Mount Jefferson Park Concept Plan
May 21, 2015

Goal: Maintain and Enhance the Existing Park Character

General Park Improvements:
1. Improve Dog Exercise Area
2. Trail Improvements
3. Trail Connection
4. Improve Signage and Wayfinding
5. Enhance Buffer
6. Phased Removal of Invasive Species
7. Improve Stormwater Management and Drainage
8. Enhance Raymond Ave. and Route 1 Entrances
PRC endorsed the Concept Plan, asking staff to consider the following items in the site plan:

* Community desire to maintain natural forested areas and wildlife;

* Street trees along the new Park Road should not be planted/designed in a straight line;

* Include evergreen trees in the berm and buffer plantings; and

* Leave half the trail permeable, and the other half as it is today along the highest part of the railway berm.
Developed in coordination with the Division of Natural Resources and includes all native plants and trees appropriate to the area and wildlife;

* Provides clustered street trees with additional low level plantings along the park side of Park Road;

* Includes 3’ high berms and buffer areas planted with different types of evergreens;

* Minimizes impact on existing trees; and

* New pervious trail surfacing between East Raymond Avenue and the midway point of the park and the secondary trail connection areas only.
* Includes an engineered stormwater/drainage and grading plan to address ponding issues;
* Incorporates interpretive elements based on Mount Jefferson Park’s history and character; and
* Shows the potential future trail extension at grade to Route 1.
Next Steps

* Community Meeting November 2, 2015 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center
* Staff finalize site plan conditions and staff report
* Planning Commission public hearing on December 2, 2015
Greatest Identified Need by Household

* Walking Trails (81%)
* Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat (67%)
* Biking Trails (53%)

Most Important Need for Action by Household

* Improve Existing Trails that Connect Parks (94%)
* Improve Existing Neighborhood Parks (91%)
* Develop New Trails that Connect to Parks (85%)
* Retain “naturalistic” character of the park
* Consider widening the park and/or providing a buffer along the Oakville boarder
* Improve safety of the park, create “eyes on the park”
* Address drainage problems and concerns with dog exercise area
* Provide connection between Del Ray and Oakville Triangle through the park

* Preserve character of park – more park trail, less commuter focus
* Separate dog area from trail
* Provide dog exercise area in new development instead
* Improve drainage and provide mosquito abatement
* Reroute trail so it doesn’t look into houses
* Incorporate history of the site into plan for the park
Park Character

- Retain/enhance natural area for wildlife
- Keep the topography, berm and trail
- Retain walking path, but provide buffers and mitigation for neighbors on East Randolph
- Move the path from the top of the berm to the east side of the park at grade with Route 1
- Promote quiet activities (e.g. “no cell phone use” and “quiet please” signs)
- Minimize noise from Route 1
November 18, 2014 Public Meeting

Top Priorities

Dogs in the Park

• Move the off-leash dog area away from Raymond Ave.
• Remove the off-leash dog area from the park
• Create a time restricted off-leash dog zone throughout the entire park (6-9am and 4-7pm only)
• Better enforcement of rules
• Develop separate trail for people so they are away from the off-leash dogs
• Minimize noise from dogs
• No fenced dog area
Park Access

- Limit access to Raymond and Route 1 to maintain linear trail
- Put access at Calvert, not Stewart to minimize splitting up the park
- Enhance the path and access from Raymond to the new Oakville Triangle shops and cafes
- Formalize entrances to Oakville Triangle site
* More enclosure vs. less enclosure (conflicting viewpoints)
* Like the additional plantings and berms – creates fewer “desire paths” and limits entry points
* Extend dog area and address stormwater
* Consider future redevelopment of sites to the north and adjust trail
* Make trail more accessible to strollers and kids on bikes
* The Oakville Triangle open space(s) should relate to Mount Jefferson Park
* Encourage the developer to move the Park Road to the inside of the townhomes
* Keep fence along Route 1 for children’s safety
Survey on Draft Park Plan
March-April 2015

Majority of respondents

* Agreed that the “draft plan reflects and balances the community needs and comments received to date”

* Preferred the dog area options that included fencing along the trail and a retaining wall

* Preferred a secondary trail connecting to Calvert and offering additional plantings
Connections between Oakville Triangle and existing Del Ray neighborhoods is extremely important

End only access should be seriously reconsidered

Accommodate bicycles and wheelchairs on trail

Stormwater improvement should be the highest priority

Keep the park as natural and continuous as possible
Mount Jefferson Park Sections

- North Section: Raymond Avenue to Stewart Trail Connection
- Central Section 1: Swann/Stewart Crossing
- Central Section 2: Fannon Spur Trail
- South Section: Trail to Route 1
Mount Jefferson Park
North Section
Mount Jefferson Park
Central Section 1
Central Primary Elements/Improvements

- Park Road Frontage
  - Landscape beds with a mixture of flowering/understory trees and shrubs. Approximate height 3' with variable length/widths, 8-9 beds total.
  - Street trees along the ends frontage of Park Road (to be located within park boundary)

Central Primary Elements/Improvements

- Swann Avenue/Stewart Avenue Crossing
  - Park entrance signage
  - Directional signage within park
  - Re-planting of park open areas
  - Addition of flowering/understory trees and shrubs along western edge of park for additional buffering of residences
  - Removal of invasive species required and additional pruning of trees to remain
  - Undertaking likely required to address standing water at crossing (5th direction to the south)
  - Additional soil and berms

Central Primary Elements/Improvements

- Multi-Use Trail
  - 6' wide bike path surfaced in porous materials such as "biopave" or similar. Total length 2,566 ft. +/-
  - Grading required for slope transitions along trail

CENTRAL SECTION "1" - Swann/Stewart Crossing
Mount Jefferson Park
Central Section 2
CENTRAL SECTION "2" - Fannon Spur Trail
Mount Jefferson Park
South Section
SOUTH SECTION