



SUMMARY OF OUR GREEN/DUWAMISH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Attachment 1: Focus Group Summary Notes

Biodiversity Listening Session – Summary Notes

June 29, 2015

10am – 12pm

Bullitt Center, Rainier Conference Room

Introductions

Present:

- Brooke Alford, Duwamish Hill Preserve
- Judy Blanco, Forterra
- Jonathan Childers, Lead Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Vera Giampietro, Associate Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Kollin Higgins, King County WLRD
- Fred Koontz, Woodland Park Zoo
- Ikuno Masterson, ROSS
- Maggie McKeon, Civil Engineering Department, UW
- Elissa Ostergaard, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery
- Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery
- John Owen, ROSS & Makers Architecture & Urban Design
- Nancy Rottle, ROSS & Green Futures Lab, UW
- Jen Vanderhoof, King County WLRD

Presentations

Primer on ROSS by Ikuno, Nancy, & John.

Introduction to biodiversity as a topic area by Fred Koontz

- 3 elements of biodiversity
 - Elements
 - Process
 - Human-System Interaction
- Addressing biodiversity at each scale, and making sure those scales weave into one another
- Make this a living watershed – develop a strategy for making it a living, adaptable watershed

Discussion

Overarching Themes:

- Cut to the chase – talk about immediate priority actions, not justifications
 - Get this planning effort into the King County county-wide plan, currently underway
 - Cities will follow suit
 - Integrate this work into already-existing processes
 - All require public engagement already
 - More likely to succeed if the effort fits into the framework that cities are already used to working with
- Formulate a vision – share it with others
 - Get the cities involved now – they “pay to play” at the WRIA 9 level, they are already incentivized to engage here
 - Engage cities early and often through a city council meeting tour
 - Market an identity for the watershed
- Bring the public along – jurisdictions and elected officials will follow

Biodiversity Listening Session – Summary Notes

- Formulate recommendations that get individuals working toward biodiversity goals at the human scale
- People living on these individual parcels are a huge part of the implementation strategy
- Understand populations and their needs
- Illustrate the issue – make a clear, concise case for why we need to integrate roads, surface water, trails, fish, etc.
- Interagency activities are essential – collaborative efforts will advance causes of biodiversity
- Make this a living document – it will need to adapt with upcoming changes
- Bring transportation into the conversation
 - Traffic, air quality, and livability are all degraded through travel choices
 - Address commute choices, housing near employment centers, etc.

Gaps:

- Don't have the public-private partnerships needed to advance biodiversity across the range of scales
- No watershed-wide revegetation strategy
- Lack of focus on vegetation and biodiversity in urban areas
- Stormwater regulations are insufficient – they only apply to redevelopment. At the current rate of redevelopment – 1% per year – we are not addressing the problem fast enough.
 - Educate and incentivize landowners
- Roads have a huge impact – right now WSDOT is not on board with LID on the roadsides
- Can no longer just do no net loss – restoration has to become the activity
- Need dollar values for ecological functions
- Headwaters are a place where we are not doing a good job
- Too focused on Chinook – need to consider Coho and Steelhead as well
- Lower Green planning not robust – or even present aside from work in cities – no coordinated effort

Opportunities:

- Focus on the tributaries – make a case for including them in funding and planning efforts
- Considerations regarding climate change and its effects on sea level rise, hydrography, and water temperatures could be further explored

Action Items:

- Contact KC Executive's office or Christie True, get ROSS/Watershed-scale planning placeholder language into the county-wide plan – ASAP
- Follow up with Jen, Kollin, and others to gather most relevant GIS data
- Have a conversation where we identify: here is the biggest bang for your buck
- Specify considerations regarding

Next Steps:

- Reconvene this group in Phase 2 to discuss strategies for carrying out priority actions

Climate Change Listening Session – Summary Notes

July 1, 2015

1 – 3pm

Bullitt Center, Olympic Conference Room

Introductions

Present:

- Jonathan Childers, Lead Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Vera Giampietro, Associate Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Rachel Gregg, EcoAdapt (by phone)
- Ikuno Masterson, ROSS
- Guillaume Mauger, Climate Impacts Group – UW
- Tracy Morgenstern, City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment
- John Owen, ROSS, Makers Architects
- John Phillips, King County Wastewater Treatment Division
- Nancy Rottle, ROSS, Green Futures Lab – UW
- Eric Saginic, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Presentations

Primer on ROSS with climate change as a topic area related to open space – John Owen.

- All of the big issues we face right now have a regional component
- Need to look at the local level as well – this is where the projects reside – need that detail in order to understand the regional system.
- ROSS is working to articulate, evaluate, and quantify benefits of our open space systems.
- Not trying to replace or replicate existing efforts – rather stitching them together – not an overlay. Coordinate and make regional/local efforts more effective with multiple benefits.
- GDWS Timeline
 - Phase 1 = Listening
 - Phase 2 = Strategy Development
 - Phase 3 = Implementation Plan

ROSS Climate Change White Paper – Rachel Gregg

Discussion

Overarching Themes:

- Frame the conversation around human health.
 - Additional community concerns surrounding mold, lead paint, and asbestos. Huge range of very immediate issues in addition to transportation.
- Transportation is our biggest air polluter.
 - CO₂ & Diesel – diesel is the more harmful of the two
 - Produces particulates, ingredients for ozone, and more
 - Open Space strategies might be more about trails and multi-modalism for transportation – giving people alternatives to the car.
- Even though open space can do some things, pollution sources need to be mitigated alongside conservation and preservation of high performance landscapes.
- Stormwater is a critical consideration
- Storm surges are a threat

Climate Change Listening Session – Summary Notes

- Language is important – have been asked to call communities “over-burdened and under-resourced” – not vulnerable

Gaps:

- Communication about multiple benefits of Climate Change adaptation investments
- Highly-burdened, low-resourced communities not at the table to express needs and concerns about Climate Change
- Lower Green River subwatershed not receiving attention regarding flooding
- In the floodplains there is a tendency to think about change in terms of flooding, but not enough discussion around water supply for agriculture and field drainage with floods
- Very small pockets of opportunity to plant trees in industrial areas – soil compaction and truck traffic make it expensive and trees vulnerable
- Need to conduct an open space inventory

Opportunities:

- With Climate Change adaptation investments, also bring immediate tangible benefits to over-burdened communities
 - Concern about rising water levels is not pressing in communities where more immediate hardships prevail
- Reframe the discussion as “everyday resilience”
- Map likely redevelopment sites to help target parcels suitable for GSI
- Green roofs on warehouses & factories – provide food and infiltration
- Watershed-wide GSI plan
- Development of bayous – an open space that carries storm surge – done in Ft Lauderdale
 - Copenhagen is doing this as well – flood-proof parks

Action Items:

- Look at KC’s Strategic Climate Change Action Plan, released June 2015
- Look at ULI report.
 - Look at recommendations out in September 2015
- Look at DRCC and Parks Foundation visioning work to date
- Request Green Stormwater Infrastructure GIS for Lower Duwamish from King County – based on mapping and feasibility already conducted
- Look at Seattle’s new report on sea level rise – to be released late July
- Talk to researchers already working on Climate Change:
 - Eric Grossman (USGS)
 - David ___ from Portland
 - Michael Cox (EPA)
 - Matt Kuharic (King County)
- Get maps from risk assessment report showing which public agencies own land in Lower Duwamish

Next Steps:

- Reconvene this group in Phase 2 to discuss strategies for carrying out priority actions

Economic Development Listening Session – Summary Notes

July 2, 2015

10am – 12pm

Bullitt Center, Rainier Conference Room

Introductions

Present:

- Brian Anderson, Boeing
- Jonathan Childers, Lead Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Ryan Dotson, King County Parks, Business Development & Partnerships
- Leif Fixen, American Farmland Trust
- Vera Giampietro, Associate Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Ikuno Masterson, ROSS
- Ryan McFarland, Port of Seattle
- Shyla Miller, Boeing
- John Owen, ROSS, Makers Architects
- Jeff Raker, Senior Project Advisor, ROSS

Presentations

Primer on ROSS & economic development as a topic area:

- ROSS looks at Open Space and the ways in which it can help meet the multiple objectives that we need to address as a society.
- We talk about open space and the value it gives us – not just intrinsic but also economic.
- ROSS is positioning green infrastructure on par with all forms of infrastructure.
- Open space investments support the regional economy:
 - Real Estate Value Capture + Polycentric Growth/Development
 - Risk Management + Cost Avoidance
 - Magnetism of Open Space in the Region – Trade, Business/Talent Retention
 - Employees in the tech industry value nature as a “second paycheck.”
 - Nature was deemed worth \$11,000 in increased salary.
 - Community Development + Economic Support for Disadvantaged Rural Economies
 - Specific Industry Sector Support
- Potential Natural Infrastructure Benefits
 - Can be a less expensive solution.
 - Economic + climate resiliency.
 - Avoids expensive environmental retrofits.
 - Opportunity for cost-sharing across interests.
 - Addresses broad set of economic and community development interests.
- Where are the mutual benefits to open space and economic health?

Discussion

Overarching Themes:

- Involve business and industry from the beginning – this way they are most likely to become a project partner
- Stormwater can be used as a driver with businesses in the Duwamish Valley
 - Boeing sees this as a driver for its properties – now becoming very focused on stormwater

Economic Development Listening Session – Summary Notes

- Work to keep businesses in the brownfields they already inhabit – find incentives that dissuade them from moving into greenfields further afield.
 - Additional regulatory/taxing burdens brought by ROSS actions could inadvertently cause these kinds of moves
 - Greenfields already provide landscape functions that could be taken away if developed by such relocations
- Approach businesses with a business-case for why they should take actions to enhance, preserve, support, or create open space.
 - Businesses need to know that actions won't create additional impacts in terms of taxes.
 - If you are going to approach Boeing, think like a business. Understand who we are. If the business' production rate is changing, appeal to that.
 - Make this appealing to public officials as well, especially those that promote the business community & environment.
 - It is essential to convey the multiple benefits of open space & landscape performance – altruism alone is not going to drive these projects.

Gaps

- Lack of a neutral entity that can get businesses and government to the same table
- Businesses have no metric for what green space means to their employees in terms of retention and productivity
- Urban parks not absorbing enough of the traffic for regional parks – which are beyond capacity.

Opportunities

- Propose specific projects that could bring multiple businesses & government together
 - Renton trail connections for employees of Boeing
- TPL has a tool to show to businesses, showing and quantifying gaps and opportunities – use this tool or similar
- MIC is a good conduit to the individual businesses.
- Partner with conservation districts (King Conservation District, for example) to reach individual landowners and spread planning priorities through them.
- Devising a planning effort that would bring more clarity and predictability to the compliance regulations imposed by EPA, Ecology, etc.
- Build on existing business efforts to enhance stormwater infiltration performance onsite – add trails and vegetated areas for employee education and enjoyment.
- An environmental utility that measures performance and therefore tradeoffs for doing landscape performance projects.
- Provide a reward or recognition for businesses that are already acting as good stewards.

Action Items

- Talk to chambers of commerce

Next Steps

- Reconvene this group in Phase 2 to discuss strategies for carrying out priority actions

Social Equity & Human Health Listening Session – Summary Notes

July 1, 2015

10am – 12pm

Bullitt Center, Olympic Conference Room

Introductions

Present:

- Michael Blumson, Impact Capital
- Jonathan Childers, Lead Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Dagmar Cronn, South Park Neighborhood Association
- Bill Daniell, UW Public Health
- Richard Gelb, King County DNRP ESJ
- Vera Giampietro, Associate Planner, Green-Duwamish Watershed Strategy, ROSS
- Sinang Lee, Public Health Seattle & King County
- Elizabeth Loudon, ECOSS
- Ikuno Masterson, ROSS
- Rachel Miller, Makers & APA
- Sudha Nandagopal, Office of Sustainability & Environment, City of Seattle
- John Owen, ROSS, Makers Architects
- James Rasmussen, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC)
- Julia Walton, 3 Square Blocks
- Kirsten Wysen, Public Health Seattle & King County, Communities of Opportunity

Presentations

Primer on ROSS, social equity, and human health as topic areas related to open space – John Owen.

- All of the big issues we face right now have a regional component
- Need to look at the local level as well – this is where the projects reside – need that detail in order to understand the regional system.
- ROSS is working to articulate, evaluate, and quantify benefits of our open space systems.
- Not trying to replace or replicate existing efforts – rather stitching them together – not an overlay. Coordinate and make regional/local efforts more effective with multiple benefits.
- Phase 1 = Listening
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ESJ at King County – Richard Gelb.

- County performance indicators look positive when aggregated
 - Quality of life
 - Economy
 - Diversity
- When disaggregated, outcomes are more stratified
 - Wealth
 - Health
 - Income
 - Educational attainment

Social Equity & Human Health Listening Session – Summary Notes

- Our collective challenge is figuring out which inequities are most pronounced that this planning process can touch and effect positive change for.
- Determinants of Equity report
- Inequities are best remedied upstream of conditions on the ground – this means focusing on communities rather than individuals
 - Also focus on prevention rather than treatment
- **Key Dimensions of Equity**
 - Process Equity – upstream of distributional equity
 - Distributional Equity
 - Cross-Generational Equity
- Equity Impact Review process developed by King County – is recommended for the GDWS
 - Scope
 - Access Equity & Community Context
 - Analysis & Decision Process
 - Implement
 - Ongoing Learning
- How are different versions of this strategy going to play out for different residents?
- What is the portfolio of interventions and how that will impact people?
- Empirical data is important but it doesn't trump people's values.

Discussion

Overarching Themes:

- Engage communities early and often – stop at “30% design phase” to get input and guidance on alternatives – select or refine preferred alternative
 - The Equity Impact Review is most useful very early on
 - Don't do the typical thing of writing a letter to communities and checking a box
 - Even if nothing comes of the process but the engagement has been thorough and the process open and transparent, that is a success
- Community Engagement is neither free nor instantaneous – it requires time, money, and commitment for the duration
 - Balanced ratio between community and government is 50:50; content : context
 - Content = government
 - Context = community
- Create ownership of this project within the community
 - Have real community representatives and not just government staff
 - Process at the outset needs to shift the power dynamic – otherwise this strategy exists in a vacuum
 - Compensation for participating community members is key
- Decide where GDWS along the continuum of engagement
 - Make this clear so as to manage expectations
 - Be clear about the timeline
 - Parallel this efforts to those that have come before so that people know what to expect
 - Make it clear up front what resources are attached to the strategy
- Work with communities to develop a method for retroactively influencing decisions already made
 - DOT and Parks Districts as examples of processes that need retroactive input

Social Equity & Human Health Listening Session – Summary Notes

- 5 Questions to Ask in a Process
 - Who is at the table at the beginning?
 - Who will be effected?
 - How will your actions effect the different groups?
 - How will those actions be perceived?
 - How can you communicate about it?
- Use the research and engagement data already collected – DRCC, ECOSS, and others have invested time and resources in thorough engagement processes.
 - At the same time, know that communities need regular engagement, questions asked at regular intervals, as their needs change. DRCC is engaging its communities in this way – continuing to ask questions.

Gaps:

- Is there a seat at the table in the WAG for real community representatives?
- WAG missing representation from cities in the Lower and Middle Green – Auburn, Kent, Tukwila, etc.
 - Need a strategy for reaching these groups
- Understanding of the subsistence fishing populations is limited
- Awareness between upper and lower watersheds about how activities in the upper watershed impact quality of life in the lower
- Housing affordability keeps middle class workers far flung from employment centers

Opportunities:

- Additional fishing piers along Puget Sound could compensate for loss of fishing in Duwamish River

Action Items:

- Engage Tribes now
- Gather survey and outreach results from ECOSS, DRCC, and others
- EPA Region 10 Community Involvement Coordinators – get their help in identifying community groups to involve
 - Also One America, Global to Local, Wa-King

Next Steps:

- Reconvene this group in Phase 2 to discuss strategies for carrying out priority actions