

PARKS STAFF GOALS & IDEAS

Goalsetting - Green Lake Vegetation Management DOPAR Staff Meeting - April 11, 1995

- arboretum effect: more uniform shrubs to limit chaos
- more uniform tree selection: less diversity
- randomness and small groupings
 - like defined spaces by individual character
 - like variety
- plants compensate for wider path
- shrubs integrate built landscape
- plants complement each other
- limit shrub beds: revert to more traditional trees and grass
- shrub bed placement
- "bowl" setting as context
- themes for shrubs repeated
- renovate, rather than establish new beds
- beds that survive best are grouped or associated with structure
- shoreline vegetation helps knit area together
 - important buffer for path
 - connect more habitat
- views into lake
 - work with homeowners
 - public and private
 - inform them of activity
- windowed views
- keep existing canopy structure: "large trees where there are large trees"
- no more shrub beds?
- adopted beds?: more maintenance required in complex L.S.
- no piecemeal project
- shrub beds related to other design features, not randomly located
- make sure donated tree doesn't become "sacred"
 - donations policy
 - need to move/remove
- Edmonds: depersonalized donation
- "controlled choice" donations
- groves: more, esp. foliar(?) replace losses to preserve
- propagate rare plants
- pruning: controlled by budget and schedule?
- turf: aeration and fertilization; drainage-eutrophication of lake; organic methods
- edging
- irrigation
- replanting trees with invasive roots away from walks and roads
- benches: turf doesn't work
- Astroturf?
- historical aspect: look at massing of plantings
- mitigate asphalt with vegetation mass: path plan coordination
- define open areas and preserve them
- move heaving trees
- history
 - Scott Conn (?)
 - annual reports
 - Bill Talley
 - Jacob Umlauff
 - cemetery magazines: featured parks plantings
- Sherwood files around UW
- arborist program
- practical to implement these guidelines: no net added maintenance load

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Question 1:

"A generation from now, how would you like the landscape surrounding Green Lake to be? Similar, or different in some way? Please describe."

- reversion to 'natural' coniferous miniforest
- allow wetland areas
- daylighting drainage waters (**)
- up to 40% native types, diverse species
- replace poplar trees with nicer types
- keep it the same (****)
- many more large trees (***)
- eliminate sporadic shrub beds and memorial trees planted just "anywhere"
- more plant development along the shoreline (****)
- budget more for maintenance and staff
- keep balance of deciduous and evergreen
- more thematic and zonal
- changes must respect the original vision of the designers (****)
- better seating throughout for "people watching"
- like the different 'feelings' of the different parts
- make the waterline more wild for wildlife
- include more passive informational/educational opportunities (**)
- daylight several of the inlets and outlets connected to Green Lake
- improve some of the amenities (e.g: more benches and restrooms) to better suit children, pregnant women, and old people
- include a grove of Japanese maples
- much more age diversity among the trees to ensure trees of stature over time
- lawn areas should be designed as 'positive' spaces, usable, etc. - all remaining areas should be planted with trees.

Question 2:

"As a park user, what do you most value about Green Lake's landscape? Please consider its trees, shrubs, lawns, and shore vegetation; their variety, scale, and seasonal changes."

- shoreline cottonwoods, Bald Cypress, willows, cattails, lily pads, sequoias, and Atlas cedars (***)
- Goose Island birds roosts
- groves of Bald Cypress (**)
- the variety and blend of mature groves and lawn expanses (*****)
- fallen trees for kids' adventures

Question 2, cont.:

- the spring irises (***)
- the large evergreens and oaks
- the open grassy areas seem barren and attract undesirable characters
- the trail
- replace dead or fallen trees with alike specimens, not with alternates
- need more seasonal color (**)
- the combination of short and long views all around the Lake
- willows to the west of the community center (**)
- the pine grove
- the pond vegetation, and the spring blossoms (**)
- like the old trees, even those that are in the process of dying
- good seasonal color
- open water with shoreline vegetation which attracts wildlife
- Green Lake is one of the few areas in the city where large, mature trees can grow
- the flowering cherries gracing Green Lake drive
- the native Populus on the small promontory at the north end of the lake is one of the most memorable places of all
- the two [sic] heavily planted islands are great

Question 3:

"What broad, overall concerns about the existing Green Lake plantings, and their care, should be addressed in vegetation management guidelines?"

- allow natural woody debris and detritus to remain (approx. 10%)
- reduce compaction of existing plants with aeration, roping off, and mulching (**)
- no cultivated gardens or harsh edges
- distress due to the loss of many large trees
- concern that some plantings are used by vagrants as bedrooms
- stronger tree replacement program (**)
- removal of certain shrub beds and lawn areas
- maintain look and feel of the Olmsted style
- soften the water's edge with more wetland areas
- keep the dense masses back from the water's edge so the view of the Lake is not obstructed
- include protected areas near the water, with signs that ask users to keep off
- erosion in selected areas due to lakeside fishing
- should plant replacement trees *before* ill ones are removed
- the existing plants should be inventoried and a 20 year "urban forestry" plan developed
- tree replacement program should focus on species that will be tall

Question 3, cont.:

- use limits on parking to control numbers of visitors, in turn controlling the degradation of many areas
- more shelter for bird life
- invasive species (*Hedera helix*, *Rubus discolor*, *Polygonum cuspidatum*) should be controlled and eradicated
- reduce amount of lawn area to allow closer attention to those that are kept

Question 4:

"Do you have concerns about particular plants or landscape areas within the park? Please describe, using the attached map if you wish."

- wetland areas next to ballfields
- sedges, rushes in wetland areas
- keep current genera and species; even the old alders, black walnuts, sycamore maples, and spruces
- east side of the Lake is particularly barren (**)
- eliminate neighborhood planting beds and go with the big picture
- Hawthorn groves are ugly and should be removed (**)
- plant the largest nursery stock available, rather than seedlings
- use amelanchior and witch hazel for autumn color
- eliminate runty pines
- the shoreline plants are getting trampled
- keep some of the Blackberry bushes for birds
- need some restoration efforts to help the eroding shoreline
- include some "flashy" plantings at the entrance to the community center
- Western Hemlocks should be added to complete the western forest 'picture'
- the Linden, a significant tree in Europe, would be a great addition
- avoid the use of small ornamental trees such as hawthorns, flowering cherries, plums, and crabapples, and instead focus on the use of large natives such as poplar, alder, willow, and big leaf maple

Question 5:

"What new ideas or unexploited opportunities might Green Lake plantings incorporate in the future?"

- cottonwoods or Oregon ashes below sea walls
- use native plants beneath trees instead of turf
- more and different cherries (with identification tags)
- disease-resistant crabapples
- plant maps available at key locations
- more marsh areas for fish and wildlife (**)
- bring back the American Chestnut

Question 5, cont.:

- augment the winter texture (paper-bark cherries, etc.)
- no "educational/experimental" plantings around Green Lake
- how about a gazebo?
- include a large floral display
- get rid of the pitch-and-putt
- resist the temptation to fill up this space!
- include demonstration gardens (drought tolerant, wildlife habitat, etc...)
- more signage around the Lake explaining the vegetation (**)
- a setting of all native species would be interesting
- variation in the water-edge plantings - extend them further towards upland areas to break the pattern of "concentric rings" in the park (try the reverse for the tree masses)

Question 6:

"Please add further comments you think may be helpful to the project."

- Green Lake as model for lake restorations elsewhere
- Lake waters could be used as pollution indicator
- "Green Lake should look like mother nature is managing it, even if it takes humans to achieve this!"
- no more plant management just to satisfy the wealthy neighbors (**)
- do not let special interest groups change an Olmsted idea
- prefer the species groves to the mixed groves
- "make it practical - make it work!"
- "be brave - don't be swayed by the whiners"
- biggest problem is with the trails and their conflicting uses; boot the bikes
- thin out the Milfoil
- funding needs to be long-term, a fact that should be included in the management plan
- diversify visual variety with culverted streams
- there is too little new, young, vigorous growth and regeneration in the park - the park has the feeling of a geriatric ward, as do other mature parks that are not consistently replanted each decade.



Do you enjoy the trees and shrubs around Green Lake?

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation is drafting guidelines for managing the park's vegetation.

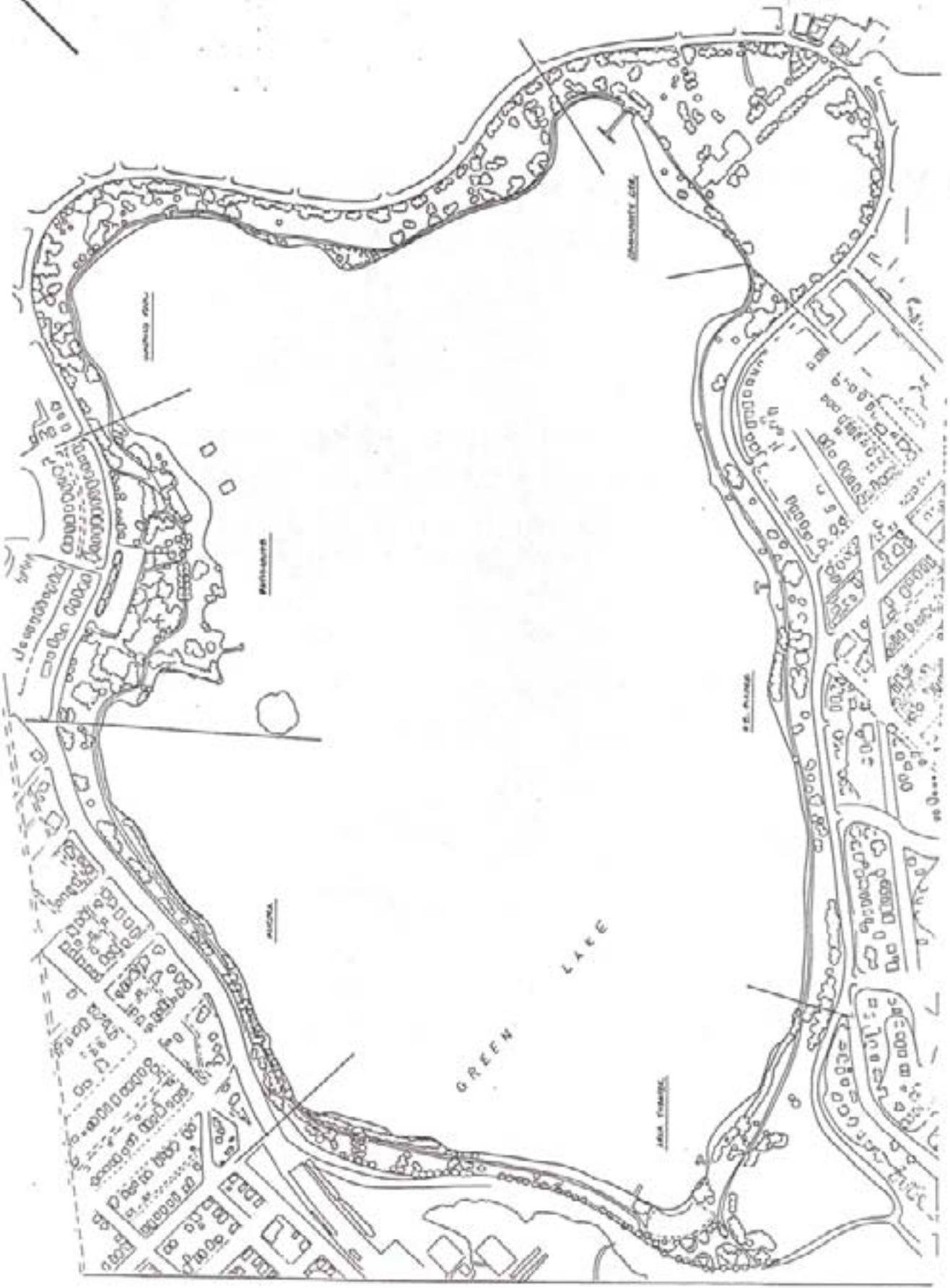
You can offer your opinion of the existing landscape and your suggestions for the future by filling out this survey.

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation wants to enlist your help in developing vegetation management guidelines for Green Lake Park. Our goal is to take care of the existing resource and plan for its longevity.

In some places, the park's trees and shrubs are maturing. Some have been lost to disease or storms. In other areas, new trees and shrubs have recently been planted. The Parks Department recognizes a need to examine how to best care for existing plants and how to add appropriate new ones. Vegetation management guidelines will help staff and citizens effectively steward Green Lake's plants in the future and provide healthy new generations of trees and shrubs.

The scope of the guidelines is limited to vegetation-related issues; it is neither a master plan nor a new design for the park. The process of developing the guidelines will include four steps: 1) clarifying vegetation management goals, 2) documenting the existing resource, its use and care, 3) evaluating this documentation to establish direction, and 4) generating the guidelines themselves. Completion is projected for mid-summer.

The following questionnaire will help in framing the goals for the project. Please complete and return it to Paul West, Urban Forester at the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. If you have any questions, please call 684-4122.



Green Lake Vegetation Management Guidelines Questionnaire

1. A generation from now, how would you like the landscape surrounding Green Lake to be? Similar to today, or different in some way? Please describe.

2. As a park user, what do you most value about Green Lake's landscape? Please consider its trees, shrubs, lawns and shore vegetation, their variety, scale and seasonal changes.

3. What broad, overall concerns about the existing Green Lake plantings and their care which should be addressed in vegetation management guidelines?

4. Do you have concerns about particular plants or landscape areas within the park? Please describe, using the attached map if you wish.

5. What new ideas or unexploited opportunities might Green Lake plantings incorporate in the future?

6. Please add further comments you think may be helpful to the project.

Please return to:

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place
stamp
here

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