

# **Laurelhurst Community Club**

**Serving 2800 Households and Businesses in Seattle's Laurelhurst Neighborhood**

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June 4, 2008

Parks and Green Spaces Levy Citizens Advisory Committee  
Cedar River Group, LLC  
93 Pike Street, Suite 315  
Seattle, Washington 98101

RE: Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project

Dear Parks and Green Spaces Levy Committee:

The Laurelhurst Community Club, representing 2800 families and businesses, urges you to include \$50,000 for our Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project in the proposed Parks and Green Spaces Levy Project List. This environmental restoration and stewardship project will address the critical need for open space in our area.

Waterway No. 1 is a parcel of waterfront property located where Northeast 35<sup>th</sup> Street meets 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Northeast in Laurelhurst. Long ago it was used as a boat launch for one of Seattle's mosquito fleet ferries, the Laurelhurst Launch, which shuttled folks from Laurelhurst to Madison Park and back. Waterway No. 1 has the potential of becoming a wonderful community asset with waterfront access for neighbors to observe nature, walk dogs and launch non-motorized boats, for kids to play and for neighbors to gather. For decades, the waterway has been an eyesore—overgrown with noxious weeds and invasive species. Funding is needed to restore and enhance this valuable community resource.

Waterway No. 1 is owned by Washington State's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which has proprietary authority over the site. Seattle has regulatory authority, vested in the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). Since 2002, LCC has worked with DNR and SDOT to develop a framework to implement improvements to Waterway No. 1. DNR is finalizing a Right of Entry Agreement with LCC that will allow volunteers to restore, enhance and maintain portions of Waterway No. 1 with DNR oversight to ensure compliance with rules and regulations governing the waterway.

In September 2005, the LCC hosted a Waterway No. 1 community design meeting with the assistance and participation of both DNR and SDOT, as well as LCC's landscape and tree consultant Arthur Lee Jacobson. Neighbors participating developed a concept plan for the waterway addressing what neighbors would like to see to transform the site into a usable community amenity with access and maintenance issues addressed. The concept plan represents a compromise. Some wanted a low maintenance drought-tolerant garden; others wanted a grassy area for kids to play, and some who wanted shade trees for older neighbor to sit on benches to enjoy the water. What resulted is a concept plan that incorporates some of what all neighbors wanted—a consensus that will be our roadmap moving forward, the elements of which are a part of the Right of Entry Agreement.

Improvements at the water's edge, an early priority in the concept plan, have already been implemented. Under a shoreline permit, large, slip-resistant granite stones were installed to ease in the launching of non-motorized boats, to prevent erosion of the steep bank into the water and to provide safe informal access to the water. There are many steps ahead to restore and enhance Waterway No. 1.

The Waterway No. 1 plan, approved by DNR, calls for enhancing public access and use of the site, as well as public safety, and restoration activities. The entire site with the exception of the old basketball court is covered with noxious weeds. An environmentally sensitive weed removal plan will be implemented with DNR's assistance. Quality top soil will be brought in to aid in weed eradication and to level the uneven surface. Grasses, native plants and trees will be planted and a path to the waterway installed. Two benches will be purchased and installed. The six-decade old basketball court will be resurfaced and enhanced.

The Laurelhurst Community Club urges you to include this environmental restoration and stewardship project in the proposed parks levy. Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if you have questions.

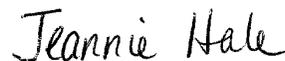
Sincerely,



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cc: Monica Shoemaker, State Department of Natural Resources