

Question & Answer Matrix
February 5, 2026 - Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Log #	Received From	Question	Staff Response
	N/A	<p align="center">Clarification on Impervious vs. Pervious Surface Table (Page 89 of Draft Site Plan Report)</p>	<p>We want to provide clarification regarding the table in the draft Site Plan report that summarizes existing and proposed impervious surfaces.</p> <p>During earlier discussions, there was interest in understanding the potential implications of using all poured-in-place (PIP) surfacing if funding allows and environmental constraints can be addressed. In response, the impervious surface table was prepared conservatively, assuming full PIP surfacing. While this scenario is unlikely, it was included at this stage to support long-term planning and to avoid precluding that option in the future.</p> <p>The current Site Plan design uses a combination of PIP surfacing and engineered wood fiber (EWF) within the play areas. EWF is considered a pervious surface. As currently designed, the Site Plan would result in a net decrease of approximately 6,700 square feet of non-pollution generating impervious area (for a total of 18,700 SF, as compared to the 25,400 SF shown in the report table).</p> <p>We also want to clarify that the cost estimate in the draft report reflects this blended surfacing approach shown, not the full PIP scenario used in the impervious surface table calculation.</p> <p>We recognize that the table created some confusion, and we apologize. The report will be revised to clearly distinguish the design intent from the conservative planning assumption, and to explicitly note that EWF is considered a pervious surface.</p>
1	Cohen	What increase in stormwater runoff is expected with the proposed improvements at Deane’s Children’s Park?	The project will result in a modest increase in impervious surface, which will increase stormwater runoff. At this conceptual stage, specific runoff volumes have not yet been calculated. Approximate land cover changes are shown in the draft report (page 89)
2	Cohen	What potential impacts could increased stormwater have on: a) portions of Island Crest Park west of the west fence line? b) private residences and public properties west of 84 th Avenue?	The conceptual stormwater approach is designed to capture and manage runoff on-site to the greatest extent feasible using bioretention, dispersion, and/or detention. Most of the site drains to Ravine Basin B (Appendix F), which is the primary low point in Deane’s Children’s Park and may ultimately overflow to the adjacent ravine to the

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			west. Planted and preserved areas within the park are intended to be used for bioretention and dispersion to reduce frequency and volume of overflow to the ravine, which is the ultimate drainage path to Lake Washington.
3	Cohen	What stormwater mitigation measures are being contemplated to address the anticipated increase in runoff?	At this conceptual stage, stormwater is anticipated to be managed on-site using a combination of bioretention, dispersion, and/or detention as needed. Planted and preserved areas within the park are intended to be used for stormwater management. Final mitigation measures, calculations, and sizing will be determined during Phase I Improvements following geotechnical investigation
4	Cohen	What ravine is carrying the stormwater and what is the path for the water to reach Lake Washington?	General downstream flow paths have been mapped using GIS, see attached PDF.
5	Cohen	Page 91 refers to the 2019 Western Washington SWM manual as the one in effect now, while page 319 refers to 2014? Which is correct?	The 2019 Western Washington Stormwater Management Manual is the correct reference. The citation to the 2014 manual in Appendix F is an error and will be corrected.
6	Cohen	When is an update of the Western Wash. SWM manual expected and, if we know, are any revisions contemplated that would materially impact this proposed project?	Ecology has issued the 2024 Western Washington Stormwater Management Manual, but it has not yet been adopted by the City. The Site Plan is based on the currently adopted 2019 manual. Once the City adopts the 2024 manual, it will be reviewed during Phase I design to determine whether any adjustments to the stormwater approach are required.
7	Struck	One of the tenants of the adopted PROS Plan was to limit/manage the increase of impervious surface within parklands. According to data on this slide there's over a 400% increase in impervious surface (6,200 SF to 27,900 SF). Can staff comment on this increase and what strategies, if any, were employed to meet the spirit of this tenant.	<p>Staff recognizes the importance of the PROS Plan goal to limit and manage increases in impervious surface within parklands. The figure reflects a conservative, all-poured-in-place surfacing scenario, which overstates the likely increase.</p> <p>Under the current Site Plan design, which blends poured-in-place (PIP) surfacing with engineered wood fiber (EWF) and other pervious materials, total impervious surface would be reduced to approximately 21,200 square feet. Of that, just over 5,000 square feet is PIP, and only 2,500 square feet of impervious surface generates pollution, primarily associated with the parking lot. The remainder consists of trails throughout the park.</p> <p>To meet the intent of the PROS Plan, the design team has employed several strategies to minimize impervious surface while maintaining access and circulation. These include:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing pervious surfacing such as engineered wood fiber for play areas. • Using less-compacted surfaces like mulch in more densely treed areas. • Establishing a hierarchy of trail types that balances accessibility and durability with minimizing impervious cover. <p>Overall, these strategies help reduce environmental impacts, maintain natural infiltration, and preserve the forested character of the park while accommodating key park uses</p>
8	Struck	Is there an expected timetable of when the five phases as outlined will be undertaken or is strictly reliant on the availability of funding which may not yet have been fully identified.	At this time, there is no established timetable for implementation of the four phases. The Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) currently includes funding only for Phase I improvements. The Parks CIP will be updated as part of the upcoming PROS Plan update, and if this project is identified as a high priority through that process, funding for future phases may be considered.
9	Struck	In looking at the change in the distribution of formal play (from the existing 11% to 18%), that's quite a large increase in play-making structures/activity. Is there any concern about congestion, or parking?	<p>While the increase in formal play from 11% to 18% represents additional play-making structures and activity, we view this as a modest increase relative to the overall park area. This anticipated increase in use was one of the factors informing the expanded parking lot and the potential connection to the Central Parking Lot at Island Crest Park.</p> <p>A phased implementation of the Site Plan also provides the opportunity to monitor park use over time, better understand peak demand, and adjust management strategies as needed. For example, this could include evaluating shared use agreements with the School District to allow access to their parking lot on weekends if demand warrants.</p>
10	Brettmann	It's great that there was an analysis of inclusive play equipment. Is there also any analysis or study of how long and how frequently children use various play structures/equipment at various ages that has been used to inform the chosen play structures? If so, did that analysis inform which play structures were incorporated?	<p>While we do not have studies that quantify exactly how long or how frequently children use specific play equipment at different ages, there is research that helps guide design strategies for creating engaging, inclusive play environments that encourage families to spend more time at playgrounds.</p> <p>For example, studies show that the presence of mature tree canopies can attract twice as many users, and having convenient on-site restrooms can increase visitation by 44%. These types of insights, along with best practices in inclusive and age-progressive play design, informed the selection and arrangement of play structures.</p>

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11	Brettmann	<p>There are 5 "time in" structures and 6 musical instruments. Is that based on any data or observations of how many children need "time in" spaces in a park or how long children play with musical instruments in parks?</p>	<p>The number of "time-in" structures and musical play elements is not intended to correspond to a specific usage ratio or a formula for how many children will use each element at one time. Rather, the design is informed by widely accepted play-design principles, inclusive play best practices, and observation-based experience from similar parks.</p> <p>The intent is to provide choice and balance across different play types rather than to size each element to a predicted number of users. "Time-in" spaces are distributed throughout the play area to offer multiple, low-stimulation options for children who may need a quieter moment, sensory regulation, or a break from more active play. Having several smaller options, rather than a single designated space, allows these needs to be met flexibly and reduces crowding or overuse of any one element.</p> <p>Musical instruments were prioritized in coordination with Kanics, our inclusive design consultant, because they are among the most broadly accessible play elements. They attract a wide range of users for many reasons—including mobility, sensory, and neurological needs—and support inclusive engagement across ages and abilities. Similarly, the musical instruments are intended as open-ended, exploratory play features. Experience from other parks suggests that musical elements are typically used in short bursts, by small groups, and often in combination with adjacent play. Multiple instruments support shared play, reduce waiting or monopolization, and allow children to engage at different comfort levels without needing to remain at a single feature for long periods.</p> <p>Overall, the quantities reflect a design approach that prioritizes variety, inclusivity, and distribution of experiences across the park. This helps ensure the play area can comfortably serve a wide range of ages, abilities, sensory needs, and play styles at different times of day, rather than being calibrated to a single usage pattern.</p>

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12	Brettmann	In the site plan report draft, there are mocks ups with photos of trees/shrubs/etc that look like new plantings and don't appear to be native to the species currently in the park. I'm wondering, are those part of the plans or should we just focus on the equipment?	The computer-generated rendering does not represent existing planting conditions at the park. The planting shown is intended to convey a densely treed environment. The planting proposed for the Site Plan focuses on native plant restoration.
13	Brettmann	How tall is the play element 14 log structure?	The total height of the fallen log structure is approximately 10' – 4" and has a maximum fall height of 6'-0".
14	Brettmann	I fully support the need for our parks to have greater accessibility and support having some wheelchair accessible play equipment. Is the goal of Deane's park to be wheelchair accessible for every structure?	<p>The design aims to provide a variety of play opportunities for children using mobility devices.</p> <p>Where a play element is not directly accessible, the design provides adjacent space for parallel play, allowing children in mobility devices to engage alongside their peers and follow the activity. This approach helps ensure that all children can participate, explore, and experience the park together, even if not every structure is fully accessible.</p>
15	Brettmann	Page 72 - the tower structure appears to be marked as wheelchair accessible. How is the tower structure wheelchair accessible?	For the 5–12+ climbing tower, a person using a mobility device may transfer onto the tightly woven spiral mesh to climb up to the slide, or they may choose to ascend the rubber ramp systems to reach the treehouse pod. They may also transfer to the hammock swing if desired. For those who are unable to transfer, there are activity panels at ground level.
16	Brettmann	If a structure is not wheelchair accessible, would it be acceptable to have a permeable and environmentally beneficial surface around it to decrease cost and environmental impact?	<p>It's important to note that beneath and around play equipment, critical fall zones require safety surfacing of specific depths to meet standards for impact attenuation. Safety surfacing is installed within these use zones to provide protection for the maximum critical fall height. Most play equipment will require such surfacing to protect against falls.</p> <p>That said, the Site Plan incorporates a blended surfacing strategy. Play areas throughout the park combine unitary surfaces—such as poured-in-place rubber and synthetic turf—with engineered wood fiber (EWF). Unitary surfacing is prioritized at key locations, including inclusive play features, transfer points, connected play routes, and ground-level play areas. This hybrid strategy balances accessibility, cost, and long-term tree health while meeting safety requirements.</p>

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17	Brettmann	Page 89 says, "The project team assumes that all playground surfacing will be classified as non-pollution generating impervious surface. This assumption will be confirmed with the city during the pre-application phase." When is the pre-application phase? What will staff do if they learn during that phase that the impervious surfaces do cause pollution that could harm existing trees and habitat?	The pre-application phase will take place once design for Phase I Improvements begins. That said, poured-in-place (PIP) playground surfacing has been classified as non-pollution generating impervious surface for Roanoke Park and engineered wood fiber (EWF) has been classified as a pervious surface for First Hill Park. We do not anticipate this classification changing.
18	Brettmann	How many trees will be removed from the park to implement this plan?	<p>During the Site Plan phase, we anticipate that some tree removal may be required; however, the specific trees and extent of removal cannot be confirmed at this time. An arborist report is needed to complete a full tree inventory, assess tree health within the park, and identify any trees that may require removal, snagging, or other treatment.</p> <p>We understand that retention of tree canopy and preservation of the park’s forested character is a high priority for the Commission and the community, and the design team will work to minimize tree removal to the greatest extent feasible as the project advances. Preparation of an arborist report was not included in the Site Plan project scope and will occur during Phase I design.</p> <p>If all phases of the Site Plan were ultimately developed, we currently anticipate that approximately eight trees may require removal. Of those, four trees are already in decline. The arborist report completed during Phase I will confirm tree health across the park and identify any required mitigation measures.</p> <p>Any trees removed as part of the development of this park will be replanted in accordance with Mercer Island City Code.</p>
19	Brettmann	What is the environmental impact of the concrete path between the central play area and the "secondary entrance," which is Island Park Elementary? Is that concrete path an item that numerous stakeholders in the community requested? Accessing the park by car through IPE has a lot more barriers (several gates/fences as well as off limit times during the school day) so it seem like people with disabilities will want to access the park through the main parking lot, not from the IPE parking lot. I'm feeling confused about why this	The concrete path between the Central Play Area and the “secondary entrance” at Island Park Elementary was included to provide an accessible connection from the school to the park. While we recognize that the school parking lot has barriers— including gates, restricted access during school hours, and limited usability for people with disabilities—this path was intended to ensure a fully accessible route for all users who may approach from that direction, including families and school groups.

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		extra cost and environmental impact on the beautiful trees and habitat through that area of the park is important—but I am very open to understanding.	If the Commission prefers, the path could be considered for conversion to a gravel trail, which would reduce some of the impact to the site, though it would require more long-term maintenance to ensure it meets accessibility standards.
20	Brettmann	What route will children use to cycle through Deane's park to get to Island Park Elementary? There numerous children who use that path regularly as a safe route to school. Could or will the park incorporate a "bicycle friendly" path for those children to use? (I have heard from numerous IPE parents that this is important to them.)	The Island Crest Way Corridor Improvements project will design and construct a 10-foot-wide shared use path running parallel to the park from SE 60th Street to Island Park Elementary. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027. Staff envision this path as the primary route for cyclists, and it will also include lighting. That said, children may still choose to bike through the park, as there are no trails within the park that explicitly prohibit cycling.
21	Brettmann	Page 6 of the agenda says, "This exploration also highlighted the importance of providing a safe, accessible connection to the Island Crest Park Ballfield parking lot. As part of the first phase of improvements, this connection will be explored to ensure visitors have a safe route to the park when the Deane's Children's Park lot is at capacity." After looking through the phases of the build out in the longer plan, I didn't notice the phase at which that area is designed to be safer to cross and which will also make the park more accessible to additional handicapped parking spaces. What phase will that happen in?	The Summary section for Phase I Improvements in the draft report (page 106) notes that a connection will be explored. This connection was outside of the project team's scope of work for this planning process. The City will need to evaluate it during Phase I design to better understand the feasibility, layout, and associated costs. We recognize this is a priority, but at this stage there is limited information, so an anticipated construction cost is not included.