

# Meeting Notes

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

February 12, 2020

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

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

**Attendees:** Approximately 17 participants

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<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="https://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

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**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 third and final community meeting on the schematic design for the park improvements. Participants viewed the graphics showing how the previous concepts and community input has been incorporated into a final schematic design for the Maple Wood Playfield Park. Previous public involvement included two open houses, a series of workshops with Maple Elementary School classes.

Earlier in the day, SPR staff and PLACE Landscape Architecture staff held outdoor flash meetings as parents and students left school at early release mid-day. Graphics of the schematic design and play elements were displayed and kids marked their favorite elements with dots. Parents learned about the project and the open house to be held later in the evening, and how to provide comment through the third and final online survey. This survey shows the schematic design and provides an opportunity for the public to provide input on the schematic design even if they were not able to attend the last open house. This survey is open until February 28, 2020. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MapleWoodSurvey>

### **Overview:**

The consultants from PLACE Landscape Architecture described the project and presented a summary of the previous meetings and online surveys. Phoebe Bogart of PLACE presented the schematic design for the Maple Wood Playfield Park and Field Improvements, followed with a brief question/answer session. PLACE showed 7

boards, featuring the preferred plan (in-scope) for 100% schematic design and master plan (vision) with budget dependent features, all for comment by the community.

Following is a summary of the comments from the evening Open House and the earlier Flash Meetings:

**General Comments at Open House presentation included:**

- Regarding input methods on boards, a comment was made as to “How should we mark the plans – in scope or aspirational – is it worth doing both?” saying that they enthusiastically prefer a full- size basketball court.
- A strong interest in providing inclusivity and acknowledgement that in the design it appears “Access will be improved for those with limited abilities,” but question as to “will there be special play equipment for those with disabilities?”  
Response: PLACE affirmed accessible play equipment will be included in the design.
- Multiple comments as to whether lighting would be included or updated, at the restroom, pathways and athletic fields, “lighting at the restroom should be improved for safety,” and “will the fields be lit and if not, why?”  
SPR Response: Lighting is not part of the original budgeted scope, but SPR is considering whether lighting improvements might be added to the scope, budget dependent.
- “How do you intend to fix the field, and why is it proposed grass and not synthetic turf?” Also, a question as to “what athletics will be included in the fields?”. Another member asked if the fields will be marked for Lacrosse.  
SPR Response: The field will be re-graded and new irrigation, drainage and grass turf will all be replaced to correct current deficiencies in the field. Synthetic turf is not designated for this field primarily due to its association with an elementary school, where unlit grass athletic fields are the general policy city-wide.
- Previously expressed interests that were not in the schematic plan such as “What happened to hockey” were expressed as well as a concern for cleaning up dog waste in the park.  
SPR Response: Not all comments and suggestions can be included in the final design. There was little interest for hockey at this site.
- Environmental sensitivity is of importance to Beacon Hill residents considering the high level of pollutants from the Interstate-5 corridor, air traffic and industry, “and the designers was clearly listening to what the community was saying on this subject with the addition of trees and carbon sequestration”
- “Consider biochar as an additive” when amending the soil as a way of retaining water and mitigating stormwater runoff.

**Feedback on Graphic Boards**

***Site Plan (in-scope)***

Play

- Preference for Nature Play, Dry stream bed as stormwater feature, and parkour playground
- Play Element preferences included geometric play structure, balance log structure

### Program

- Generally gathering and picnic places were well received from the community

### Environment

- Adding Trees was of importance on the Carbon Sequestration diagram

### ***Master Plan (Vision) –***

These are items that are currently out of scope but preferred by community members:

- NW corner overlook
- Full size Basketball court
- Slide built into hillside
- Gathering/proposed play area just north of existing comfort station

### **General Comments**

- No parking should be allowed on the field or driving around loop path
- A young attendee commented that he loved the slide and its colors! Excited for this new park!
- Consider Beacon Hill food forest as an option for maintaining orchard trees – preference for adding more fruit trees to planting plan. Suggested use of Biochar as soil amendment.
- Preference for lit fields for fall/spring sports
- Need covered spaces for people
- Preference for a Futsal court – suggested partnership with Rave foundation
- Gratitude for all of the playfield options – especially ultimate frisbee
- Suggestion for outdoor movies
- Include lighting for security
- Consider public art – like at Jefferson would add life to park and neighborhood as a whole
- Plans/suggestions for improvement look good and comprehensive

### **Elementary School Feedback** - Flash Meetings

#### Boards

Play element favorites included built-in hillside slide, gaga ball, geometric and nature inspired play structure (slight preference), as well as a full-size basketball court, nature play, swings and accessible spinner.

#### General Comments

- Strong, enthusiastic preference for a slide built into the hillside.
- Recognition of planned wood play structures as proposed by student design workshop.
- Multiple people expressed concerns as to the drainage issues at the fields, one commented “glad the field is being improved. It desperately needs the drainage addressed!”
- Some asked what is Gaga Ball?
- Lots of advocates for a full-size basketball court.
- Positive feedback that the park is being approved and getting attention to the play areas. A major draw for many people choosing to live in the area.
- Preference for the walking path getting attention.
- Complaint that during heavy rains there is water on the sidewalk at the parking lot exit.
- Like that the two concepts have been merged. More gathering places are good.
- Like that more trees are included for gathering. In summer, people hover under the limited shade there now.



- Restrooms could use improvement.
- Positive feedback that swings are staying in program for park and preference for taller swings.
- Questions as to “What is happening in the woods?” and wetland area. “Why aren’t there trails planned through the woods/wetland area? That would be a good opportunity to incorporate a nature experience. Trails could make that area more active and less of a safety concern as a result.”

**Next Steps:**

- Online Survey

The 3<sup>rd</sup> online survey provides the schematic design and an opportunity to provide input on the design and play elements. Please participate and let your neighbors know too. It will be open until February 28, 2020.

[www.surveymonkey.com/R/MapleWoodSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/R/MapleWoodSurvey)

- Follow the Project

The community input during this process has been invaluable. Thank you to all that have been involved and a special thank you to Maple Elementary School for hosting our public meeting at their cafeteria and for allowing us to work with their students in dreaming and imagining a variety of play to include in the park. The design workshops with the students helped us all learn.

To follow the project as it proceeds, please check back on our project web page:

[seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/maple-wood-playfield-renovation-projects](http://seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/maple-wood-playfield-renovation-projects)

- For Information

Emily Griffith, SPR Capital Project Coordinator will be the contact for questions as the project moves through design to construction. She can be reached at [Emily.griffith@seattle.gov](mailto:Emily.griffith@seattle.gov)