

Point Defiance Charrette

Team 3

Participants:

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Overall Concepts

- Improve circulation and connections.
- Develop Triangle site as a destination with commercial & tourism uses.
- Design green buffer between Ruston residential and Triangle site.
- Create strong connections between park areas i.e. Defiance Park to Triangle, Triangle down to marina.
- Move radar tower to top of highest structure in Triangle site.
- Move boat ramps out of park area up Ruston Way.
- Retain view corridors at Triangle site with height restrictions for site edge, building only low rise structures at vistas.
- Rebuild and expand boathouse area.
- New & improved way finding and environmental signage at park entrances.
- Implement long term sustainable planting strategies that improve encourage habitat creation and improve the environmental health and of contaminated areas along Ruston Way.
- Build cost efficient and sustainable new structures that are not dependent on additional infrastructure costs using solar power and compost toilet systems.
- Relocate maintenance buildings and greenhouses.
- Move Go Kart & Batting Cage concessions to Never Never Land

Circulation

- Create grand entrance to park.
- End Park Ave prior to park entrance.
- Eliminate left turns on Pearl St. leaving the park and build flyover into the park.
- Build vehicular connection at grand entrance for passage down to the beach under green roof park deck adjacent to residential.
- Keep bus terminal area at ferry terminal.
- Separate pedestrian and bicycle lanes along Ruston Way.
- Build Underground Street and parking along buffer area between Triangle and Ruston residential neighborhood.
- Stacked parking structure with elevator for linking private development site to park.



Revenue Generation

- Boat Charters & Fishing Tours at old Boathouse area.
- Saturday Framers market, Taste of Tacoma, etc... in Triangle site.
- Add more commercial/retail at Boathouse site including both informal and fine dining; and public moorage for boaters.
- Additional picnic shelters on Owen Beach.
- Split up parking area at Owen Beach, add additional parking up slope and break-up lot with green areas and more picnic shelters in between
- Canoe & Kayak rentals at Crescent Park owned by parks Dept. vs. leased vendor.
- More event and wedding venues at Triangle site and Boathouse site.
- Horse back riding concession lease.
- Build picnic shelters at Crescent & Peninsula Park.
- Overnight moorage at Crescent Park.
- Water Taxis linking waterfront sites to Thea Foss and downtown Tacoma.
- Larger boat house at Owen Beach for equipment rental.
- Wedding and event venues at Triangle site and Boathouse.
- Lease a site to tribal entities for events and cultural center (similar to Daybreak Star at Discovery Park).



- Plaza Pavillion at Triangle Site.

Park Improvements/Amenities

- Sculpture Garden in Bennett St. Promontory
- Demonstration project of plant materials and natural habitat creation over slag areas i.e. Crescent Park & Peninsula Park.
- Design civic presence to entrance of Crescent
- Add "crow's nests" & tree perches on stable bluff areas above Owen Beach.



- Regrade slope from Triangle to Marina sites with added terraced gardens.
- Land sculpt natural amphitheater at Crescent Park.



- Create a bridge for pedestrians to get from tip of Peninsula Park back to Point Defiance Park via an operated swing bridge or “catapult” system.

Partnerships

- Create partnerships with private organizations and public institutions.
University of Washington Oceanography & Fisheries Demonstration project for habitat restoration and interpretation along Crescent Park.

Burke Museum shore water center for habitat creation at Crescent Park (similar to their center at Fort Worden).



Create a sculpture garden by extending collection of Tacoma Art Museum and Museum of Glass into Peninsula Park.



Work with local tribal entities to create historical/cultural interpretation education of fishing history, native arts and sculpture.



Create public book club's program and reading events for kids with Tacoma Library System.

Funding

- This seems to be a big issue –
 1. charge parking fees
 2. establish more concessions that have sustainability as a value and will return a portion of the proceeds back to the park

Problems

1. Ugly Facilities

- Do not attempt to “screen” unsightly features – make them more attractive/appealing so that they don’t have to be covered up or moved. This is often cheaper in the long run anyway, and saves on the use of virgin materials. Example: Coast Guard Tower – turn this into a feature rather than remove it. A new paint job or resurfacing that highlights what it is so that it becomes a big part of the landscape (think lighthouses) – turn into an asset.... Is it possible to use this as a visitor attraction, too? Can people climb to the top?
- Also consider “greening” the facilities and making interpretive signage to describe – i.e. biodiesel could be used to power the big equipment, or electric vehicles could be used as park vehicles – signs could tell the story so that when people walk on nearby paths, and see the maintenance buildings, they can also learn how they’re part of keeping the park viable (hopefully in a sustainable way). How is the equipment used? How is it powered? How is the landscape maintained (we hope) without the use of harmful chemicals?

2. Concessions

- As with above, celebrate its oldness, but clean it up.... Maybe the structures receive facelifts/new facades, coat of paint, new siding, etc....
- Employ other concessions that are more sustainable (as in not gasoline-powered stuff) |
 1. horseback riding
 2. bicycle rentals
 3. golf driving range (organic/IPM maintenance)
 4. businesses whose mission is aligned with sustainability and would donate portion of proceeds to park (Starbucks comes to mind)
 5. small bookstore that sells field guides to help enjoy the park as well as nature items
- Is there anything like a Hand-in-Hand playground there? Our community in Blacksburg, VA, did one and it is a great feature of one of the small parks there –.... Most of the project was funded through community donations with each donor family receiving its name engraved in one of the pieces of wood on the playground -- the construction was also done by residents -- people continually return to it with their kids!)

3. Boat Ramp Parking

- pave the area with pervious material (concrete, ecostone, grasscrete or similar) so that natural functions are somewhat the same, but provides larger hard surface area – would look better, too... if heat islands are a concern, use light-colored paving materials

4. Boat Ramp

- sounds like they are in need of rerouting traffic pattern to avoid the cross-traffic problems.... I can’t tell from the map exactly how it works now, but if rerouting should reuse existing roadway materials – grind on-site into new roadbed or walkway material...

5. Ferry

- related to previous issue of cross-traffic – pedestrians could be rerouted above traffic to the parking area – retail seems like an obvious enhancement and revenue generator – Starbucks or similar, again a company with sustainability values

6. Bus

- access to same retail as above?

7. Restaurant

- ??? sounds like it is working... where does the waste water go? Where does the compostable food waste go? Set up a food recycling/compost area that can then be used on park grounds and gardens. Make it part of the interpretive stories around the park. Consider a living system wastewater treatment facility – resulting potable water can be “sold” back to the park or other uses. If wastewater not possible to treat on-site, at least consider a graywater system that captures drainwater.

8. Boathouse

- Deconstruct the old boathouse when ready to demolish – reuse materials somehow on-site, whether in a new facility or to renovate an existing structure. Identify reused materials as such – make it part of the interpretive plan.
- Make sure that improvements to new boathouse are sustainable – materials, processes, systems, site work

9. Promenade

- Does this have interpretive signage along it now? If not, incorporate into overall plan for interpretive program.

10. Beach

- Expand the rentals to include other non-gas-powered recreations – bicycles, paddle boats, volleyball, inner tubes

11. Yacht Club

- Part of the above-mentioned traffic reroutes would be included here. Could a portion of club membership fees be designated to support certain sustainable park programs? Could they be voluntary fees?
- Install photovoltaics on roofs of private boathouses to provide power to clubhouse and/or park?

12. Marina

- If salmon habitat enhancements are made, include as part of interpretive program...

13. Peninsula Park

- Plans in place... I hope they're taking advantage of funding for cleaning up superfund sites....

14. Bennett Street Park

- How big is this area? Large enough for an 8-hole golf course? Velodrome? Climbing walls? Playground?

15. Asarco Tract D

- Is this completely contaminated? Is there any opportunity to place a feature such as a constructed wetland on this and the peninsula area to help heal the contaminated land?

16. Asarco Waterfront

- Furniture and landscape features constructed from sustainable materials – recycled content, FSC certified wood, salvaged, etc.
- Reuse or recycle concrete or other materials for pathways; use pervious paving materials
- Native/drought tolerant plants for landscaping

7. Marine Structures

- If eliminated, reuse the materials as land-based features – incorporate into landscape design
- If refurbished, use for tour boats (or other concession) that operate on electric or solar



Sustainability in General

- What are the restrooms? Do they have compost toilets? Are they using city water?
- Install photovoltaics to help power the buildings in the park and take advantage of credits (state and federal)
- Make sure new hard surfaces are pervious and light-colored
- Eliminate use of pesticides/herbicides if still using; adopt IPM
- Reuse materials or purchase materials with recycled content (benches, tables, receptacles, etc.)
- Implement park-wide recycling program if not in place already – create receptacles for each recyclable if not already separating
- Implement composting program – separate receptacles for food waste at concessions, and require all food concessioners to use biodegradable paper packing that can also be composted on-site, within the park; compost then used to maintain landscape
- Create an interpretive signage plan for the entire park that identifies various features of the park's sustainability efforts – reusing existing structures, refurbishing with “green” materials, power generated on site, water conservation and protection,
- Collect rainwater from buildings and store for use on landscape, fire protection systems, etc.
- Consider installing an electric train or shuttles around the 5-mile drive instead of autos (increase parking area required, but could be done in more sustainable way – stacked, underground, green roof, etc.) \$\$\$\$
- Install wetlands somewhere within park to treat wastewater and create habitat; use to educate also



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