2, October 22, 2008

City:

Parks and Community Services
Jennifer Schroder, Director
Michael Cogle, Park Planning and Development Manager
Jason Filan, Park Operations Manager

Consultant:

Worthy and Associates, LLC
Steve Worthy, Principal, ASLA
Carolyn Alcorn, ASLA

1. Twenty community members signed in at the second public meeting for the Forbes Lake Trail and Park Improvements project.

2. **Slide Show Presentation:**

Michael Cogle began the meeting with an overview of the project schedule, existing ownership, relevant neighborhood plan sections, and site conditions.

The current project timeline has the preferred design alternative being finalized in early 2009, construction drawings and permits being completed by the end of 2009, and construction starting in spring of 2010.

The City is finalizing the purchase of the lakefront Razumovich parcel south of Forbes Lake Park East.

Steve Worthy continued the slide show presentation with descriptions of two design alternatives. Alternative A showed a complete boardwalk section connecting the existing north boardwalk through Forbes Lake Park East, the Lochshire property, and ending at Forbes Lake Park West. Alternative B did not include a connection to the north boardwalk and had a more circuitous route from Forbes Lake Park East, connecting to the existing easement through Lochshire, and winding down the 92nd Street right-of-way to Forbes Lake Park West. (Please see the alternative plans within the slide show presentation.)

3. **Public comments and discussion:**

Parking

- Alternative B included a small parking area for approximately 8 stalls within the existing gravel area at Forbes Lake Park East.
- Unfortunately the City was not able to arrange a parking agreement with Rose Hill Presbyterian Church due to an existing lease commitment with a car dealership.
- The park will serve the whole Kirkland community and needs to accommodate parking for those coming from outside of the neighborhood.
- On-street parking exists along Slater Avenue, near Forbes Lake Park West. Public Works will participate in the review of parking opportunities and conditions.
- There is existing parking pressure from North Rose Hill Woodlands Park playground. Playground users will park in the proposed parking lot off of 124th.

- Parking at Woodlands Park was debated, but the City is not in favor of paving over clear open space which is very limited within the neighborhood.
- Public Works will be involved in the design of the parking lot entrance, sidewalk layout, crosswalk, and any changes to the intersection.

Bicycles

- Bicycles will be restricted from the boardwalks, but will likely come in limited numbers.
- Angles and short straight lengths will be designed into the boardwalk alignment to slow down bicycles.
- There are safety conflicts between disabled seniors and bike users along the pathway connecting to Slater Avenue. Need to work with Woodlands Apartments to develop a safe route of travel for seniors with limited mobility.
- Suggestion to have a bike rack installed at some distance from the parking lot.

NE 124th Street

- Right-of-way along Forbes Lake Park East will be built-out per City standards, as seen at Woodlands Park. Design challenges of improving the right-of-way include the high berm at the northern edge and the large drainage channel near NE 95th Street.
- Many were concerned about the safety of the crossing at NE 95th Street. The lights are hard to see during the day and the dip in the road reduces visibility. Kirkland Public Works will be involved in the review of these issues.
- A lot of people jaywalk across 124th to get to the playground.

North Boardwalk Section

- There has been a lot of nighttime use of the existing boardwalk. Lake Kirkland Park Condo residents have had difficulty monitoring activity at night.
- Lake Kirkland Park residents had a strong preference for not tying into the boardwalk system due to fear of increased crime and night use. Many suggested Plan A without the link to Lake Kirkland Park Condos.
- Many others felt the connected route had greater community benefit and that it would help alleviate illegal activity to the north boardwalk section due to increased “good people” and “eyes on the park.”
- Many felt that dead end sections of trail lead to illegal activity. There was a suggestion to reduce the length of the existing north boardwalk to keep it within view of the trail entrance from Lake Kirkland Park Condos, or to eliminate that boardwalk section and install a viewing platform.
- Suggestion to work with Kirkland police department and North Rose Hill neighborhood groups on ways to increase safety in the area.
- Invasive plants and blackberry are crossing from park property into the neighbor’s property.
- The boardwalk is not being maintained. Neighbors are responsible for boardwalk and access and to a limited degree have cleared vegetation from the pathway.
- Plans to enhance the bioswale?

Lochshire

- Overriding agreement to reroute the trail easement through Lochshire per plan A.
- City Planning Department will work with the Lochshire Homeowner’s Association on modifying the easement.
- No Lochshire residents were present at the meeting.

Forbes Creek

- It is currently unknown whether any work will be done within Forbes Creek. Any impact to the creek will require mitigation. Public Works and the scientific consultant team will review and propose measures in the following phase.

Flooding and Freezing

- Last year the north boardwalk was surrounded by water following a storm event.
- New boardwalks will be installed above the ordinary high water of the lake.
- Park trails should be closed during flooding and freezing conditions.

Fishing

- The platforms will be posted for no fishing. They will not be large enough to accommodate both uses.

Other

- Suggestion to keep vegetation open enough to spot coyotes.
- Park hours will be posted as dawn to dusk.
- Desire for increased community outreach and education.

3. Next steps: Development of the preferred design alternative for Kirkland Park Board review on November 12. With feedback from the City and the Park Board, public meeting #3 will be an open-house December 3, 2008, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at North Rose Hill Fire Station #26 on 124th NE and NE 100th St .