

Appendix E: Suquamish Tribe Comments



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THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

P.O. Box 498

Suquamish, Washington 98392

February 11, 2008

Pritchard Park Design Advisory Committee
c/o Perry Barrett, Senior Planner
Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District
P.O. Box 10010
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

RE: Suquamish Tribe Comments Regarding Preliminary Designs
Pritchard Park Design, Bainbridge Island, Washington
Suquamish Tribe Reference: 08-2-11-1

Dear Pritchard Park Design Advisory Committee Members:

The Suquamish Tribe appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding preliminary designs for Pritchard Park, Bainbridge Island, Washington. I summarized preliminary park designs and individual design elements for the Suquamish Tribal Council at a council meeting on September 24, 2007. The Suquamish Tribal Council reviewed and approved general approaches to the park design and specific design elements. The Tribal Council was particularly interested in maintaining a natural setting within the park boundaries, incorporating elements of Suquamish culture into the park design, having a Coast Salish greeting pole to welcome visitors, and providing opportunities for participants in the annual Northwest Coast Tribal Canoe Journey to utilize the park. Individual elements are discussed below.

Natural Setting

The Suquamish Tribal Council concurred with the general design approach to maintain and further develop a natural park setting, with native plantings, open spaces, and a minimum of park structures. The natural setting would mirror the commitment of the Suquamish Tribe to stewardship and protection of the environment, and reflect the natural habitat of the park vicinity prior to European contact and historic period development on landforms within the park.

Minimal Impact

The Tribal Council concurred with the approach to minimize the number of ground-disturbing modifications to the existing trail system and shoreline configuration. Again, a minimalist approach to construction and retention of a natural setting would help evoke a landscape that was extant prior to extensive historic period ground and shoreline modifications.

Coast Salish Greeting Pole

The Suquamish Tribal Council requested that the park design include a Coast Salish Indian greeting pole. The pole should be visible to ferry riders and others entering Eagle Harbor by water. The pole would extend greetings from the Suquamish Tribe and express the traditional welcoming attitude of the Tribe to visitors entering the Tribal heartland of the Suquamish People.

Suquamish Design Elements

The Tribal Council concurred with the proposed use of Suquamish art design elements throughout the park, such as design motifs incorporated into the surface of paved pathways and as basketry motifs incorporated into screens shielding contaminant recovery wells.

Native Vegetation

The Tribal Council favored use of native vegetation plantings throughout the park and localized ethnobotanical planting beds and interpretive displays highlighting Suquamish use of native plants. Interpretive displays summarizing the Suquamish worldview regarding the importance of stewardship and environmental protection would serve an important education function.

Opportunities for the Annual Northwest Coast Tribal Canoe Journey

The Suquamish Tribal Council approved of plans for open areas near the shoreline and provisions for water access to beaches and inland landforms near the shoreline for kayaks and canoes. The Tribal Council would like to explore opportunities to incorporate the park into the yearly Tribal Canoe Journey of Northwest Coast Indian Tribes, perhaps as an intermediate stopping place, staging area, or overnight camping area. Such activities would reflect many of the traditional uses of Eagle Harbor by Suquamish Tribe members and Indian visitors from throughout the Northwest prior to European contact and during the early historic period.

In closing, the Suquamish Tribe requests the opportunity to review and participate in the development of final construction plans for the project and to participate in development of an archaeological construction monitoring plan.

Thank you again for providing the Suquamish Tribe the opportunity to participate in the early planning stages of Pritchard Park. The Tribe looks forward to continued dialog and participation with the design team.

Sincerely,



Dennis E. Lewarch
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer