

COMPOSITE DESIGN NARRATIVES

In the week after the September 27th design charrette, two composite design concepts for the Strawberry Plant Park were drafted. The concepts are intended to provide a composite of the most supported elements common to the designs generated during the charrette. They also consider some feasibility factors such as budget/cost and potential permitting issues such as critical area and shoreline buffers, but have not undergone thorough review for compliance with regulations. The following describes the two concepts:

CONCEPT ONE

Concept One focuses on ecological restoration of the Strawberry Plant Park site. This option maximizes shoreline and salt marsh restoration and minimizes habitat fragmentation. Fill placed in intertidal areas during the site's industrial past is removed and the east and west peninsulas are restored and regraded to reflect a more natural form. Riparian buffers (at minimum 50 feet) edge the shoreline and are as continuous as is practical. The buffer includes tall and thick native vegetation interrupted by a view corridor where the native vegetation is lower.

Key elements of the Option One design include the following:

- Park users have access to the northern forested area, central meadow and recreational area, and the southwestern shoreline. A trail system connects the park with the Waterfront Trail via a new footbridge. This trail system contains a primary trail system and smaller meandering trails that travers throughout the majority of the site.
- The northern, forested area is preserved, with native understory restoration occurring in areas with invasive species.
- A picnic shelter area and playground are located north of the parking area. The areas are bordered by existing mature trees.
- Interpretive signs are dispersed throughout the park and would include information on the site's history and ecology.
- The existing asphalt parking lot is reduced in size and replaced with a large and unprogrammed meadow. The northern portion of the existing parking lot is retained and contains four parking spots, an ADA parking spot and a turn-around / drop-off.
- The existing restroom is retained, but would need substantial upgrades to function as a public facility.
- A thick, vegetative buffer borders the western edge of the park. This provides a noise and visual buffer for the neighboring homes and park users.
- A boat launching area for non-motorized, hand powered water craft is located on the western shoreline. The boat launch is surrounded by restored riparian and salt marsh habitat. Rather than a grated ramp, the boat launch incorporated large woody debris to create an open, sloped area to launch and haul-out hand powered boats such as kayaks, canoes and row boats.

- The southeastern shoreline is dedicated to shoreline and salt marsh habitat restoration.
- Creosote treated piling will be removed, leaving about ten concrete piling. Nest boxes for purple martin will be relocated from other creosote piling removal sites in Eagle Harbor and installed on the remaining concrete piling.

CONCEPT TWO

Concept Two includes aspects of the ecological restoration in Option 1, but also includes additional recreation and shoreline access opportunities. This option includes slightly less shoreline and salt marsh restoration as Concept 1. Intertidal fill placed during the site's industrial past is still removed but the shoreline retains a form that is more similar to current conditions. This form is retained to leave an artifact of the former Strawberry Plant and the site's unique history.

Users have access to a majority of the shoreline. There is a non-motorized, hand-powered boat launching area and viewing platform on the western shoreline and a trail and viewing area on the eastern shoreline. A riparian buffer edges the shoreline. View corridors (low native vegetation) are designed into the buffer at regular intervals (interrupting tall, thick native vegetation).

Key elements of the Concept Two design include the following also included in Concept One:

- Park users have access to the northern forested area, central meadow and recreational area, and the southwestern shoreline. A trail system connects the park with the Waterfront Trail via a new footbridge. This trail system contains a primary trail system and smaller meandering trails that traverse throughout the majority of the site.
- The northern, forested area is preserved, with native understory restoration occurring in areas with invasive species.
- A picnic shelter area and playground are located north of the parking area. The areas are bordered by existing mature trees.
- Interpretive signs are dispersed throughout the park and would include information on the site's history and ecology.
- The existing asphalt parking lot is reduced in size and replaced with a large and unprogrammed meadow. The northern portion of the existing parking lot is retained and contains four parking spots, an ADA parking spot and a turn-around / drop-off. The turn-around and drop-off is located in the southwestern corner of the parking lot to reduce the walking distance for users to carry their hand-powered boats to the boat launch.
- The existing restroom is retained, but would need substantial upgrades to function as a public facility.
- A thick, vegetative buffer borders the western edge of the park. This provides a noise and visual buffer for the neighboring homes and park users.
- Creosote treated piling will be removed, leaving about ten concrete piling. Nest boxes for purple martin will be relocated from other creosote piling removal sites in Eagle Harbor and installed on the remaining concrete piling.

Key elements of the Concept Two design that differ significantly from Option One:

- A non-motorized, hand powered boat launching area is located on the western shoreline. The boat launch is surrounded by restored riparian and salt marsh habitat. A grated ramp facilitates boat users to launch and haul-out hand powered boats such as kayaks, canoes and row boats.
- A trail and viewing platform provide access to the shoreline (in the area that is currently the west peninsula). The platform is nestled within the restored salt marsh habitat. The form of the pathway is reminiscent of the existing boardwalk that lies above the west peninsula.
- A new trail links the park to the eastern portion of the shoreline. This trail terminates at a viewing and interpretative sign area.