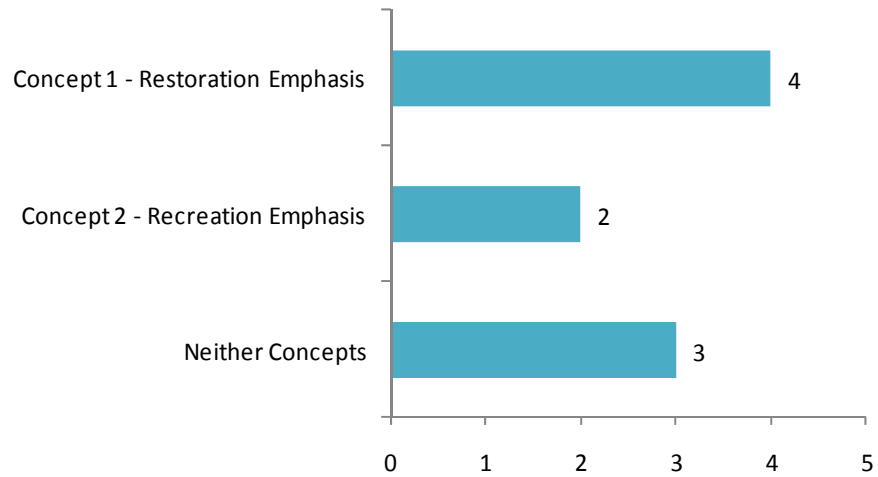


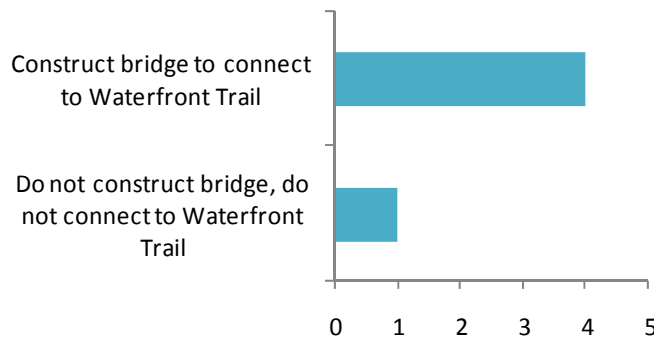
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Information gathered from the Strawberry Plant Design Charrette as well as two composite concept designs were posted on the City of Bainbridge website. A 2-week comment period followed, ending on October 22, 2008. An open house was also held on October 16, 2008. Nine public comments were submitted during this period. The following summarizes these comments.

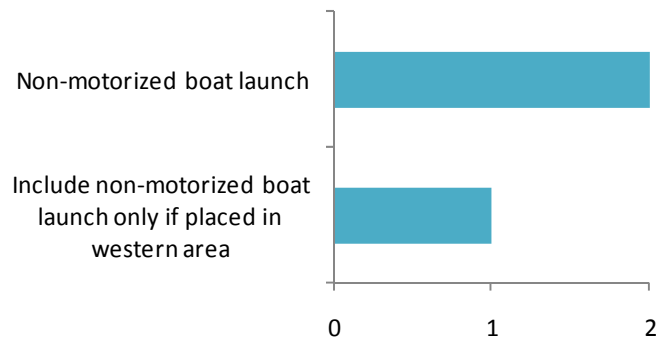
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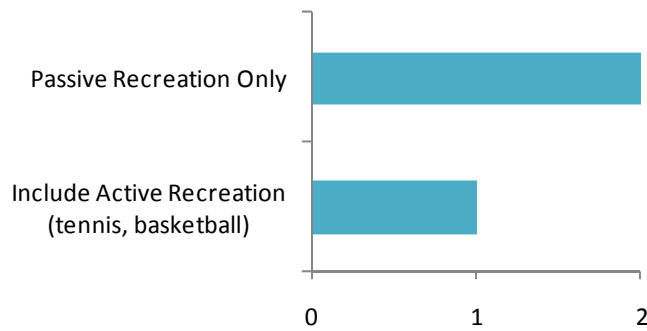
Preference for Proposed Design Concepts



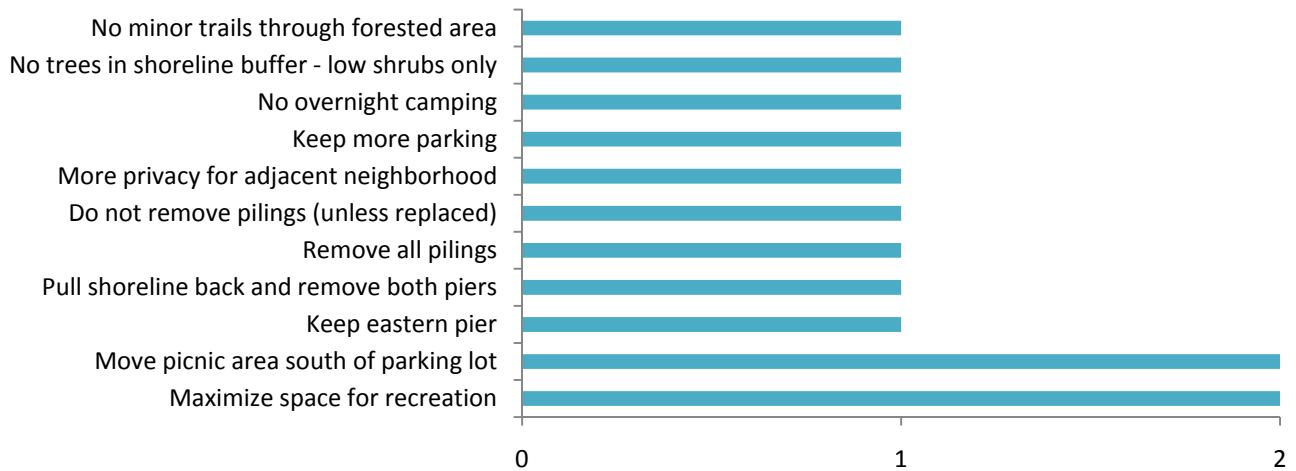
Preference for Waterfront Trail extension



Preference for Non-motorized boat launch



Preference for Recreation Use



Other comments regarding concept design and future park program

Public Comments (9 were submitted)

COMMENT NO. 1 (Scott Farwell):

Thanks for your work on the Strawberry Plant Park.
I would like to make a few comments.
I would start with using concept 2 as a start.

There is a lot of space taken away with the shoreline restoration than just the concrete and I think we should keep as much of that land as possible for recreation. I realize the funding may have criteria of their own and it would be nice to know what that is up front and start from there. If what your showing in the drawings is what they are requiring to fund the restoration please let us know? Otherwise I would say to maximise as much earth for public use as possible.

The other item I feel strongly about is to have no trees planted. This is the only south facing waterfront that is open to the sun. Waterfront park has trees and Prichard Park has shoreline but is north facing. This leaves us with an opportunity to have one of the sunniest open parks on the water. A real place for enjoying sunny picnics and all day fun in the sun. One of the most enjoyable parts of the park now is walking or driving down through the existing trees and then coming out to the sun and water view right at the waters edge. Corridors should not be an option. It should all be open the way it is now. The over grown alders are a good example of how bad a mistake it would be to put trees in the park. there is hardly any view now. Planting bushes and grass we know is necessary but these can be low and provide the cover that fish need.

Other observations are the need to add some additional parking. Knowing that we can't add parking later once the parking that is there is removed, I would strongly recommend leaving more of the existing parking. You could even take some of it up at a later date if park use changes, but starting with more now is a better use of funds. It may be nice to say there is overflow parking along the street on Shepard but that street gets used a lot now with commuters parking and riding bikes to the ferry and that street gets narrow. The park has ample parking and should start by using more of the existing parking it offers already.

I really liked the idea of having a low usable sandy beach spot. I realize you couldn't do a lot of it but a small area for little kids to get their feet wet and enjoy the waters edge would be a great addition.

The rest of the park with the addition of more land then what is drawn in concept 2 should be grass except for the play area and some walking paths.

I agree with the location of the bathroom that just makes sense because it already exists.

I agree with there being a non motorized kayak or canoe launch.

I agree with the bridge although I would think it should be brought down closer to the trail turn over on Lesley landing making the waterfront trail walk strait over to the park rather than turn and walk up to then cross over.

(the location may depend on if you get that other strip of land so maybe the existing location could take advantage of a clearing with a viewing area?) I had an idea for a bridge if you want to see it.

I agree with the picnic area although I would not put the shelter on the knoll but south of where the bridge is drawn so the area could be bigger and closer to the water at the stream.

These are the biggest points I see and thank you for keeping us informed.
your park neighbor,

COMMENT NO. 2 (Charles Sodikoff DVM):

I live at 1815 Eagle Harbor Lane and will be directly impacted by the choices that you make in relation to Strawberry Park across from me. I would like to be counted as one who prefers the restoration emphasis. As a veterinarian I am aware, as I know you are, of the varied assortment of wildlife and birds that come and go at our end of Eagle Harbor, especially as the tide goes up and down, and in the importance of maintaining/restoring the harbor shoreline in as natural a state as possible with that in mind, as there really are not that many areas on the island that provide the same natural balance. I am writing to ask that you keep this in mind as you move ahead in deciding the fate of this important natural area.

COMMENT NO. 3 (L.L. Houston):

I have a number of complaints and comments about the Strawberry Plant property and the plans for it. These currently 11 points follow.

1. Privacy

Privacy was mentioned more prominently at the charette than in the reported list of likes & dislikes and the website. From my front window and my deck, we are exposed to the curious looks of walkers on the public trail on the water and the park visitors standing on the southern 150 feet of the Strawberry plant site. Frankly, I don't like either. Furthermore, because of the deal that the developer (Mueller) had to make with the city, the city has rights to this public path, but the landowners must pay for its upkeep. Upkeep is not inconsequential. Most people have a sidewalk in front and a backyard for some privacy. Our so-called 'sidewalk' draws far more people than a 'normal' sidewalk. It is intrusive and unpleasant to have a stream of people walking 25 paces from the deck while I'm entertaining a family group or just sitting and reading the paper. Just now (9:30 am, Wed.), a group of 25 walkers walked by. In the morning and evening, it is the commuter crowd, many using bicycles that present a danger to walkers because of the bends, foliage, and narrow path. According to the regulations of the path, bicyclists are not allowed on the path, and they do a tremendous damage to it. The gravel that is about a year old is essentially gone already.

When I stand on the level, grassy area at the south end of the area, next to the water, I can look directly into my living room and on my deck. I'm not happy about that and I never counted on that happening when I purchased this property. I don't want it and will resist it as best I can. I want the 'pier' area pulled back so park visitors don't look into my living room. And, I don't want to be continually looking at them, either.

2. Bridge across the stream

As you know, there is private property that is environmentally contaminated between Leslie Landing and the Strawberry Plant property. The city must have access across

this land. If they purchase the land, they also get the environmental liability with it. I would contest and protest any purchase under any type of 'release' of this land.

From Shepard Way directly south to the water in front of my house (321 Bromley) is 190 steps. Let's call it 200 yards. Extending that ending west to Strawberry Plant puts it about 20 years south of the parking lot in Strawberry Plant. As a short cut to Strawberry Plant, it hardly saves many steps. Furthermore, a visitor using the path in front of my house and the bridge would probably turn left at the west end of the bridge and walk to the water. The visitor would probably take the same path back. That visitor would probably never use the path extending to the north (to Shepard). Even if its only 50 steps. Visitors using a parking area on Shepard would probably never use the bridge to go anywhere.

So, why have the bridge? Or even put in the plans? Or even discuss it" It's a nonstarter. It costs money to build, it has a liability if somebody falls off (there are nearly 3 dozen suits against the city now, want more?), it costs money to resolve the intervening contaminated land, and it doesn't save any steps and may actually prevent people from seeing the whole 4 acres. Four acres seems an astonishingly small area, anyway.

3. Empty lot in Leslie Landing

There is an empty lot north of the house owned and occupied by Ardis Shirk. It looks like 'parkland,' but this is deceiving, as it is a lot that someday will be developed. You have not taken into account this possibility in your drawings.

4. Camping site

This concept should be discarded immediately. What we need next to Leslie Landing is a campsite for somebody to build their bonfire at midnight and finish the keg of beer and the case of wine they've been working on (even though I suppose alcohol will be forbidden). I hope you aren't proposing an overnight campsite with tents. God help us!

5. Brush clearance

I sat next to the gentleman with the white beard who personally cleared the south end of the Strawberry Plant site. While he was immensely proud of his work, I wasn't and told him so. It removed cover that the wildfowl used in their haulouts, it has severely diminished their number. I've never seen a pheasant using it as a 'crowing spot' since the brush removal, and their crowing was sometimes nearly constant from that spot. What is the value of that loss? Is there a number you can give me? We used to get quail and pheasants coming from Strawberry Plant into our yard and the Leslie Landing area, that's severely reduced, or even gone. Habitat restoration is extremely important, but it goes along, too, with reducing the amount of 'tramping through the park.'

It was apparent at the charette that many people's idea of habitat restoration including 'parking out the park.' Namely, clearing out the underbrush so that somebody standing at Shepard Way could have an unrestricted view clear to the water, with all the trees neatly trimmed and skinned 40 feet up into the sky. Oh, dear!

I would like to see the 'brush' restored along the east edge of the 'pier' area and left as a cover for the birds, and deer. We frequently seen the deer walking along the edge of the water, traveling around the south edge of the pier, even traveling north along the stream bed. They used all of that cover. I don't mind the deer (contrary to the Seattle Times

article today about the elk in Packwood).

A element in our purchase decision of this house was the bird friendly opportunities it offered. A big part of that was Strawberry Plant.

6. Game type activities

Forget the organized game type activities. Even forget frisbee. Two blocks north are two fields quite suitable for organized activities. These fields are not overused by any stretch of the imagination. I travel on Weaver daily and see very little activity in the spring and summer, and none in the fall and winter.

No basketball, no skateboarding, no football, no baseball, no activity that generates parking demand or noise.

7. Boat haul out and fix-it shop

This is silly on the face of it, but probably will be considered and maybe even funded. Expect all hell to break out. A stupid idea.

8. Piers and poles

Daily I watch cormorants, blue herons, gulls, and eagles, in that order, perch, warm up, and rest up on those piers. The present visual contrasts that are pleasant. A goose has a nest on one set of poles. The kingfisher occasionally uses the poles, but generally uses the old, nearly dead tree in the yard of Ardis Shirk. Unfortunately, this old tree can't last much longer. It will be a sad day when it comes down.

I want the piers to remain (or a substitute to be made) for all of them. Frankly, it's too bad that somebody thinks they are a hazard to navigation.

9. Kayaks

We have a couple kayakers in Leslie Landing. We have two. It's hilarious to see attempts to launch at low tide. Walk through the mud for 100 yards? Try it once and you won't do it a second time. I don't know if this end of the harbor was ever nice stone and rock bottom, but it's nasty, stinky mud now. If one wants to launch a kayak, it is so easy to go to the Waterfront Park where there is a perfectly good pier from which to launch a kayak. It is so easy. Why would anyone want to go to the trouble of using the Strawberry Plant area and fight with the mud?

Building another pier out into the water? No, No, No. There is enough visual pollution of a pier to the east of us, Leslie Landing. I hate the line of boats into the harbor. They're never used, most have never moved in the last 3 years. Two of the bigger boats are gone for maybe 2 weeks a year.

The best use of that pier includes a place for the blue herons to rest on, an occasional eagle lands and looks, and the otters using it for fun, I think. The owners of the pier do what they can to prevent birds from landing on their property (I'm for the birds.)

If you must put kayaks in, at least put them on the west side of the Strawberry Plant.

10. Trails

From Shepard to the southern edge of the parking lot is 190 of my steps, let's call it 200 yards. It is not a long distance, a very short walk at the very least. It is 90 of my steps

across the north edge of the area. Not a long distance. Within this rectangle there is currently one paved road, which should be converted to a trail and is the only way into the area. There isn't much room for a 'real trail' that is separated from this paved road. Any such trail will encroach on the 'wild' area that should be kept intact as much as possible to form habitat protection for the animals and birds.

11. Costs

You've seen the meltdown in the financial market. These events are frightening and have been very hard on retirement funds, such as mine. At this time, I and others are not going to be very supportive of projects that are not deemed to be absolutely critical to the infrastructure and future of the island. In my view, such an expenditure at this time for this property (Strawberry Plant) is a luxury that cannot compete against fixing all of the other problems on the island, especially when I read how much we are in debt to poor city governance.

COMMENT NO. 4 (Rebecca Robins):

I live across the harbor from the area of Strawberry Park and prefer the design that focuses on restoration emphasis. The end of Eagle Harbor is unique to the island and I would hope that you would try to keep it in a pristine way, allowing for access but in a way that preserves the natural beauty and peace and tranquility of this special site.

COMMENT NO. 5 (Norm Babcock):

I prefer Concept 1 (Restoration emphasis) of the two designs.

COMMENT NO. 6 (Mimi Stewart):

I have not seen the design, but would ask to consider creating pedestrian and bike connections to current and future bike routes, "green path" easements into neighborhoods to incorporate current housing developments into the design(Children need more "room to roam") and create non-motorized connections between this park and other recreation areas. We still have enough land on Bainbridge, unlike Seattle, to create a larger connected "green web" of natural open spaces, recreation areas and non-motorized transportation options for our citizens. (I have a B.S. in Natural Resource Economics with a focus on Land Use and worked as a National Park Ranger for many summers, so have strong opinions - please excuse, and thanks for your efforts!!)

COMMENT NO. 7 (Missi and Tim Goss):

First of all thank you to Parks and City Staff and to the numerous professionals and volunteers who have helped to direct the vision for this choice piece of public land.

We live in the neighborhood and are regular users of the park. We have spent many mornings and afternoons at the park. Activities include picnicking, launching our row boat, swimming off the bulkhead at high tide and sitting on the point with a cup of tea. We have gotten to know the site well and appreciate the planning vision that is emerging. We enjoy the variety of landscape, the views, and the frequent sightings of wildlife, primarily birds, seals and fish. From the entry into the site through the mature firs and cedars to emerging out into the light and air of the east promontory this park offers a rare and rich experience to the visitor.

Of the two composite concepts we prefer #2 (although we can't determine very many differences between the two). The proposed improvements make sense, as does

clustering the development around the existing disturbed area of the park. Leaving the upland forest undisturbed is a good idea. Having the play area adjacent to the meadow is a good idea. It would be better to move the shelter to the south side of the parking lot, so that the orientation would be to the meadow and water and not to the parking lot. Why not switch the uses of the restroom and the shelter, recognizing that the shelter is better situated closed to the water. The parking area should include 1 handicap space, designed for both sides exit (we have picnicked here with a friend in a wheel chair) and the paths should be firm and wide enough to accommodate a wheel chair.

We currently launch our boat from the area designated as boat launch on the plan. Either launch design works for us (It could even go over to the east side of the site as boats will be hand carried). We support cutting back the western promontory to allow for a larger salt marsh development. There is no need to add a viewing deck to this promontory as it is not nearly as good as the eastern one. We support the foot bridge as a way of strengthening the waterfront trail experience.

Our biggest concern with the composite plans is the loss of the eastern promontory. This point (beyond the existing maple tree up to the concrete bulkhead) is by far and away the best sitting and swimming place in the park. It is rare in a public park to be able to get out into the water with views all around. To truncate this point of land in the name of finding a shoreline from 1850 is short-sighted and denies the importance of quality public interaction with the water. It may be an accident or a remnant from the past, but we see no reason to destroy it. To argue that it impedes restoration is false. Working with this promontory could ensure a longer shoreline and the bounding of a larger area of salt marsh, while at the same time meeting the needs of the public for quality interaction with the water. Do not remove the eastern promontory.

Thank you for your good work and the opportunity to participate.

COMMENT NO. 8 (Kirk Robinson):

Here are my comments on the Strawberry Packing Plant property design proposals.

1. I believe there were a lot of interesting ideas presented at the charette that were not included in either of the proposed designs. It makes one wonder why folks even bothered to attend.

2. I fully support Shoreline restoration and removal of all pilings. There are numerous options for replacing the Purple Martin nests that are known to exist in a couple of the pilings.

3. The City should use its consultant to focus on shoreline restoration and let the Park District handle the park planning aspects of the site. We need to continue the effort to move all park functions to the Park District and get the City out of the park business as much as possible. (I will note that the results of the Park District Levy Lid Lift will factor heavily in the future of this goal.)

3. The planning for the Strawberry Plant property needs to reflect the and respond to the conditions under which the property was acquired by the City, including the intent to transfer the property to the Park District.

a) I believe that because the property was acquired in a trade for John Nelson Park (which the Park District was beginning to plan for active recreation), this property must be viewed as a park with appropriate space set aside for active recreation, including such possibilities as a play structure, an open grassy area for free play, and possibly sport courts (see b), below). In addition a picnic shelter should be included in the plans for the site.

b) With the transfer of the IAC (now RCO) conditions from Waterfront Park to Strawberry Plant (on which the Park Board should have been consulted), the City has effectively turned at least one, if not both, tennis courts in Waterfront Park over to the rowing club. These courts need to be replaced within the Winslow area and the Strawberry Plant property is the best available location. I would suggest a combination tennis/basketball court be developed in the paved over area.

c) The City should grant a "reasonable use" exception to the buffer requirements (if needed) to accommodate the active use areas of the property.

4. I support the idea of a bridge connecting the property to the Waterfront Trail. Strawberry Plant should be a logical destination along the trail and a bridge would provide a nice culmination to the trail into the park. If the entire adjacent property to the east does not eventually become part of the park, the city should require an easement for the bridge and connecting trails through the property as a condition of developing the parcel (which I understand needs a reasonable use variance for building).

COMMENT NO. 9 (Mark Brody):

I had the pleasure of a long chat with you on the phone yesterday afternoon regarding the future prospects for the Strawberry Plant property. I've been involved one way or another with this "saga" for almost 10 years now. From the start, our first choice for this lovely site always was that of a quiet passive place to be able to view the adjacent Aquatic Conservancy. Over the years most, not all of course, but most of my neighbors and others I've spoken with around the harbor, have heartily agreed with this concept. This kind of an approach would lend itself beautifully (for the uplands) to labyrinthine walkways with perhaps a small Zen rock garden and benches at a central point. Also, as far as I can tell, this is the last public land left available for wildlife cover at this end of the harbor. We still see quail, pheasants and the odd pileated woodpecker there.

Perry, please advise the COBI of one thing that I do know for sure. Many of us on the island worked very long and hard in the effort to stop Earl Miller (the original Strawberry Plant owner) from turning this site into a de facto commercial/busy area in the midst of our quiet neighborhoods. If the city ever decides to squander this site and sell this property to a developer to help the city's present financial situation, the same very strong citizen opposition that fought Earl Miller to a standstill in 3 separate legal actions, WILL materialize all over again. For now, I'm just sorry that we'll have to miss the upcoming neighborhood meeting and will have to let this note stand in for me. Thanks muchly for keeping us in the loop with all of your info.