



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Item 4
February 2, 2023
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Bike Skills Area: Final Conceptual Design (30% Design)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve 30% design as presented and recommend it to the City Council for approval.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
STAFF:	Jason Kintner (Chief of Operations) Alaine Sommargren (Deputy Public Works Director) Sarah Bluvas (CIP Project Manager)	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds	
EXHIBITS:	1. Final Conceptual Design (30% Design) – Available by January 31	

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

On January 5, 2023, the Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) continued its review of the conceptual design for a new Bike Skills Area (BSA) at Deane's Children's Park ([Agenda Packet](#) | [Video Recording](#)). American Ramp Company (ARC) presented the updated conceptual design, which incorporated feedback from the second community survey conducted in December 2022 (192 responses) and from the December 1, 2022, PRC meeting. Modifications to the first draft of the conceptual design included adding a separate entrance to and fencing around the BSA facility; replacing some wooden berm turns with dirt berm turns; adding a new section of trail and jump features in the southwest portion of the site to take advantage of elevation changes; and other improvements based on feedback. Four community members also provided public comment on the updated conceptual design during Public Appearances.

FEEDBACK ON CONCEPTUAL DESIGN SECOND DRAFT

Overall, commissioners were pleased with the updated design, noting that the consultants listened to community and PRC feedback when incorporating changes into the design. Commissioner comments on the design updates covered the following:

- **Entrances to the BSA:** Commissioners expressed interest in continuing to investigate entry points to the BSA. The new entrance on the westside of the tennis courts is a good improvement, but commissioners wondered if it was possible to separate the current walking path from the proposed BSA path to help avoid user conflicts. There was also interest in exploring the possibility of adding an alternate BSA trail on the eastside of the tennis courts or looking at other entry points on the eastside of the proposed facility.
- **Park and trail user conflicts:** Commissioners continued to echo concerns related to separating BSA riders and other park users, especially users of the trail system throughout Island Crest Park. Fully fencing the BSA facility and evaluating alternative facility entrances are helpful improvements. Areas

that need to be better addressed include mitigating conflicts on the westside trails that open out to 84th Ave SE.

- **Education on shared-use spaces:** To alleviate potential user conflicts, commissioners were interested in ways to educate and/or train BSA users about properly using shared-use spaces. Signage and partnerships to train new users were two suggested ideas.
- **Materials used to build jumps and other features:** The updated design presented to the PRC included four dirt berm turns and two wooden berm turns in place of the five originally proposed wooden berm turns. Commissioners appreciated these adjustments and confirmed that the City is comfortable with the mix of materials being proposed at this time.

SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING

The City held a second community meeting to discuss the updated conceptual design on January 24, 2023. Twenty-eight (28) community members participated in this virtual discussion, which included a presentation on the updated design by staff and consultants, four polling questions, and breakout sessions on the topics of bike course design and access/safety. Registration for the event was promoted in the following ways:

- E-mail announcements sent to Let's Talk subscribers and project e-mail list (298 contacts)
- Posts on City calendar and Let's Talk project page
- Postcard mailer to neighbors within a 700' radius of Island Crest Park (413 addresses)
- Updated signage placed at Island Crest Park entrances and other locations
- Cross-promotion through other City and community partner channels (MI Weekly, Parks & Recreation social media, Mercer Island School District social media)

During the PRC meeting on Thursday, the City will review the input received during the community meeting before presenting the final draft conceptual design.

FINAL DESIGN DRAFT + NEXT STEPS

Staff and the consultant team will present the final draft of the conceptual design (Exhibit 1) during the PRC meeting on Thursday. The PRC may vote to recommend to the City Council to accept the 30% design and authorize staff to continue design development with the consultant, or the PRC may provide other recommendations. If approved, staff will present the 30% design to the City Council at the March 7, 2023, meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve 30% design as presented and recommend it to the City Council for approval.