

Edmonds Marina Beach Open House #1 Summary – March 4, 2015

Updated: 3/19/2015

Overview

On March 4, 2015, the City of Edmonds hosted an open house at the Edmonds Plaza Room to share information about the Edmonds Marina Beach Master Plan. The open house included display boards showing: relevant contextual information about the site; analysis of the existing elements and other features of the site; two different alignment concepts for daylighting Willow Creek. Aerial boards on each table illustrated the existing conditions of Edmonds Marina Beach Park.

The project team provided information on the project background, schedule, Willow Creek alignment options and connections between Edmonds Marsh and Willow Creek. Attendees split into five groups to discuss what they like and don't like about Marina Beach Park, what they hope to see in the future and their feedback on the two Willow Creek alignment concepts. Attendees were encouraged to visit the Online Open House and provide feedback through SurveyMonkey.

Summary of questions and input

I. What elements of Marina Beach Park did attendees like?

- Beach access
- Openness and unstructured nature of beach
- Natural features and balance with hardscapes (e.g., driftwood, rocky inner tidal zone)
- Grassy area
- Sandy north beach
- Separation of play area and play structure
- Dog park
- Ability to walk down the beach and other walking paths
- Wildlife (e.g., seals, marine life, whales, birds)
- Family accessible
- Healthy environment
- View of mountains
- Active area and sports (e.g., kiteboarding, kayaking, volleyball, windsurfing, fishing)
- Opportunities for interaction with naturalists and beach rangers
- Accessibility for high school students to work on projects at the beach
- Picnicking and BBQ
- Connectivity to the port
- Quiet place to sit
- Pedestrian access from the north
- Knoll structure
- Views and photography
- Sufficient ADA parking and ok parking capacity

II. What elements of Marina Beach Park did attendees dislike?

- Port a potties
- Lack of parking and no parking turnaround
- Erosion at south end
- Dog park - concerns about whether dog park is best use of real estate
- Dogs chasing wildlife and smell from dog park

- III. What elements of Marina Beach Park would attendees change? What elements would attendees like to include?
- Increase ADA parking
 - More picnic tables
 - Keep the rustic feel of the park
 - Add fire pits
 - More ways to walk on beach (driftwood makes walking difficult)
 - Relocate dog park (concerns that build-up of acid is not conducive to salmon-friendly habitat)
 - Better signage (entrance/dog park/from Port walkway)
 - More natural playground area (not primary colors)
 - Make parking in a loop to lessen congestion
 - Allow for watercraft access
 - Address stormwater runoff (e.g., runoff from SR 104 and Shoreline)
 - Connect pedestrian access to east side of railroad tracks and connect pedestrian walkways to parking
 - Connect beach to marsh trail
 - Permanent bathrooms
 - Replenish the sand
 - Provide walkway to birds
 - Ensure that dog park keeps dogs in
 - Increase salmon habitat
 - More seating in park area
 - Prefer to keep beach in its historic or natural state
 - Add a nature center
 - Create a new overlook structure
 - Use pier footing as overlook but soften/add seating and a telescope
 - More seating in the park.

- IV. Attendee feedback on Willow Creek alignments:
- Alignment A:
 - i. Likes: takes up less of parking area; doesn't take park space.
 - ii. Concerns: requires too much fencing; concerns about children near creek when water level can increase 4 or 5 feet; impacts of dog park to creek.
 - Alignment B:
 - i. Likes: natural curve; more organic layout; permanent restrooms; maintains natural habitat; allows for more recreational opportunities; reduces size of park, but okay if it increases access to the boat site; more educational opportunities; more fish friendly.
 - ii. Concerns: too disruptive; tree loss from grassy area; loss of lawn; needs a pedestrian overpass; loses more beach real estate.
 - Suggestions for alternative options:
 - i. Daylight along historic pier location; instead of curving, have the stream come straight through the middle through the old pier and pipes.
 - General concerns/comments: where will dogs go temporarily during construction; soil testing and contamination; pedestrian bridges; putting a parking lot in the Uni-Cal area; allowing access to the marsh from the park; extending dusk hours.

- V. Other questions/feedback
- Attendees asked how wide the creek will be – project staff said this topic would be covered at the next open house in May.

- One attendee, Val Stewart, suggested outreach with high school students. She offered to distribute a survey or materials at the high school to help promote engagement with the project.

Attendance

City of Edmonds

- Dave Earling, Mayor
- Kristiana Johnson, Councilmember
- Carrie Hite, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director
- Renee McRae, Interim Assistant Parks Director
- Jerry Shuster, Stormwater Engineering Program Manager

Other project team members

- Chris Jones, Walker Macy
- Mike Zilis, Walker Macy
- Keeley O'Connell, Earth Corps
- Katie DeLeuw, EnviroIssues
- Nicole Lobodzinski, EnviroIssues

Members of the public: Approximately 40