



April 3, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

As you deliberate and ultimately determine the future of DeYoung Park, please consider the following input from the Woodinville Chamber board of directors, who are speaking on behalf of the 280 members of the Chamber. The Chamber's position is based upon the recommendations of a special work group, consisting of three board members and two property owners located adjacent to the park.

DeYoung Park is an invaluable asset to the City of Woodinville. It is a gem, although a diamond in the rough, as a result of years of neglect. As such, it is worthy of significant investment to reveal its natural beauty, enhance its appeal and ensure its viability and longevity. If properly cared for, it will be cherished by many generations to come.

The trees on this site are critical to the character of the park and must be at the top of the list of considerations in your decision process. They provide a unique ambience that will only increase in value over time, as the urban core of our city grows ever more vibrant and high-energy. Trees also have a positive effect on shoppers' perceptions and buying behavior, as shown in research by Dr. Kathleen Wolf, with the University of Washington (for more information, please see [http://www.naturewithin.info/CityBiz/Communities\\_Banking\\_Urban\\_Forest.Wolf.pdf](http://www.naturewithin.info/CityBiz/Communities_Banking_Urban_Forest.Wolf.pdf)).

High impact uses of the park could threaten the trees and those uses should be accommodated elsewhere. The Woodinville Farmers Market is doing well since relocating to the park and it seems to be a reasonable use, given its limited schedule and relatively low impact on the trees. But construction of playground equipment, water slides, etc., would affect the natural processes the trees require to absorb moisture and nutrients, which are already compromised by existing concrete and asphalt. Adding structures that require drainage systems divert water from tree roots into the storm water management system.

Having the redevelopment of the Civic Campus on your docket concurrently with the DeYoung Park is an opportunity to maximize the potential of both. Events that draw large crowds, require a lot of parking stalls and restroom facilities could be accommodated in the design of the Civic Campus, while the DeYoung Park can provide a serene respite from the hustle and bustle of a vibrant urban core.

However, taking full advantage of the opportunities that currently exist will require significant investment in both the park and Civic Center. And since these opportunities are fleeting, we urge you to act now.



Transform DeYoung Park into an inviting, peaceful sanctuary

Start with taking care of the trees by amending the soil, trimming, fertilizing and everything that is required for their long term health. Add to the budget funds to cover these activities on an ongoing basis.

Provide an entry point , meeting ADA requirements, on the North side of the park, away from the heavy traffic on 175th.

Enlist the services of an outdoor lighting designer and purchase high quality, durable lighting specified in their plan. Both ambience and security should be key objectives.

Design special places in the park and define them with plantings, as opposed to hard surfaces. Provide furniture with comfort and durability in mind.

Provide a water source to properly irrigate the trees and plantings, and to serve the needs of the Woodinville Farmers Market.

Harmonize the design of the park with that of the Civic Campus

Add, as a design objective, a public square on the Civic Campus to serve as a small/medium sized event space for art shows, live musical performances, etc., as well as space for the amenities proposed in the conceptual study for the park that are currently in discussion. These uses are better accommodated on hard surfaces and where restrooms and ample parking are close by.

Including a public plaza in the design of the Civic Center may require a financial incentive for the developer, since such a space will not produce revenue for the owner/operator of the center. We recommend the city give serious consideration to making this investment, as it would be a valuable community asset.

With so much of the City's downtown currently being redeveloped, or being designed in preparation to be redeveloped, this is a critical point in time in which your decisions will will define our downtown for decades to come.

We urge you to take bold, decisive action to take full advantage of the opportunities currently before you, on behalf of the Woodinville business community and all residents of our beautiful city.

Respectfully,

The Woodinville Chamber Board of Directors