

## SE 150<sup>th</sup> Ave & SE Division St Park Property Summary

July 25th, 2016

EVENT: Party in the Park (SE 150<sup>th</sup> Ave & SE Division St)

DATE: July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

TIME: 11-1:30

### 1. Party Outreach

The primary goal of this public outreach was to notify neighbors and community stakeholders that the planning process for the SE 150<sup>th</sup> Ave & Division St. Park Property will be starting.

The following were the multiple strategies we used to outreach for this event.

- house visiting adjacent neighbors
- posting flyers in nearby businesses
- posting signs at site entrances
- email blast to community stakeholders
- reminder phone calls to neighbors
- Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) outreach to their constituents

On a rainy and wet afternoon, three park staff, two interns and a committee advisory member of SE 150<sup>th</sup> & SE Division St. visited the homes of the adjacent neighbors of the park to notify them of the start of the park planning process. We invited them to the park party, asked for their contact information and surveyed what park features they would like. If the residents were not home, we left flyers at the door. The canvassing initiatives were completed a week and a half in advance of the event. We would have liked to canvass at least two weeks in advance but anticipated catching more residents at home after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

In addition to canvassing, we sent emails two weeks before the event to about 30 community based organizations, stakeholders and community leaders who had expressed interest in the park planning. This included the list of emails that Outgrowing Hunger gathered from their outreach. Several days before the Party, Parks interns made reminder calls to all the 13 phone numbers we received during canvassing.

About 150 adults and youth attended the "Party in the Park" on July 16<sup>th</sup>. About 70 of them were from the Bhutanese community including the gardeners recruited by Outgrowing Hunger and world cup soccer youth recruited by Som Subedi. Around 20 Russian speakers were brought to the event by our CELs Hanna Grishkevich and about 20 adjacent neighbors attended. The remaining attendees were community members and neighbors who heard about the event.

## 2. Park Party Overview

The first goal of this public meeting was to build relationship and trust with the community through fun, food and games. We served Mexican food while our partner organization, Outgrowing Hunger arranged for the Bhutanese community to cook Bhutanese food using fresh vegetables harvested from their current garden at the site. Community members got to witness and taste Bhutanese cooking. In addition, the community got to observe the world cup soccer youth conduct their practice with their coach.

The second goal was to survey the needs of the neighbors and community members through dot exercises, comment forms and model activity. This dot activity consisted of large image boards of pictures that represented a specific type of features that they would like to see in the future of the park. The images were categorized by the following themes: Outdoor Sports, Games & Play, Nature, Food, Health, and Community Gathering. Through this activity, the community had an opportunity to voice their preferences on what they would like to see at the park. The comment forms gave participants the opportunity to voice any concerns or interest that was not specifically identified in the dot exercise or model activity. Our design team created a miniature model scale of the site and adjacent buildings and homes offering community members the chance to think about location and relationship of activities and park features.



### **3. Highlights of Feedback**

Community feedback on park needs and interests were generated using a variety of means including:

- Dot activity at the Party
- Model activity at the Party
- Comment Forms at the Party
- House visit of adjacent neighbors
- 1 on 1 conversations
- Emails from neighbors

The following are highlights of concerns and interests for the park:

- Safety and security concerns around illegal activity
- Need for wheelchair accessibility
- Variety of games and play features including: splash pad, soccer, playground
- Variety of park activities including: walking/running paths, benches, picnicking
- Community Garden and storm water garden
- Concerns about management of parking and access needs