



News Update

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A potential second off-leash dog park in Marysville could offer more space for pooches to roam

The City of Marysville last month unveiled a conceptual plan for Mother Nature's Window Park at 100th Street and 55th Avenue that could one day strike a balance of preserving the beautiful forested property for passive uses while incorporating several recreational amenities, including a potential 3.6-acre dog park.

The City is contracting with J.A. Brennan Associates, a Seattle-based landscape architect and planning firm that is working with the City of Marysville on master planning for the proposed park.

The plan was introduced at a community meeting at nearby Cascade Elementary School last month, attended largely by residents in the Rolling Green neighborhood east of the property and Kellogg Meadow neighbors to the north.

City officials envision the park as a family place that encourages visitors to get out and explore, play, wander trails through wooded areas, and appreciate less-trampled environmental areas within the park that would need preservation.

City Parks Director Jim Ballew and the consultants were quick to point out that the plan is in its earliest stages and lacking the funds necessary to roll out the project. That also means it could be at least half a dog's year away from opening the park for public enjoyment, but now is the time to let community residents have their say on recreational features they would like to see woven into the forested park.

Here are some of the features being considered (see the concept plan):

- Off-leash dog area (3.6 acres)
- Forest amphitheater
- Pedestrian loop trail and network of forest trails
- Drivable spine trail
- Pickle ball sport court
- Bocce ball/horseshoes
- Sand volleyball
- 9-hole disc golf course
- Public parking and welcome center with entrance on 55th Avenue
- Public restroom
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables and BBQ areas
- Open play meadow and nature play area (with bouldering, ropes course and zip line)
- Vegetation buffer and native plant arboretum

Unlike the City's existing 3-acre Strawberry Fields for Rover Off-Leash maintained by M-DOG, the fenced dog park at Mother Nature's Window Park would exist under a canopy of evergreens. As part of M-DOG's mission, the group could be called upon to maintain this and future dog parks. Doug Buell and Roger Pullman attended and spoke at the community meeting. While audience comments were mixed about the need for a dog park, Doug said that M-DOG was interested in working with the Parks Department and consultant going forward, and willing to share their design ideas, as well as how the stewardship maintaining Strawberry Fields dog park has worked so far.

Mother Nature's Window has an endearing, quirky history in the Marysville area. Largely the work of one man, Mert Turk, he owned the property for decades as an unofficial park. He hand-built play structures within the park, built a full-fledged amphitheater and stage along with plenty of cut log seating, and hosted scouts and private groups for memorable overnight stays. The amphitheater is gone now, but a network of trails and hand-painted signs that point to park features and identify the age of a number of the park's older trees, add a touch of nostalgia to the park, and keep Mert's legacy and respect for nature intact.

Snohomish County eventually bought the property with stipulations, which was then purchased by the City.

We'll keep you posted on this project.