

# **Ballard Corners Park**

## **Response to Capital Budget Request Questionnaire**

### **1. IS THE PROJECT READY TO MOVE FORWARD?**

Yes, the project is moving forward. We are seeking state funds to continue design development, create construction drawings, and begin construction.

With funding from the first cycle of the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund and a matching grant from King County Conservation Futures Tax funds, Seattle Parks, in concert with the Friends of Ballard Corners Park and Groundswell NW (our fiscal sponsor), acquired a 5000 square foot lot at 17<sup>th</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> in 2003. We are in the process of acquiring a second lot to the south to create a 10,000 square foot park along 17<sup>th</sup> between 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup>. In early 2006, we hired an experienced Ballard firm, Barker Landscape Architects to perform the initial design. Barker Landscape used the input from three public meetings, attended by as many as 45 neighbors, to create a park design. The design and more detailed information about the site is available at [www.BallardCornersPark.org](http://www.BallardCornersPark.org). As part of the initial design, Barker completed a construction cost estimate which totals \$415,000.

The completion of construction drawings is anticipated by the end of 2007. We will be doing concurrent fundraising. Construction is slated to begin in early 2008 and be completed by the end of 2008.

### **2. HOW DOES THE PROJECT LINK TO STATE SERVICES AND CLIENTS?**

The State of Washington is growing rapidly. In an effort to preserve rural areas and reduce the impact of the growth, much of the growth occurs in urban areas. The Ballard neighborhood of Seattle is no exception; many new housing units are under construction. While this increased density reduces the burden on the transportation from outlying suburbs, it puts more pressure on existing green and open spaces to serve large populations. Ballard Corners Park is one project that seeks to put green space back into the urban environment. We have a rare opportunity to develop a park in a high density urban neighborhood.

### **3. ARE THERE OTHER FUNDING SOURCES?**

A \$15,000 "Small and Simple" grant award from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods was used to fund the initial park design earlier in 2006. A second \$15,000 Small and Simple grant has been awarded and is being used to fund design development to 50% of construction drawings.

Other sources of funding include the Pro-Parks Levy. The levy funded the acquisition of the north lot and will fund acquisition of the south lot. The south lot acquisition is expected to be completed by the end of 2006. As part of the acquisition, the existing, unoccupied, architecturally unremarkable house will be demolished; funding will come from the Pro-Parks Levy.

The Pro-Parks Levy has allocated an additional \$150,000 toward construction costs of Ballard Corners Park.

We will apply for a Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Large Project Fund award for \$100,000 in the 2007 funding cycle. The application is due in April 2007 and awards will be decided by September 2007. We think that our park has a very good chance of being funded. We have strong community support and the backing of the Ballard District Council, who will help decide whether we receive Large Project Fund monies. Our partnership with Groundswell NW is also a key asset. We have also demonstrated to the Department of Neighborhoods our commitment to see the process through and involve as much of the community as we can. We have good working relationships with our project managers at both Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Department of Neighborhoods.

We are approaching the King County Council and the King County Executive for their financial support in the 2007 budget. The responses from the councilmembers thus far have been very positive.

Other sources of potential funding include direct contributions from neighbors and other supporters; we hope to raise \$10,000 in this fashion. We will also apply for grants from Starbucks, Safeco, Pemco, and other corporate grantors; we hope to raise \$30,000 from corporate donations. We will apply for additional grant monies from King County via the Wild Places in City Spaces (The Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration Grant Fund) and the King County Youth Sport Facility Grant (YSFG) Program.

Ballard Corners Park enjoys very strong support from the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. Pamela Kliment, our Parks and Recreation Project Manager, has been very involved with our project during the initial design phase. We do not anticipate any problems in getting Parks approval for the continuation of the park development.

We will need approval from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) for creation of the “rain gardens” (catchment areas in the right of way that capture storm water, filter it, and allow it to seep into the groundwater rather than wash into Puget Sound) and “safe crossings” (crosswalk enhancement). Again, we don’t anticipate any major problems in getting their approval, as there are other examples of these design features elsewhere in the city.

**4. WHERE IS THE PROJECT LOCATED?**

Ballard Corners Park will be located in the two 5000 square foot lots on the west side of 17<sup>th</sup> Ave NW between NW 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> Streets in Seattle.

**5. WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPACT?**

It is expected that the landscape contractor that we select will use several employees to complete construction, as well as hire several subcontractors with multiple employees.

The contractor is expected to work closely with Barker Landscape Architects and an artist to develop the creative elements of the park.

While our park may not be a major tourist destination, we are expecting that it may be a destination for some people for people in the Seattle Metropolitan area, especially families with young children.

**6. HAS THE ORGANIZATION APPLIED FOR A STATE GRANT?**

We have not previously applied for a state grant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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Much more information is available at our website – [www.BallardCornersPark.org](http://www.BallardCornersPark.org). I have attached a three page, informative summary of our project; it is also available at [www.BallardCornersPark.org/folio.pdf](http://www.BallardCornersPark.org/folio.pdf).