

Luther Burbank Community Visioning Parameters, Nov. 2004

Planning for Luther Burbank Park began in November 2004 with a Community Visioning Process. Community visioning was completed in January 2005, at which time the City Council reviewed the design guidelines that were created during three community workshops. The City Council will determine whether or not to move ahead with additional planning, which will most likely be a new master plan for Luther Burbank Park at their annual planning retreat in early April 2005. The master plan will be developed over approximately six months, and will include numerous opportunities for community involvement.

To set the stage for the community effort, the City Council has established the following planning parameters. These parameters will remain as firm guidelines throughout the planning process.

1) New housing will not be considered for the entire park.

Several years ago there was a proposal considered to construct new housing units in the southern portion of the park. The City Council rejected the idea at that time, and will continue to reinforce that decision; housing will not be considered in either the north or south portions of the park.

2) The city is exploring opportunities for revenue generation.

Although Mercer Island residents approved a bond levy in 2003 to fund the park for the next six years, longer-term funding for Luther Burbank remains in question. The City Council wants to explore possible opportunities for revenue generation at the park. The park will remain under city ownership, but public-private partnerships could be useful in generating park funding.

3) New recreational facilities will be considered, but Luther Burbank will remain a multi-use area, and will not be developed for a single exclusive use.

The park will remain a place that accommodates a range of both active and passive recreational opportunities. While a sports field may ultimately become a part of the master plan, for example, the City Council does not envision a sportsfield complex at Luther Burbank. The park will be developed in a way that allows users of all ages and inclinations to enjoy the park.

4) The new plan will not be “pie in the sky”.

This community planning effort will undoubtedly generate a number of great ideas, and these will eventually be melded into a cohesive master plan. However, the City Council is committed to making sure that the final plan is both *reasonable* and *feasible*. Funding mechanisms must be fully identified before any new development in the park will be allowed.

5) The city will strive for a balance of interests at the park.

A range of ideas will be considered during community visioning and master plan efforts. Decisions about final actions will not be decided by “vote.” Rather, ideas will be implemented based on their ability to represent a balance at the park.

6) Significant new development will be concentrated in the central campus area.

During this planning process, ideas will be generated about new activities – and potentially new buildings – at the park. The City Council will consider all of these ideas, but any significant new development will be concentrated only in the existing central campus area.