



## Lakeshore Plaza

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## Marina Park

### The Project

The City of Kirkland and the Downtown Action Team (DAT) are studying the feasibility of developing the *Lakeshore Plaza @ Marina Park* project. The project would create a waterfront plaza and park in the heart of our pedestrian-oriented downtown. The concept is simple – reorient the downtown to the lake by building a structural lid over the existing Marina Park parking lot with a significant public plaza on top (at the same level as Lake Street and Central Way) and an expanded parking garage below.

The plaza would be over 1 acre of public open space and would provide a seamless connection from the downtown business district to the waterfront. The plaza would represent a significant expansion of Marina Park while expanding the supply of public parking in the downtown.

### Rationale

Marina Park is an important part of the downtown. It is a focal point for the community's waterfront activities – strolling, concerts, festivals, etc. However, its huge potential public benefits and central role in downtown are not fully realized. Surrounding retail buildings turn their back to the lake and the Marina Park parking lot acts as a barrier between the downtown and the waterfront. A commitment to increasing visual and pedestrian access to the lake is the kind of big picture idea that can transform the downtown: "Bring downtown to the lake – bring the lake to downtown."

### Guiding Principles

The DAT has endorsed the following guiding principles to steer the planning process:

- Maintain consistency with the vision of the Downtown Strategic Plan (DSP).
- Develop a vision and plan around broad community consensus and support.
- Create a concept that reflects downtown's unique character.

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- Serve to enhance and enlarge Marina Park.
- Design a place that comfortably accommodates its users.
- Create a place that is "owned" by the entire community.
- Promote environmentally sound solutions.
- Create a project that is economically feasible and sustainable.
- Pursue opportunities to increase the supply of public parking.
- Pursue design solutions that create connections rather than barriers.
- Minimize disruption of existing downtown activities.
- Strengthen and promote retail activity in the downtown.

### The Process

The City has retained the Seattle architectural firm of GGLO to assist in design and planning for the project. The DAT and City will host a series of three community meetings to develop a consensus vision for the project:

- The March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will focus on the community's vision for the waterfront area.
- In the spring, GGLO and the DAT will bring various design and funding options to a second community meeting for discussion.
- This summer, GGLO and the DAT will present a preferred design and funding concept for review by the community.

The DAT will present the preferred design and funding concept to the City Council for consideration and further direction.

### Questions?

If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact Jeremy McMahan at 425.828.1141 or [jmcmahan@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:jmcmahan@ci.kirkland.wa.us). Also, feel free to discuss the proposal with any members of the Downtown Action Team.