

WEDGWOOD PARK FAQs

What is “The Levy?”

The Levy is the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. It allows for neighborhood park acquisition, as well as many other project types. The Levy describes very specific ways for the funds to be spent and cannot be used for services other than those specified within the levy. For more information please visit the Parks Department website.

What is the “the Gap” or the “Usable Open Space Gap?” Why is it important for the park to be in northern Wedgwood?

The Levy specifically identifies the area “north and east of Dahl Playfield” in Wedgwood as underserved by Usable Open Space. This means that there is a significant portion of northern Wedgwood (generally north of 85th) that does not have a park within a walkable half mile of their home.

Why was the Morningside Substation site selected as the top choice?

All sites which were proposed and considered as a possible location for a new neighborhood park went through a detailed site selection process, where Wedgwood-specific selection criteria were used to compare sites. The Morningside Substation site was most desirable because it met all primary criteria, as well most of the secondary criteria.

Who owns the Morningside Substation site? Is it for sale?

Seattle City Light owns the property and is eager to sell it. It has been on their surplus list for many years.

Isn't there currently a long-time business on the site?

For many years, Seattle City Light has given a temporary ground lease to a building owner, who in turn rents the space out month-to-month to CC & Company. The building owner and tenant have known about the property's uncertain future for many years.

What will happen to CC & Company?

The community is working to help C.C. and Company find a new home prior to park construction, which will hopefully start in 2013. The Seattle Parks Department is currently hiring a relocation specialist, and the Wedgwood Community Council contacted the new owners of the old JCC building to suggest that they consider C.C. & Company as a tenant in their new building.

I prefer the "Hunter Tree Farm" site for a park site. Why don't we acquire that?

The "Hunter Tree Farm" site, as defined by the community during public meetings, is actually 6 parcels owned by 2 different owners. Each owner was contacted about their future plans for the site and whether they would be willing to sell. Both owners are not interested in selling under any circumstances. In addition, we must act quickly to utilize levy funds, and the Morningside Substation site is a better fit for the Levy funds because it is smaller, further north, and for sale. Options at the SCL property and Hunters are not mutually exclusive. More visioning is appropriate for the "Hunter Tree Farm" site(s) and we are excited about supporting community uses (such as a farmers market) on their property.

What other sites were considered for acquisition?

Besides the Morningside Substation site, the Parks Committee considered the "Hunter Tree Farm" site, the former Jewish Community Center (JCC) site, the informally named Penguin Park (undeveloped SDOT right-of-way), large residential lots, and foreclosed homes. In total, there were 9 sites considered.

What type of park will be developed on the Morningside Substation Site?

The only stipulation on the site is that it is to be a "neighborhood park." This means large amenities such as ball fields, sport courts, and off-leash areas are unlikely, and that the Wedgwood community needs to identify its priorities. The present effort is for land purchase only. The actual park design and development effort will commence once property is acquired.

Acquiring a park is important but how are we going to get one actually built?

The Parks Committee is pursuing a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant for park design. After the park design is complete, the Parks Committee plans to submit an application to the Levy's Opportunity Fund for construction funds. This process involves two competitive application processes and, accordingly, a lot of unknowns. Best case scenario, the park would be constructed in 2013. Otherwise, it could be years.

What sort of things could be included in Wedgwood's new park?

At previous meetings, Wedgwoodians have mentioned benches, grass, trees, shelter, chess, small play area, plantings, plaza, and more. Start thinking now about what sort of amenities you'd like to see there!

Is this going to our only park and/or community space in Wedgwood?

We sure hope not! The Wedgwood community should continue to be vigilant about working with land owners and future developers to support community interests. The present park acquisition effort is one of the first steps in preparing and planning for Wedgwood's vibrant future.