

Concept #1

Maintain & Improve

- Aims to keep interventions minimal.
- Focuses on repairing and maintaining the existing park features and amenities that the community loves.
- Identifies areas of the park in need of attention that can be repaired in a low-cost and timely manner.

1 Repair & Evaluate the Dock

Repair the parts of the dock that can be addressed in the short-term with a limited budget. Evaluate the dock to develop a long-term plan for replacing or performing more intensive repairs.



EXISTING DOCK

2 Expand Existing Parking

Parking is challenging on a busy summer day often resulting in vehicles parked on the curb or on the public roadway, but options for parking area expansion are limited and difficult to achieve without sacrificing valuable park space. In order to accommodate, the existing non-regulation basketball hoop and half court has been identified as an unpopular park feature that could be removed to extend the existing gravel parking area on the west side of the park southward to provide additional parking for approximately 10-20 vehicles.



EXISTING PARKING LOT FULL & VEHICLES PARKED ALONG ROADWAY

3 Optimize Vehicular Circulation

Entering and exiting the lake side of the park to navigate to/from the vehicle parking areas can be challenging on a busy summer day often leading to long queues and idling vehicles. To improve vehicular circulation and flow, maintain the existing one-way in/out configuration and explore design alternatives to further promote separation of vehicle access from drive aisles and parking.

4 Address Drainage Issues

Water often collects in this low point of the park due to slow or ineffective stormwater runoff infiltration and drainage creating conditions unfavorable to park users. Improve the existing drainage system in key areas of the park to intercept stormwater runoff from the parking area and roadway to reduce pooling around the existing storm drains in this area.



EXISTING STORM DRAIN

5 Restore the Annex Wetland Area

Clean up and restore the Annex wetland area by removing any trash, invasive plant species, or other site disturbances and reestablish with native plantings to improve wetland function and urban wildlife habitat while also activating the area in preparation for potential future recreation trails and/or education opportunities.

6 Improve Existing Restrooms

Repair plumbing and address any other issues to improve restroom functionality. Explore options to transform the restroom exteriors through a community lead design project, such as a mural, that reflects the community's love for the park and encourages community ownership.

7 Provide Drinking Water Sources for All Park Users

Assess existing drinking water sources and remove or replace as necessary. Provide water bottle filling stations in addition to any existing traditional drinking fountains and/or replace with a combination drinking fountain/water bottle filling station in key areas such as near the restrooms, beach, sports fields, and skate park with accessibility design in consideration of all park users including wheelchair users, children, and dogs.



8 Provide a Beach Side Foot Rinsing Station

In order to more accommodate to beach users and to avoid future recurring plumbing issues caused by sand tracked into the restroom, provide a convenient foot rinsing station at the edge of the beach near the restroom for beach users to rinse off any sand.



Foot Wash Station

9 Improve the Site 5 Group Picnic Area

Site 5 is the only reservable group picnic site and is tucked away in a forested area that provides a more private experience. Site 5 includes an informal unpaved parking area accessible from a service road off the main entrance drive. Other amenities unique to Site 5 include enough picnic tables to accommodate for large groups, a baseball/softball diamond, and a port-a-potty. To improve upon the already popular picnic site, provide additional amenities such as a covered shelter over the picnic tables, permanent restroom facilities, and electricity, including lighting. To improve upon the access and circulation to better serve large groups, further delineate parking, widen the access road to accommodate for two-way traffic, and explore the option of grading or resurfacing the parking area and roadway.



EXISTING SITE 5 GROUP PICNIC AREA

10 Prevent Littering

Waste receptacles can fill up quickly on busy days and staff cannot always keep up with servicing each park which can lead to overflowing receptacles. This can attract urban wildlife and lead to trash strewn about the park. To mitigate this problem, provide additional, convenient, and accessible trash and recycling receptacles and hot coal disposal bins in key areas such as picnic sites for users to safely discard waste from grilling.



Concept #2

Activate & Enhance

- Aims to activate areas of the park that are underutilized or unimproved and provide accommodations for all park users.
- Enhances existing facilities in response to consistently increasing park use.
- Promotes community gathering and reflects the diverse interests of the community.

1 Repair the Existing Dock

Repair or replace the dock, maintaining the same shape and design.



2 Provide Additional Picnic Shelters

Steel Lake Park currently has 5 reservable picnic sites, including one group site (SITE 5) and one covered site (SITE 1), that are often booked out all summer. Provide additional picnic sites including more covered or large group options to meet the community demand and potentially relieve some of the competition and need for enforcement.



2.1 TYPICAL SITE 2.2 COVERED SITE 2.3 GROUP SITE

3 Introduce a Multipurpose Stage

Provide an all season convertible picnic shelter stage to respond to the community's demand for more covered gathering options and to host performance events at the park.



4 Create a Walking/Running Loop Trail

Provide a soft-surface trail that circumnavigates the park, restrict use to pedestrians only (no bicycles), and design it exclusively for walkers and runners to include various surfaces and trail widths that respond to the surroundings, such as wetland board walks or thru tree single track, and provide unique user experiences.



4.1 FOREST TRAIL 4.2 PARK PATH 4.3 BOARDWALK

5 Revive the Lawn

Overhaul the central lawn area, which may include grading, drainage improvements, and reseeding, to provide an inviting 'Great Lawn' space that accommodates a broad range of unprogrammed activities, like tai chi, picnicking, spike ball, or yoga as seen in the example photos.



6 Create an Exercise Circuit

Provide 4-6 workout stations and/or opportunities to rest or play along a section of the proposed loop trail to create an outdoor workout circuit for all ages and abilities.



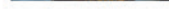
7 Provide Additional Accommodations for Bicycle Riders

Whether they are passing through or the park is their final destination, Steel Lake is a convenient destination for bicycle riders and within close proximity to a broader trail network. To accommodate, provide covered bicycle parking, bicycle maintenance tools, and a resting area for bicycle riders and other wheeled device users near the restroom where they can conveniently fill up water bottles and use the facilities.



8 Accommodate Kayak/Paddle Board Rental Vendors

Provide vending space in the existing Beach House for a private kayak/paddle board rental vendor to operate out of. The Beach House is ideal because it is collocated on the beach with other facilities and provides shade for vending staff. Rental equipment can be displayed outside during operating hours and securely stored indoors during off hours.



Concept #3

Play & Connect

- Aims to maximize active recreation opportunities and build connections to the park.
- Provides new additional recreation facilities to meet community demand.
- Focuses on improving access to the park for those who walk, ride, or roll and strategies for reducing vehicle traffic.

1 Extend Dock Footprint

The Steel Lake dock is a beloved and unique park feature that is often crowded with park users on busier days. Add-on to or rebuild the dock to extend to the shoreline creating a 'U' shape to provide a more defined swimming area and additional dock space.



2 Add Tennis/Pickleball Courts

Currently, there are no tennis or pickleball courts in the park, but the demand is present. Pickleball in particular is booming sport popular amongst all ages and courts are in high demand in most cities across the state. Remove the horseshoe pits in the Annex area and add dual striped tennis/pickleball courts with lighting and seating. Explore options for a cluster/complex or individual courts.



3 Modernize the Ball Fields

Upgrade the baseball/softball diamonds surfaces from natural turf to synthetic and incorporate measures to improve drainage underfield. Explore including additional striping for other sports, as provided on the existing soccer field, to accommodate a broader range of user groups.



4 Develop a Multi-Use Loop Trail

Wouldn't it be nice to circumnavigate the entire park on trail? Develop a multi-use perimeter trail to create a continuous loop around the entire park. Design the loop trail to accommodate for a range of users (10-12 feet wide) and implement various surfacing and seating provisions to curate unique user experiences that respond to the surroundings.



4.1 FOREST TRAIL 4.2 PARK PATH 4.3 BOARDWALK

5 Relocate/Add Basketball Courts

Remove the existing half court basketball court in Steel Lake Park and add two full size basketball courts to the Annex area with the other sport courts and restroom facilities. Courts to be fenced in and include seating and shelter and lighting options will be explored.



6 Diversify Active Recreation Opportunities

Provide additional spaces for other sports and active recreation activities not included in the current park plan, include both programmed spaces for specific activities, such as bocce courts or disc golf, and unprogrammed spaces for more free form activities like spike ball or yoga.



7 Expand Parking

Parking at Steel Lake Park fills up fast on busy summer days resulting in vehicles parked illegally on the street. Expand the Annex parking area to the south to provide additional parking near to sports fields/court users.



8 Strengthen Connections to Alternative Transportation Options

Explore creating more direct connections between the park and the existing trail network, bicycle routes, and the expanding public transit network including the existing bus stops adjacent to the park, the Transit Center, and the future Sound Transit Light Rail Station. Enhancements to the identified connection points may include sidewalks, paths, bicycle lanes, and wayfinding signage. Research feasibility, coordinate with other City departments, and start conversations with surrounding private land owners to potentially develop a partnership and strategy for bringing these ideas to fruition.

