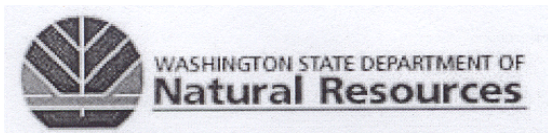


In conjunction with:



and



Questions?

Liz Ogden at 206-517-5862 or
wizzet@comcast.net

Jeannie Hale at 206-525-5135 or
jeannieh@serv.net

Special Note:

The Laurelhurst Community Club greatly appreciates the cooperation of the adjacent land owners in moving forward to improve the public space, and for all of the assistance and good advice from the representatives of the state and city who have been extraordinarily patient and helpful. Thank you!

WATERWAY #1 DESIGN MEETING

- **Think Waterway #1 needs some work**
- **Interested in having a say in the matter**
- **Meet with neighbors and state and city representatives to learn about design ideas and help achieve a consensus on the future direction of this special property.**
- **September 15, 2005 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the home of the Armintrouts 3509 4th Avenue Northeast**

Sponsored by:



Laurelhurst Community Club

What is Waterway #1?: Waterway #1 is a parcel of waterfront property located where Northeast 35th Street meets 43rd 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. Now it is a rare and treasured public access point to the waterfront where people can go to observe nature, walk dogs, and launch non-motorized boats.

This waterway, along with many others in Seattle, is owned by Washington State's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The state owns these parcels for the purpose of commerce and ownership will remain with the state in perpetuity. They will not be vacated and no encroachments made on them may be of a permanent nature. Unless otherwise used for commerce, they are to remain open to public access.

How it got to its current condition:

Because Waterway #1 is located in a residential neighborhood it has been largely ignored by the state for many decades. During that time it has become an eyesore, ill-kempt and overgrown with weeds, blackberries, and tall grasses.

Periodically, nearby neighbors have individually or as a group worked to clear the blackberries, cut down the tall grasses and remove trash from the land and flotsam from the water. However, there has been no established stewardship group nor source of funding for the work so most of the time the property has remained an eyesore for many and now requires

major restoration to make it pleasant and functional.

About sixty years ago, some industrious neighbors installed a small basketball court which has proven to be an enjoyable asset for nearby families and it is well-used to this day. Other less fortunate things have been done over the years by neighbors without permission such as the removal of all but one of the trees on the property. Additionally, adjacent neighbors (who have since moved away) established private uses on the property, mainly with plantings, but also with fences and a dock.

About private uses: The state may authorize, via waterway use authorizations, temporary uses such as a dock or hedge on unused portions of state waterways to adjacent property owners. This would be similar to someone granting an easement to a utility company for the use of their property. The private uses on Waterway #1 have been legally permitted, under regulatory authority of the city, to the current owners of the neighboring properties. Significant fees for them must be paid by the permit holders annually. The steep fees help to provide an incentive for those with private uses to consider removing them.

Seattle has regulatory authority, vested in the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), to regulate use of waterways within the city limits. With permits, there are proprietary fees that go to the state and regulatory fees that go to the city. The fees the state collects go into its Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. The fees collected by the city go into its Waterways Account.

What is happening now: Over

the years there has been increasing interest from neighbors in the condition of Waterway #1. When open to public access, its functionality is limited primarily by the overgrowth of weeds and grasses

In issues related to public access points in the neighborhood, Laurelhurst Community Club (LCC) has policies that call for respecting the privacy of and working closely with adjacent homeowners while developing consensus among neighbors regarding future changes. Reflecting on these policies and addressing neighbors' concerns, LCC has been working with DNR and SDOT to develop a framework that would meet state aquatic lands management goals and allow improvement of Waterway #1.

As a result, SDOT has allocated funding from the Waterways Account to be used to provide our community the assistance of its landscape architect in drawing up a plan to maximize the functionality and improve the character of the site. The funds will also go to pay for clearing the brambles and tall grasses, leveling the property, bringing in topsoil and developing a maintenance plan.

The city's landscape architect has preliminary ideas about creating a meandering path to the water and using a combination of drought-tolerant native and non-native plants to improve the aesthetic character of the site while preserving views, reducing maintenance, and improving public safety and access to the water.

What you can do: Come to this meeting and help develop community consensus on the design plan for this wonderful property! LCC needs your input and involvement to make this the best plan for everyone.