



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Jennifer Schroder, Director
Michael Cogle, Deputy Director

Date: July 17, 2013

Subject: Totem Lake Park Master Plan Design Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approves the attached Resolution setting forth the Design Program for the Totem Lake Park Master Plan.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

At their July 16, 2013 Study Session the City Council received an update on development of a Totem Lake Park Master Plan. Based on site and design considerations and public input, staff and the consultant team from Berger Partnership proposed a Design Program for the project which would guide formation of a schematic design for the park.

At the meeting the City Council expressed overall support for the proposed Design Program, while emphasizing the importance of (1) enhancing the site's ecological function and (2) enhancing connectivity to and from the park.

The attached Resolution sets forth the Totem Lake Park Master Plan Design Program, summarized below. Underlined text reflects additional proposed language which responds to Council interest in emphasizing enhanced ecological function and connectivity.

Proposed Totem Lake Park Master Plan Design Program:

1. Provide a loop trail that enhances and energizes the site.
2. Provide appropriate amenities to support use of the site (benches, signage, environmental and historical interpretation, seating areas, etc.).

3. Enhance connectivity to and from the park, to include Evergreen Medical Center and the Totem Lake Transit Center. Develop connections in cooperation with Seattle City Light at the utility easement and with local property owners on the "north hill" to allow adjacent community users to access the site.
4. Study and recommend parking opportunities and improved pedestrian access.
5. Provide improved pedestrian connections at Totem Lake Blvd and N.E. 124th Street.
6. Develop the CKC to enhance the experience of Totem Lake Park and provide connections to surrounding businesses.
7. Study the development of an upland parcel or parcels for future community center, parking, and link to Totem Lake Mall properties.
8. Explore further how adjacent parcels could be re-developed to strengthen and support the programming of the park.
9. Enhance the ecological function of the park. Develop vegetation and wildlife management plans that looks to diversify the existing vegetation, remove invasive species and support a diverse population of wildlife (consider stewardship and work with KCD).
10. Make recommendations on how to improve water quality and how management of the site may help alleviate future flooding issues.
11. Consider how public art could be incorporated into the planning process to energize the site and create an awareness of the lake.
12. Develop and maintain views and access to open water but don't provide for boating activities due to the limited size of the lake.

Pending Council approval of the Design Program, the Park Board, staff, and consultant team will begin working on schematic design alternatives for public consideration this fall.

Attachment

RESOLUTION R-4990

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATED TO ESTABLISHING A FORMAL DESIGN PROGRAM TO GUIDE CREATION OF A TOTEM LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN.

WHEREAS, in December of 2010 the City Council adopted Resolution R-4856, approving a Preliminary Action Plan for revitalizing the Totem Lake Business District and directing City departments to reprioritize work tasks accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board in 2011 forwarded recommendations to the Council regarding potential park-related projects, including for the City to develop a master plan for the Totem Lake Park property; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Land Institute in 2011 also recommended that Totem Lake Park be developed as a catalyzing strategy along with development of the Cross Kirkland Corridor to help create a "sense of place" in Totem Lake; and

WHEREAS, in February 2013 the City Council formally adopted the City's 2013 – 2014 Work Program, which included emphasis on Totem Lake revitalization; and

WHEREAS, in March 2013 the City Council authorized funding for creation of a Totem Lake Park Master Plan and directed staff and the Park Board to work with the property owner, King Conservation District and interested citizens in developing the Plan; and

WHEREAS, a Design Program should be established to guide schematic design and creation of a park master plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. That the Totem Lake Park Master Plan incorporates the following elements hereby referred to as the Design Program:

1. Provide a loop trail that enhances and energizes the site.
2. Provide appropriate amenities to support use of the site such as benches, signage, environmental and historical interpretation, and seating areas.
3. Enhance connectivity to and from the park, to include Evergreen Medical Center and the Totem Lake Transit Center. Develop connections in cooperation with Seattle City Light at the utility easement and with local property owners on the "north hill" to allow adjacent community users access to the site.

4. Study and recommend parking opportunities and improved pedestrian access.
5. Provide improved pedestrian connections at Totem Lake Blvd. and N.E. 124th Street.
6. Develop the Cross Kirkland Corridor to enhance the experience of Totem Lake Park and provide connections to surrounding businesses.
7. Study the development of an upland parcel or parcels for future community center, parking, and link to Totem Lake Mall properties.
8. Explore further how adjacent parcels could be re-developed to strengthen and support the programing of the park.
9. Enhance the ecological function of the park. Develop a vegetation and wildlife management plan that looks to diversify the existing vegetation, remove invasive species and support a diverse population of wildlife.
10. Make recommendations on how to improve water quality and how management of the site may help alleviate future flooding issues.
11. Consider how public art could be incorporated into the planning process to energize the site and create an awareness of the lake.
12. Develop and maintain views and access to open water but don't provide for boating activities due to the limited size of the lake.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signed in authentication thereof this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk