

Meeting Notes



Project: Totem Lake Park Master Plan **Date:** 6.1.13
Location: Yuppie Pawn Parking Lot **Page:** 1 of 6
Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Attendance: Approximately 30 people attended the meeting representing the surrounding neighborhood, Park Board Members, and City Staff.

Purpose: Public Workshop #1

Discussion:

The following hand written comments were provided by members of the public who were asked to share their vision for Totem Lake (written on tags added to the boards):

- Loop trail connected to Cross Kirkland Trail essential. Ed/teaching.
- If you cannot secure rights to do a full circle around the east or if too detrimental for wildlife, then build some great end stations from the south and north.
- Interactive education center and community project center connected to the trail.
- Provide access to adjacent green spaces.
- Should water access be allowed or not?
- Low hanging fruit: work with power company to build trail/steps from upper traffic circle to boardwalk/trail.
- Finish connection on east side of lake. Path.
- Trail up to 125th on power line.
- "Unique" trail by power lines. Ideas: made recycle mat; rope trail; low level connection zip lines to go down.
- This is not a question.
- Recycling info center.
- Work with the other business to enhance involvement.
- Boardwalk around park connecting Cross Kirkland Corridor with natural habitat area and lake. (Notation: "I agree.")
- If wide enough boardwalk/trails then maybe bikes could be allowed.
- Does elevated pedestrian bridge conflict with overhead Puget power line clearances? Power easement constraints?
- All directions crossing a la Pike Mkt or BLVU Transit Center?
- Grade sep. crossing, Gateway for Totem Lake and vista. Wetland Education Center. Elevate trail so can see Totem Lake. Destination parking.
- Opportunities for WQ treatment for storm drains to Totem Lake.
- Three raised observation decks to not impact land of area.

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- Make a complete loop trail.
- Purple loosestrife Remove invasive underbrush somehow, either removal, make deeper.
- Consider property purchase for a community/interpretive center.
- Enhance biodiversity/matrix for entire area.
- These rolling wooden walkways would be great fun. But you need a wide space for them.
- Supportive connection of existing private waterfall park.
- Letter to mall owner of future vision.
- Access via bicycle from on-trail/corridor directions (safety).
- Loaner mini railed bike/trolley around lake to Totem Lake Mall.
- Wetland Center: interactive museum; youth-focused; hands-on exhibits for water quality, runoff, toxicity, remediation, ecosystems, loss of wetlands; school destination; tours; community service. – Bob Forgrave (bob@forgrave.net)
- Wooden overstructure creates artistic interest above walkway.
- Boardwalks around the lake.
- Muddy boots club, see OPB, Oregon Field Guide.
- Like this elevated overlook!
- For any views you need elevation. Also may need less trashy invasive brush around the lake which impedes views, especially in summer.
- Benches every 150 feet.
- 1. Path around Totem Lake. 2. A second viewing deck. 3. Connect CKC to mall by trail. 4. Sidewalk cafes on lake.
- Opportunities for water scape, rock work and waterfall as viewing node.

The following comments and/or observations were noted during the walking tours:

- The citizens who grew up in this area definitely have a strong affection for it, particularly those who played here as children.
- Many feel protective of the area, interested in preserving and improving ecological value.
- Definite support for continuing vegetation management to remove invasive species and replace with natives.
- Some were surprised that there might be any fish in the lake. Various fishermen's observations on the internet indicate small- and large-mouth bass, crappies, sun fish, bluegill, bullheads, and perch (i.e. warm

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- water species). We saw one undated report of rainbow trout, maybe planted by school children or something but probably didn't persist.
- There is some interest in focused access to the lake for canoes or kayaks.
 - Will there be a Friends of Totem Lake volunteer group?
 - When was the boardwalk last inspected from a structural and safety perspective?
 - Support for improving and repairing the trail and boardwalk.
 - Strong interest in creating a loop trail/boardwalk.
 - One citizen reported madrona trees around the lake in the past.
 - Reports of deer, muskrats, beavers, coyotes, hummingbirds, red-wing blackbirds, ducks, shorebirds, turtles.
 - Apparently there was a vegetation mat floating around the lake for a few years, had shrubs and emergents. The thinking was that it "broke off" from the edge of the lake.
 - One participant was aware of the different wetland rating systems for Kirkland and Ecology, and was interested in our findings.
 - Question about dead trees/snags in wetland, discussion about water levels and value of snags to wildlife.
 - We observed family of geese walking the sidewalk on the south side of Totem Lake Boulevard, with discussion about wildlife crossing from surrounding greenspace pockets to the lake.
 - Several people expressed interest in a stairway or some type of access through power line corridor.
 - Interest in elevated viewpoints to see the lake better.

Conversations recorded by notes at the meeting:

- Parking issues – identify where people can park to access the site. Will there be parking on-site?
- Hillside – is there a way to develop a connection at the SCL ROW down the hill? Possibly provide parking at the top of the hill at the turn-around?

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- How does the land ownership work? Will the land be transferred from KCD to the City of Kirkland?
- Is there a time the park is open and closed?
- Is there Active use planned at the park? How will this impact wildlife?
- Concerned that a boardwalk on the east side cutting through the wetland will affect wildlife. Redwing blackbird population may be affected.
 - Put observation platforms on the perimeter looking in like Juanita Bay Park and Finn Hill Park.
- Neighborhood to the East of the park (above Nintendo and business park) has a 300 foot easement on the steep hillside.
- Drainage problems from the neighborhood to the east caused sedimentation and flooding at Totem Lake. The City built a new stormwater facility on the hillside that help mitigate this issue.
- Overnight camping had been a problem off the pathway to the east in the past. How will the new design address this issue?
- Security and visibility concerns especially for the residents of the condo' s.
- Deer and Coyote are noted in the area.
- Lake was bigger in the past. There used to be a kayak / canoe launch on the southern edge near Discount Tire. A lot of garbage has been dumped along the tracks and the old access down to the lake is overgrown and not maintained.
- Invasive species on site that need removal – purple loosestrife and reed canary grass
- There was a floating island on the lake in the past.
- There used to be a farmers market here.
- The Carlton Inn originally wanted to open up their property to the lake but were then asked to screen the development from the lake.
- Site needs to be maintained as open space and protected
- 126th Right of way deed that was never built on the steep hillside.

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- Current businesses that support the park are at the mall; Denny's pet world and Big 5 Sporting goods. (Binoculars and Black niger seed used to feed finches)
- Re-development of Totem Lake Mall was supposed to take the Bellevue Square Mall development model. Would ask how the mall could be made to be unique and personal.
- Re-development of the surrounding parcels should support active NW Lifestyle. Let the lake be the catalyst with trails and support facilities to support these types of businesses. Citizens need to contact city representatives and tell them what the future vision should be. (This neighbors vision is as follows):
 - Should support the neighborhood and be a regional draw.
 - Build a connector pathway / stairway up the hill (at SCL powerline ROW).
 - Rope / PAR course around the lake for exercise.
 - Develop a rail bicycle loop to connect the (retail) areas of the lake (See examples in Japan).
 - Use the connection with King County property owner to educate about recycling.
 - Purchase the Yuppie Pawn property and develop it as an interpretive center with parking.
 - Provide raised observation posts around the lake to view wildlife and see the lake.
- Had no clue that there was a lake here. Vegetation and trees are a barrier. How to let people know there is a lake here? Is there a way to open up vegetation so you can see the lake?
- Lived here for 15 years and have been here once. (When asked what would bring them back more often they replied, "make it a loop trail").
- Would like to know locations of all water piped/surface entering and exiting the lake. Where is it coming from? Where is it going?
- If a boardwalk/path is constructed, are there mitigation activities which could occur offsite/onsite?

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- Desire for elevated vehicular "highway" connecting 124th Ave NE portions north and south of lake to alleviate traffic problems in/around Totem Lake Mall.
- The new Juanita Beach is terrible in terms of ecology, leave Totem Lake as-is without any disturbances.
- Aerial walkways are good.
- Desire for loop path connecting all the way around the lake with more than one viewpoint.

Meeting Adjourned

The preceding is assumed to be a complete and correct record of the significant items and actions agreed upon at the above meeting. Please advise the author immediately of any additions or corrections to the minutes. Work is proceeding on the basis of this record.

Prepared by:

Berger Partnership PS

Andy Mitton
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