



MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission
From: Michael Cogle, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Community Services
Date: March 19, 2014
Subject: Totem Lake Park Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planning Commission receives a report on the adopted master plan for Totem Lake Park.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Totem Lake Business District Revitalization a High City Priority

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. In response, the Park Board in 2011 forwarded recommendations to the Council regarding potential park-related projects. One of these recommendations was for the City to develop a master plan for the Totem Lake Park property.

The Urban Land Institute also recommended in 2011 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. The ULI report said "The Lake itself can become the heart of a redeveloping neighborhood and a place with which Totem Lake residents, existing and new, can truly identify."

In February 2013 the City Council formally adopted the City's 2013 – 2014 Work Program, which included emphasis on Totem Lake revitalization:

"Revitalize the Totem Lake Business District through continued implementation of the Totem Lake Action Plan to further the goals of Financial Stability and Economic Development."

In March 2013 the City Council approved funding in the amount of \$120,000 to create a Totem Lake Park Master Plan. Working in conjunction with the property owner, King Conservation District, the goal was to develop an overall plan for future park and recreation improvements to the Lake property.

Totem Lake Park Master Plan Context and Project Goals

Totem Lake Park is a 17-acre site located in the heart of the Totem Lake Urban Center. Owned by the King Conservation District and co-managed by the City of Kirkland, the lake has been known by several names

over the years, but became known as Totem Lake in 1973 after the opening of the nearby shopping mall. The Park is comprised primarily of wetlands, and the lake itself encompasses about 4 acres of the property.

Totem Lake is physically located at the heart of its namesake neighborhood, yet it is anything but the heart of the community that surrounds it. It has become a lost treasure as projects and properties around it have been developed. The keys to unlocking the site's riches and re-engaging it into the surrounding fabric is embedded in the following elements that formed the basis for the Master Plan process:

What...there's a lake in Totem Lake?

The lake and wetland itself is a gem, but it seems very few people in the surrounding community know it's even there. There is limited access to the site with development and natural barriers walling off the site from all sides. The Master Plan process provides an opportunity to develop a strong sense of place that can become a catalyst for a new vision and new development that can revitalize the greater Totem Lake community.

It's not just a place; it's a starting point and a destination

With its location along the forthcoming Cross Kirkland Corridor, both projects can leverage each other, with the whole of their benefits being greater than the sum of the parts. When viewed in tandem with the future regional connections provided by the trail, the park can become a trailhead or destination of those using the trail.

Enhance the human experience while enhancing ecological performance

Totem Lake Park is an ecological gem, yet with some obvious impacts from the urban areas that surround it. One of the critical opportunities of this project will be designing a plan that can enhance the human experience of the park, opening it up to become an icon of the community, even as we work to enhance the ecological performance of the lake and wetland.

An economic catalyst

Although the park itself may not drive economic development strategies, it is a catalyst that can help bring people to the area. If done right, surrounding development could enable Totem Lake Park to become a destination that then supports other services. In addition, being adjacent to and developed as a vital portion of the Cross Kirkland Corridor, the site brings a unique opportunity to provide services for trail users.

Honor and build on the history

Shorelines within the region were commonly used by Native Americans for their rich resources. A research effort will be performed to identify if there was a presence of Native Americans in the area or if there are other historic elements of the former railway that may affect future development. This information may be helpful in telling the story of the site, and will need to be identified for possible federal or state grants. The neighborhoods agricultural past can also be celebrated through historic interpretation.

Reach beyond the park

Circulation and neighborhood connections are a crucial link to keep the site vital. A big consideration will be regional connections that are possible with the development of the Cross Kirkland Corridor.

The Parks and Community Services Department subsequently hired The Berger Partnership (Berger) to help develop the Totem Lake Park Master Plan. Berger is also the lead consultant for the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan. Key subconsultants working with Berger brought a wealth of local knowledge to the project, and include Kirkland-based The Watershed Company for environmental science and Bellevue-based CH2M

Hill for civil engineering. CH2M Hill has also been working with the City on flood control issues in the Totem Lake area.

The master plan process included the following major phases:

- I. Site Analysis (April – June 2013)
- II. Develop Design Program (June – July 2013)
- III. Develop Design Alternatives (August – October 2013)
- IV. Final Schematic Design (November – December 2013)

Public Involvement

Park Board and staff coordinated an extensive public participation process for the project. A project webpage was developed on the City's website; information about the project was featured in various City publications, in local media, on local blogs, and on neighborhood websites. Public events in 2013 were well attended and included:

May	Kirkland Business Roundtable Event
June	Public Workshop and Site Tours
June	Spring Community Planning Day
June	Totem Lake Conversations Presentation
September	Public Workshop and Site Tours
October	Totem Lake Conversations Presentation
October	Fall Community Planning Day

Public input from residents, park enthusiasts, businesses and property owners, and representatives of various environmental and regulatory groups have been used to inform, direct, and shape the master plan effort.

Park Design Program

The Park Design Program, formally adopted by the City Council in August 2013, lays out the overall vision, programming components, and design considerations for the project and formed the basis for creation of a final park schematic design. The adopted Design Program included:

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 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 and the quality of water leaving the lake. Develop vegetation and wildlife management plans that look 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

Approved Park Master Plan and Implementation Strategies

Working from the foundation of the approved Design program and based on public feedback and recommendations of the Park Board, the design team subsequently created a preferred park plan which best responded to the design program and met the project goals.

The City Council formally adopted the Totem Lake Park Master Plan in December 2013 (**Attachment A**). As with other large park capital projects, such as Heritage Park, McAuliffe Park, and Juanita Beach Park, improvements are likely to occur in several phases over a long period of time. Phasing and prioritizing decisions will be developed by the Park Board and the City Council as part of future budget and CIP processes. It is also possible that some aspects of the project could occur in conjunction with implementation of the future Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan as well as concurrent with future redevelopment of adjacent and nearby private property.

Moving forward, staff and the Park Board will be undertaking the following action steps to begin plan implementation:

- 1) Ensure that future City planning efforts in 2014 and beyond appropriately address TLP Master Plan recommendations, including:
 - a. Comprehensive Plan and Totem Lake Neighborhood Plan
 - b. Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan
 - c. Transportation Master Plan
 - d. Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan
- 2) Integrate TLP Master Plan implementation into the Parks CIP and in conjunction with the bi-annual budget process.

- 3) Pursue acquisition of adjacent upland parcel(s) as recommended by the Plan. [note: The City recently completed acquisition of the Yuppie Pawn Shop property north of the lake]
- 4) Evaluate the State of Washington's Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) grant program for matching funding for a first phase of project construction.
- 5) Negotiate transfer of Totem Lake ownership to the City from the King Conservation District.
- 6) Pursue opportunities for partnership with developers of adjacent and surrounding private properties. Continue to engage in scheduled Totem Lake Conversations events.

Attachment A: Adopted the Totem Lake Park Master Plan

Totem Lake Park Preferred Plan

ATTACHMENT A



Inspired by the intersection of Nature and the City, artistic elements frame the centerpiece of this landscape. The site is connected to the CKC by way of a sculptural spiral ramp overpass that allows pedestrians to access the site above traffic. Artistic elements are imprinted on the land that then translate into habitat creation in the wetland for species diversity by way of removing invasive plants.



RESOLUTION R-5022

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND ADOPTING A MASTER PLAN FOR TOTEM LAKE PARK.

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, 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 the Department of Parks and Community Services and the Park Board to work with the King Conservation District and interested citizens in developing the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board and Department of Parks and Community Services organized and completed an extensive planning process to create a vision for the future of Totem Lake Park, involving important stakeholders and interested citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Community Services has completed the Totem Lake Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received from the Park Board a written report and recommendation on the proposed Totem Lake Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in a public meeting the City Council considered the written report and recommendation of the Park Board;

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

Section 1. The Totem Lake Park Master Plan recommended by the Park Board and set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution is hereby adopted.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this ____ day of _____, 2013.

Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____, 2013.

MAYOR

Attest:

City Clerk

Totem Lake Park Master Plan

Summary Report

November 27th, 2013





Project Introduction and History:

Totem Lake Park is an underutilized asset at the heart of the Totem Lake neighborhood. The master plan process gives a unique opportunity to explore how the lake can become a gem at the heart of the surrounding community.

History around the lake before its present day use as a retail center focused on the former railroad and agriculture. Hay fields, assorted crops and orchards were prevalent around the site. There is little recorded information of Native American use in the area. Lake Wittenmyer was the first recorded name for the lake, named after Walt Wittenmyer, a former logger and city clerk for the City of Kirkland. In 1964 the name changed to Lake Watsine for unknown reasons. Most people referred to the lake as Mud Lake until Totem Lake Mall opened in 1973 and the name officially changed to Totem Lake to match the Native American theme of the adjacent mall.

Heavily impacted by farming and development over time, the lake successfully reestablished itself with native vegetation. A few invasive species are established in the area, but they are not prevalent throughout the site. Ninety species of birds, long eared owl, deer, beaver, muskrat, raccoons, coyotes, turtles, bullfrogs and fish have all been seen or reported on site. Urban runoff caused several issues with sedimentation and water quality while flooding is an issue due to clogged outfall pipes and the downstream effects of beaver activity in the Juanita Creek drainage basin.

Aerial photographs from 1936 reveal the open water portion of the lake was much larger than its present day condition. There is an unconfirmed rumor that peat mining changed the lake's shoreline. It is also possible the drainage pattern changed and the water level lowered when I-405 or the mall were developed. Longtime local residents recall a "floating island" of vegetation which moved around the lake. This island has not been seen for several years. A boat ramp used to be at the southeast shore of the lake (near the present day location of Big-O Tires).

Totem Lake Park covers 17 acres originally part of the Totem Lake Mall property. The mall's developer donated the land to the King Conservation District (KCD) in 1973. At present the site is co-managed by KCD and the City of Kirkland.



1936 aerial image courtesy of King County Imap



Present day aerial image courtesy of King County Imap



Mother and children at Totem Lake courtesy of Eastside Heritage Collection

A new Totem Lake Park:

Throughout the master planning process, it became clear that the City and neighboring residents are ready for a change. Discussions and dialogue revealed new opportunities and insights of how this once forgot lake could help revitalize the properties that surround it. The final master plan presents a plan to bring this vision into the future.

Acquiring additional property beyond the current park site is recommended to provide additional amenities for the people the park serves. There are two main opportunities for land acquisition (reference map on page 6):

- The first opportunity is the King County Parcel that is to the south of the Cross Kirkland Corridor. King County purchased the land for a pump station that was never built. If added to the Park, the parcel would allow a connection to the communities to the south of the Park. An access easement would need to be coordinated with the adjacent properties to access NE 124th Street.
- Providing additional support for parking and a restroom requires land outside the wetland complex that is currently not owned by the City. These developments could occur on any parcel adjacent to the lake. However, the Yuppie Pawn Tavern parcel was selected as the desired location for development due to good sun exposure and decent change in elevation to provide park elements. This location also serves as a good anchor point that could relate to an outdoor pedestrian mall that could be considered as part of a redevelopment of the Totem Lake Mall property.
- Additional property could be acquired, like the Carlton Hotel parcel that could provide further amenities for the area like parking, storm water mitigation, or other park and community needs.

Highlights of the final master plan and proposed park elements around Totem Lake are explored below:

Totem Lake Park (Upland Parcel): Amenities provided at the proposed park site include ten parking spaces adjacent to a paved plaza in front of the restroom. Stadium seating steps down to a lawn terrace and play area that provides ample space for seating. Moving further down, a promenade boardwalk rings the lake and looks over ecological enhancements of the existing wetlands in areas that are heavily impacted by invasive species.

North Edge: Extending out from the promenade at the new Park, a viewing pier soars out over the wetland complex providing sweeping views of the park. This is the beginning of the loop trail that provides connections to the Evergreen hill climb and the East Hill Neighborhood. Along the way a terrace event lawn is provided adjacent to the Hotel that could be used for special events, or just hanging out with friends.

East Edge: Continuing the loop around the lake, a boardwalk provides an opportunity to explore the eastern edge of the wetland. The generous walkway provides opportunities for seating and areas to observe the diverse wildlife around the lake. The boardwalk is designed to discourage high speeds from bikes riding through this area to not disrupt habitat. Existing trees could also be pruned to open up views for neighboring apartments and condominiums that would also provide additional safety to the Park.

Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC): Amenities along the new regional bike trail include several features that will allow people the opportunity to pause and enjoy the Park. Beginning at the east, a new bridge creates a gateway that allows a connection to the King County Parcel and a reconnection of a small stream to the lake. Seating and viewing areas are provided along a separated meandering pathway that is part of the loop trail around the lake. A new spiral overpass connects the site to West Totem Lake and separates pedestrians and bicycles from a complicated intersection at NE 124th Street and 124th Ave NE. This includes the development of a rain garden and artistic elements in the traffic island in the intersection of 124th and 124th.

Totem Lake Park Preferred Plan



Inspired by the intersection of Nature and the City, artistic elements frame the centerpiece of this landscape. The site is connected to the CKC by way of a sculptural spiral ramp overpass that allows pedestrians to access the site above traffic. Artistic elements are imprinted on the land that then translate into habitat creation in the wetland for species diversity by way of removing invasive plants.



Totem Lake Park Program, Keynotes & Sections

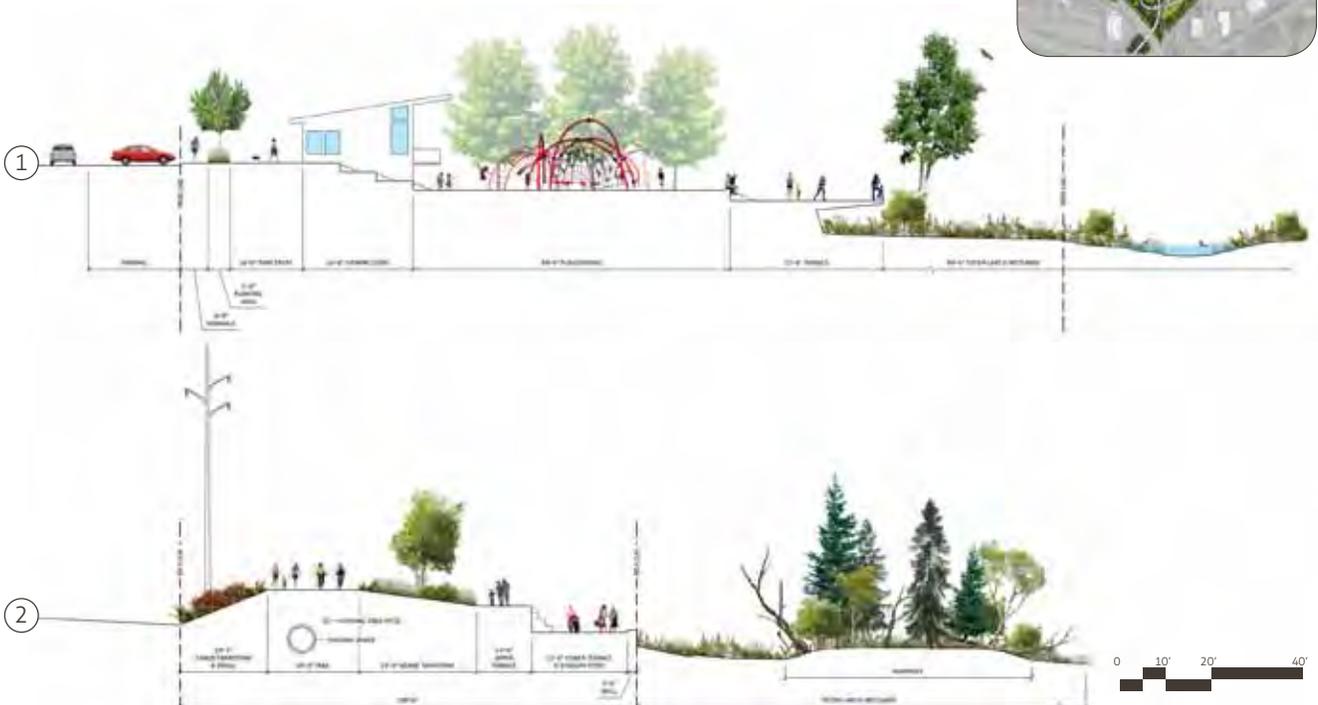
Program Keynotes (see preferred plans)

- (A) Upland Park w/ restroom and kiosk
- (B) Back in angle parking (10 spaces)
- (C) Terraced seating areas and passive lawn
- (D) Play area
- (E) Lake promenade walk and seating nodes
- (F) Elevated lake Viewing pier
- (G) SCL powerline and hillside trails
- (H) Loop boardwalk trail w/ habitat viewing
- (I) Cross Kirkland Corridor improvements
- (J) Passive open space and trail connection
- (K) Bridge feature and wetland enhancement
- (L) Trail respite (seating, interpretive signs)
- (M) Spiral ramp and overpass crossing of 124th
- (N) Stormwater feature
- (O) Median planting w/ sidewalk improvements
- (P) Relocated bus stop
- (Q) Improved entry & sidewalk
- (R) Wetland buffer edge enhancement
- (S) Hummock plantings and habitat features
- (T) Wildlife habitat ponds (enhancement)

Design Program

- Implement a loop trail.
- Provide benches, signage, interpretation, seating areas, etc.
- Look for connections to neighborhoods and regional facilities.
- Recommend parking opportunities and improved pedestrian access.
- Improved pedestrian connection at Totem Lake Blvd. and NE 124th Street.
- Utilize CKC to enhance Totem Lake Park and connections to businesses.
- Study upland parcel or parcels for future development, parking, and links to Totem Lake Mall properties.
- Explore redevelopment of adjacent properties to support the park.
- Enhance the ecological function of the park and the quality of water leaving the lake.
- Make recommendations on how to improve water quality and alleviate future flooding.
- Study public art opportunities to energize the site and create an awareness of the lake.
- Develop and maintain views and access to open water; exclude boats.

Section Keyplan



King County Parcel: A boardwalk forms the main feature through this parcel that highlights the stream and wetland that is on the site. The vision is to enhance the native vegetation and create a varied landscape that is an extension to the main Park site.

West Edge: Completing the loop around the lake is achieved by a graceful boardwalk that connects the CKC to the new Park site. This is considered to be the main connection for bikes to the surrounding business. The boardwalk provides an opportunity to view ecological enhancements to the site that are intended to remove invasive vegetation and increase the diversity of habitat and vegetation. This is achieved through creating shallow pools that can control vegetative growth to allow views of the Lake. Small raised Hummocks radiate out providing areas for evergreen trees and habitat structures like bird boxes, brush piles and snags. Included along the west edge is an extension of the promenade from the main park site along adjacent properties connecting them to Totem Lake Boulevard.



Ecology of Totem Lake:

Urban runoff and flooding has increased sediment transport to Totem Lake. This has accelerated filling of the lake over the years and the natural succession from lake to wetland. This can be seen comparing the current aerial with one from 1936 (See page 1). Approximately 50% of the lake area has decreased in the last 70-80 years. The lake area will continue to decrease in time due to sedimentation and organic matter production. Organic matter production in the wetland is very high and little of it is exported during flooding. Therefore accretion will be relatively rapid. Any design for the Park must recognize that the lake will fill in overtime and one day may be a wetland with no open water.

The Master plan recognizes this evolution, and looks to enhance the function of the site by enhancing the diversity of vegetation and natural elements that support wildlife function. This will ensure the site continues to provide a benefit to surrounding properties as a respite from urban living, and a place for nature to co-exist with the built environment. The health of Totem Lake will also need to rely on stewardship from surrounding parcels to mitigate their runoff to improve water quality that enters the lake and slow down the rate at which the water enters the system. This will also help to reduce urban flooding events.

Opportunities for partnerships also exist with surrounding projects that can be coordinated the park development. For instance, a study is looking at providing a water quality vault on the north side of the lake. The vault could be constructed below the upland park site that could support to proposed park plan on top of the vault.



Totem Lake Park Program Opportunities & Connections



- | | |
|--|---|
| (A) Transit Center | (M) Cross Kirkland Corridor |
| (B) Evergreen Hospital | (N) Totem Lake West |
| (C) Street Crossing | (O) Public Safety Building |
| (D) SCL Powerline Trail | (P) Lake Outfall to Juanita Creek Tributary |
| (E) Hillside Drainage | (Q) Adjacent Stormwater Pond |
| (F) Hillside Trails | (R) Hotel |
| (G) Cross Kirkland Corridor | (S) Yuppie Pawn |
| (H) Railroad Ditch and Wetland | (T) Totem Lake Mall |
| (I) Street Crossing | (U) Cafe Veloce |
| (J) Lake Washington Technical College | (V) Toyota of Kirkland |
| (K) Street Crossing | (W) Nintendo |
| (L) Transition: Totem Lake - Totem Lake West | |

Connections to Totem Lake Park:

Getting to Totem Lake Park is a challenge. There is little parking at the site today, and accommodating alternate forms of transportation such as bicycling, walking, and transit may improve access to the park to those in the adjacent Neighborhoods.

Currently, NE 128th Street provides an east/west connection between Juanita High School, the Totem Lake/ I-5 transit station, and Evergreen Hospital. Bicycle lanes are provided in NE 128th Street from 116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE. Bicycle lanes also exist in 124th Avenue NE, south of the intersection with Totem Lake Boulevard, the Cross Kirkland Corridor and NE 124th Street. The Cross Kirkland Corridor will eventually also provide good non-motorized access to the Totem Lake Park.

120th Avenue NE provides the most direct pedestrian access from Evergreen Hospital and the Kingsgate Neighborhood to the north. The north end of this street, just south of NE 128th Street, is relatively steep with minimal separation between automobiles and the sidewalk. The southern portion of the street, closer to the park, is not steep, but has no separation or setback from the sidewalk to the northbound travel lane.

The following recommendations look at how future Capital Improvement Projects for the Street Right of Way could help enhance the connections and experience of arriving at Totem Lake Park.



Totem Lake Boulevard:

The vision for Totem Lake Boulevard is a parkway that feels as though you are passing through a park, leveraging the exiting street edge with Totem Lake, a new median, and integrating the storm water wetland to the west of the street into one experience. In addition to the improved parkway like character, the redesign of the street is intended to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities including a new wider sidewalk along the streets eastern edge overlooking Totem Lake Park, and one way or two way cycle track buffered from vehicular traffic with a combination of vegetation and structured barrier. Special consideration should be given to how the new Totem Lake Boulevard cycle facility will be integrated into the cross Kirkland corridor as well as making connections to the south to 124th Ave NE and north to evergreen hospital, and the new transit station, both on 120th Ave NE and NE 128th Street. The bus stop location on Totem Lake Boulevard should also be studied, and is recommended to be moved closer to the intersection of 120th Ave NE and NE 124th Street to align with a new park entry.

The redesign of Totem Lake Boulevard is anticipated to be completed as part of Public works Projects associated with civic infrastructure upgrades in the Totem Lake Neighborhood and is not seen as a priority of park improvement projects. While the full vision for Totem Lake Boulevard may inquire significant changes to the Totem lake Right of Way (including widening of the roadway profile and prism of fill on which it's built) there are several roadway/park charter improvements that could be considered with the roadways current state. These include:

- Rebuild a wider Eastern side better utilizing the full width of the existing gabion/MSE wall, possibly with a structural edge (possibly cantilevered), and buffer this new sidewalk with a structural barrier to improve real and perceived safety issues from passing traffic, while adding to the parkway character.
- Study the development of a median in the underused right hand turn lane, reducing the overall scale of the street and enhancing its parkway character.

The Totem Lake /Evergreen Hill Loop

With Totem Lake Park reimagined as a design park with looping trail system and access to the cross Kirkland corridor, the proximity of Kirkland's largest employer (Evergreen Health), and the nearby Evergreen Neighborhood, the establishment of a looping trail connecting these community amenities is a unique opportunity. There are several components to making this loop trail system a reality.

- The Evergreen terrace climb: the Seattle City Light (SCL) Right of Way (ROW) climbing steeply from the north side of the lake to the top of evergreen hill can be developed to include a switchback staircase to connect the adjacent neighborhood to the park. The ROW is a steep slope, so special provision for any such connection will have to address slope sensibilities, and could include prefabricated metal or wood stair sections and landings on pin piles. This terrace climb would require careful negotiation with Seattle City Light to address functionality and security concerns associated with a very important high transmission line. Additional research may show that the Hotel property may extend up the majority of the hill and would require less coordination with SCL.
- 120th Avenue NE "Green Spine": 120th Ave NE is reimagined as a neighborhood connection from Totem Lake Park to a redeveloped Totem Lake Mall development, Evergreen Hospital, NE 128th Street transit station and the Kingsgate park and ride. This reimagined street includes widened sidewalks buffered from the street by new rain gardens treating runoff from adjacent roadways.
- Extend existing bicycle lanes along Totem Lake Boulevard from NE 128th Street to NE 124th Street to improve bicycle access to the park, and also complete a key missing link in the City's bicycle network. Improved bike facilities may include bike lanes or buffered 2-way cycle track.
- Providing pedestrian friendly facades that bring adjacent commerce and business to the property edges. This would be in place of the current surface parking lots that define the character of the road. While traffic will continue to flow to the southwest to join Totem Lake Boulevard and the I-405 on ramps, the pedestrian way and storm water will both flow southeasterly into the park, providing a seamless connect between the Totem Lake development and the Lake that will become an icon for the neighborhood.



- Consider removing the left-hand turn lane from the flatter portion of 120th Ave NE, shifting northbound traffic west, and installing a bioretention or biofiltration swales between the sidewalk and northbound lanes. This would provide water quality benefit to Totem Lake, and provide a more protected pedestrian route from NE 128th Street to the park.
- Evergreen Hospital Loop: In addition to the exiting streetscapes connecting 120th Ave NE to the Evergreen terrace hill climb, the Evergreen Hospital campus itself has developed enhanced trail connections that tie the loop into a whole.

Neighboring edge developments

While this is a park plan, and development of adjacent properties are beyond the control of this park master plan or the City, it is difficult to imagine the development of Totem Lake Park without imagining a change in development patterns around the park, both out of inevitable growth pressures associated with what could be considered to be underutilized sites, with the development of an iconic park and the Cross Kirkland Corridor acting as a catalyst to help instigate and shape that change. The edge recommendation in this section, while beyond the control of this master plan, are intended to inspire and possibly shape a vision for “what could be”.

Additional studies were prepared that show how the acquisition of the Hotel site could be configured to retain a portion of the existing parking lot providing approximately 50 parking stalls. The final study shows how the preferred plan functions with the future surrounding development, including the redevelopment of the Totem Lake Mall properties.

Master Planning Process:

The first phase of work occurred from March to August 2013 to develop a design program to re-envision Totem Lake Park. The second phase ended in December 2013 and transformed the park program into two or three design alternatives which were then be vetted down to one master plan through a public process with input from the Park Board, City Staff and City Council.



Phase 1 - Park Programming

The project kicked off with a site walk around the lake on Thursday, April 4. Attendees included city staff, Park Board members, KCD representatives, and members of the design team.

The following opportunities and constraints were discussed on the tour:

1. The trail and boardwalks should loop or connect around the lake.
2. A connection to the Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC) would support the site.
3. It is hard to see the lake from surrounding properties or roadways and many people don't even know it's there.
4. Sidewalks along Totem Lake Boulevard are narrow and uninviting to pedestrians.
5. There is currently no onsite parking. Parking is allowed on a private drive at the park access boundary. Current signs are confusing.
6. The health of the lake and its adjacent wetland is good. Although low in biodiversity, the site provides habitat for several species of birds, beaver, turtles and fish, to name a few. Prime conditions for wildlife viewing and supporting other programs.
7. Recurring restoration work parties have removed invasive species and planted native plants.
8. Consider how the site is a catalyst to surrounding development. Look for opportunities to create a gateway at Totem Lake Boulevard as part of the development of CKC.
9. Safety and security is a big concern. There were issues with camping on the site in the past.



In preparation for the first public meeting, The Watershed Company completed a wetland delineation report identifying all critical areas on the site. The report identified the lake and its associated wetland to be approximately 18 acres. The park site itself is 17 acres, so the associated wetland and buffers go beyond park property. This report also identified drainages running parallel to the CKC and a separate wetland to the south of the lake on property owned by King County.

Outreach to surrounding property owners started in this phase to engage and allow those immediately adjacent to the site an opportunity to provide input or share insight for future park improvements. At this time, we have only heard from one surrounding property owner, Brian Lurie of Yuppie Pawn. The project team continues to reach out and is working in conjunction with ongoing meetings with Totem Lake residents and businesses at Café Veloce.

The first public meeting was held on Saturday, June 1 2013 at the Yuppie Pawn parking lot adjacent to the park site. Approximately 25 to 30 members of the local community along with select Park Board members and park staff attended. Jenni Creveling of The Watershed Company led two tours of the lake and wetland complex. The tours gave community members an opportunity to see how diverse and intact the natural area is. For several folks this was the first time they had been to the site and seen the lake.

The design team set up three stations titled Reveal Ecology, Reveal Recreation and Culture, and Re-Imagine Totem Lake. The first two stations provided information about the site and its surrounding environment and asked participants to provide any information they felt was missing or other observations relevant to the project. The final station asked for attendees to share their vision for Totem Lake Park. Information was recorded on tags pinned to the boards. These were then synthesized along with verbal conversations held at the meeting into emerging themes.



Totem Lake Reveal Park Ecology

1 Totem Lake Neighborhood
 Given the highly urbanized nature of the area surrounding Totem Lake area, runoff into the lake causes degraded water quality, affecting the lake ecosystem and possibly downstream water quality.

2 Lake Outlet
 Flooding affects the site and is a partial result of downstream impacts, some of which are caused by an eager beaver!

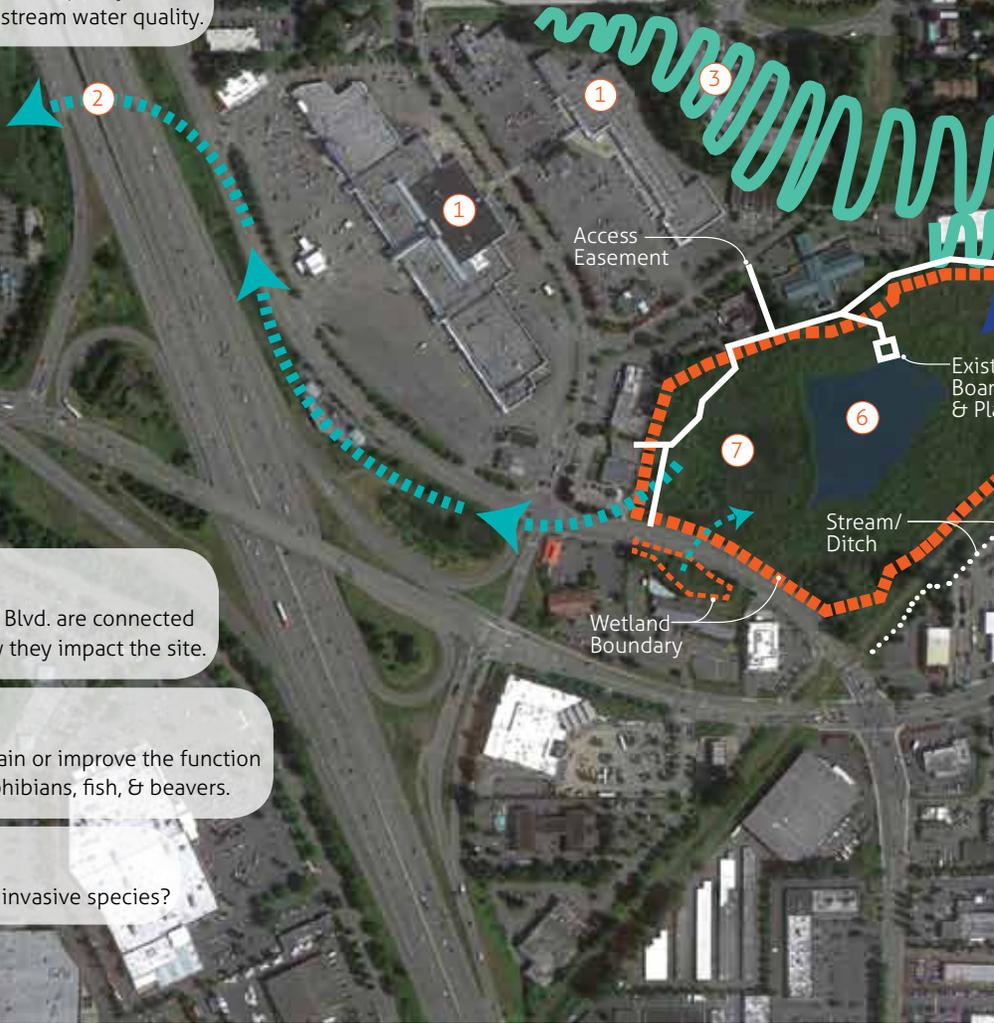
3 Forested Hillside
 The steep hillside to the north of the lake forms a wildlife corridor that also provides a possible connection to Evergreen Hospital and surrounding communities.

4 Urban Creeks
 Water drains into and out of Totem Lake from the surrounding hillsides and communities.

5 Adjacent Wetlands
 Wetlands separated by the CKC and Totem Lake Blvd. are connected to the lake and need to be considered as to how they impact the site.

6 Totem Lake Wildlife
 How can we enhance wildlife habitat and maintain or improve the function of the site? Consider songbirds, waterfowl, amphibians, fish, & beavers.

7 Totem Lake Invasives
 What Restoration efforts are needed to manage invasive species?



Poster presented at June 1st Public Meeting



Totem Lake is the headwaters of a much larger natural system (a tributary of the Juanita Creek Drainage Basin). The lake and surrounding areas are classified as a depressional wetland approximately 18 acres in size. The open water portion, Totem Lake, comprises approximately 3 acres of the total wetland area. Native vegetation within the wetland includes native scrub-shrub, emergent and aquatic bed plants. Invasive plants are present, including Purple loosestrife, reed canary grass and Himalayan Blackberry. Totem Lake is an ecological gem, yet with some obvious impacts from the urban areas that surround it. One of the critical opportunities of this project will be designing a plan that can enhance the human experience of the park, opening it up to become an icon of the community, even as we work to enhance the ecological performance of the lake and wetland.

What observations do you have to add?



Totem Lake Park Reveal Recreation & Culture

It's not just a place; it's a starting point. If there was improved site access and connections to the surrounding community, could Totem Lake be revealed as the central park of the neighborhood? What would help strengthen the Lake as a destination?

- Ⓐ Totem Lake Park
- Ⓑ Surrounding Properties
- Ⓒ Totem Lake Mall
- Ⓓ Cross Kirkland Corridor
- Ⓔ Evergreen Hospital
- Ⓕ Neighborhood

An economic catalyst: Would you like to sit out on a patio for brunch looking out over the lake on a sunny morning? Surrounding development could enable Totem Lake Park to become a destination that then supports other services.

Poster presented at June 1st Public Meeting

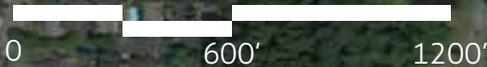
Mudd Lake, one of many names in Totem Lake history, has a story to tell. Starting with a vast forest and cultures of Native Americans, the area has transitioned from agriculture and railroads to automobiles, modern development and industry. The landscape around the lake over the past 100 years has seen a dramatic change. Totem Lake is physically located at the heart of its namesake neighborhood, yet it is anything but the heart of the community that surrounds it.

What...there's a lake in Totem Lake? Did you know there was a lake here? Limited access to the site surrounded by development and natural barriers make it hard to get here. There is a great opportunity to develop a strong sense of place that can become a catalyst to revitalize the greater Totem Lake Community.

Honor and build on the history: Agriculture was prevalent around the lake during early days of Kirkland, and the railway has left its imprint on the shores as well. How can this help build character for the site?

Reach beyond the park! With its location along the forthcoming Cross Kirkland Corridor, the Park brings a unique opportunity to provide connections to businesses and amenities for trail users.

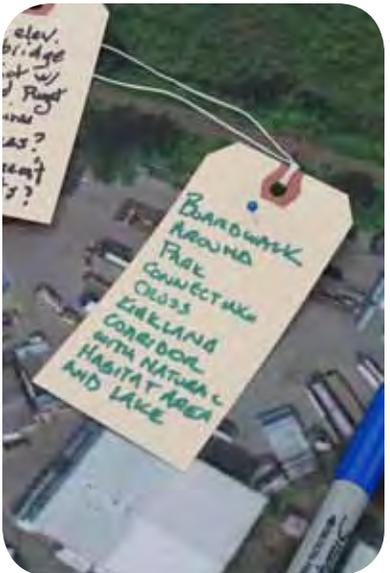
What activities, existing or new, would bring you to Totem Lake?





Finding the magic is the trick to successful places, from the design through implementation. The ultimate solution for Totem Lake is about finding what's unique and building on it to make this a great place to be. With this in mind, we have one simple question for you:

Share your vision for Totem Lake.



Emerging Themes from Public Meeting 1:

1. Provide a loop trail with minimal impacts to wildlife habitat and ecology. (Strong support for maintaining what's there and building from it.)
 - a. Include a connection through the site to the mall, which would be a better experience than walking along Totem Lake Blvd.
 - b. Safety and security are a concern and need to be addressed.
2. Install viewing platforms to the north or at locations around the lake to view the open water and wildlife. (Confirm if views to Mt. Rainier are possible.)
3. Provide access/connections to the adjacent neighborhood (CKC, SCL Right-of-Way, and steep hillside open space to the northeast).
4. Improve pedestrian crossing/gateway at CKC, Totem Lake Boulevard and 124th Street (grade separated):
 - a. Consider "all-way crossing" like at Pike Place Market.
5. Create more upland for additional amenities: wetland education center, parking, picnicking, lawn, etc. (Acquire adjacent property(s)?)
6. Program to remove invasive species/site stewardship. (Establish a friends of group?)
7. Make the site accessible, providing seating areas, benches, and interpretive elements.
8. Gain support for the park site from the surrounding businesses to preserve the wetland/lake.
9. Create viewpoints by developing a vegetation management plan to allow views into the site.
10. Consider if access to the water for human powered boats is desirable.

The project was presented to the Park Board on April 10 and June 12 to review what was learned and the outcome of the public meeting.

Park Program:

Design Program elements for Totem Lake Park were formulated based on site and neighborhood analysis and context from the first community workshop. City Council input was provided on August 6th, 2013 and the final approved design program is as follows:

1. Provide a loop trail to enhance and energize the site.
2. Provide appropriate amenities to support use of the site (benches, signage, interpretation, seating areas, etc.).
3. Enhance connectivity to and from the park, to include Evergreen Medical Center and the Totem Lake Transit Center. Develop a connection in cooperation with SCL 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 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(s) for future center, parking, and link to Totem Lake Mall properties.
8. Explore further how adjacent parcels could be redeveloped to strengthen and support the programming of the park.
9. Enhance the ecological function of the park and the quality of water leaving the lake. Develop a vegetation and wildlife management plan to diversify 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 site management 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.



Totem Lake Park Program Opportunities & Connections

- (A) Transit Center
 - (B) Evergreen Hospital
 - (C) Street Crossing
 - (D) SCL Powerline Trail
 - (E) Hillside Drainage
 - (F) Hillside Trails
 - (G) Cross Kirkland Corridor
 - (H) Railroad ditch and wetland
 - (I) Street Crossing
 - (J) Lake Washington Technical College
 - (K) Street Crossing
 - (L) Transition : Totem Lake - Totem Lake West
 - (M) Cross Kirkland Corridor
 - (N) Totem Lake West
 - (O) Public Safety Building
 - (P) Lake Outfall to Juanita Creek Tributary
 - (Q) Adjacent Stormwater Pond
-  pedestrian activity node
 -  pedestrian path/connection
 -  crossing area
 -  water connection (piped shown dashed, surface shown solid)
 -  park/green space extents



Phase 2: Schematic Design Alternatives

Working from the design program, three unique design alternatives were prepared and presented at meetings with the City and Park Board. The alternatives were presented at a second public workshop that was held on September 21st 2013 at the Yuppie Pawn Parking lot.

To address the storm water component of the design alternatives, the design team attended a meeting with Jenny Gaus from the City to discuss options of how the site could help alleviate storm water flows and flooding. A concept was discussed that involved dredging a portion of the Lake to provide additional storm water capacity at peak flows. A rough calculation determined that even if you dredged the entire 17 acre parcel, it would not be enough to make a difference to peak flows. It was determined that the Park Master Plan should focus on preserving and enhancing the ecological function of the site and adjacent properties would need to provide their own storm water facilities to help alleviate flooding issues in the area.

Connections



Design Program

- Implement a loop trail
- Provide benches, signage, interpretation, seating areas, etc.
- Look for connections to neighborhoods and regional facilities.
- Recommend parking opportunities and improved pedestrian access.
- Improved pedestrian connection at Totem Lake Blvd and N.E. 124th Street.
- Utilize CKC to enhance Totem Lake Park and connections to businesses.
- Study the development of an upland parcel or parcels for future center, parking, and link to Totem Lake Mall properties.
- Explore re-developed of adjacent properties to support the park.
- Enhance the ecological function of the park and the quality of water leaving the lake.
- Make recommendations on how to improve water quality and alleviate future flooding.
- Study public art opportunities to energize the site and create an awareness of the lake.
- Develop and maintain views and access to open water; exclude human powered boats.



The alternatives were titled Contemplate, Influence and Integrate and a description of the concept is included on the individual boards. All of the alternatives considered connections to the surrounding community, and a sensitivity to the ecological function of the site.



Totem Lake Park Contemplate

- (A) Outdoor Restaurant Space
- (B) Shared Parking
- (C) Mitigation
- (D) Observation/ Gathering Terrace
- (E) Event Terrace/ Lawn
- (F) SCL Powerline Trail
- (G) Enhanced Viewing Deck
- (H) Loop Boardwalk Trail
- (I) Bird Blind
- (J) Natural Habitat Structure
- (K) Passive Open Space w/ Bridge
- (L) Grand Terrace
- (M) Cross Kirkland Corridor Improvements
- (N) Lawn
- (O) Raised Planting Enhancements
- (P) Seating Nodes
- (Q) Bus Stop
- (R) Median Planting
- (S) Improved Entry & Sidewalk
- (T) Outfall



Contemplate includes a loop pathway that is closer to the lake, and assumes no land acquisition for park amenities. The concept focuses on a light touch to the land to view wildlife by creating a series of boardwalks and seating areas around the Lake. Totem Lake Boulevard is enhanced with a planted median in the center turn lane. Pedestrian crossing of the Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC) at the intersection of NE 124th Street and 124th Ave NE is provided at grade with no separation from vehicular traffic.



Opportunity abounds to discover the natural beauty of the site through a series of connected boardwalks and viewing terraces. Businesses that neighbor the lake property are encouraged to provide outdoor seating and gathering opportunities. Storm water management is handled offsite before water reaches the site, and species diversity is enhanced by way of providing enhanced habitat features around the lake.



Totem Lake Park Influence

- (A) Redevelopment of NW Corner
- (B) Parking
- (C) Upland Park
- (D) Promenade
- (E) Viewing Pier
- (F) Enhanced Viewing Deck
- (G) SCL Powerline Trail
- (H) Hummock Restoration Planting
- (I) Cross Kirkland Corridor Improvements
- (J) Passive Open Space
- (K) Trail Respite
- (L) Spiral Ramp w/ Overhead Crossing
- (M) Stormwater Opportunity
- (N) Bus Stop
- (O) Median Planting
- (P) Buffer/ Edge Enhancement
- (Q) Improved Entry & Sidewalk
- (R) Loop Boardwalk Trail
- (S) Mitigation
- (T) Outdoor Space



Influence looks to acquire the Yuppie Pawn Tavern site to create a park site outside the wetland complex. This would allow development of a restroom and other park amenities that are currently not possible on the current site. This location offers a complimentary amenity to the future redevelopment of the Totem Lake Mall Property. Another component included studying how Café Veloce could remodel and provide an outdoor terrace that would interact with the Park site. An artistic spiral overpass separates vehicles and cars from the 124th and 124th intersection for the CKC. This concept also allows the overpass to avoid the overhead Seattle City Light Power lines.



Inspired by the intersection of Nature and the City, artistic elements frame the centerpiece of this landscape. The site is connected to the CKC by way of a sculptural spiral ramp overpass that allows pedestrians to access the site above traffic. Artistic elements are imprinted on the land that then translate into habitat creation in the wetland for species diversity by way of removing invasive plants.

0 500' 1000'



Totem Lake Park Integrate

- (A) Improved Boulevard using LID
- (B) Shared Parking with Mall
- (C) Future Mall Renovation / Green Spine
- (D) Upland Park Site
- (E) Sculptural Lawn Terrace
- (F) Environmental Center/ Restroom
- (G) Turnaround Dropoff
- (H) Stormwater Ponds
- (I) SCL Powerline Trail
- (J) Bird Blind/ Connecting Boardwalk
- (K) Spur Trail
- (L) Cross Kirkland Corridor Improvements
- (M) Passive Open Space w/ Bridge
- (N) Observation Deck
- (O) Future Development
- (P) Canopy Walk
- (Q) Lawn Terrace
- (R) Secondary Park Entrance
- (S) Relocated Bus Stop
- (T) Median Planting
- (U) Habitat Creation w/ Open Channels
- (V) Expanded Promenade



Integrate goes a step further in acquiring both the Yuppie Pawn site along with the Hotel Parcel. The expanded acquisition allows for an opportunity to not only provide a park site, but also enhanced storm water capacity for the lake. This could allow for a partner approach with the Totem Lake Mall redevelopment if they need additional land to mitigate for their storm water impacts. The overhead crossing of the 124th and 124th intersection soars above the lake, providing views over the lake and a connection to the Totem Lake Mall property. This concept also shows how the Totem Lake Mall redevelopment could interface with the Lake, providing a great amenity for the public.



Rising above Totem Lake Boulevard, an overhead walkway provides not only an uninterrupted flow of pedestrians to the site, it also allows for a spectacular view of the wetland complex. The ecological diversity of the site is enhanced by creating a series of ponds that provide edges and habitat features. Property is potentially acquired to provide storm water quality that will help enhance the ecological function of the site.

Input from the public workshop is summarized in the meeting notes (see appendix). In general, it was clear that an overpass at the 124th intersection was desired. The “Influence” plan was a clear favorite, but there were several elements from the other concepts that people said they would like to see in preferred master plan.





Phase 3: Preferred Master Plan

Upon synthesizing input from the Public and City, a draft preferred master plan was developed and presented at the Community Planning day on October 19th, 2013. The plan received positive response from the City, Park Board and members of the public who attended the planning day. The plan was also reviewed at a meeting with the Totem Lake Business meeting on October 14th, 2013 and received positive feedback. There was a lively discussion about how this could help spur growth in the area, along with a healthy discussion about parking.



Totem Lake Park Program, Keynotes & Sections

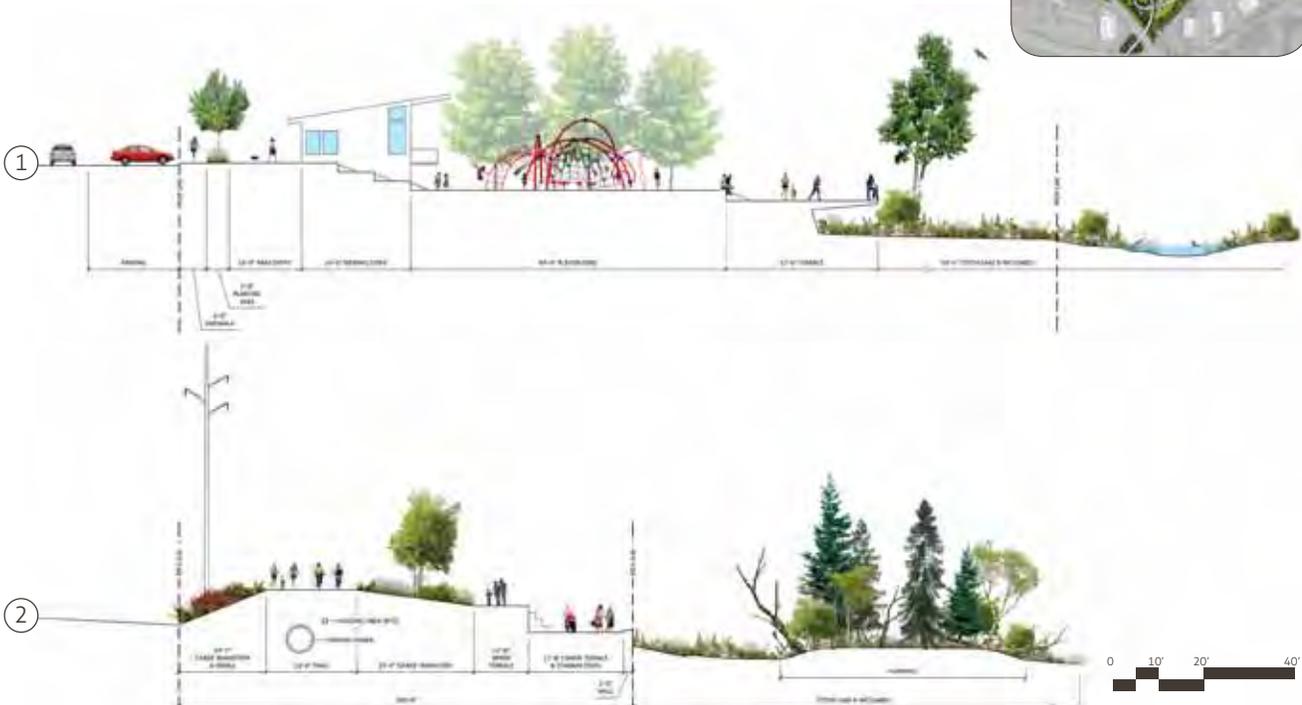
Program Keynotes (see preferred plans)

- (A) Upland Park w/ restroom and kiosk
- (B) Back in angle parking (10 spaces)
- (C) Terraced seating areas and passive lawn
- (D) Play area
- (E) Lake promenade walk and seating nodes
- (F) Elevated lake Viewing pier
- (G) SCL powerline and hillside trails
- (H) Loop boardwalk trail w/ habitat viewing
- (I) Cross Kirkland Corridor improvements
- (J) Passive open space and trail connection
- (K) Bridge feature and wetland enhancement
- (L) Trail respite (seating, interpretive signs)
- (M) Spiral ramp and overpass crossing of 124th
- (N) Stormwater feature
- (O) Median planting w/ sidewalk improvements
- (P) Relocated bus stop
- (Q) Improved entry & sidewalk
- (R) Wetland buffer edge enhancement
- (S) Hummock plantings and habitat features
- (T) Wildlife habitat ponds (enhancement)

Design Program

- Implement a loop trail.
- Provide benches, signage, interpretation, seating areas, etc.
- Look for connections to neighborhoods and regional facilities.
- Recommend parking opportunities and improved pedestrian access.
- Improved pedestrian connection at Totem Lake Blvd. and NE 124th Street.
- Utilize CKC to enhance Totem Lake Park and connections to businesses.
- Study upland parcel or parcels for future development, parking, and links to Totem Lake Mall properties.
- Explore redevelopment of adjacent properties to support the park.
- Enhance the ecological function of the park and the quality of water leaving the lake.
- Make recommendations on how to improve water quality and alleviate future flooding.
- Study public art opportunities to energize the site and create an awareness of the lake.
- Develop and maintain views and access to open water; exclude boats.

Section Keyplan



Totem Lake Park Preferred Plan



Inspired by the intersection of Nature and the City, artistic elements frame the centerpiece of this landscape. The site is connected to the CKC by way of a sculptural spiral ramp overpass that allows pedestrians to access the site above traffic. Artistic elements are imprinted on the land that then translate into habitat creation in the wetland for species diversity by way of removing invasive plants.



Totem Lake Park Preferred Plan + ^{Acquired} Property



Café Veloce's back of house is reconfigured, and an outdoor serving station added, allowing support for an outdoor terrace. This portrays how future development could open up to the lake to boost the lake as an asset and amenity to surrounding development.

This sketch shows how the acquisition of the Carlton Inn hotel could provide storm water quality ponds that help enhance the ecological function of the site. It also takes advantage of the existing parking lot supporting approximately 50 additional cars for the park.



Totem Lake Park Preferred Plan + ^{Acquired} Property + ^{Surrounding} Development



- Future redevelopment around the lake can be completed in a way that enhances the experience of the place. The Totem Lake Mall property could provide a green spine through the property, allowing pedestrians the ability to access the lake. The stairway feature at the lake provides an opportunity for small outdoor gatherings or lunch time concerts.
- 120th avenue NE is designated as a neighborhood connection from Totem Lake Park connecting to the Mall property, Evergreen Hospital, transit center and park and ride lot. This reimagined street would include widened sidewalks separated from the street by rain gardens. Improved bicycle facilities might include buffered bike lanes.
- Totem Lake Blvd. has been envisioned as a parkway that passes through the park, leveraging the existing street edge, a new median and integration of the stormwater wetland to the west of the street into the experience. In addition to the improved parkway like character, the redesign of the street is intended to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities.



Final Preferred Master Plan

Based on input received from the Community Planning Day, the plan was altered to open up views into the lake from along Totem Lake Boulevard. Additional revisions are provided at the King County Parcel to accommodate the existing stream and wetlands in the area. This plan presented at the beginning of the report was presented at the November Park Board and City Council workshop where it received unanimous support.

Totem Lake Park Preferred Plan



