

Thoughts on my Vision for the Vashon Park District

I would hope that in five years, the Vashon Park District looks anew at what it should be doing. It might look like the original park district that included one or more conservation areas. We should welcome suggestions from the community as to new directions.

We should consider a **boardwalk** similar to that in Ruston or Poulsbo so that people could walk along the water for some distance. It may not be feasible. This came up in the survey.

We could consider a “**spray park**,” a suggestion I heard from a Mom in Ober Park yesterday. Again, the new Ruston boardwalk area apparently has one.

We should consider **invasive ivy as a deferred maintenance** issue. The appeal of many parks is partly the trees. If they die at Wingehaven or Burton Acres or elsewhere due to Ivy, the appeal of the park is much reduced much as if potholes are unattended. This is something I have heard from several users and it came up in the survey comments as well. In five years, I would hope that invasive ivy in VPD parks is essentially eliminated. I can cite Bainbridge Island parks as an example.

I sense a sentiment among survey responders that the parks are part of the natural beauty of the island. We should work to preserve and enhance this aspect.

A shelter at Lisabuela, one of the rainiest spots on the island would enhance the popularity of this already popular park.

Seattle Parks has recently gotten into trouble for continuing to use **pesticides** they said they were discontinuing. In five years, we should have an explicit program in place to either move away from dangerous pesticides or to explain why we need to use them. A year or so ago, Jason did a good job of explaining to the Board this very point regarding VES.

We should work with Mike Urban to improve the **view from Inspiration Point**, an issue perhaps 50 people have raised in various fora.

We should instill a **P-patch** somewhere on VPD property. Sun and water availability make this a little difficult, but still seems doable at low cost.

We should be alert to possibilities that could come our way, much the way the county unloaded multiple facilities on VPD in the past. I cannot imagine that the ownership of **KVI** likes the public access to their beach; they might want us to have it. If the opportunity presents itself, we should be ready one way or another. The public would want us to take it. One survey respondent mentioned it. I know even less about **Sunrise Ridge**—could some or all of it be another candidate? It has a marvelous view.

I would very much hope that we **give up the idea of lights at VES**. We have enough to do and VES has already gotten plenty. Moreover, it is a very unpopular idea and very expensive.