

# Meeting Notes

## Maple Wood Playfield & Play Area Renovation – Open House #2

December 12, 2019

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Maple Elementary School - Cafeteria – 4925 Corson Ave S., Seattle

**Attendees:** Approximately 20 participants

---

<b>Project Team</b>	Seattle Parks and Recreation: Libby Hudson, Planner and Emily Griffith, Capital Projects Coordinator PLACE Landscape Architecture: Phoebe Bogert, Katherine Goodrich, Tori Halligan
<b>Project</b>	Maple Wood Playfield and Play Area Renovation: <a href="http://seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/maple-wood-playfield-renovation-projects">seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/maple-wood-playfield-renovation-projects</a>
<b>Location</b>	4801 Corson Ave S, Seattle
<b>Budget &amp; Schedule</b>	Budget: \$3,785,619 for planning, design and construction Schedule: Planning and Design: through December 2020 Construction: 2021

---

**Project Scope:** The project will make needed improvements to the playground and playfield, including providing accessible routes of travel within the park in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The project will provide new play equipment; new drainage, irrigation, grass turf, and backstops for the playfields; and ADA access to parking, comfort station, and play area.

### Open House:

Seattle Parks and Recreation staff and consultants from PLACE Landscape Architecture held the second open house to engage the community and gather input on the conceptual designs for the park improvements. Participants viewed the graphics showing three very different park conceptual ideas and potential field layouts. The concepts were developed after receiving input from the community through an earlier open house at the park held in October and an online survey.

A second online survey opened December 13<sup>th</sup> and solicits responses to the three concepts presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> open house. The 2<sup>nd</sup> survey will remain open through the end of the year.

The next community meeting will discuss the preferred schematic design for the project and will be held on Wednesday February 12, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at Maple Elementary School cafeteria again.

### Project Boards and Community Feedback Summary:

PLACE showed seven boards, featuring 3 different concept designs. The concept themes take their inspiration from the park location, with the theme of “Front Porch” representing the history of the land being an integrated part of the neighborhood, the theme “Flight Path” inspired by the flight patterns of the nearby airfields, and the theme “Meander” representing the landforms of the Duwamish River Valley below.

Each concept was represented with two boards, the first showing the overall annotated plan and perspective and the second board showing four analysis diagrams. Each concept includes a grass-turf athletic field, but with

a different field layout. The final board in the series presented a comparison between the three concepts to rate the community's preferences on the criteria of play, gathering and field configuration.

The consultants from PLACE Landscape Architecture described the project and presented a summary of the previous open house and online survey.

In November and early December, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) staff and landscape architects from PLACE, also engaged 3rd and 5th grade classes from Maple Elementary School in actively participating in the design for their playfield and play area renovation project through a series of three design sessions with approximately 50 students. The students learned about park planning and design, and then brainstormed their own conceptual ideas for the renovated play area. The student's ideas and designs were presented to the SPR design team in the last student session and then shared at the December Open House.

The consultants describe the concept themes and showed the diagrams and perspectives in a slide presentation and then opened the meeting for discussion about the three concepts, soliciting input on what the participants like or didn't care for in each of the concepts.

Following is a summary of the comments from the Open House:

#### Concept 1: Front Porch

- Annotated Plan – Preferences include:
  - Steppingstone play spaces that get harder as you go up
  - Adventure play and advanced play
  - Basketball court
  - Main play area for tots
  - Adult exercise stations
  - Places for a block party - picnic and BBQ areas, food truck stop
  - Front yard native planting
  - Distance marked pathway
  - Gathering overlook in the SW corner of the field
- Analysis Diagrams
  - Athletics - preferences include basketball court and placement
  - Play – preferences for:
    - Both views towards the city and towards the mountain
    - Adult fitness
    - Adventure play
  - Circulation and process diagrams – no comments
- Concept Images – showed preference for nature play and balance beam walk.

#### Concept 2: Flight Path

- Annotated Plan -Preferences:
  - Tree fort platform lookout
  - Northwest little league field
  - Gathering overlook in SW corner of site
  - Fruit orchard



- Analysis Diagrams
  - Program – showed preference for:
    - Addition of the southwest little league field
    - Gathering area in the northwest corner of field
  - Athletics – showed preference for:
    - Baseball, soccer and junior soccer
    - Basketball court needed to be placed in a more central location
    - Baseball field configuration
  - Circulation and process diagrams – no comments
- Concept Images – showed preference for:
  - Slides in landforms
  - Terraced seating
  - Dramatic landforms

### Concept 3: Meander

- Annotated Plan- Preference for:
  - Natural planted areas
  - Orchards require more maintenance.
- Analysis diagrams
  - Athletics – preference for:
    - Discovery play trails
    - Basketball court and placement
- Circulation, program and play – No comments
- Concept Images - preference for:
  - Bridge
  - Nature play

### Concept Comparison Board

Highest preference for the front porch in all regards, play(5+/1-), gathering(4+/0-) and field(5+/0-) categories; with flight path: play(2+/0-), gathering(.5+/1-), field (1+/0-); Meander: Play (2+/0-), Gathering (1+/0-), Field (2+/3-)

- Field Layout Comparison
- There was a strong preference for the Flight Path field layout, and a star also for the existing, front porch and meander.
- General Comments after the presentation included:
    - How is the greenbelt being addressed – fence needs to continue past the current to include the entirety of the wetland and existing fence needs to be repaired
    - Better Lighting for safety; NE Corner is dark
    - Garbage and glass on Snoqualmie and 12<sup>th</sup>; People hanging out in cars in this area are a source of anxiety
    - Preference for design elements that create a draw factor and bring more people into the park; More people coming to the park help to build critical mass that in turn improves overall safety for users. Currently baseball games help with this
    - Greenbelt and wetlands should not have designated paths due to safety concerns and resultant dog activity that would be a threat to restoration efforts
    - Preserve the walking path loop; like the idea of stretching stations along path
    - Wifi for porch area



- Like the addition of functional art
- Keep Basketball court closer to road for better lighting and due to safety concerns near wetland area
- When designing field take into consideration adult playfields and use by sports League
- Strong preference for flight path, field area accommodates more ballfields
- Keep existing trees healthy; Consider environmental and human health when selecting materials
- Keep with focus on nature play
- Solar power for gathering areas; Avoid nighttime light pollutions
- Preference for meander
- This area has bad air quality partially as a result of plane activity; Focusing on flights should be considered carefully
- The park is currently insufficient as is. All three schemes would enhance the positive aspects of the existing character, while adding necessary program and imagination to the space
- Keep the park the way it is, only do what's necessary – ballfield and ADA improvements as well as updates to play areas
- Preference for roller hockey and paved court areas
- Refresh and update bathrooms
- Prevent parking on grass for games
- No firework activity

**Next Steps:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> online survey will present each of the boards discussed at the open house and includes questions to provide feed back to the designers. Please participate and let you neighbors know too. It is the same link as the first survey and will remain open through the end of the year. [www.surveymonkey.com/R/MapleWoodSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/R/MapleWoodSurvey)

The information gathered through work with the Maple School students, at the open house, and through the 2<sup>nd</sup> online survey, will be considered as we move forward through the design process. The preferred schematic design will be presented to the community at the final meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Maple Elementary School Cafeteria (4925 Corson Ave S).