

## Beaver Lake Master Plan

### Public Meeting #4 Summary

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

The purpose of this meeting was to present and seek input on the preferred Master Plan for Beaver Lake Park. Comments were solicited for the three different areas of the park, i.e. the Lakeside, the Westside and the Woods.

The following is a summary of the comments/questions and *responses* from the meeting:

#### LAKESIDE

- The play area at the lakeside and the beach improvements along the shoreline will require removal of some existing trees. Request for a detailed count of trees to be removed.
- Comment to applaud the effort to keep the trees around the lodge.
- Concern on how the grass-berm in the lakeside meadow will affect the triathlon.
- Question if access for dogs to the lake was considered. *This was not intended or planned for.*
- Concern that the grass-berm will limit the available open space for activities like frisbee. *The berm is proposed in the location of the current asphalt turn-around which will be removed as part of the improvements; net available lawn area will not be compromised.*
- Question regarding the elimination of the existing service road. *The primary 'spine trail' will serve as access for service vehicles.*
- Question if the concrete bulkhead along Long Lake will be removed. *The bulkhead will be removed as part of the shoreline restoration efforts.*
- Question if the fishing platform will support the number of users; concerns regarding easy access to the lake for fishermen when the existing service access will be removed. *The buoy line will be anchored to define the limits of swimming during the summer months only.*
- Question on the number of existing and proposed parking spaces. *The existing parking lot has 85 parking spaces and the proposed parking lot will accommodate a total of 115 parking spaces.*

#### WESTSIDE

- Question if the 3 little-league fields and 1 rectilinear field (for soccer/lacrosse/football) proposed, was in proportion to the demand. *The 3 little league fields were proposed to ensure no net loss of fields at this facility and the 1 rectilinear field was the most that could be accommodated here. Statistics showed that the peak demand for both little-league and lacrosse is in the Spring, so providing multi-use fields would not work.*
- Question if a survey has been carried out for the effects of noise and lights from the fields. Concern about the noise disturbance from the fields if they are to be lit.
- Comment from an attendee that he is 100% against the fields in Beaver Lake Park if they are to be lit.

- Comment from an attendee that the fields are sunken and surrounded by dense tall trees that buffer the fields from the surrounding residences.
- Concern that the parking proposed on-site may not be adequate. The overflow parking on 244<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE without the sidewalks is illegal and unsafe.
- Comment that this layout is much better than the options presented previously; but that residents across 244<sup>th</sup> Ave SE will be impacted by noise and parking issues.
- Statistics show that vandalism is a lot less on fields that are lit.
- Comment from a mother of kids in multiple sports that this is a 'Community Park' and everyone uses it; it is a good layout and she loves the turf fields. She recommended looking at legal parking along the 244<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. She hoped that the community would work together in an effort to keep the kids on the plateau and advised to look at a reasonable time to turn-off the lights at 9:30 pm.
- Comment that we do not have enough fields in Sammamish and to applaud the City on the design; the lacrosse field is very timely with the increase in numbers of users.
- Comment that it is important for kids to experience nature just as it is for them to play sports; concern that lighting the fields will impact the wildlife in the woods which forms the center of the park and lends it its unique character. *Current technology has light fixtures with less light spill.*
- Comment that with the lights on the fields, even the winter evenings will no longer be quiet.
- Comment that statistics show that obesity is higher in U.S.A. than anywhere else. Fields are good and obesity is bad.
- Request to allocate fields based on current demand. 128,000 kids play soccer on the Eastside; any capacity added benefits the system as a whole.
- Don't build the soccer field if you don't light it.
- Concern that there are 600 lacrosse players on the plateau; field limitations turn kids away.
- An attendee encouraged others to visit fields with lighting in adjacent communities; these fields make more attractive communities.
- Request to see how the fields at Beaver Lake Park fit into the entire system (in Sammamish) and to look for alternate field locations with fewer disturbances to neighbors.
- Comment that the pea-patch is a nice addition to the park.

## **WOODS**

- Concerns that the sport field lighting will affect the wildlife.
- The off-leash area already barricades wildlife; more fences will further barricade the wildlife.
- Question why asphalt paving is being considered for the primary trail; horses will tear up the asphalt. *Paving a partial width of the trail is being considered to help make this loop ADA accessible and to help maintenance crew to get around the park.*
- Comment to applaud the sensitivity of the design to leave the 'woods' as-is with minimal improvements.

## **OPERATIONS:**

The following comments relate to policies rather than the design and have been grouped below:

- Concern that the people who come to the park to fish, will have to walk a longer distance in the summer time when part of the beach is cordoned off for swimming.
- Lily-pad management in the lake is needed; *this is funded by the Beaver Lake Management District and Friends of Beaver Lake.*
- In the absence of animal control, a stronger enforcement by the City's Police Department is required.
- Concern that if the primary trail is paved, it will be abused by non-maintenance vehicles.
- Concern that though the little league fields are not proposed to lit, it is easy to light them in the future, causing more impact to the neighbors.
- Comment that games/field booking can be staggered to reduce the parking impact on the Westside.

## **Next Steps:**

Following the public meeting, the Preferred Master Plan for Beaver Lake Park will be presented to the Parks Commission and City Council. Both meetings are open to the public.