

Interim Improvements on the Isthmus -- Public Comment

General Comment Cards (verbatim)

- Grass is fabulous; plan C is a good compromise to allow for festival use.
- Connecting the two “chunks” while leaving the asphalt of Yashiro St. with a small skateboarding area. It’s cheap and fun for all ages. No need to tear up out-of-budget asphalt – USE IT!
- I like that all options appear to be low-maintenance designs. The Capital Center Building needs to go!
- I think putting up skateboard features would be perfect for the interim process. Skate obstacles are cheap and will attract people of all ages, gender and race to use public space and form community.
- Each concept is a vast improvement as compared to status quo. But important to remember that essential reason for demolitions of prior buildings was to open up views from and to the capital complex. We need to stay focused on removal of “mistake by the lake”
- Combine the west concrete step-down in D with the green grass area and paths in A. Add benches to A in addition to picnic tables in A (add a few more tables) – Kids climbing structure in small square in A. Do a little mounding for variety. Food trucks on Yashiro.
- Where is the planning staff? Need to consider the land use implications of future use. Final plan needs include development and open space. Could include public building – such as library. Needs more activity before any park development – not enough activity.
- Prefer option D – easy up keep no mowing or irrigation. Less chance of making another homeless encampment. Less chance of turning it into a permanent green belt. This allows for more options later.
- If we continue with Lakefair...keep event space avail. Bus loading zone area. Ability to utilize existing utilities/services/water for minimal facilities.
- Options B, C, + D need to have some benches added – not just picnic tables and benches. Even option A could use some separate benches in addition to the long (?) wall/benches.
- Connect the two parcels in an L-shape corridor park – not two parklets.

General Email Comments (summaries - not exact wording)

- Make eastern parcel parking – too small to do anything with – could add a row of street trees along northern border. Use money on western parcel.
- Eastern parcel – option B or D but definitely not A
- Western parcel – minimize green space, too soggy in winter.
- Consider adding trees to Yashiro street; consider using evergreen trees
- Since this is a park some free parking should be provided
- Minimize number of picnic tables – 4 at most. Look for options that let rain through and smaller, square tables similar to West Bay Woods
- Less grass and not complete gravel – Concept B or C (added selection to B)
- Favor options that optimize art and parking.
- Think you should forge ahead to a more permanent solution right now instead of waiting until 2018.
- Would like to see development here; sell it to a developer.
- Include: carousel, artesian well, long-house museum.

Concept A: 13 dots / 4 email votes

Meeting Comments (verbatim):

- As much green as possible. At least two types of bushes or trees. Mix benches with picnic tables.
- I like concepts A and B – they are both good designs. Flowering trees are wonderful in springtime.
- Wooden picnic tables on grass
- This site has too much potential to be a permanent park. I could see the public library being there in the future with bits of green and paths.
- I am not going to sit on a blanket in the grass between two busy streets. There is grass just to the south.
- Do we really need more greenery with curvey paths. People will get too attached to all the green when it comes time to do something different.
- Grass attracts people to site. It is more welcoming then crushed rock.
- Used crushed marble on paths
- Public bathroom?
- Like trees next to street. Gives more open space feeling and buffer the street. Grass attracts people crushed rock does not.
- The more green the better. Leave long grass space open for recreations, games, etc. Bus loading zone.
- Crushed marble trails? Like the trees to buffer. More tables along long trail.
- The more green the better – and hopefully more likely to set stage for final plan. I hope consideration will be given to planting trees that can grow long into the future. (Ditto)
- A – will ensure permanent park – will be impossible to change eliminates flexibility
- Option E? What about 1 foundation area in marble and 1 foundation area in green?
- Skate Park area important w/ green space. Port Townsend has great example for compact use.
- We need some exciting/engaging parks and public spaces – Heritage Park already offers plenty windy paths through maintained lawns. Maybe it's time to try something new.

Email Comments (summaries - not exact wording):

- Precedent – Boulevard Park in Bellingham.
- Allows for the abandonment of Yashiro Street and incorporating “grand walkway” approach to Capitol Lake along abandoned right-of-way
- Add crosswalks to connect all three pieces of the park, including fountain.
- Best shade plan eastward and westward. Could use a long step adjacent to Yashiro Street like in Concept D or some long concrete blocks for open seating.

Concept B: 0 dots / 3 email votes

Meeting Comments: None

Email Comments (summaries - not exact wording):

- Good compromise between hardscape and grass – make crushed marble wide enough to market booths.
- Would be great to add something to do – pickleball courts and benches; paved loop trail

- Provides vegetation while creating a central area for possible play.

Concept C: 6 dots / 0 email votes

Meeting Comments (verbatim):

- What is with the basketball court layout?
- Skate dot – small feature in recreation space designed for skateboarding

Email Comments: None

Concept D: 14 dots / 3 email votes

Meeting Comments (verbatim):

- Concrete steps – expensive to put in and take out. Also a great place to sleep.
- Least expensive – allows for more options later
- Most temporary in appearance and material
- Least chance of “Hey they are taking away our parks”
- Steps: integrated seating is great – theatre, concerts, vendors. Steps will get skated on. Install angle copin (?) on steps. Skaters will love it and it won’t chip away.
- This concept (D) with grass in the center would be ideal. i.e. a combination of D and A.
- It’s uncomfortable to be surrounded by cars/traffic noise while having a picnic. This design allows for accommodation of other urban attractions – ice rink or similar seasonal attractions. It can provide a much more exciting/ engaging urban public space!
- Strong connectivity from boardwalk to Heritage Park. Versatile plan. Large seats stepped seating good thing.
- Could be an opportunity for a pop-up style music venue or market place.
- Limited green space with pedestrian connectivity through shops and entertainment.
- D - allows for maximum flexibility. Is there possibility for some private development on a public building –
- This seems like the most versatile option – would be a great 360 degree music venue (or other shows/events)
- Don’t have the cement steps. Allows for more uses now and more options later.
- Large group drop off and pick up location.

Email Comments (summaries - not exact wording):

- I really like the marble paving and steps down that Concept D gives for the long rectangle. I think that treatment could open up opportunities for that space to be used as a public performance or street fair venue. I think that marble paving for both spaces, however, would be too much. It would be nice to see the smaller square seeded and turned into more of a traditional park space.
- Like the greenery on the street sides and middle area for open space.
- Vacate Yashiro Street and connect the two spaces.
- Strongly advise against option D due to drainage issues and extreme high tides