

# Laurelhurst Community Club

Serving 2800 Households and Businesses in Seattle's Laurelhurst Neighborhood

Parks and Green Spaces Levy Citizens Advisory Committee  
June 17, 2008 Public Meeting  
Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project

Good evening. My name is Jeannie Hale and I am president of the Laurelhurst Community Club representing 2800 households and businesses in one of Seattle's northeast Seattle neighborhoods and I'd like to introduce Emily Dexter, the lead on parks issues for our community council. We are here to urge you to include \$50,000 for the Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project in the proposed levy.

The Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project meets your threshold criteria and the project selection criteria. The project has been vetted through a public review process at a well-attended community design meeting with the participation of SDOT and the state Department of Natural Resources in September, 2005. Since then, LCC has been working to implement the concept plan developed at the community design meeting and have spent almost \$20,000 to date. Additional funding is needed to realize our vision of transforming basically an unusable public space into a community amenity.

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.

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 a worn out 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.

We notice that the proposed listing of projects includes only one other project from Laurelhurst—which we believe is for playground equipment at our community center. While that project is worthwhile, it is important to remember that our area is deficient in open space. The Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project will help to address this critical need as well as creating a safe, usable environment for our community. We urge you to include this environmental restoration and stewardship project in the proposed listing of projects.

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