



## Vision for City Hall Park October 10, 2005

### City Hall Park Will Be an Active, Neighborhood-Oriented Park

The park will meet the needs of residents and workers in the area. Residents include artists and families such as those found at the Tashiro – Kaplan as well as the temporary and transitioning residents who live at the Frye, Morrison and other nearby buildings. The Park will be a visible gateway to downtown that presents a positive image to visitors.

- The park will be active 16 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Destination that is comfortable for workers, families, teens, elderly neighbors, tourists and especially women.
  - Used by surrounding employees for lunch
  - Destination for tourists
  - Safe for homeless who use nearby services and shelters and transitional housing
  - Sought out by residents for active and passive recreation
- Well-connected to Pioneer Square, Occidental Square and transit.
- Active on the edges on parks.
- “Active” elements are geared to be self programming.
- Clean.
- Visually striking site when people come out of the tunnel or drive by.
- Park entrances convey that you are guest in a special, cared for space.

### Possible Improvements

The desirability and viability of these elements are for illustrative purposes only, and will be assessed during schematic design. Other design considerations such as connections to adjacent areas, internal circulation, and landscaping will also be considered during schematic design.

- Mix of green and hardscape:
  - Green space could include small lawn areas and/or formal garden areas
  - A plaza could provide opportunity for small scale events, exhibits and concerts.
- Closing Dilling Way to connect the southern triangle will be explored.
- Formal activity areas might include:
  - Bocce courts, chess tables
  - Basketball hoops
  - Small scale skateboard features
  - Children’s Play area
  - Small dog off leash area
- Concessions ideas:
  - Bookseller kiosks;
  - Food vending (possibly managed by FareStart)
- Electricity, water and WI-FI
- Perimeter fencing
- Fixed and movable seating
- Public art

### Management Implications & Partnerships

- Intensive transition period to promote increase in users (see short term improvements).

- Dedicated concierge and maintenance staff for cleaning, and setting up chairs and tables.
- Appropriate Park use guidelines will be developed and enforced
- Will require elements geared toward residents during evenings as well as tourists on weekends when workers are gone.
- Support for community initiatives.
- Programming would be established by working with residents and workers and requires sponsorships partners for activities.
- Community partners would be sought for outreach, programming

### **Short Term and Long Term**

The consultant will prepare a “full” schematic not constrained by budget as well as a budget constrained schematic, reflecting the requested \$400,000, by early winter. The 2006 CIP request will not fund substantial redevelopment of the park. The Constrained schematic will reflect PAT suggestion to consider short-term management and physical improvements that are in keeping with the vision.

### **Long-Term Actions**

The consultant will develop a schematic design for the Park that illustrates the improvements needed to meet the vision for the park. The consultant will also identify urban design recommendations for the area encompassing Fortson Square and Prefontaine Place. The schematic design will address the items listed below.

- ◆ Potential physical revisions to the park including: Dilling Way and Jefferson St., gardens, paths, fencing, seating, and a substantial flexible plaza area.
- ◆ Identify important neighborhood connections and relationship to nearby open spaces
- ◆ Recommend improvements for Prefontaine Place and Fortson Square
- ◆ Desired improvements to the south side of King County Courthouse
- ◆ Identify corresponding management and programming recommendations.
- ◆ Identify costs for physical improvements as well as maintenance and operations.

### **Short-Term Actions**

The efforts are intended to create short-term improvements toward achieving the vision for the park. They will build use and ownership of the park. They will provide opportunities to learn from the successes and challenges of the short-term improvements.

#### **Management:**

- ◆ Strive for a park “concierge” or “ranger” who provides contact with park users and conveys that the park is a special place.
- ◆ Strive for dedicated gardener and maintenance personnel.
- ◆ Strive for intermittent (recreation leader) staff to work on programming.
- ◆ Develop programs based on surveying surrounding workers and residents.
- ◆ Work towards partnership with King County for programming and management, and activation of loading dock area.

#### **Programming:**

- ◆ Survey area workers and residents to establish desires for activities.
- ◆ Focus on passive daytime uses primarily oriented to workers and tourists.
- ◆ Consider evening uses oriented to residents such as evening OLA.

#### **Physical Improvements:**

- ◆ Provide electricity for events.

- ◆ Provide a small plaza for staging events and activities.
- ◆ Seek to close Dilling Way.
- ◆ Consider accent plantings at entrances.
- ◆ Consider pruning trees and tree removal to balance shade and sun.
- ◆ Increase quality of lighting.

### **Other Issues to be Addressed**

The following issues are connected to the success of this project and require a larger dialogue with the community and agencies.

- ◆ Impacts of displacing illegal activities from City Hall Park on adjacent areas
- ◆ Impacts of enforcing meal distribution prohibition and discouraging daytime sleeping, etc. on adjacent areas.
- ◆ Recommendations for improvements to Prefontaine Place and for improving the connection of City Hall Park to surrounding areas.