

Sunset Neighborhood Park Master Plan

Open House Meeting #2 Agenda

Introduction

- Opening Remarks, City, Team Introductions City of Renton
- Open House Meeting #1 Summary HBB
 - Brief Overview of four Concept Alternatives
 - Preferred Concept Alternative
- Nearby Park Facilities City of Renton

Park Schematic Plans

- Park Schematic Plans Overview HBB
- Questions and Answers

Activity

- Schematic Plan Stations HBB

Activity Summary

- Summary of Schematic Plan feedback HBB
- Next Steps

Date: June 18, 2014

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Place: McKnight Middle School Commons Area, 1200 Edmonds Ave. NE, Renton

Attendees: Seventeen community members attended, including residents and representatives of the Renton Housing Authority, Renton Schools District, and the City of Renton Parks Commission. Five attendees also previously attended the Open House Meeting #1, May 1, 2014.

Team Presentation

Leslie Betlach, City of Renton, introduced the City team and provided a summary of the Park Master Plan process. Colie Hough-Beck, HBB, introduced the design team and described the agenda for the Open House #2 Meeting.

Open House Meeting #1 Summary

Colie provided a brief overview of the four Park Concept Alternatives presented at the Open House Meeting #1 and a summary of the feedback received during that meeting. Colie then presented the Preferred Park Concept, which consolidated the feedback from Open House Meeting #1 into one preferred concept. Colie explained that this Preferred Park Concept guided the development of the three Park Schematic Plans which would be presented later in the Open House.

The Preferred Park Concept illustrates the following main items:

- The north and south alignment of Harrington Avenue should be honored in the circulation and pathway system.
- Provide multiple entry plazas (portal plazas) at key access points, such as the future library, Glenwood Avenue, Sunset, Harrington, and the future housing developments.
- Circulation should provide direct access through the park.
- Show the main use zones (play, plaza, etc.) located in the east half of the park, closer to the future mixed-use development.

Nearby Park Facilities:

Leslie Betlach described existing park facilities located within 1/2 mile of the proposed Sunset Neighborhood Park. Nearby park facilities were inventoried as a follow-up to the Open House #1 Meeting in order to illustrate what park activities are being met in parks near the proposed Sunset Neighborhood Park. Below is a list of these facilities described:

North Highlands Park and Neighborhood Center

- 1) 1 Lighted Tennis Court proposed for refurbishment
- 2) Portion of park area has been preliminarily identified for raised bed community garden

McKnight Middle School (School has first use priority)

- 1) 4 Tennis Courts
- 2) 2 Basketball Courts
- 3) 3 Baseball Fields

4) 3 Soccer Fields

Highlands Park and Neighborhood Center

- 1) 2 Tennis Courts
- 2) 2 Basketball Courts
- 3) 1 Softball Field
- 4) 1 Soccer/Multi-purpose Field

No Off-leash dog park facilities are located in the Planned Action EIS area.

Park Schematic Plans:

Dean W. Koonts, HBB, provided an overview of the three Park Schematic Plans: Water Commons, Village Green, and Vista Place:

Water Commons:

Water Commons translates the preferred park concept into a schematic plan through the use of the simple, geometric design principles of the Modernist Landscape style.

- Pathways and pedestrian circulation provide direct, geometrically curving routes into and through the park, defining the open spaces in a balanced way.
- The water feature has two main features: (1) bubbling jets provide water that stream down the face of a low retaining wall; (2) this water collects into a channel that runs south to the south Harrington Ave portal plaza.
- The play areas are separated and they, along with the fitness areas and picnic plaza (parent plaza) radiate outward from the main plaza.
- The restroom sits closest to the main open space/performance area and is integrated with a large curving pergola structure that has benches underneath.
- The portal plazas incorporate hardscape and curving benches. The portal plaza across from the future library also includes a curving pergola structure with seating underneath.
- The main sculptural art element occurs in the main plaza.
- Formal lines of trees follow the axial pathways and help define the open spaces.

Village Green: Village Green translates the preferred park concept into a schematic plan through the use of naturalistic, pastoral design principles of English Landscape park style.

- Pathways and pedestrian circulation meander along the outer edges and the internal routes of the park looping back to each other.
- The water feature incorporates a channel of flowing water with boulders and potentially pockets of planting reminiscent of a stream's edge.
- The play areas, fitness areas, picnic spots, and restroom building are nestled into the planting areas which buffer the uses from each other.
- The portal plazas incorporate vegetation to soften the entryways, with the portal across from the future library integrating the main sculptural art element.
- Orchard trees line both sides of the main north-south pathway that curves gently through the main plaza.
- Clusters and groves of trees are grouped informally throughout the park framing views and providing

shade.

- Seating consists of benches and of picnic table/shelter spots.

Vista Place: Vista Place translates the preferred park concept into a schematic plan through the use of the symmetrical, classic design principles in the French formal style.

- Pathways and pedestrian circulation align with the several streets that dead-end at the park, providing straight and axial routes into the park and with park elements.
- The water feature is multi-functional, providing a shallow sheet of flowing water that when turned off provides additional hardscape for events in the main plaza.
- The play and fitness areas are gathered together in a single use area adjoining the main plaza.
- The restroom is located near the north Harrington Avenue entrance for maintenance access.
- The portal plazas incorporate planting, with the main north and south portals aligning with Harrington Avenue integrating sculptural art elements.
- Formal lines of trees follow the axial pathways and help define the open spaces.
- A smaller viewpoint/art plaza aligns with the view through the gap of adjacent buildings to the southwest.
- A variety of seating options are provided: seat walls and double rows of backed benches in addition to picnic spots.

Participant comments and questions during the presentation included:

1) **Question:** What is the purpose of the rain garden?

Response: The rain garden is a surface feature above an underground infiltration gallery that will treat stormwater.

2) **Question:** Who selects the art for the park?

Response: The Renton Municipal Arts Commission will provide direction on art selection.

3) **Question:** Was a skate park considered for the park?

Response: A skate park was not suggested in the earlier City of Renton Interdepartmental Team Workshop, the Stakeholder Workshop, nor the Open House Meeting #1. A skate park is generally considered for a larger Community park.

4) **Question:** Will the rain garden be planted?

Response: The rain garden will be planted with water-friendly plants.

5) **Question:** Will there be lighting improvements to the area?

Response: Low-level, safety lighting will be considered for the park.

6) **Question:** Will there be speed limits on Harrington Avenue?

Response: Yes, there will be speed limits placed on Harrington Ave.

7) **Question:** How much will it cost to construct the park?

Response: The City does not want to limit itself as it's trying to define what components the public desires in the park and where they would like to have them located and the size and configuration. The City doesn't want to constrain this part of the process with a number.

Open House Workshop Activity

Activity Summary:

Attendees visited three stations to review the Park Schematic Plans more closely and provide feedback.

There was one work station for each Park Schematic Plan and accompanying photo examples of park components shown in the plans. Station leaders from the design team recorded comments from attendees on the plans. Attendees were asked what they liked and didn't like in each plan. Attendees reconvened as one audience, and each station leader presented a summary of station comments.

Summary of the Station Discussions:

A. Water Commons:

- 1) Likes the play area arrangement.
- 2) Likes the pergola around the performance space.
- 3) Vines on the pergola should be considered.
- 4) Likes the curved benches.
- 5) Needs a covered picnic area.
- 6) Keep slopes gentle.
- 7) Likes the rain garden as an opportunity for education.
- 8) Likes the "marker", or potential art location, at the plaza across from the future library.
- 9) Prefers art at ends of Harrington Avenue.
- 10) Does not like the water feature, and it is too far from the restroom.
- 11) Likes the restroom location for maintenance access and its separation from other park activities.
- 12) Does not like the straight channel water feature.
- 13) The water channel could be a tripping hazard.
- 14) The water feature needs movement and noise.
- 15) Likes the sculptural aspect of the water feature.

B. Village Green:

- 1) Likes the meandering paths.
- 2) Likes the right side of the park because activity is clustered away from the path.
- 3) Prefers the performance area shape in Water Commons.
- 4) Prefers seating near the performance area in Water Commons.
- 5) Likes the boulder, natural-looking water feature.
- 6) Likes this water feature the most.
- 7) Likes the restroom location, because it is tucked away and not along the perimeter of the park.
- 8) Likes the trees that emphasize Harrington Avenue connection.
- 9) Likes the naturalistic character.
- 10) Likes the overall character of the photo examples for this plan.
- 11) Likes flexible performance space because it is not enclosed by trees or a pergola.
- 12) Concerned about the rocks being slippery.

C. Vista Place:

- 1) Thinks the layout is too angular.
- 2) Likes the options for seating, lots of choices for seating throughout the park.
- 3) Not sure about the surface flow water feature.
- 4) Likes the art locations.
- 5) Likes seating - benches, seatwalls and picnic areas throughout the park.
- 6) Likes the view from the plaza.

- 7) Wants to include orchard trees.
- 8) Concerned about trees directly above benches causing a bird dropping conflict.
- 9) Likes the seatwalls.
- 10) Likes the restroom photo.
- 11) Likes the diversity of private spaces.
- 12) Thinks this is the best opportunity to integrate a slope for kids to roll down.

D. Overall Comments

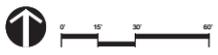
Comments that were made at each station, but were applicable to all three Park Schematic Plans are recorded below:

- 1) Include bicycle racks. The bicycle racks could be an opportunity to include art.
- 2) Concerned about the safety of the pedestrian crossing in front of the mixed-use building to the park.
- 3) Likes the fitness equipment.
- 4) Review the shade analysis for lawn survivability information.
- 5) Likes the multiple portal entries for wayfinding.
- 6) Concerned about security at night.
- 7) Incorporate Crime Prevention through environmental design, CPTED.
- 8) Concerned that there will not be enough parking.
- 9) Include good sightlines through the park. Include low vegetation and high tree canopies for visibility into the park.
- 10) Connect the park system with Harrington Green Streets.
- 11) Likes the Burien City Hall water feature.
- 12) Likes the Port of Olympia water feature.
- 13) Incorporate lighting into the walls.
- 14) Include bat boxes or bird houses into the rain gardens.
- 15) Include a flat area at the bottom of hills for kids to play and roll down.

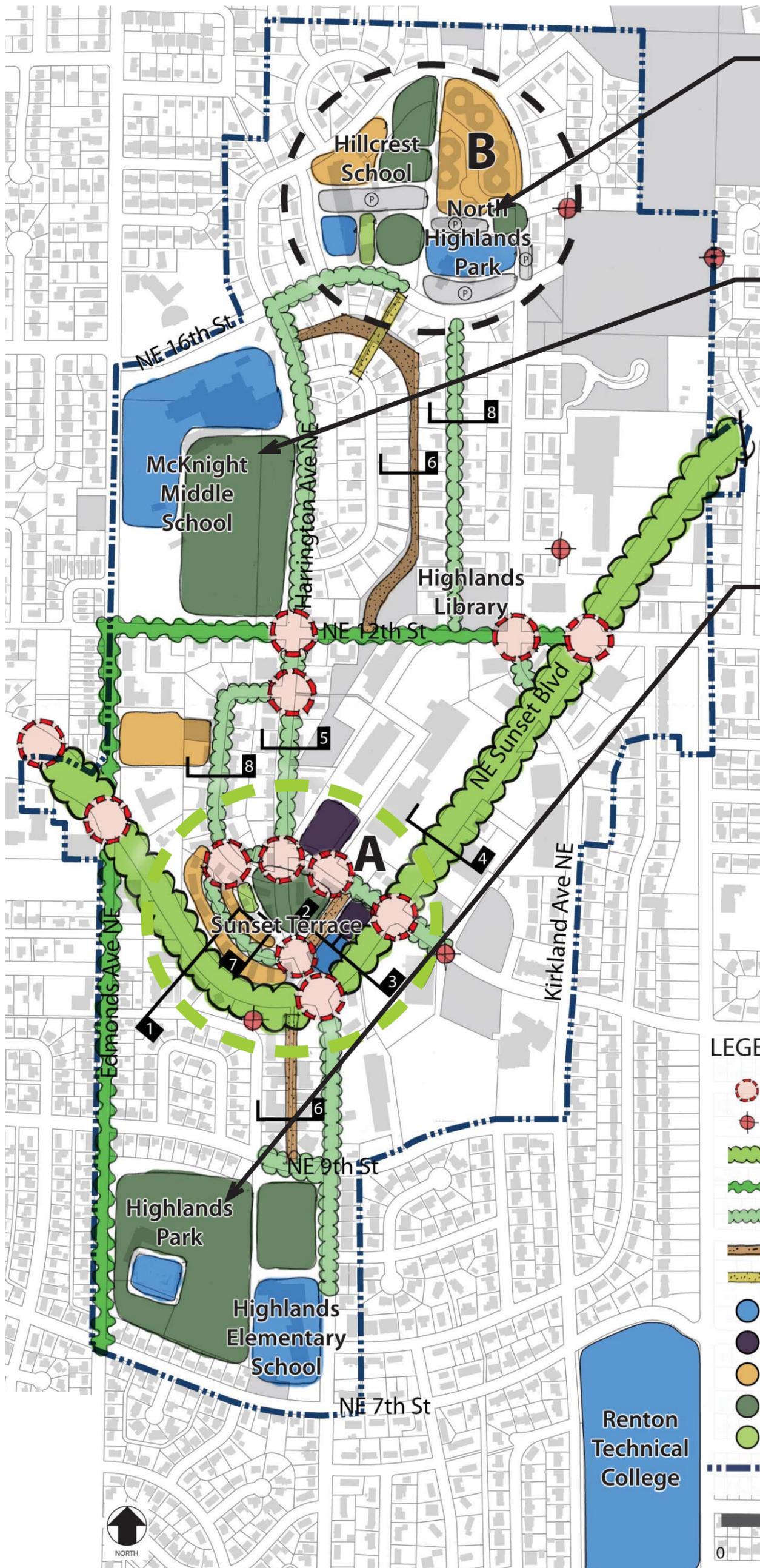
Next Meeting

September 23, 2014 Community Open House #3, McKnight Middle School, 6pm-8pm. This will be the final Open House and the Draft Master Plan will be reviewed.

PREFERRED
PROMENADE/PORTAL



FEIS Sunset Area Preferred Community Framework



Within a 1/2 mile to the north:

North Highlands Park and Neighborhood Center

- 1 Lighted Tennis Court proposed for refurbishment
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- 4 Tennis Courts
- 2 Basketball Courts
- 3 Baseball Fields
- 3 Soccer Fields

Within 1/2 mile to the south:

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- 1 Soccer/Multi-purpose Field

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LEGEND

- Pedestrian Intersection
- Pedestrian Connections
- Sunset BLVD Improvements
- Green Collector Arterial
- Green Access Local Collector
- Woonerf / Green alley
- Permeable Sidewalk
- School / Civic
- Mixed Use
- Residential
- Parks
- Community Garden
- EIS Boundary



WATER COMMONS





VILLAGE GREEN





VISTA PLACE



