

From: [Chris Roberts](#)
To: [Heidi Costello](#)
Cc: [Debbie Tarry](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Firlands Way
Date: Friday, September 15, 2017 8:27:56 AM
Attachments: [17 Sep GreenLink Street.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Coded Neighborhood Map.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)
[McAlear Creek Drainage.pdf](#)
[ATT00003.htm](#)

For green folder

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Boni Biery <birdsbeesfishtrees@gmail.com>
Date: September 14, 2017 at 5:07:29 PM PDT
To: Chris Roberts <croberts@shorelinewa.gov>
Cc: Keith Scully <kscully@shorelinewa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Firlands Way

Hi Chris,

I have already sent this Keith, but decided I should send it to you as well. I am hoping that with your help it will find it's way to the agenda for Monday's meeting. It is requesting the re-reinstatement of \$200K recommended in the May PROS Plan draft for planning development of Firlands Way as park space along with adding conceptual design of an upgraded business district along the first block of Firlands Way.

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always,
Boni

Title: Maximizing the unrecognized potential(s) of Firlands Way

Background

Shoreline Yesterday *(from 2017 Business Plan page 15)*

“Early 1900s until World War I: By the early 1900s an additional community had developed up the hill known as the Richmond Highlands centered at the current intersection of Aurora and 185th. The Interurban Railroad increased access to the area upon its opening from Seattle to Halls Lake in 1906. The next year the Great Northern railroad depot opened, providing additional transportation facilities to the area. Around 1910, the Seattle Golf Club and the Highlands were established, and Greenwood, or Country Club Road, as it was known then, was the only good road into Seattle. The Interurban was completed to Everett that year, causing more development along its line, particularly in the Ronald area, located roughly along 175th. The North Trunk Road, now known as Aurora or highway 99, was bricked in 1914 and became the primary automobile corridor in the area.”

- What is now a five-way intersection was originally the first “bricked” roadway (red brick is still in place under the current asphalt) in Shoreline and was the intersection linking this area to the commerce of both Seattle and Everett. It was the “Aurora Avenue” of its day. It was the location of the founding businesses for what would become Shoreline.
- Firlands Way was “bricked” in 1914 as a portion of “The North Trunk Road.” Much of it is now Aurora Avenue. However, there is one segment now called Firlands Way (named for the access it provided for visitors and staff at the Firlands Tuberculosis Sanatorium) which remarkably remains.
 - The original bricks, remain for the most part, in place under the pavement which “entombed” them in 1962.
 - The only known removals are bricks removed near the N 195th Street end of the street with the 2014 intersection reconfiguration and soon to be completed intersection reconfiguration at N 188th Street.
 - It is hoped that any bricks removed have been reserved.
- This roadway is eligible for “historic” status.
- The Right of Way (ROW) on Firlands is 90 feet wide to accommodate the boulevard it was designed to become. Most residential street ROWs are only 60 feet wide.
- Much of Firlands Way lays just below a portion the McAleer watershed drainage crest. McAleer Creek empties from Firlands Way into Echo Lake > Lake Ballinger > McAleer (in Lake Forest Park) > Lake Washington.
- A new intersection with a pedestrian “plaza” has already been planned and is beginning construction of a new configuration at N 188th/Linden/Firlands Way.

Imagine

A New Neighborhood Park Asset

If Firlands Way were thoughtfully designed to meet new and needed uses it is possible to visualize a beautiful "park asset" connecting the Park-N Ride to local businesses between N 188th Street and N 195th Street.

Imagine the city wisely has used the 90 foot wide right-of-way along Firlands Way to create a park-like transition from the loud, dirty, rush of Aurora to a quiet street that:

- a) dramatically improves the green infrastructure with functional rain-gardens
 - b) anchors the Shoreline Historic Museum with a "History Walk" and the "Red Brick Road"
 - c) welcomes visitors to stop and dine in the burgeoning new restaurant row
 - d) links commuters with local businesses and civic events
 - e) buffers residential homes from Aurora traffic
- 1) It is now a safe place to walk with priority given to pedestrians. (Something similar to the 17th NE green street having even wider green space.) The longtime traffic "short-cut" is now showing off its origins with some of its historic red brick pavers revealed and/or re-purposed and is gracefully lined with functional rain gardens that create a "park-like" setting. It is a neighborhood where people stop to talk because they feel safe being separated from car/motorcycle/bike traffic. The rain gardens not only separate pedestrians from traffic, they significantly slow water rushing off the pavement and reduce the downstream flooding McAleer Creek. Birds and squirrels can be seen and heard, it is a quieter place under the canopy of mature trees away from the noise, pollution and hustle of Aurora.
 - 2) As you continue walking south from the Park N Ride you will find yourself reading signs about the history of this street and the buildings constructed along its south end when Shoreline was truly nothing more than "a wide spot in road." The general store, post office, and volunteer fire department were all right along the first block of Firlands Way and there was an Inter-Urban stop just across Aurora. If you want to learn more, the Shoreline Historic Museum is conveniently just a block to the west.

Business Block

- 3) A pedestrian-oriented street for business (Pioneer Square type) historic business in the southern most block of Firlands Way between Aurora and N185th to Linden and N188th
- 4) A re-vitalized dining/entertainment based business environment catering to commuters with transit-ready breakfast or lunch and more lunch/evening sidewalk cafe' businesses making use of the attractive outdoor surroundings
- 5) A beautiful, walkable business street with street furniture, planter boxes, wider sidewalks A new sidewalk cafe' business culture invites patrons to dine outdoors and linger over a meal or listen to some live music in the evening
- 6) The Shoreline Historic Museum provides an interesting self-guided "History Walk" for destination tourists who are curious to learn more about this "First Block".
- 7) On summer weekends the street is used for the historic style Farmer's Market

Existing Issues

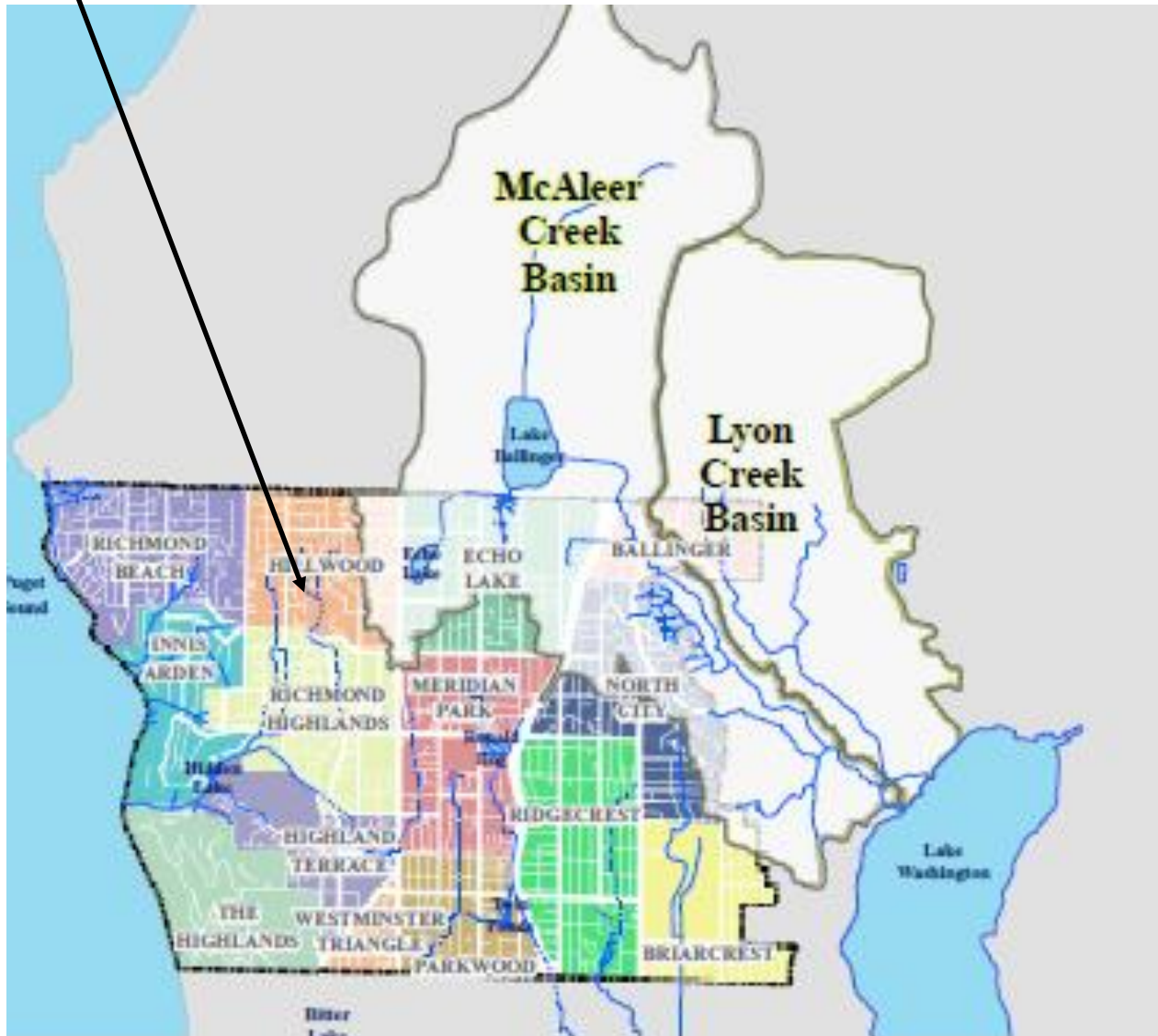
The Hillwood Neighborhood is roughly shaped like a doughnut with Crista Ministries planted in the south center with the “neighborhood” wrapped around it. Hillwood Park is west of Crista. Firlands Way and its portion of the neighborhood are east of Crista, isolated from the park and sandwiched between Aurora Avenue N/Park-N-Ride and Fremont Ave N making this portion of the neighborhood a park-desert.

- Firlands Way is the natural and demonstrated pedestrian connection to Town Center from the north. Even without walkways, people regularly travel to and from bus connections at the N192nd Street Park N Ride, N 185th and/or Aurora at N 185th. And they regularly walk back and forth to Fred Meyer’s. They do this while competing with a large volume of cut-through traffic by passing Aurora on its way to and from Crista, the Park N Ride, and Aurora Village. Local residents have placed a high priority on getting sidewalks along Firlands Way.
- The Hillwood Neighborhood has only one small park and much of Hillwood Park is unusable by neighbors due to the often leased soccer/baseball field on the east side of the park and wetlands on the west side. It has two, seldom used tennis courts to the north of the play equipment. The main use of this park is for baseball/soccer leagues leasing the field (making it unavailable to the neighborhood); people running dogs, illegally off-lease; followed by kids on the play equipment.
- There is a great need for additional park space in Hillwood right now and the need will only increase with anticipated growth in population. With zoning for many new housing units, Shoreline has not identified new park spaces, nor established funding for the acquisition of additional park space.
- \$0 dollar have been spent on Hillwood Park since it was acquired in 1998. The only improvements in the park have been accomplished by the Hillwood Neighborhood Association with the aid 3 small city grants and many hours of volunteer effort.
- This neighborhood is in great need of additional park space. It also needs sidewalks that connect transit to businesses.
- Firlands Way is burdened with the over-use of cut-through traffic. The 2004 Neighborhood Traffic Study of this street documented the amount of cut-through traffic to be 82%. This was supposed to be alleviated by the Aurora Corridor Project, but it does not seem to be the case. In reality, cut-through traffic appears to increased.
- Even with all the increased development since Shoreline became a city in 1995, it maintains the characteristics of a bedroom community with a relatively small business tax base.
- Firlands Way/North Trunk Road are not listed in the City’s historic sites in the Comprehensive Plan inventory even though the Firlands Way “Waffle Shoppe” is photographically depicted in the plan.
- The PROS Plan Draft dated 5/2017 recommended \$200,000 for “Park Greenway Development along Firlands Way on page 146 line item 41.

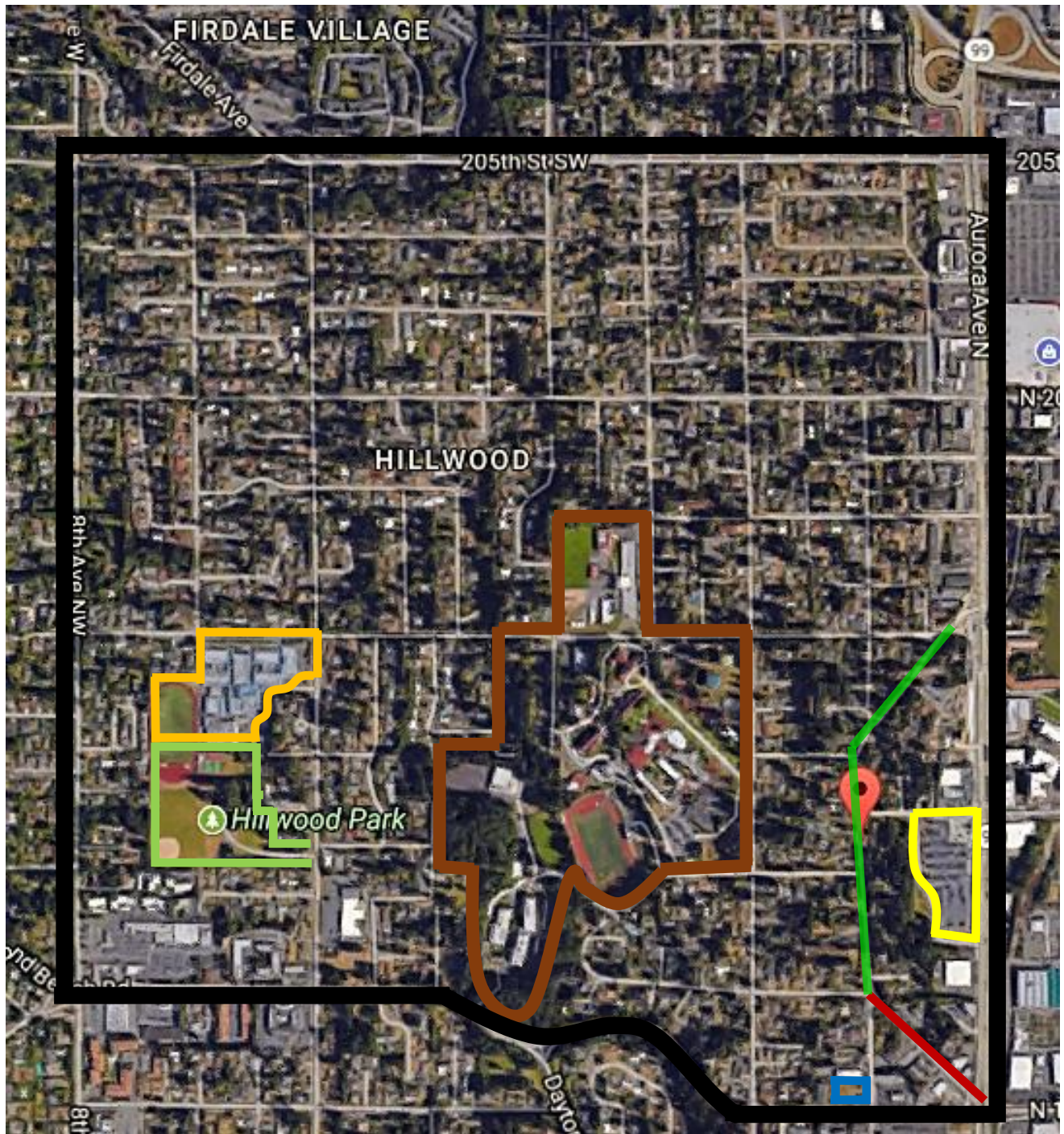
Request

Please restore the recommended budget for “Park Greenway Development” and add the Business District for the preparation of a single, unified conceptual design (similar to the design of 17th NE) along with and pedestrian friendly business district for the first block of Firlands Way ending at the soon to be “plaza which then becomes a neighborhood park-like greenlink street.

McAleer Creek Drainage



Hillwood Neighborhood



- | | |
|--|--|
|  Park-n-Ride |  Place-making pedestrian only, historic business block |
|  Crista Ministries |  Greenlink utilizing the Firlands Way 90ft right of way |
|  Hillwood Park |  Shoreline Historical Museum |
|  Einstein Middle School | |