

Sakai Park Multi-Age, Multi-Recreational Community Center

Task

Research for a multi-age community center with a teen center, senior center, Gymnastics gym and Park offices.

Goal

Consolidate many youth and adult classes and activities under “one roof” rather than at least 12 different locations on the island.

1. Provide a location for youth and seniors to work and play together.
2. Provide new, up-to-date, safe and clean offices for the Park District
3. Provide new, up-to-date, and safe gymnastics gym
4. Provide the Island with an up-to-date and safe multi-level facility that meets many other needs, including:
 - a. Teen Center
 - b. Senior Center/Area
 - c. Dividable Gymnasium
 - d. Meeting/Classrooms
 - e. Commercial Kitchen

What We Did

1. The workgroup reviewed the list activities developed at the January meeting and identified those activities that we believed could be included in a Community Recreation Center.
2. Focusing on the Goals, we explored how these specific activities or facilities are currently provided. This included tours of current parks (and school facilities, in the case of gymnastics) and interviews of park staff familiar with the challenges of maintaining the facilities and/or providing the programs.
3. The group identified several facilities in the area that provide facilities and/or programs we were interested in looking at and took field trips. We visited the Mercer Island Event Center in Luther Burbank Park, the Silverdale YMCA, the Bremerton Teen Center, the Bremerton YMCA, and the Indoor Soccer facility at Pendergast Park in Bremerton
4. Based on the field trips we revisited the previously developed list of possible activities and added a few to the list.

Using the data collected the group developed a priority list of those items that we believe should be included in a Community Recreation Center.

Teen Center

1. The Teen Center location will not be available once the School District begins reconstruction of the 100 Building at the High School.
2. During a previous BHS remodel, the Teen Center was housed in the cramped lobby of the old Ray Williamson pool. This is not an appropriate long term solution.
3. Currently it is unknown where the Teen Center will be housed during the upcoming BHS remodel.
4. This is a double-wide modular home whose interior was designed by and for Bainbridge teens; currently used by about 50 teens on a regular basis.
5. The current Teen Center lacks any technology. No infrastructure or media provider; no connectivity, no High School support, no cable TV; intermittent wi-fi. Only one computer.
6. Would like to have some space specifically dedicated to teens: separate entrance, secure, unisex bathrooms; small kitchen to learn the basics.
7. Would like Study room with computers and internet connections
8. Hangout room for talking and playing games, pool, etc.
9. Teens would like to be a part of designing their space; work with an architect who can work with and accept them.
10. Would like to use the concrete bays and bomb shelter as a skateboarding area, performance space, recording studio and art studio where they can be creative without worrying about being too messy.

District Office (DO)

1. Built in the late 1940's as part of a Nike Missile Base. Current size is about 2,520 sq.ft. for 20 people (many more in the summer when volunteers and interns are around).
2. The building has been remodeled three times to add rooms. District has tried very hard to maximize the facility
3. Many physical problems with current office:
 - a. Air quality- animals die in walls; ozonator run on weekends to clean air; mold from leaking ceilings; windows had to be left open this past February due to smell from dead animals in the walls
 - b. Heat- poor heat in main office; can run on only certain circuits so fuses are not blown
 - c. Little to no insulation in walls
 - d. Electricity- outdated. Can't handle current technology
 - e. Roof leaks- onto electrical equipment in office; have to move equipment around to avoid leaks. Skylights leaking; probably means mold in attic
 - f. Reception area small, not customer friendly
 - g. Restrooms not in same building. Have to exit DO via covered walkway to access the restrooms

- h. Storage-for records management, equipment, servers, files. Requirements are beyond current capacity. Stored in a number of areas: on floor, shelves, under desks, in corners in DO (fire hazard?) and several out buildings, including a cargo container (climate controlled) as well.
 - i. Water: No one drinks water out of tap. Shares water with PhilAm Hall.
 - j. Up to code on water? Power? Septic? Recently digging up water pipe to fix leak and hit power line next to water line. DO without power until fixed - up to code?
 - k. Office walls VERY thin; confidentiality problems
 - l. Kitchen area SMALL, mice poop around; can hear critters in ceiling throughout DO
 - m. Meeting Room: also serves as office space.
4. If a Community Center is built it would be appropriate to include the BIMPRD District Offices as part of the facility. This would include:
- a. Open, welcoming reception area for sign-up/sign-in
 - b. Size? Multi-level or one floor?
 - c. Would allow staff and community to better interact with each other
 - d. Provides on site supervision and oversight for the facility

Senior Center

While users of the existing Senior Center at the Waterfront Park Community Center would like to keep many of their services and programs at their existing location, there is a demand for the Park District to offer additional classes/facilities to enhance the senior programs including:

1. Table Tennis area, specifically to host tournaments. This is a growing program among the seniors and there is lack of space for this program.
2. Addition space for active senior classes - it is estimated that an additional 5 rooms could be fully utilized for the following (in particular, some exercise classes need more space now):
 - a. Senior-to-Teen program expansion, needs more space and requests commercial kitchen
 - b. Exercise classes include fitness, tai chi lessons and practice classes, chair yoga, yoga, stay strong, line dancing, co-ed softball, walks on trails and walking routes
 - c. Spanish, French, German clubs, technology tutoring, liberation laughter (larger room needed), movie nights
 - d. Mah Jong, cribbage, bridge, pinochle, bingo
 - e. Hot lunch served M-F, meals on wheels delivered
 - f. Wellness services offered as well as lectures, live music etc.
3. A room to hold a Pool Table
4. Current location lacks parking.

5. Age appropriate exercise equipment

It has been stated that Seniors represent approximately 25% of population on Bainbridge and that percentage is growing.

Gymnastics Gym

1. Gymnastics Program

- a. For all ages, starting from 6 months old and including adult classes.
- b. Offers a Recreational Companion for gymnasts with special needs.
- c. Offers P.E. programs for schools and daycares.
- d. Pays mostly for itself with very little subsidization.
- e. The Gymnastics program is the 2nd largest Recreation program.
- f. Up to 35 staff at peak times
- g. In 2003, there were 2721 individual registrations. In 2015, there were approximately 5,000 individual registrations (class spaces). This number does not include the number of drop-ins for the tot play times or the open gym times.

2. Lack of space

- a. Current main gym at the high school is approximately 4,000 square feet.
- b. The Transmitter Building gym is approximately 3,000 square feet, with too low of ceilings for bar, beam and tumble trak activities.
- c. A typical gymnastics gym is approximately 14,000-15,000 square feet.
- d. Gymnasts have to stop vaulting to allow arriving and departing gymnasts and their parents to go in and out of the gym.
- e. Some gymnasts start outside the gym doors while vaulting because the vault runway is not long enough.
- f. For home meets, the Gymnastics program has to rent a gym from the school district as well as a U-Haul truck.
- g. For home meets, the Gymnastics staff and parents, have to dismantle all of the gym equipment, move it to another gym, and reassemble the equipment. After the meet, they again have to dismantle, move, and reassemble the equipment.
- h. The only viewing area at the high school is from the balcony. In order to access the balcony, spectators must climb two flights of stairs in an unheated stairwell, exit the building and then re enter another door. The posted occupancy allowed for the balcony (viewing area at the high school) is 16 even though there may be up to 75 gymnasts in the gym at the same time.
- i. There is no viewing space for spectators at the Transmitter Building. Parents have to sit in the lobby.
- j. There is one toilet for up to 75+ gymnasts, their parents and the coaching staff to share.

- k. There is no storage area for mats and equipment. They are currently stored around the gym and on the spring floor reducing the regulation size of the spring floor to a much smaller usable area.
3. Shared facility
 - a. The Gymnastics program has been sharing the high school gymnastics room since it first moved from Poulsbo to the Island in 1981, 35 year ago.
 - b. For the months of November through February, during the high school gymnastics season, the recreation classes and competitive teams have to start later, after the high school team is done.
 - c. The gym is cold in the winter and sweltering in the summer.
 4. Waste of Staff time and gas
 - a. Staff work in three different locations, often having to drive between the office at Strawberry Hill, the High School, and the Transmitter Building, located at Battle Point Park, in between classes and team practices
 5. No room for more
 - a. The Gymnastics program has to turn kids away due to lack of space available to run the program.,
 - b. Different citizens committees over the years have said that a new gymnastics gym is greatly needed.
 6. A new gymnastics gym is in the Park District Comprehensive Plan. Parking
 - a. There are only two parking spots for staff during the day, at the high school.
 - b. Parents of young gymnasts have to park down in the Eagle Harbor parking lot or pool parking and walk up to the high school during the day for classes.
 7. Desired facilities/equipment:
 - a. 40' in-ground tumble trak.
 - b. Pits for the bars, vault and floor.
 - c. Adequate storage for mats and equipment. Current storage for such is on the spring floor.
 - d. Height needed: 30' Size needed: a minimum of 10,000 square feet is needed, but 15,000 square feet is desired.
 - e. Could be located next to gymnasium so the gym could be used for meets.
 - f. Viewing area

Dividable Gymnasium

Currently the Park District runs many of its indoor sports programs in school district gyms. Due to increasing demand for gym space by both the schools and the Park District, the Park District is not able to adequately address the demand for programs (as the school programs have priority). There is clearly a need for another gym on the Island similar to the Lower HS Gym. It should include:

1. Two smaller (e.g, HS sized) basketball courts in one direction, with a full size court (e.g., college sized court over-layed in the opposite direction. (College courts are 94'x50'; HS courts are 84'x50')
2. Courts for other sports can be overlaid on the basketball courts and used for volleyball/badminton/pickleball/Zumba/indoor tot play time. (court sizes are: V 60'x30' B 44'x20' P 44'x20')
3. Movable partition to separate gym into two gyms
4. Men's and Women's locker rooms. Best located next to gym.
5. Standard gymnasium height is 2 stories tall.
- 6.

Meeting/classrooms

There is a chronic lack of meeting space and room for classes and other events on the Island. This is particularly acute for large meetings and events. As part of a Community Center we would propose that the following be added

1. Several multi-purpose, fixed size meeting rooms for classes and events
2. A Large meeting room with dividers to create several smaller meeting rooms

Commercial Kitchen

A commercial kitchen is an oft-requested amenity for those holding events. This would be particularly beneficial with a large room hosting a catered event. It could be integrated into the Community Center adjacent to the large meeting room to support:

1. Large events such as weddings, the annual meeting potlucks that BI is famous for, birthday parties, and large family events such as reunions.
2. Senior To Teen program
3. Cooking classes
4. Size?

Other Ideas

The following lists are other elements that could be included in a Community Center. Other than the priorities listed above, the work group did not pass judgment whether or not these elements should be included in the facility. Each would represent a positive addition to the facility. However, we did not believe any of the elements solved a glaring need such as the items prioritized.

What else was on the list of 76 "wants" that might fit in a community center?

1. Racquetball/Handball court: (40'x20'x20' height) - both YMCAs we visited had courts
2. Squash court: (32' x 21' x 18.5"(h)
3. Coffee/lunch Cafe
4. Disaster/emergency Shelter (building could be used for this purpose if needed).
 - a. Location is in close proximity to the fire station and urgent care

- b. Disaster Preparedness Building
 - c. Universal Pet Warming Station
- 5. Space to hold Rotary Auction
- 6. Outside plaza for special events
- 7. Multi Sport Gym with synthetic turf or other surface (180' x 90')
 - a. Indoor Soccer/Lacrosse/Baseball/Softball/Football
 - b. Ice or Roller Hockey Rink
 - c. Event Center
- 8. Pool Hall/Billiards Room: 14'x18' room for a 4.5x9' table with 58" cue
- 9. Bowling Alley: 2 lane 100'x17'6" room
- 10. Indoor Auditorium
- 11. Indoor Play Area
- 12. Learning Center For Environmental Education
- 13. Museum honoring Sakai Family
- 14. 50 Meter Pool
- 15. Mini Golf
- 16. Boys/Girls Club

Seen in other Community Centers (Mercer Is.Event Center, Silverdale Y, and Bremerton Y) during research field trips and online research:

- 1. Indoor track circling gymnasium. This is of additional interest now that BHS is a closed campus during school days and school activities. The track would be:
 - a. 2-3 lanes
 - b. Great for running/walking during bad weather
- 1. Exercise/Dance Room.
 - a. Built in sound system.
 - b. 35'x56'=20 dancers
- 2. Living Room with "Little Library" (take 1 leave 1).
- 3. Indoor cafe with tables.
 - a. With a Vendor or Vending machines?
 - b. Microwave.
 - c. Outside patio sitting area
- 4. Computer room.
 - a. Wi-fi
 - b. Great for youth and teens at Teen Center for doing homework
 - c. Teens could mentor Seniors in use of computers
 - d. Genealogy work
- 5. Billiards/Pool Room (could be used by seniors during the day; teens after school and adults in the evening)
 - a. One to two tables

6. Rollaway table tennis tables that can be rolled into meeting classrooms
7. Tot play areas in unique locations such as under a staircase
8. Senior "Playground"
 - a. Fixed equipment outside for exercising

How does this get paid for?

1. Grants
 - a. Rotary Club, Birkenfeld Fund, Bainbridge Parks Foundation
 - b. Some grants for environmental friendly building
 - c. Donations
2. Fundraising
 - a. Named paving squares?
 - b. Buy a piece of equipment in your name
 - c. Benefit concerts (for teen center)
 - d. Tournaments (for ping pong tables, e.g.)
3. Bond
 - a. Probably necessary, but will be a hard sell